

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Vice Chairman Scott Swan called the meeting to order. He wished trustee Ann Hanna a happy birthday and chaired the meeting at her request due to her not feeling up to par. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Frank and Lori McMillan – owners of property located at 2108 State Route 59 – addressed the board with a request to lift the township moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries. They have a prospective tenant wishing to open such a dispensary and expressed a desire to act as quickly as possible as a deadline of November 18, 2021 exists for them to submit all paperwork requested by the state, including a letter from the township trustees authorizing the dispensary. After answering questions from all three trustees regarding how much area of the building will be used for the purpose (approx. 2,000 sq. ft.), growth potential to possibly expand the space if needed (yes), how many persons would be in the dispensary at time (state regulations are very specific regarding this and other things), whether or not the owners would join the Kent Franklin JEDD (yes, they would seriously consider it), and security around the structure such as fencing, windows, etc. the trustees expressed their support for the venture. A motion to lift the Franklin Township moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. The permit application can be accessed online and Mr. Ciccozzi will assist the McMillans through the process and get them set for the next steps to proceed with a Board of Zoning Appeals hearing for a conditional use permit.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard Blvd – expressed his thanks to the road crew for the great clean up and chipping in his area of Leonard Blvd. and around the lake.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Lee Smith and is attached to the official record. The report is a detailed account of what work has been completed and remains in progress for the last two weeks. The road crew requested authorization to call Safety Kleen to come out to the maintenance building to empty stored buckets of chemical waste and make sure it is properly disposed of and the trustees authorized the expense. All other items on the checklist given to the road department during an EPA audit a month ago are either completed or nearly completed.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi contacted the owners of the Burnt Pickle (former Campus Wine Cellar) to inform them that there was no permit requested for their new sign. The owners were very cooperative and assured him the permit application will be submitted ASAP.

FIRE REPORT UPDATE

Inspections continue and there is no new update from the Jones Hookah Palace compliance issue between attorneys. Also, a grant proposal written by the City of Kent fire department last year for Homeland Security money was approved. This grant is for software that will streamline the inspection process and interface with the Department of Homeland Security. The township will need to purchase an iPad with an air card to utilize the software at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

- New F550 truck purchase – this purchase was discussed several months ago and was to be a new smaller plow truck that could be more easily used in smaller areas for plowing that are a tight fit for the bigger trucks. The delivery of the truck was delayed weeks while being loaded with cab and chassis specifications per the former road superintendent. Then there was a recall on the truck before the township received it. Communication from Valley Ford service and sales departments was not good. When the truck was finally ready to be delivered Valley Ford was to call the maintenance building with a time so that the road crew could meet them and inspect the truck. No call was ever received.

The delivery was made unannounced to town hall while the fiscal officer happened to be there doing paperwork outside of office hours. They dropped the truck off in the parking lot and the road department was called to come and pick the truck up. When Lee Smith and Adam Boron arrived twenty minutes later to inspect the truck and started it the check engine light came on. A second attempt was made ten minutes later and the light came on again. A call was made to Valley Ford to come and take the truck back, and asked to have the pickup team call the fiscal officer's cell phone with a pick up time. No call was made before two employees of Valley Ford came to get the truck. No contact has been received from Valley Ford since. All three trustees agreed that the fiscal officer will have payment of the check for this truck stopped and the township will seek a different truck with specifications more aligned with the needs of the road crew employees who will be driving the truck daily.

- Mr. Benjamin reported that he and the road crew have gathered information about the cost to the township when the Aquasalina spraying system to aid in ice and snow removal from road surfaces. The township has resumed using salt as the other system was not suited to our needs. The city of Salem is interested in the purchase of our equipment and Mr. Benjamin is awaiting a time to meet with the road department lead from Salem to look at it and make an offer.
- The Eagle Scout walkway project at Phillips Park remains incomplete and will need assistance from our road crew to be finished in an acceptable manner. Lee Smith will get prices on the necessary materials and be in contact with the Amolsch family about the situation.
- Administrator Jenny August has been gathering job descriptions for the position of road superintendent from other townships and municipalities/entities and has shared them with the trustees. The board will go through this information to garner what is pertinent to Franklin Township and develop a solid job description to discuss at the next meeting what the job should look like, what it entails and what model it will be.
- Discussion about the ongoing talks to negotiate a new contract with the City of Kent Fire Department were held. After discussion a motion was made by Scott Swan that the township agrees to the seven-year average of number of calls made; an annual per call increase cap of \$40; the township agrees to the expense of refurbishing the ambulance currently owned by the township and in need of replacement; and the township makes no capital commitment with the exception of the ambulance. Second made by Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

FINANCES

- The unresolved issue of a refund requested by the township from the Michigan Conference of Teamsters Welfare Fund for overcharges from the period of April 2020 through May 2021 has been referred to Brett Bencze of the prosecutor's office.
- Payment of bills, warrants # 25571 through 25581, including payment vouchers and totaling \$162,023.68 was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Keith Benjamin stated for the record that he believes the board should move forward in a quick and timely manner to pursue a JEDD district being established north up State Route 43. He also stated that to achieve lower electric bills that the township considers the installation of solar panels at the maintenance building.

At 8:47pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____