

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order. Approval of the minutes from the previous regular meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO - Sgt. Harry Muir – 8240 Infirmiry Road reported that residential burglaries in the township decreased notably in 2020 as compared to other years, arrests and drug activity has increased significantly at the Eastwood Motor Inn in the last few months, and periphery areas to the township have seen recent incidences of catalytic converter thefts and auto property thefts.
- Cindy Lukens-Wagner – 4573-4471 Newcomer Road – expressed continuing concerns about the lack of water in one of the seven wells on their property since December of 2020. The well in question stopped producing water in late December, while the site of the adjacent Germaine Reserve development was running pumps to reroute water during underground pipe installation. The pumps have been off for two weeks now and there is still no water coming from the well near her barn. When asked if she had the well inspected for function by a professional, she replied yes. Ms. Lukens-Wagner stated that she was told the pump could have burned out if it ran with no water in the well. She also states that they looked in the well and saw no water. Ms. Lukens-Wagner’s husband, Matt Wagner, expressed the same continuing frustration. They feel no one is listening to them or willing to hear their concerns. They have been in contact with the county engineer’s office, the Portage County Soil and Water office and have been referred to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources office. Neither the county nor the township have the authority to intervene in a dispute of riparian rights or wells on private property; that responsibility lies with the property owner. She states that the 100 year old well was functioning fine before the construction began. The Wagners feel strongly that this has been caused by the construction company disrupting the aquifer that feeds their wells and state that the developer has not upheld assurances made to neighbors that their properties would not be impacted by this development. They have sought legal counsel. Scott Swan asked that the record reflect that each of the trustees and our zoning inspector have made contact with county officials, the developer, and Wohlwend Engineering who is on site for construction multiple times to make sure that all construction guidelines and regulations are being followed. The Germaine Reserve has been a highly scrutinized project thus far.
- Chris Craycroft – representing the Portage Parks District at 705 Oakwood, Ravenna OH – addressed the board with an annual report of the status of the district. Through a .5 mil levy the districts generates approximately \$1.7 million annually and they have a strong focus on grant matching revenue. They have, in recent years, added over 1,000 acres of parkland and four parks to Portage County, including the Trail Lake Park located on Ravenna Road, a portion of which is in Franklin Township. Ms. Craycroft stated that projects in the works are reworking the structure at Towner’s Woods into a shelter, working with the county of a designated bike trail at the location of the Ravenna Road bridge, partnering with Davey Tree on a trail and green space where park land abuts the east side of ST RT 43 proposed campus planned by Davey Tree, and possible on street parking by Towner’s Woods on Ravenna Road. Ms. Andrea Metzler also spoke about how the district will work to engage the public through education programs, , surveys, advertising volunteer opportunities and open dialogue with township and other local officials about the best use of space and services. Keith Benjamin then asked that the township and Portage Parks District might try to work out a way to help out in some capacity with Camp Spelman.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Resolution 2021-02 requesting the authority to seek an administrative search warrant for the property located at 6426 Lakeview for the purpose of inspection to determine if the structure there is fit for human habitation was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record.

OLD BUSINESS

- The technology upgrade to enhance digital meeting capability is progressing. Data transfer from old computers to new laptops has begun, copier and printer networking to new laptops and a newer faster wifi network is taking place and digital meeting training is underway.
- A letter has been sent to the Monfort’s on Pleasant Ave. informing them of the township’s decision to give them six months to remove a shed that sits on township property.
- Regarding last meeting’s discussion with Rob Wiggins of Events At Parkside about overflow parking on a township owned parcel located across the street the following motion was made by Scott Swan – that Brett Bencze draw up a lease agreement which can be renewed annually that provides for a per event fee of \$10.00 for use of the parcel and stipulates that the event center notify the township and the Portage County Sheriff’s Office one week in advance of its use; a liability clause be included stating that the event center will be liable for any damage sustained to township property and/or any personal property of guests in attendance or others’ personal property, litter, fuel leakage, etc.; that event center staff will provide valet parking to that area; that a visual representation of some kind be provided to the trustees of the specific area to be utilized, including the measurement and layout; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lisé Russell has a conference call meeting this week with the Portage County Solid Waste District to discuss the reimbursement of 2020 recycling fees.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25282 through 25301, including payment vouchers and totaling \$187,061.84 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:40pm a motion to adjourn was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____