

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:01pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Trustee Scott Swan was excused from the meeting, as was Richard Smith.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Auston Lesak – 124 Wanda Court – asked for an update on the installation of speed limit and No Parking signs in Germaine Reserve. The trustees and Mr. Akerley responded that the township will take no actions until the roads are finally dedicated to Franklin Township and under our jurisdiction. The letter received from the PC Engineer's office stating their intent to turn the roads over has been received, signed, and returned. The next step will be to put the matter to vote to the county commissioners. Mr. Akerley estimates the end of summer before the roads are township roads to maintain.
- Rob Wiggins – 6500 Lakeview Drive – representing Appollo Sales Consultants and The Events at Parkside - presented checks from each business in the amount of \$125 as donations to be used for Franklin Township parks and the gesture was met with gratitude. He then brought up the topic of how to address the high number of rentals owned by a very few individuals, many of which are very poorly maintained. Mr. Wiggins would like to broach the topic of options available to the township and to him as a business owner for ways to inspect these properties annually and hold landlords accountable for the maintenance of their assets. Mr. Ciccozzi explained that at one time he met with Mr. Bencze from the prosecutor's office and Judge Becky Daugherty about possibly tracking the rentals in some way but was advised by Mr. Bencze that this would be within our jurisdiction as a township. Mr. Wiggins mentioned more than one instance of junk cars without license plates that have sat months without moving. The trustees and Mr. Ciccozzi reiterated that zoning is a complaint driven system and advised him to reach out to our zoning department with locations of these vehicles so that citations and solutions can follow. The topic was then discussed about whether or not any of these rentals are subsidized housing situations and whether or not federal inspection guidelines are in place for landlords to adhere to if they are receiving federal dollars to subsidize tenants' rent. Questions then arose about ways any such guidelines, if they exist, would be enforced. Mr. Wiggins thanked the board for their discussion and stated he wanted to bring this topic up as an opening to further conversation so that it is on the record.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – recalled that at a previous meeting where Mr. Bencze was in attendance for an unrelated matter, she remembers him specifically stating that areas of the township cannot be singled out for restrictions or requirements that do not hold true throughout the entire township consistently.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at town hall as official record. Additionally, Mr. Akerley raised a concern brought to him by a resident about the condition of a fence on a South Blvd. property. This is a fence that Mr. Ciccozzi has inspected several times. A portion of the fence that was not compliant with the township Zoning Resolution was taken down by the owner and the remaining fence was deemed acceptable by both the zoning department and the board of trustees. Mr. Ciccozzi agreed to revisit the issue.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as official record. Additionally, discussion was held regarding the results of mold testing conducted at town hall. It was determined by testing that mold was not present in the zoning office, it was lime on an inside wall, but mold does exist in nondangerous levels in the basement. One quote to clean up the basement area and spray to get rid of the mold has been received but Mr. Akerley is seeking another and will give a recommendation on how to proceed at the next meeting. Mr. Russell recommended that testing for asbestos be done before any cleanup work or removal of drywall or ceiling tiles in the basement takes place.

Extensive discussion was held about road paving for this year and next. The following determinations were made:

- The county engineer’s office will be given a ceiling amount of \$300,000 for the township to commit to resurfacing Hudson Road as a scaled down project next year. The county engineer will apply for OPWC funds to supplement the project for 2025.
- \$250,000 is already reserved for Sixth/OH resurfacing for 2024
- It was decided that the priority for this year, upon the recommendation of Mr. Akerley, will be given to a portion of Greenwood, Knoll Rd, Merrill, and Westlake Blvd at an estimated cost of \$240,000. Mr. Akerley was given authorization to move forward with securing the project by a motion made by Glenn Russell, 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes.
- Road repairs previously done on Clio Ave. will be repeated again this year at the other end after complaints about flooding and road erosion.
- Also, permission to move forward with storm pipe repair work on private property owned by the Krupa’s on Third Ave. was granted by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes. This damage was caused by the collapse of storm drainage pipe when being jetted by a township-initiated job. A work agreement has been drawn up by the prosecutor’s office that will need signed by the property owners and Mr. Akerley before work begins.

OLD BUSINESS

The previously OPWC awarded repair, widening, and resurfacing project of Phases IV and V of Hudson Road is being closed out. Regional OPWC representatives are understanding of Franklin Township’s decision to pull out of the project after a more than double increase in costs, rebidding, reengineering and redesign. Invoices to reimburse OPWC for money spent on design and engineering will be sent to the fiscal office.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution 2024-16** authorizing Franklin Township to participate in the 2024 ODOT Cooperative Purchasing program for the purchase of road salt was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. Both trustees voted yes.
- The 2024 call rate for fire and ems contracted services with the City of Kent will increase by \$40, the maximum increase allowed per year as per our agreement. This would bring the price per call to \$1500.00 A motion to approve the 2024 rate was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. Both trustees voted yes.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #26319 through 26326, including payment vouchers and totaling \$15,079.48 since the last meeting was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. Both trustees voted yes.

At 8:17pm a motion to adjourn was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____