

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

At 7:00pm Vice Chairperson Kellie Kapusta called the regular meeting to order. Chairman Glenn Russell was excused due to illness. Minutes from the previous regular meeting and budget hearing, both held June 25, 2024 and minutes from a May 28, 2024 zoning hearing were all approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard St. – addressed Detective Nick DeSerio of the PCSO directly with a question regarding age limits for children to be legally allowed to ride dirt bikes, ATV's electric bikes, etc. There is a growing number of these being ridden around Brady Lake during the day time and into nighttime. Detective DeSerio stated that there are vague guidelines in place that make it difficult to enforce the illegal riding of these types of vehicles. Also, he noted that when deputies do attempt to stop someone riding these and the rider flees, deputies do not typically pursue, as it often poses a danger to the riders and others. This led to discussion about increasing parking along the lake as summer season progresses and pontoon boats now being parked along Lakeview and left there overnight. Detective DeSerio noted that collaboration with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the prosecutor's office, the sheriff's department and the township will be required to formulate an action plan on how to proceed once recourse has been established.

Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – added that as a Twin Lakes Association member she learned from communication with ODNR that the department does indeed have jurisdiction/ownership of all waterways, including lakes. The difficulty will be establishing whether the boats are putting in getting out on privately owned property or Franklin Township owned property. Beth Greene would be the contact person for us.

- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio – reported statistics for June 2024 that total 335 calls answered for Franklin Township during the month. These included – but were not limited to – calls for welfare checks, thefts, premises checks, domestic situations, suspicious persons and circumstances, traffic stops, alarm drops, assists to other agencies and accident property damages. He further reported that he and Glenn Russell took a ride to Franklin Township parks and the lake to assess deputy access to parks after dark and get ideas for how to best patrol the areas. Some kind of padlock or lock box solution that would allow police and fire to be able to enter parks when needed would likely be beneficial. Also, Detective DeSerio will suggest park blitzes during extra patrols intermittently each month.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, a motion was made by Scott Swan to proceed with hiring machinery required to stack and store additional road salt the township needs to purchase at a cost of approx. \$1300.00 to fulfill our contract with ODOT for the minimum we agreed to purchase; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes. Mr. Akerley also wanted to thank the Kent Service Department for their assistance in bringing in their equipment to help make room for this latest salt purchase.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi expressed some frustration on the length of time it is taking the prosecutor's office to return requests for information/authorization/clarification for zoning matters. Mr. Bencze will be returning to his office this week from a paternity leave and that should hopefully curtail wait times. Mr. Swan then thanked Mr. Ciccozzi for the job he does for our residents. He works efficiently and does a good job holding residents accountable for maintain compliance with our zoning resolution.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is on file at town hall as part of the official record.

OLD BUSINESS

- Road Crew employee MJ Jones, who has been on military leave since December 2023, is scheduled to return to work August 5, 2024. He has been in contact with Dave Akerley to inform him of his plan to return.
- The emergency warning siren located on Ravenna Road has not functioned in several years. B&C Communications was onsite to evaluate the siren and upon discovery that at some point the unit had been struck by lightning and would need so much repair with no guarantee it would work issued a quote to replace it with a new mechanical siren at a cost of \$34,569.00. Currently the nearest warning siren to Franklin Township is the one located on Fairchild in the city. Twin Lakes area residents cannot hear that siren. Possible grant funding is being sought from NOPEC and other agencies to see if all or part of the cost can be awarded. A motion to move forward with the new siren if approved by NOPEC was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes. Should NOPEC not approve it, other funding will be sought as to be able to move forward as soon as possible.
- Work on the basement at town hall to repair aging/damaged bricks, wiring, moisture issues, and fire paint is progressing well. TTC Contracting has been doing a great job and is nearing completion.

NEW BUSINESS

Lisé Russell reported that the Auditor of State has issued a mandatory Fraud Prevention and Reporting requirement for all government employees – county, local, and state level. It is a virtual training that lasts approximately 10 minutes and the township will be required to track each employee’s completion of the training with documented support for auditors.

CORRESPONDENCE

Kellie Kapusta was contacted by a Dollar Lake resident with a complaint about significant digging taking place in a yard adjacent to hers along the back yard. That resident lives at 1711 Carl Drive. The Dollar Lake resident will be happy to allow Mr. Ciccozzi on her property to allow him visual access to the Carl Drive property to see what is going on.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2024-26 – authorizing the transfer of \$231,400 from the JEDD Fund #2901 to the OPWC Round 38 Sixth and Ohio Project Fund #4402 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26370 through 26390, including payment vouchers and totaling \$114,745.32 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott swan. Both trustees voted yes.
- The 2025 Tax Budget has been submitted and accepted by the Portage County Auditor’s office.

At 8:10pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____