

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous regular meeting were approved with three corrections noted by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Terry and Mike Wallace – 5765 Horning Road – are interested in putting up a little free library on their property outside of the right-of-way. There are a few scattered about but none near them. There is a bike lane along the side of the road and then they would set it back an additional five-six feet. Dave Akerley expressed his support for the idea but did warn them that during snow events heavy, slushie snow could be thrown pretty far. The Wallace's feel comfortable with the spacing they have determined separating them from the road. All three trustees expressed support for the idea and wished them well. There are no zoning concerns from Mr. Ciccozzi.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi reported that there are two issues that have arisen in Lake Royale concerning hedges. He is addressing them. He also expressed gratitude to Mr. Reder on Spell Road for working on the brush chipping piles that were deposited on his property – the piles are visibly shrinking. Mr. Ciccozzi also reported that he will be attending the upcoming zoning workshop being offered by the Prosecutor's Office for township zoning personnel.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Akerley provided the trustees with information regarding upcoming paving/road repair projects. Patching repairs have been made to Seasons and Spell Roads and Judson is scheduled for next week. Mr. Akerley asked that the trustees consider an immediate chip and seal be done on those three roads following the completion of Judson repairs. He believes this will be a six-to-seven-year fix until the roads can be properly repaved. A contractor has been contacted and has said he would be able to do the job for an estimated cost of \$98,000. The trustees will take it into consideration after the fiscal officer looks at the budget to crunch some numbers. Mr. Russell will reach out to Mike Collins as well regarding notice from the Portage County Engineer's office on the status of their request to OPWC to extend the deadline for Hudson Road Phase IV to next year without a loss of funding. Next, there was discussion about the request from the Village of Sugar Bush Knolls to consider contracting the township to handle their snow and ice events for roads. Mr. Akerley supplied the trustees with a breakdown of our estimated costs to take on the nearly 2.8 miles of roads in the village. Taking into consideration the overtime hourly rate of our road crew (including fringe benefits), the cost of insurance, salt, wear and tear on vehicles, fuel, and labor he presented a cost of \$350.00 per push or run. The trustees discussed that this is a way to show good faith as neighboring entities and a good utilization of resources. There was concern shared about the township also assuming the responsibility of the Germaine Reserve roads this season as they will be dedicated roads now and the pending development going in at the old Kent State golf course as well. Mrs. Kapusta asked if it would be prudent to make this season a trial run and then reassess at the end of snow season for the future. A motion was made by Scott Swan to have Glenn Russell speak to the village council contact and present the offer of \$350 per push to salt/plow the roads in the Village of Sugar Bush Knolls on a trial basis for this season and then reassess for the future; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Mr. Swan noted for the record that road safety will always be Franklin Township's number one priority. Pricing, cost, questions of when or when not to throw salt or plow will not interfere with the road superintendent's authority to decide when roads need plowed/salted.

FIRE UPDATE

Submitted by Richard Smith. In the early morning hours of Saturday, 8/19/23, a call came from the county sheriff's office and the City of Kent Fire Department about a significant overcrowding issue at the Burnt Pickle. The responding officer and fire department officials noted at least 150 people in the parking lot and another 50 still inside the bar.

The PCSO officer had already begun emptying the bar when Mr. Smith arrived. Mr. Smith provided an occupancy permit that clearly shows the maximum occupancy currently permitted is 49 persons. Mr. Smith returned the next morning to issue the citation for overcrowding and none of the employees there would accept it but he was permitted to inspect the premises. Employees attempted numerous times to contact the owners unsuccessfully. The PCSO witnessed Mr. Smith hand the citation over to employees. He then returned that evening and observed employees carding individuals seeking entrance to the Burnt Pickle and only allowing person 21 years and older. He witnessed many potential patrons complaining that last night they were allowed in at 18 years and over. This information will be shared with the county sheriff's office. The Burnt Pickle owner, Kevin Smith contacted Mr. Smith at a later day and asked who he had to pay and how much, stating he did not receive the citation from his employees. Mr. Smith offered to email him a copy and did so.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Brady Lake LMI survey will begin this week. Mrs. Kapusta will be circulating the letters from trustees and the survey to 111 homes in the Brady Lake area beginning this week. It is our hope that we can qualify for grant money to pave roads.
- NOPEC grant funding update – Mrs. August has given the go ahead to First Energy to begin replacing all township street lights with LED lights at an estimated cost of \$37,000, to be reimbursed by NOPEC grant money. Additionally, the township will move forward with the purchase of a generator for the maintenance garage and security lighting at Brady Lake Park.
- The township has received four applications thus far for the full-time road crew position. The Portager does provide ad opportunities. Mrs. Russell will inquire about the duration of the ad for a fixed price of \$170.00.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2023-37 – authorizing an administrative search warrant and lien search for the structure located at 1495 North Blvd was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2023-38 - authorizing an administrative search warrant and lien search for the structure located at 7743 West Blvd was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Swan notified all in attendance of an upcoming JEDD Committee meeting on Tuesday, 8/29/23 at 7:00pm at town hall for members to discuss what is known as a Virtual Super Jedd. Jenny August will post a legal notice in the paper letting residents know of the open meeting.
- A notice was been sent to the trustees about a Local Government Officials Breakfast being offered by the Portage Development Board on August 29, 2023 from 7:30-9:00am.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2023-36 – accepting the Amounts and Rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor's office as per the O.R.C Sections 5705.34 and 5705.35 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26139 through 26153, including payment vouchers and totaling \$117,895.53 since the last meeting was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 7:58pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____