

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, August 10, 2021  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. Kent Fire Chief Bill Myers was welcomed to the audience this evening.

#### ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. There was further discussion regarding the confusion about ownership and responsibility for both zoning and fire code violations at 1945 Brady Lake Road. Mr. Ciccozzi and Mr. Smith continue to work together to sort this out. Assistant prosecutor Brett Bencze was in attendance at the meeting and stated that all owners listed for the property would be responsible for maintaining common areas of the building and all should be notified of any violations that need addressed. The zoning issues have been abated at this point but fire code violations still need addressed. There is also investigation into a conditional use variance issued previously at the former Arize establishment on St. Rt. 59, now the Jones Hookah Palace. A determination is being made on whether or not the conditional use variance is still in effect or expired because it was never brought to the BZA for review by the owner at the time. Mr. Bencze will be assisting in making a determination.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Langston reported that the township is in possession of extra paint used for playing fields and wondered if it should be donated. The trustees suggested it be given to the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities to use for their Special Olympics. After discussion about how much crack sealing is left to do in the township and when it is expected to be completed, Mr. Benjamin asked that Mr. Langston get pricing for line striping. Mr. Swan said to start on roads already finished. The intent is to have it done by the beginning of October. Mr. Langston will order salt to fill the shed as full as safely possible to ensure we are ready when the snow comes this season. The new F350 utility truck was delivered today to the garage. The next new truck, an F550 that will be used as a plow truck as well is scheduled to be here at the end of the month. Mr. Langston and Mrs. Russell will research through the township's fuel usage history to determine whether or not a contract with a minimum gallon purchase amount is appropriate before entering into any contract with oil companies for fuel storage tanks or purchases.

#### FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Resolution 2021-13 authorizing the placement of a \$375.00 assessment for mowing on the Mateja property located at 524 Judson Road was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2021-11 retroactively authorizing all actions necessary to apply for, accept and track local fiscal recovery funds disbursed through the American Rescue Plan Act was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Jack Amolsch, the Eagle Scout in charge of the unfinished walkway project at Phillips Park will begin its completion in the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion was held about whether or not to reinstate a mask mandate for indoor public areas of the township. Mr. Benjamin stated he would rather limit gathering sizes first then mandate masks if necessary. Mr. Swan made a motion that in the event the CDC or the Portage County Health Department comes forward mandating masks be worn indoors in public areas the township will follow suit and require masks be worn indoors at all township buildings and it would be effective the day a mandate is announced; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Hanna. Mr. Swan voted yes. Ms. Hanna voted yes. Mr. Benjamin abstained. The motion carried.
- A contract from Ullman Oil Company was presented by Mr. Benjamin that provides for the free use of a 300 gallon fuel storage tank and the purchase of all flex fuel gasoline from Ullman Oil. After discussion, Mr. Langston stated that he does not think flex fuel is the best choice for township equipment. More research will be done to determine what kind of fuel is best, how much the township uses on average per year and how it will be obtained.
- The Portage County Solid Waste District is planning to implement changes in the amount and way they assess residents for recycling and the start/end dates of contracts they enter into with other entities. The township is currently in a contract agreement with the district that runs through 2024, whereby township residences are assessed through their real estate tax bill for recycling and leaf pickup fees simultaneously and the district then reimburses the township annually the our portion of the amount collected. The trustees feel strongly that the contract should run its course and any necessary changes not take place for Franklin Township until the contract ends.
- An offer to buy a small parcel owned by the township and adjacent to Phillips Park was made by an out of state purchaser for \$3,540.00. After discussion, the trustees unanimously agreed that they are not interested in selling.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25475 through 25531, including payment vouchers and totaling \$165,543.58 was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:10pm a motion was made by Ann Hanna to suspend the regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing a complaint against a public official as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code Section 122.21; 2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:07pm a motion to leave executive session and re-enter regular session was made by Keith Benjamin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:08pm A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

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

Chairwoman \_\_\_\_\_