

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, April 9, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting was tabled until the next April meeting due to a missing page for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Detective Nick DeSerio apologized for his unavoidable absence at the last meeting and provided the trustees with statistics for both February and March calls for service answered in the township. In February a total of 277 calls were answered. In March the calls answered total was 347 – involving calls for domestic violence, suicide interventions, assaults, premises checks, suspicious persons and circumstances, thefts and traffic stops among others. Detective DeSerio noted the following statistics – in 2023 the total calls answered in Franklin Township was 3,573, an increase over the 2022 calls answered which totaled 3,013. To date in 2024 the calls answered total 715, which based on history is slightly up from last year. Possible reasons attributing to these increases discussed are a general rise in crime across the area, the absorption of the former Village of Brady Lake, and more proactive policing as more patrols are out on the streets spotting criminal activity. Mr. Russell mentioned that a Powdermill Road resident has contacted him more than once providing information and pictures of cars parking illegally on the property that was once the KSU Golf Course. Mr. Ciccozzi will provide the sheriff's office with the contact information of the property in question which will aid the office in following through with prosecution of trespassing should someone be caught parking there.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard Street – stated that the area where a new catch basin was installed is experiencing significant wash out during rain and erosion is taking place. He asked if some kind of fill could be placed there. Dave Akerley will follow up and take care of it. Mr. Lehman also stated that parking along the lake is increasing.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at the township office as official record. On May 2, 2024 the Portage County Commissioners will, by resolution, accept the Germaine Reserve subdivision Phases 1 and 2 roads which will make the maintenance and repair of these roads the responsibility of Franklin Township. A motion to accept the responsibility for maintenance and repair of said roads was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Additionally, the Annual Spring Cleanup being held the last weekend in April was discussed. The Portage County Solid Waste District has offered to provide a 40 yd. dumpster solely for the purpose of tire collection at a cost of \$.50 per tire collected. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the district's offer of a 40 yd dumpster to collect old tires by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Trustee Scott Swan announced he would make a donation covering the first 100 tires collected. A donation container will be out for residents to place their money to meet expenses exceeding the first one hundred tires. Discussion about a storm sewer pipe repair needing done at the residence of Brian and Vicki Krupa on Third Ave. will be continued pending responses from Eric Long at Portage County Water Resources and Brett Bencze at the county prosecutor's office. The damaged pipe is owned by the Krupas but was installed by a previous owner on Franklin Township right of way. When being jetted to alleviate possible blockage causing water backup issues, the pipe burst and a hole now exists in the residents' yard. Advice is being sought about the legality of the township performing work on private property and storm sewer pipe protocol from the county. Mr. Swan then asked for an approximate timeline on the installation of the pickleball court at Phillips Park. Mr. Akerley responded that there are three priority drainage projects that need completed then they will get it started – it looks like end of July to early August.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the township office as public record. A motion was made by Scott Swan and seconded by Glenn Russell to move forward with the next step to seek demolition of structures deemed unfit for human habitation located at 7743 West Blvd. and 1495 North Blvd. All three trustees voted yes. The trustees would like Mr. Ciccozzi to contact the Portage County Land Bank to inquire what role they can play as well. Mr. Ciccozzi then read aloud an email from Brady Lake property owner Jake Frankhouser in which Mr. Frankhouser graciously offered his time and talent to address the issue of parking by people using the lake. He states he is willing to agree to provide an easement, and has spoken to other property owners who state the same, in order to provide a safer and aesthetically pleasing walkway to the lake from a designated parking area. Mr. Frankhouser is a licensed landscape architect and is offering his professional expertise should the board decide to move forward with a plan of some kind. Mr. Swan responded that the first step would be for Mr. Ciccozzi to reply to the email asking Mr. Frankhouser to enlist the support of those neighbors he spoke to who are in agreement and get them organized to attend a meeting with trustees to discuss options.

Mrs. Russell informed Mr. Ciccozzi that a resident contacted her about construction taking place at 5885 Thorndale and no permit is visible. It appears to be an addition to the existing home. Mr. Ciccozzi will follow up as no permit could be found for that address. Mr. Ciccozzi also reported that he has discovered mold on walls in his office and it has been determined that there is also mold in the township hall basement. Companies will be contacted to come and evaluate the situation and make a determination on what needs to be done.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is on file at township hall as official record.

NEW BUSINESS

- On May 3, 2023, at a joint meeting of The City of Kent and Franklin Township, Glenn Russell was appointed as the township representative serving on the Standing Rock Cemetery Board for a term effective 1-1-2024 through 12-31-2026. A motion to approve this appointment was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Akerley reported that he was contacted by Jill Grimm of the Twin Lakes Association with a request to explore the possibility of constructing sidewalks in Twin Lakes, as there are some residents who do not feel safe walking in the streets any longer. There was some discussion of walk lanes that exist in other areas of the township. Twin Lakes Association trustee Patricia Quillan stated that there are only a few residents in one area of Twin Lakes who are expressing this concern. Mr. Swan suggested that Jenny August contact Brett Bencze to inquire as to the legality of constructing sidewalks and what requirements there would be on the part of the township.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2024-15 – authorizing the transfer of funds:
 - JEDD Fund to Fire Fund in the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of fire and ems contracted services
 - JEDD Fund to SR59 Improvement Fund in the amount of \$6,474.26 to fulfill the township's obligation to the project
 - JEDD Fund to Phillips Park Improvement Fund in the amount of \$46,000 for the local share of the pickleball court grant project
 - JEDD Fund to Hudson Road Fund in the amount of \$50,000 for repayment of expenses incurred for design and engineering services for the OPWC Hudson Road Phases IV and V project from which the township has withdrawn.The transfer of funds was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants # 26301 through 26318, including payment vouchers and totaling \$261,947.24 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

When asked if there was anything left for the good of the order Mr. Hal Lehman stated that there were still dark areas that need evaluated for street lights in Brady Lake – particularly Merrill Road/Westshore. At 8:15pm a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____