

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, June 22, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:13pm, immediately following a public hearing to adopt the 2022 Tax Budget, Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order. Approval of the previous meeting minutes were approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Venetti, Colleen Brown, and Tom Byiche, representing the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities - 2606 Brady Lake Road – addressed the board with an interest in using Brady Lake Park as the site for the Special Olympics, annually beginning in 2022 for their field competitions of softball, soccer, and bocce ball. They estimate that three to four games per sport would be played from about April through August. After preliminary discussion the trustees asked that a more detailed proposal be sent to the township with more firm information of dates, attendance estimates, parking plans, signage, etc. Mr. Byiche stated that they are happy to work alongside the township road department on the maintenance of the field area, striping, mowing, etc. Mr. Venetti stated that they would put together a firm proposal and submit it to the township’s administrator, Jenny August.
- Anthony Catalano – 1543 Overlook – addressed the board of trustees with concerns over loud outdoor music events being held intermittently at the Fairways of Twin Lakes Golf Course. One such event was held on June 12, 2021. There was live music outdoors. Residents attempted to call the golf course to request the music be stopped or turned down and received no answer. The township does have a noise disturbance section within the zoning resolution but it is not considered a criminal complaint with arrest issue for the sheriff’s department. Mr. Catalano stated that this has happened before; he played a video recording for trustees with audio as an example of the volume of noise heard on a Sunday morning with voices and cars passing by in addition to citing language used in the City of Kent’s noise disturbance ordinance in existence for a sampling of language the township might use. The trustees asked Joe Ciccozzi, the township zoning inspector, to investigate and determine if any variances have been issued that allows these outdoor events with music to take place at the Fairways. Scott Swan and Keith Benjamin both thanked Mr. Catalano for sharing his concerns in a respectful and prepared manner. They acknowledged that with a new sheriff at the helm the township needs to work with the department on what recourse residents and the board have to help alleviate noise disturbances and enforcing the zoning code. They assured Mr. Catalano that the matter is on their radar. Scott Swan motioned that a cease and desist from holding any outdoor events that have outdoor music or excessive noise be given to the owners of Fairways at Twin Lakes Golf Course; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. Mr. Catalano also expressed concerns about speeding and erratic driving that occurs on Overlook and would like the sheriff’s department to be made aware of the situation. The trustees will make sure the Lt. Muir of the PCSO is notified that the area should have some extra patrols.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard St. – informed the trustees that an event is being planned at the Brady Lake Methodist Church on Brady Lake Road for September 11, 2021. The event will be sponsored by a motorcycle club and attendance is estimated at 300 people or more. Details will follow and be communicated to our administrator as they become available. Mr. Lehman also expressed gratitude for the road department mowing around the lake and requested that a sign that has been missing for a year be replaced at the corner of Leonard and Lakeview and that some of the main roads in the area be striped with center lines for safety purposes for drivers.
- Ken Heller – 2148 Wunderlich – asked that the road department take a look at a hole located at Michigan and Brady Lake Road where a catch basin existed years ago. Storm water flows there still and a basin is indicated.

