

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Bill Steiner, Director of Portage County Solid Waste – 3588 Mogadore Road – Mr. Steiner attended tonight’s meeting at the invitation of the trustees. He stated that another entity has raised the suggestion about whether or not PCSWD should be collecting the assessment fees from township residents. These fees are assessed and paid with real estate taxes biannually and then the township is reimbursed for the amount due for leaf pickup fees. The county then keeps the portion of the assessments for curbside recycling. Ms. Hanna asked if the former county Department of Budget and Financial Development director Todd Bragg was the one concerned about collecting the fees and the reply was yes. The township has an agreement with the PCSWD that runs through December of 2024. Mr. Swan responded that what the township determines is the best way to spend the assessments collected are at the discretion of the board of trustees and other entities should not concern themselves with how the money is assessed or spent. The other trustees and Mr. Steiner agreed. Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell will send an invoice in the amount of \$102,620.16 to Mr. Steiner for the amount owed the township for 2020 assessments collected for leaf pickup fees. He will forward it to the office of the county auditor for payment. The trustees inquired about any changes of what is collectable in the near future and discussion ensued. Mr. Steiner stated that the collection of what types of plastic might be changing but that basically, if the item is a bottle, jug, or tub it can be rinsed out then put in the blue cart for recycling. The district is discussing a raise in rates.
- Tom Clapper – 5699 Powdermill Road – expressed some frustration with the solid waste district hours of operation being inconsistent, as he drives his recycling to the center. Mr. Steiner suggested any resident coming to the center for drop off should call first and make sure it is open.
- Hal Lehman – 2318 Leonard – raised a concern about an area near the road at the foot of Leonard where it meets Lakeview that is washing out near the shoreline. Brian Langston and trustees know it won’t be an easy fix but the road crew will get some big stones in there. Mr. Lehman also notified the zoning inspector, Joe Ciccozzi, of what appears to be the making of apartments out of duplex garages at the corner of Washington and Garfield. Mr. Ciccozzi will follow up. Also, the street light located at 6290 Lakeview is still not functional – Mr. Langston will address it.
- Jill Grimm – 1515 Merrill Ave. – shared a few concerns brought to her attention through the Twin Lakes Association. Many ash trees appear to be dying or dead. There is an ash borer problem throughout the township. There had been a report of broken glass debris or residue reported on North and South Blvds. and small side streets but when Mr. Langston went to check he found nothing in the area. She shared that previously reported wires hanging down at the Merrill/SR 43 triangle are still down – Mr. Langston was asked again to look into the matter. And finally, she reported that the TLA is considering the installation of a dock and or beach area around Birkner Pond. There is a designated road near it that is not built upon due to the wetlands nature of that area. If a structure were to be erected it would be on township property. Ms. Hanna suggested that Ms. Grimm contact Kate Chapel at the Tinkerscreek Watershed Partnership to gain information about possible ideas for funding.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Brett Bencze of the prosecutor's office – in attendance – notified the trustees and Mr. Ciccozzi of a reconciliation hearing set next week on April 20th. It will be held by phone and Ms. Hanna expects to be able to attend. Also, very large quantities of dirt are still being hauled to a location on Powdermill Road. Ms. Hanna asked that Mr. Ciccozzi reach out to the owner of this property, Mr. Shannon, to inquire about what is going on and to see if he has silt fencing and other requirements are being met to sustain this type of topographical change to neighboring properties. She is also concerned about the excess of weight limits being born on the road.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Benjamin asked Mr. Langston for a detailed list of what repairs have been made to the purple ranger pickup truck and a cost of those repairs. It was suggested that a binder of sorts be kept on each vehicle to easily access that information when needed. Mr. Langston will forward that information to the trustees when he gathers it. Mr. Lehman spoke from the audience that the village of Brady Lake purchased that truck twenty years ago for the price of \$1,000. Mr. Langston noted that the yellow pickup truck is also aging and is need of replacement fairly soon. Mr. Langston also requested permission to hire seasonal help despite a full time crew of five employees plus himself, for the purpose of covering pending vacations throughout the summer and to help with mowing. Mr. Benjamin noted that falling behind last summer on some jobs was not due to a lack of crew but rather to frequently downed equipment in for repair. Ms. Hanna noted that when a road department employee is out on vacation that it is permitted in the current collective bargaining agreement and expected that the supervisor work. Mr. Swan noted that he thinks it reasonable to have extra help to mow and help maintain the parks. After discussion it was decided that Mr. Langston may proceed. The position will be advertised in the paper at an hourly rate starting at \$11.00 to commence Memorial Day week or there about and end around Labor Day. The website will be edited to reflect the advertisement as well.

OLD BUSINESS

An agreement between the township and Events at Parkside Center has been drawn up and signed for overflow parking use of a parcel across the street.

NEW BUSINESS

Gilmore Security is scheduled for a service call to town hall to restore our alarms that were disrupted when the phone lines were switched over from AT&T.

CORRESPONDENCE

An email originating from resident Marilyn Sessions requesting that fellow resident Mike Burkey be put in contact with Richard Smith and the City of Kent fire officials necessary to attain licensing needed to have a fireworks display at his home on Woodway this July. Mr. Smith has been in contact with Mr. Burkey and shared with him the lengthy and necessary steps he will need to achieve his goal.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2021-08 – a resolution of need for the renewal of a 2mil road levy this November. Motion to pass made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

- Resolution 2021-06 – authorizing participation in the 2021-2022 Co-op purchasing plan with ODOT for road salt. Motion to pass made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2021-07 – authorizing all actions necessary to accept NOPEC grants. Motion to pass made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #25346 through 25363, including payment vouchers and totaling \$88,969.71. Motion to pay bills made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

Additionally, Mr. Benjamin notified the board that Standing Rock Cemetery intends to seek a 2mil levy on the November ballot for the purpose of increasing their revenue to pay for operating costs and personnel at the cemetery.

At 8:58pm a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____