

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Vice Chairman Scott Swan called the meeting to order. Chairwoman Ann Hanna was excused from the meeting due to a family illness. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO – Detectives DeSerio and James reported statistics for Franklin Township activity in the month of September, including but not limited to, seventeen assists for fire, ems, and police calls, thefts, domestic disturbances, fifteen suspicious persons, situations, or vehicles, menacing calls, criminal damage calls, alarm drops, and 71 traffic stops. A total of 241 calls were answered in the township in the month of September. Det. James elaborated on a program that he and several other officers are working on called P.A.C.E. (Portage Aggressive Crime Enforcement) and its impact on the township. On the dates of 9/24/21 – 9/26/21, deputies and detectives targeted areas of traffic complaints by township residents and made over 50 stops. Those traffic stops led to felony arrests, misdemeanor arrest, drug and paraphernalia confiscation, follow up arrests, and traffic citations. Search warrants at an address on Brady Lake Road led to three arrests and the confiscation of narcotics and paraphernalia as well. The trustees expressed much gratitude to the department for their proactive presence throughout the township and their attendance at our meetings, making themselves available and accessible to our residents. Scott Swan also shared with the detectives concerns from Davey Tree that were brought to the attention of the board when Davey Tree announced it would seek annexation with the City of Kent. There are concerns of response time from the sheriff's department if needed. Detective DeSerio assured the board that he would relay the information to the sheriff and look into what can be done. Mr. Ciccozzi then shared with the detectives a complaint received by his office from an elderly township resident about being chased by a loose dog; she fell and was injured. Mr. Ciccozzi asked what the correct response to her should be and what recourse is available to her. Det. DeSerio responded that persons are expected to have "reasonable control" over their animals and she should contact the Portage County Animal Control Officer.
- Chief Bill Myers – City of Kent Fire Chief – introduced himself to all in attendance and shared that just this afternoon a two-story house fire on Hissom Lane was the cause for mutual aid assistance from Streetsboro, Stow, and Ravenna Township. Fortunately, all residents of the home got out in time and there were no injuries.
- Ken Heller – 2148 Wunderlich – addressed the board about rumors he has heard about the installation of a boat launch and expansion of parking at Brady Lake. Mr. Benjamin assured him that it is rumor and no plans have been discussed to that end.
- Kim Palivec – 7279 St. Rt. 43 (former Por-Tech building) was seeking information about any limits or regulations being placed within the township on the number of medical marijuana dispensaries. She has a tentative buyer/tenant expressing an interest in pursuing this. Her prospective buyer is on the 11/8/21 Board of Zoning Appeals hearing schedule to be heard.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, at the BZA hearing held the previous evening, a conditional use variance for a medical marijuana dispensary was approved and a separate structure variance on North Blvd. was denied.

FIRE REPORT

An update was submitted in writing by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. Mr. Smith was not in attendance as he was out of town.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted in writing by Keith Benjamin and Lee Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, a paving project by Todd Lamb Paving in the amount of approx. \$40,000 for Iraquois, Hartman, and Rankin and to have him also repair and finish the pathway at Phillips Park was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes. Also, leaf pickup schedule signs will be going up this week throughout the township.

OLD BUSINESS

- Eagle Scout project at Phillips Park – see above mentioned that Todd Lamb Paving will complete this project. A motion to take the completion of the project over was made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.
- A new truck is being sought for use by the road department. It will be big enough to use for plowing but not as large as some of the others we have in the fleet. There is a dealer with a truck chassis the size we are looking for available for \$70,000. We will then seek to have it spec'd out as needed. The total price should be approximately \$140,000. There was discussion about whether or not the truck needs to be diesel but either type of fuel is fine as we have storage tanks for regular and diesel fuel.
- Portage County Solid Waste District discussions are ongoing regarding the District's plan to exit the contract early. Mr. Chad Murdock has been retained on behalf of the township and will reply to the District.
- The discussion of job descriptions for the position of road superintendent is tabled until all three trustees are in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

A request for annexation by Davey Tree Co. property located along St. Rt. 43 in the township has been announced. Some concerns shared by the company as reasons for the request are sheriff's response time and the cost of city water. Sandra Reid and Dan Joy of Davey Tree Co. only informed the township of their intent to move forward this week and expect a response by this Friday, October 15, 2021. In light of this news Scott Swan made a motion for the following resolution : In recognition of (1) the current economic environment and trends that have resulted in diminishing resources being available to Townships in this state and (2) the cost of providing existing services have not diminished and can be expected to increase, the need exists to explore as diligently as possible by any and all means available to defend against further erosion of resources and to explore avenues of finding new resources that can be used to maintain and improve township services to its residents. Therefore, be it resolved the Franklin Township will immediately explore existing strategies, including new Joint Economic Development District relationships, as well as seek new creative ways to maintain or improve the level of services it currently provides, such as water, sheriff/police/EMT responses, etc.; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes. Discussion followed regarding the intent of Davey Tree to request annexation and Glenn Russell – Vice President of Scott Molders, Inc located at 7180 St. Rt. 43 – informed the trustees that Scott Molders worked with the City of Akron to have water lines run to the property and now have Akron water. He suggested the same be considered by Davey Tree. Mr. Benjamin noted for the record that he is deeply disappointed that the City of Kent would be considering such an annexation after working so closely with the township setting up the first JEDD along the ST RT 59 area in the township, proving that the township has always been willing to work collaboratively to the mutual benefit of the township and the city.

Mr. Swan stated that the trustees would engage the Portage County Commissioners in the matter and Lisé Russell will attain the parcel numbers involved to ascertain the amount of property taxes the township stands to lose in revenue should the annexation move forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities submitted a request to reserve the pavilion at Brady Lake for use during their Special Olympics. A motion to waive the \$25.00 rental fee was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2021-17 – accepting the amounts and rates as provided by the County auditor and State Budget Commission was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #25571 through 25596, including payment vouchers, totaling \$69,027.41 was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.

Scott Swan thanked everyone in attendance for coming and participating in the meeting and noted that it is nice to see representatives from the Twin Lakes Association, the City of Kent Fire Department, The Portage County Sheriff's Office, and interested residents in the audience. At 8:14pm a motion to adjourn was made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____