

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:01pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio reported statistics for November calls for service within Franklin Township in the month of November totaling 255 calls. These included, but were not limited to, calls for welfare checks, suspicious persons and vehicles, property damage, accidents, assists the rescue squad, follow up investigations, disorderly conduct, thefts, special details, traffic stops and citations, and 44 premise checks. He also reported that he was on duty in Franklin Township the weekend before Thanksgiving and assisted on a fire that occurred in the township, alongside the City of Kent Fire Department and DFPO Richard Smith. Detective DeSerio will not be in attendance at the January meeting due to training outside of the state but will be here in February.
- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – expressed continued concerns over excessive speeding in his neighborhood as well as throughout the township. Added discussion from trustees and Det. DeSerio confirmed that this is a problem occurring throughout the county and across the state. Solutions are being sought by the sheriff's department as well as our board.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Ave. – shared Mr. Nichols concerns and stated that the Twin Lakes Association has been experiencing increased complaints from its members as well and assured their residents that they will support township efforts and county sheriff's efforts in any way they can within the limits of the jurisdiction, which is the care of common properties (of which roads are not). She also asked Road Superintendent Dave Akerley who to contact about the removal of a deer carcass that has been on SR 43 for some time. He referred her to ODOT and stated that if they do not get timely intervention that she should call the road department and they would take care of it. Lastly, she asked about a disposal site of some type in the township for composting materials like brush or lawn debris. This is something Mr. Akerley has been working on for a time with Eric Long of the county stormwater management agency seeking guidelines that would allow the township such a provision.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Akerley reported that while perusing the GovDeals website he came upon a portable speed radar trailer for bid. He bid and won. The used radar trailer will be delivered this week, be looked over by the crew and then be posted at locations within the township as soon as it is ready. This will hopefully curtail some of the speeding issues. He would also ask that the board be ready to choose a font for a Franklin Township "brand" that can be written on letterhead, township owned vehicles, attire, etc. by the next meeting.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi asked for approval to place a small space heater in his township office as his office has no heat vents or other form of heating. The trustees approved so long as it complies with fire regulations which are that it be a UL approved heater and is plugged directly into an outlet, no extension or power cord.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, he expanded on the fire that occurred last month at 246 Johnson Road. The tenant and his dogs got out safely, 2 injuries were sustained by firefighters that were not treated at a hospital, and a cause is yet to be determined. The damage was extensive.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Russell stated that he has been in contact with Village of Sugar Bush Knolls council person Jeff Coffee regarding ongoing discussions about the township providing snow removal services this season to the village. The village has not rendered a decision on the terms offered so at this point in the season the topic might have to be revisited next year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Due to the next meeting being scheduled for the day after Christmas, a motion to cancel the December 26, 2023 meeting was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- The Kent Lion’s Club has graciously donated a Trex bench to Franklin Township. It was delivered to the township garage last Friday. We will discuss where to locate the bench. The trustees expressed sincere thanks to the Kent Lion’s Club,

CORRESPONDENCE

Kellie Kapusta stated that she received a call from a concerned resident about another street light being out along Brady Lake Road. And Mr. Russell reported that Beth Geist – a resident on Powdermill Road – communicated to him that she has seen cars parked along the road, sometimes at night, and was concerned. Detective DeSerio stated that the department is aware that the new property owner has had activity on the Powdermill Road property at the location Ms. Geist referenced but will check into why cars would be there at night.

FINANCE REPORT

Submitted as written by Lisé Russell and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Resolution 2023-48 appropriating funds for 2024 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Payment of bills, warrants #26211 through 26238, including payment vouchers and totaling \$327,726.74 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 7:53pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing ongoing negotiations regarding the poling contract with the county sheriff’s office, per ORC Section 121.22 was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. At 8:02pm a motion to leave executive session and resume regular session was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes. A motion to approve Resolution 2023-47 authorizing the new policing contract with the Portage County Sheriff’s Office was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

Mr. Russell then expressed that he thought it best to expand a previously authorized moratorium on medical marijuana facilities within the township. Resolution 2023-49 placing a moratorium on recreational marijuana distribution, growth, processing or any other related facilities in Franklin Township until such time as can be further researched as a result of the recent passage of Issue 2 in Ohio was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:18pm a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____