

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Vice Chairman Scott Swan called the meeting to order. Trustee Ann Hanna was excused. Minutes from the previous regular meeting and the public hearing dated March 26, 2019 were approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lt. Witkoski from the PCSO reported that patrols and traffic enforcement have been going well. The department plans to place extra patrols for the May 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in heavily student-populated areas around the township.
- Stewart Roll – 202 E. Swan Lake Circle – addressed the board with concerns regarding a neighbor’s border vegetation. Mr. Roll provided the trustees with copies of a letter addressed to the board summarizing his concern and request for resolution. An adjacent neighbor has planted a row of arborvitae to provide privacy surrounding his swimming pool. Mr. Roll maintains that the arborvitae are a hedge and in violation of the township Zoning Amendment stating that a hedge must be trimmed to a height not to exceed six feet and provided aerial photos of the vegetation in question and the proximity as pertains to both properties. Zoning Inspector Sam Abell has made a determination that this does not qualify as a shrub or hedge, does not run “along” the boundary line separating the properties and is therefore not a violation of the zoning code. Mr. Roll disagrees and was requesting that the zoning department be made to instruct the neighbor to trim the arborvitae to a height of six feet, so as to not impede the view of the lake from Mr. Roll’s house. After a period of questions and discussion both Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Swan stated that they support Sam Abell’s determination made on the subject and thanked Mr. Roll for his time. Mr. Roll thanked the board for their time as well.
- Richard Carl – 6504 Lakeview Dr. – expressed an interest in the purchase of two lots located near the former village hall on Lakeview. There are paper roads listed on the county maps that will need vacated in order for this to happen. And two of the parcels in question now belong to Home Town Bank as a result of the property transfer that took place in March as part of the village bond debt settlement agreement. In order to proceed Mr. Carl was informed that the parcels he is inquiring about will need surveyed; then the township would have to show support for the roads in questions to be vacated, and finally there would need to be approval given by the Portage County Commissioners.

#### FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Tim Benner and is attached to the official record.

#### ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Sam Abell and is attached to the official report. Additionally, Keith Benjamin asked that Mr. Abell look into flags flying at Campus Pointe. Also, Mr. Abell will inquire (at the county building department) as to the compliance status of the 6527 Park Ave. property that was in danger of collapse and deemed unsafe. The Portage County Land Bank Revitalization agency has contacted the township and, upon discovering the property is significantly tax-delinquent, asked if the township would like them to demolish it at their expense. No decision can be made until a compliance status update is made.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted by Keith Benjamin as a list of tasks both completed and upcoming – chipping, cold patching, parks cleanup, etc. The road crew has commented that there have been incidences of vandalism in or near the Brady Lake ball field and park. Trash receptacles have been damaged and used needles have been found in the area as well. The company used by the township for years to provide portable toilets at our parks will not leave one at that location in fear of what will happen to it. Electrical service has been turned off at the pavilion and will remain off for the time being. Also, a walkthrough audit of workplace safety conditions at the maintenance garage will take place May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Cracksealing preparation is near done and the crew is ready to be trained on the equipment to be used. Mr. Benjamin will get an estimate of cracksealing costs for this season within the next few days.

OLD BUSINESS

- Trustee Scott Swan stated that it is time to resume the search for a new road superintendent. Snow and plowing season has ended and with spring here it is time to clarify the job description of the superintendent and advertise to hire. Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Swan spoke about some of the qualities that should be considered when hiring – a good listener, supervision capability, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

- Authorization for the township to participate in the ODOT purchasing program next snow/road salt season was discussed. After determining that the township would commit to 1400 tons next season (with a 90% under minimum and 110% over maximum of that 1400 tons to be ordered), a motion to approve was made by Keith Benjamin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.
- After discussion the board determined that the township is not interested selling the cell tower located on Ravenna Road and declined consideration of two proposals.
- The 2019 per call rate for fire and ems contracted services proposed by the City of Kent, \$1358.00 per call, was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.
- Mr. Benjamin presented a list of suggestions he has received for possible uses for the area of Phillips Park where the tennis courts were. Some ideas are a volleyball court, basketball hoops, pickle ball court, ice skating rink, skateboard park, lacrosse wall and community gardens.

CORRESPONDENCE

- More resident calls, specifically Chris Mondry on Oak Hill, expressed displeasure that leaves remain in their yards.
- Road department Adam Boron will contact the county to ask that signs be provided on Ravenna Road off of Brady Lake Road that direct drivers to Towner’s Woods. There has been an increase of vehicles driving through the area seeking access to the park, which is blocked due to the bridge closure at the railroad tracks. Signs should reflect that.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #24509 through 24526, including payment vouchers and totaling \$45,410.54, was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.

At 8:20pm a motion to suspend regular session for the purpose of entering executive session to discuss collective bargaining was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes. At 9:05pm executive session ended and the regular meeting was resumed by a motion made by Scott swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes. Then a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Chairwoman \_\_\_\_\_