- Matt and Cori McMillin – 2090 Brady Lake Road – explained to the board that there is still an interest for lake area property owners to form a lake association of some kind to establish some guidelines for use of Lake Brady. He asked for some direction on how to proceed. Scott Swan stated that the trustees are willing to host a meeting for interested property owners to gather and share information and plan. Jill Grimm who is on the board of the Twin Lakes Association expressed a willingness to attend and offer help. She suggested that Lake Royale residents who have contacted the association with questions about to form a lake association in their development as well be included. The McMillins will speak with interested residents and schedule a meeting. Also, Ms. McMillin expressed continued concerns about junk piling up on Westshore properties and in the lake itself behind some addresses that can't be seen from the road. They offered to get specific addresses for Joe Ciccozzi and take him out in their boat so that he can see the junk piled up.
- Marilyn Knights – 6498 Westshore Dr – is looking for some direction on installing a driveway on her property that existed years ago but has since been grassed over. She was told by the trustees and Joe Ciccozzi that as long as the driveway will be on her property, she does not need a permit or a neighbor's agreement to have the driveway put in.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted in writing by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Langston was asked by trustees to get quotes on planting oat seed at the area where the spillway was repaired and dirt is eroding quickly causing some piping to collapse, as well as a quote on rip rap (rock) to fill the area. Mr. Langston provided the board with a quote for a new truck – 2019 Ford F550 with a nine-foot plow – from Valley Ford in Huron, for \$89,776.00. A motion to authorize the purchase was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. Mr. Swan and Ms. Hanna voted yes, Mr. Benjamin abstained. The purchase was authorized.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi was asked to follow up with the Portage County Water Resources Department and determine if any permits were issued for a property on Powdermill Road where an overflow pipe has been installed rerouting water from a pond. He was also instructed to respond to Mr. Wiggins of the Events at Parkside regarding a request by the venue to hold an event with outdoor music. Mr. Ciccozzi will explain that a cease and desist was just ordered for the Fairways at Twin Lakes Golf Course for the same type of event and that he could expect one to be issued at his venue should he have such an event. Mr. Ciccozzi will also make sure Mr. Wiggins has a copy of the noise disturbance contained in the township zoning resolution.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith provided the trustees with a handout specifying what types of fireworks are allowed to be set off in Ohio as well as those available for legal purchase, which then need transported out of Ohio within 48 hours. He also stated that the new Arby's is scheduled for grand opening on June 28th and that he has been in touch with the new management at Pebblebrook.

OLD BUSINESS

- City of Kent fire and EMS contract update – Lisé Russell reported that the township has received a breakdown of an annual cost to the township for contracted services based on a seven-year average of the number of calls responded to within the township. After discussion, the trustees stated that this breakdown did not sufficiently meet the expectations of the township and their response to the city will be communicated.
- A \$1500 Community Grant awarded by NOPEC has a deadline for submission of June 30th. A motion was made by Ann Hanna to award the grant to the motorcycle club sponsoring the event in September at the Brady Lake Church provided the event meets the criteria necessary for the grant; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. Hal Lehman will communicate to the event sponsor the need to get necessary information to Jenny August as soon as possible to make the determination that criteria are met and the deadline is met.

- The Eagle Scout project at Phillips Park connecting the walkway to the pavilion by way of a paved pathway remains unfinished. The Amolsch family in charge of the project will be contacted by Ms. Hanna to find out a timeline for finishing the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Keith Benjamin reported that a meeting including township officials and Tom Wilke, the City of Kent Economic Development Director occurred this week. The township has expressed an interest in establishing a JEDD District along State Route 43 north beginning at the township line where the Davey Tree Company property is located. The establishment of a JEDD District has changed drastically over several years and there is much to think about and discuss. It is also possible to enter into a JEDD agreement with only one company. Discussion is ongoing.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25432 through 25445, including payment vouchers and totaling \$44,470.23 was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. Also, Mr. Swan informed the rest of the board that an email was received today affirming that townships would be eligible for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money that is to be distributed in response to the ongoing economic hardships being suffered by smaller local government entities due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This is a change in eligibility for townships. The maximum amount Franklin Township could receive is just over \$622,000.

At 9:13pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session to discuss employee compensation was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:55pm a motion to exit executive session and resume regular session was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. A motion was made by Scott Swan to expand the employment of administrator Jenny August to a full time, 40-hour week position at a salary of \$40,000 annually to be effective the last pay period in December of this year (including the benefit of individual healthcare coverage); 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. Ann Hanna made a motion that would require the zoning inspector to attend all hearings and meetings pertaining to zoning, including those held by the Zoning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals and Portage County Regional Planning Commission effective immediately and that a letter to Mr. Ciccozzi be drafted on behalf of the Board of Trustees and sent to Mr. Ciccozzi stating such; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Scott Swan motioned that effective January 1, 2022 the chairmanship of both the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission be rotated and then thereafter biannually; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

AT 10:01pm a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____