

Franklin Township
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. Mrs. Kapusta and Mr. Russell both voted yes. Mr. Swan abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio reported on statistics on April 2024. A total of 312 calls for service were answered in Franklin Township including, but not limited to, calls for intrusion alarms, animal complaints, 911 emergency welfare checks, assists to the rescue squad and other agencies, disorderly conduct, criminal damage, premise checks, thefts, fraud, suspicious circumstances/persons/vehicles, and traffic stops. Additionally, Mrs. Kapusta and Mr. Akerley informed Det. DeSerio that there has been suspicious activity at Brady Lake Park and at Chase Park. Detective DeSerio and Mr. Akerley will speak at length outside of the meeting to collaborate on possible solutions. There has been speculation that persons staying at Chase Park that could be associated with displacement from Coleman Services residency programs while construction work is being done at those facilities. Coleman Professional Services will be contacted as a courtesy.
- Atlee Coblentz – 1495 North Blvd. appealed to trustees to reconsider the decision to raise the structure located at 1495 North Blvd. after an inspection by representatives of the county building department, health department, city of Kent Fire Department, and our township zoning inspector the residence was deemed unfit for human habitation due to excessive water in the basement, insecure entrance to the structure posing a risk to anyone nearing the structure, open wiring, etc. Mr. Coblentz explained that he accepts full responsibility for allowing the structure to fall into such disrepair and that due to circumstances of moving and meeting other obligations he did not meet his responsibilities. Progress has already been noted on the structure by Mr. Ciccozzi. Water in the basement, caused by a failed sump pump has been fixed and the structure is now secure. After discussion the trustees agreed to give Mr. Coblentz 30 days to make noticeable and significant progress before moving forward with plans to raise the structure. A meeting for a walkthrough with Mr. Ciccozzi has been scheduled for June 13, 2024 to review progress.
- Jeff Heinrich – Portage County Government Relations representative for NOPEC addressed the trustees regarding NOPEC gas aggregation guidelines currently making it difficult for residents to opt out then opt back in to NOPEC gas. He asked that trustees consider authorizing a resolution providing for the ability of residents in the township to be able to do so. He will forward all necessary information to administrator Jenny August, including sample resolutions, and a decision will be made based on that.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – relayed information to the trustees that she garnered from a conference she attended hosted by the Ohio Lake Communities Association. She expressed it was a positive experience and stated she is happy to share any information requested if at any time Brady Lake area property owners show initiative in forming a lake association.
- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd – asked Mr. Ciccozzi what the timeline is for the demolition of the structure located on West Ave. He has noticed activity on the property of children playing on the railings and fears for their safety. The trustees and Mr. Ciccozzi stated that the timeline will follow what code guidelines require.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. After reviewing a quote received from TTC Contracting for cleanup and repair work to be done in the basement at the township hall the work was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Also, Mr. Russell and Mrs. Kapusta met with Mr. Akerley at the property owned by Jodi Redmon after receiving concerns shared by Ms. Redmon about shifting ground following repairs made to the Brady Lake spillway several years ago. Mrs. Kapusta, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Akerley all concurred that there is nothing they see that would warrant any work needing done by the township and that the landscaping done following the spillway repair remains adequate. Mr. Swan stated for the record that kudos are given to the township road department for their attention given to moving around the speed warning sign purchased several months ago. He believes it is a visible sign that the trustees are heeding concerns about traffic calming from area residents and increasing safety for all of our residents and motorists traveling in the township. Mrs. Russell also expressed kudos to the road crew and Mr. Akerley for the extra effort and work put into the recent Spring Cleanup. The crew did a fantastic job unpacking load after load of junk piled high into dumpsters as residents lined up to bring unwanted furniture, tires, toys, and junk to the garage.

Mr. Akerley also sought approval to have 136 yards of mulch delivered to use for the three playgrounds in Franklin Township. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Mr. Akerley also noted that there is continued tree work that needs attention at Phillips Park. He will meet with Falls Tree Service tomorrow to see what trees posing a hazard need addressed.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. There was some discussion held regarding the Spitzer property on Cherry Lane that has been deemed unfit for human habitation. The owner is currently residing in the structure and officials and neighbors are concerned for his welfare. After discussion, Det. DeSerio suggested contacting Adult Protective services about possible solutions or resources that could be available.

FIRE REPORT

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

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Resolutions:

- Resolution 2024-18 – declaring 31 Germaine Circle a nuisance and providing for abatement (high grass) approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2024-19 – declaring 59 Wanda Court a nuisance and providing for abatement (high grass) approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2024-20 – declaring 458 Judson Road a nuisance and providing for abatement (high grass) approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Donation of older and unused electronic equipment and laptops was discussed. Before donation is secured offers should be made to any Franklin Township related employees or volunteers or members serving in any capacity to use for township related business. If any equipment is left, donations to consider would include Miller House, Access Pointe, Mental Health and Recovery Board associated agencies, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mrs. Kapusta reported that recently she, along with Jenny August and Lisé Russell toured Alpha Macron. CEO Bahman Taheri was a gracious host and the tour was very informative regarding the use of liquid crystals technology for transition eyewear, helmet shields, and window panels. The majority of their work is research and filling military and government contracts. Mr. Taheri is also the newly named Kent/Franklin JEDD business owner member and expressed enthusiasm in supporting development and success for all businesses in Franklin Township.
- Mr. Swan then reported that at the recent Kent/Franklin Township Joint Committee meeting a long time Franklin Township resident, James Stroble, was appointed to the Standing Rick Cemetery Board.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2024-17 – authorizing amending the 2024 appropriations in multiple funds as spelled out in the resolution was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- A report was submitted as written by Lisé Russell and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. It is noted that the 2022-2023 audit required by the auditor of state has been completed and with a few reclassification changes needed for receipts the audit is clean and all funds have been appropriated and spent compliantly. The trustees all expressed gratitude and gave kudos to fiscal officer Lisé Russell and administrator Jenny August for the job well done looking after taxpayer dollars and Franklin Township.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26327 through 26341, including payment vouchers, and totaling \$155, 731.65 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:35pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____