

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Scott Swan called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting and special hearing were approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO – Det. Nick DeSerio – provided the trustees with statistics for February of calls to service in the township totaling 208, including 44 traffic stops, suspicious persons and vehicles, welfare checks, assists to the fire department and other agencies, premises checks and others.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Ave – addressed signage questions to zoning inspector Joe Ciccozzi. The Twin Lakes Association is beginning the process of updating signs. He explained that she just needs to provide him with the types and measurements of signs proposed to make sure they are code compliant. Ms. Grimm also asked for sign vendor recommendations.
- Delbert Stewart – 65 Johnson Road – lives in the house two down from Newcomer Road. He installed two retention ponds on his property several years ago. He is noticing drastic changes in water run-off issues since the building of the Germaine Reserve on Newcomer Road. He also notes runoff issues due to the Eastwick and Quail Hollow development across the road on Newcomer in Stow. He has significant amounts of water ponding all the way up to his driveway. Since the closing of the Johnson Road Bridge, he is seeing water backflowing because it can no longer pass through. He asks that the county be asked to open up the bottom of that bridge to allow water flow. Scott Swan suggested that Mr. Stewart and other concerned residents be in contact with Larry Jenkins at the Portage County Engineer’s office about concerns and to share suggestions they have to help alleviate the flooding issues.
- Matt Wagner – 4573 Newcomer Road – shared the same concerns about flooding on his farm property since the beginning of the Germaine Reserve development. He provided pictures of empty retention ponds on the Germaine property but severely flooded neighboring properties as the reserve is pumping water off the property to alleviate flooding there. He also supplied pictures of the Johnson Road Bridge and properties near it as well. Cindy Lukens-Wagner also shared her continued concerns about the flooding of their property and questioned what type of, if any, bond was required to be taken out by the developer in case damage was done to neighboring properties. The trustees were not able to answer the question but suggested that it should be public record and the information might be available at the building department.
- Sharlene Ramois-Chesnes – 4451 Newcomer Road – shared the same flooding concerns she is experiencing on her property. Her yard is underwater. She is concerned about what type of permanent damage is being done to their properties the longer standing water sits and if it will compromise their wells.
- Adam Boron – road department stated for the record that he has seen a definitive change in the amount of standing water and flooding in the Johnson Road and Newcomer Road areas since the Germaine Reserve has gone in. It is beginning to negatively impact traffic in that area as the standing water on Johnson freezes in the cold temperatures and drivers are sliding completely off the road. The township had to close the road before the PC Engineer’s office closed it for the bridge collapse.

- Keith Schmader – 217 Johnson Road – shared pictures of his 20-acre property that show a succession of flooding increasing from 2019-2021. He also asked the trustees who he should be talking to about the situation and again Larry Jenkins name was given out.
- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd – asked trustees if they had a timeline for when chipping will resume. Recent storms have caused a great deal of limbs and other debris that need cleaned up. Mr. Swan responded that they hope to resume the first week of April, weather dependent. Maybe sooner if weather and time allow.
- Ron Goodspeed – 7689 Hudson Road – expressed an interest in becoming an alternate for the township Board of Zoning Appeals. He is a lifetime resident of the township, has a solid understanding of the zoning and fire codes and is invested in the township. Mr. Goodspeed sees this as a way to serve his community. The trustees thanked him for his willingness to participate.

The trustees expressed gratitude to all the residents present at the meeting for sharing their concerns about flooding issues and for sharing ideas for possible solutions as well. Mr. Swan assured each resident that the trustees are listening and reaching out to the engineer's office to relay all information presented. He also assured them that if solutions are needed that are on township right of way property that we would do our best to be part of the solution.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, he explained to the board that he has spent much time these past few weeks on education as a result of the sprinkler system malfunction at the Meadowview Square retail plaza. It is imperative that all tenants be made aware of when the system is down for repair or malfunctioning. He also continues to work with Chief Myers of Kent and Joe Ciccozzi on citations to be issued to the Hookah Palace when fire lanes are blocked by parked cars and over capacity crowding occurs.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, trustee Glenn Russell inquired about the white fence at the property located at the corner of Overlook and St. Rt 43 in Twin Lakes. The fence is not compliant. Mr. Ciccozzi issued a citation but has not followed up since. He will do so.

OLD BUSINESS

- Resolution 2022-10 – a resolution approving the annexation of Davey Tree Expert Company owned parcels located at 6700 St. Rt. 43 as per an agreement reached with the company, the City of Kent, and the township, whereas the township agrees to the annexation and for the first three (estimated) years the City will reimburse the township for foregone real estate taxes. From the first full year that income taxes are collected on the parcel (likely 2026) and for the next nine years (for a total ten-year period) pay the township an amount equal to 45% of collected income taxes. This is the same split that exists in the current JEDD agreement with the City along the St. Rt. 59 district. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Mr. Swan stated for the record that offers and counter offers were made extensively prior to reaching this agreement. It is with hope and in a show of good faith to Davey Tree that the board agreed to allow the annexation so that Davey Tree be provided with an opportunity to give back in some way to the residents of the township.

Mr. Keith Benjamin questioned whether or not current zoning restrictions placed by the township would still be in effect after the annexation. Upon the reached agreement, the City of Kent will be in charge of zoning and any restrictions placed by the township would be null and void.

- An amendment to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement in place with the Teamsters union was tabled until the trustees have a chance to discuss it with legal counsel.

NEW BUSINESS

- Brimfield Aggregate has given a tentative price of \$375 annually for unlimited drop off of wood chips for the township. Administrator Jenny August is in the process of getting the offer in writing before a final decision is made on the agreement. Scott Swan suggested reaching out to ABC Landscaping to see if they could provide a quote for the same service.
- Resolution 2022-12 appointing RT Mansfield to be the Franklin Township representative to the PARTA board for a term commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.
- The township was notified this week of negotiations with the Teamsters this year.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Glenn Russell shared information regarding texts he received from concerned residents in the Sylvan Drive, Greenwood Dr. area about significant flooding. He drove the area and took pictures of water pooled in yards. Scott Swan then shared that he received emails from resident Suzanne Frank of 1221 Greenwood regarding the same issue and she noted that the most severely affected property is at 7485 Sylvan Drive. An extensive study was done by the Portage County Engineer’s office at the request of the trustees approximately 20 years ago for this very problem. At the time the solution was presented, there was not a willingness on the part of residents to work collaboratively, as most of the problem lies on private property repairs and they would have faced assessments.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25733 through 25749, including payment vouchers and totaling \$135,610.74 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:19pm a motion to adjourn was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____