

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm the meeting was called to order. Newly reelected trustee Scott Swan was sworn into office by Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell. A motion was made by Keith Benjamin to nominate Scott Swan to be the Chairman for 2020; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. Ann Hanna motioned to nominate Keith Benjamin as the Vice Chairman for 2020; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Minutes from the last meeting in 2019 were approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tanya Jefferson – 3097 St. Rt. 59 – on behalf of the new Verizon store located at that address requested approval for temporary signage (banners) for a period not to exceed thirty days. The board unanimously approved the request and waived the fee.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Ave. – First, she asked if the township had a live Christmas tree pickup program. Brian Langston explained that yes, the crew is out picking up trees at the curb and will continue to do so through next week, weather permitting. Ms. Grimm was also interested in a status update on the pending liquor permit transfer request for the Tavern at Twin Lakes property. There is no update on a date of the hearing requested by the board. She then asked about a structure at 7434 ST RT 43 that looks abandoned and in need of attention. Mr. Abell responded that the zoning department has monitored it and will continue to do so. There is no violation of the property maintenance code. And finally Ms. Grimm asked how to address the need for lighting at the business district area where the Black Iron Grille and Protech Autoworks drives are due to the safety risk posed when it is dark and drivers have a hard time determining where drives are located. Keith Benjamin replied that the township position is that we are responsible for lighting intersections and land/business owners are responsible for lighting driveways. She might contact the business owners to see if there can be a solution.
- Matt Proske – 6486 Westshore Dr – asked about any updates on the LMI survey being conducted by Portage County Regional Planning regarding the spillway in Kale Brady. Joe Ciccozzi responded that it is still in process, 68 surveys have been recorded and they need close to one hundred. Mr. Proske offered to help pass out notices or anything else needed to assist PCR. Mr. Ciccozzi will contact Todd Peetz and see what can be done. Mr. Proske also stated that lake area residents are still pursuing the formation of a lake association of some kind. Information is slow in gathering and many issues would need worked out but they are still interested in moving forward.
- Marilyn Knights – 6498 Westshore Dr. – requested that a junkyard or junk vehicle violation be considered for the property across the street from her. Mr. Abell responded that the township will pursue the matter now that criminal activities under investigation at the location are being resolved.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Additionally, he would like to replace tanks used at the garage for acetylene (welding materials) at an approximate cost of \$500. The request was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. Also, the chipper is down again and the cost to repair it is \$1,250.00. A motion to approve the expense was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. Mr. Langston is also looking into the possible replacement of the zero turn mower this year or next.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Tim Benner and is attached to the official record. Additionally, he reported that the IOS rating for Franklin Township was upgraded to Class II, which is an excellent rating for fire safety. The township was given credit for the four dry hydrants installed and the six suction points accessible so that trucks can draw water. The information will be posted on the township website so that residents will know and can contact their insurance companies and see if they qualify for a Class II ISO rating discount on their homeowners insurance.

Mr. Benner also stated that all Knox boxes at businesses in the township have been updated to allow for access in the event of an afterhours incident. He reported that the township run volume has increased steadily over the last four years, a rate of nearly 28 percent and at close to \$1400 per call that will drastically add up as this rate of increase continues. As later in the meeting Mr. Benner's resignation will be offered he thanked the trustees and everyone at the township for their support during his four year tenure as the Deputy Fire Prevention Officer and expressed his belief that the township is in good hands and good shape. He also expressed praise and gratitude to the township road department for their assistance whenever asked in any way possible. He will be happy to assist in helping a new hire settle into the position. Scott Swan expressed sincere appreciation for his service to the township; his professionalism and knowledge have greatly impacted Franklin Township.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Sam Abell and Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record.

OLD BUSINESS

- After discussion about the property located at 6554 Crescent Lane Keith Benjamin motioned to permit the property to be acquired by a responsible entity; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Keith Benjamin motioned to accept the resignation of Tim Benner as the Deputy Fire Prevention Officer; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- An offer of \$20,000 was made to purchase the lots for sale along Brady Lake Road. A motion was made by Keith Benjamin to counter the offer at \$40,000 (appraised value is \$41,000) so that the township might recoup money lost in assets taken by HomeTown bank following the dissolution of Brady Lake Village. Discussion followed about possible uses and outcomes. As a result there was no second and the motion expired. Ann Hanna then motioned to remove the listing of said properties; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Mr. Swan and Ms. Hanna voted yes and Mr. Benjamin voted no. The motion passed. An offer to purchase the Brady Lake ball field, which is not for sale, will not be considered.
- Resolution 2020-01, reappointing Mary Organ to the Zoning Commission was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2020-02 – reappointing Justin Money penny to the Board of Zoning Appeals was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Franklin Township has been awarded a \$1500 Community Event Sponsorship Grant for 2020. No later than March 31, 2020 an organization must be submitted to receive the funds or they will be forfeit. The board will consider the matter at a later meeting.
- In the area near Chase Park a resident was attacked by a loose dog. The owner was found. Mr. Swan stated that the township has checked fencing surrounding Phillips Park to make sure it is secure and will not allow for loose animals to enter or exit the park unsupervised.

FINANCES

- The following wage schedule for 2020 was approved and is attached to the official record:
 - Bargaining Unit employees will be paid according the Collective Bargaining Agreement in place with the Teamsters.
 - Road Superintendent Brain Langston will receive an annual salary of \$63,000
 - Zoning Inspector Sam Abell will be paid an annual salary of \$11,450.00
 - Township Administrator Ken Penix will receive an hourly rate of \$21.50
 - Assistant Zoning Inspector Joe Ciccozzi will receive an hourly rate of \$15.00
 - Administrative Assistant Jenny August will receive an hourly rate of \$17.00
 - Elected officials will be paid according to compensation put forth in the Ohio Revised Code sections 505.24 and 507.09

- Lisé Russell sought approval to implement a structured procedure for the submission of expenses to be paid and reimbursed. After review of the guidelines presented and discussion a motion was made by Ann Hanna to approve the procedures; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #24829 through 24861, including payment vouchers and totaling \$180,068.65 was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:35pm Ann Hanna motioned to suspend the regular session for the purpose of discussing personnel; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:31pm a motion to exit executive session and resume regular session was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Ann Hanna made a motion to fill the position of Zoning Inspector pending the retirement of Sam Abell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:32 a motion to adjourn was made by Scott swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Chairman _____

Fiscal Officer _____