

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, January 23, 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 Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Road Superintendent Dave Akerley was not in attendance and excused by the board.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- Todd Peetz – Director of the Portage County Regional Planning Commission addressed the board about a Comprehensive Plan they would like to develop for Franklin Township. He presented a power point example that was done for Brimfield Township and drew on examples done for the City of Kent as well from a historical viewpoint. This plan would encompass a land use development plan to assist trustees now and, in the future, to make economic development, and legislative decisions. The plan would be available online and accessible to all residents and would include interactive maps, graphs, photos, videos, plans, objectives, goals, etc. Scott Swan asked who, historically, has sought this information and made use of existing plans. Mr. Peetz responded that schools and members of the tourism industry would come to mind first. The projected cost of the plan would be just over \$57,000, with nearly \$8,000 of that credited should the Township opt to utilize their TA hours for 2023, 2024, and 2025. The trustees thanked Mr. Peetz for his time and the presentation.
- Jon Freeman – 2221 Leonard St. - returned to the trustees asking for a status update on the vacation of a paper road located on the unbuilt northern end of Washington Street. Zoning Inspector Joe Ciccozzi explained that he spoke at length with Leslie Froelich in the county tax map department to find out what our options are. Basically, the only provision known is that were the road to be vacated the land would be split down the middle and ownership of each half would be go to the adjacent landowners on each side. Those landowners would then have all decision-making authority to decide what is done with the land. A question had arisen about possibly utilizing that area as parking for people swimming and fishing at the lake. Ms. Froelich recommended we seek legal advice on anything further than what she was able to advise. Mr. Swan expressed his concern about decisions made today and how they might impact land use twenty years from now. Mr. Russell would like to actually visit and walk the area in question and will do so.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard St. – wanted to express his gratitude and give kudos to the township road crew for their responses to all of the weather situations over the last few weeks. He commended their care of Township roads and is grateful as a resident.
- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd – also expressed his thanks to the entire road department for the way they have taken care of our roads during severe weather events. He has made a few trips to the maintenance garage to observe and stated that the amount of work the crew does day to day is great. All three trustees agreed with Mr. Nichols and Mr. Lehman’s assessments of the quality of work done by our road crew under the supervision of Mr. Akerley. Mr. Nichols also stated that there have been a few incidents of packages being stolen off of porches after deliveries – the latest occurring on North Blvd.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at the township office. Mr. Russell gave a brief summary of tasks completed and in progress by the crew. A total of eight callouts for the crew for snow/ice removal occurred since the last meeting. An onsite meeting is pending with Mr. Russell, Mr. Akerley and the county engineer’s office to reevaluate repairs on the Germaine Reserve roads before they become dedicated township roads.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the township office. Additionally, he has received a complaint regarding a home on Park Ave. that has a porch filled with junk. He will investigate.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that following an incident where water damage occurred at LaTerraza that repairs have been made and all is in working order.

OLD BUSINESS

As referenced above in the road report, road repairs in the Germaine Reserve are ongoing and will remain under the jurisdiction of the developer until such time as the checkpoints are complete. The time expected is early spring 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

- This November the Franklin Township fire levy is set to be on the ballot. At 3.42mils, the levy currently generates approximately \$644,535.00 There was a discussion of putting it on the ballot in November as a replacement at 3.5 mils, which would generate an estimated annual amount of \$726,148. As costs for contracted services with the City of Kent Fire Department continue to rise, an average annual expense to the Township of \$775-\$825K it was decided to replace the levy. Resolution 2024-05 authorizing the replacement with an increase of the Franklin Township fire levy to 3.5 mils was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Russell and Mrs. Kapusta both reported receiving calls from residents stating that the township was engaging in snow/ice removal too frequently and also don't appreciate salt buildup in their driveways. All three trustees acknowledged their concerns but reiterated they have been pleased with the protocols in place and how the roads have been cared for this season.

FINANCES

Submitted as written by Lisé Russell and is on file at the township office. Payment of bills, warrants #26257 through 26267, including payment vouchers and totaling \$20,952.07 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

- Resolution 2024-03 – authorizing the creation of a new Capital Improvement Fund #4302 The Phillips Park Improvement Fund was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2024-04 – authorizing the creation of a new Capital Improvement Fund #4402 OPWC Round 38 Sixth and Ohio Fund was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 9:11 pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

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

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_