

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairperson Kellie Kapusta called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previously held special meeting on April 18, 2025 and the previously held regular meeting on April 8, 2025, with three minor corrections, were approved when Scott Swan moved to approve; 2nd Glenn Russell. Rollcall votes Mr. Russell – yes, Mr. Swan – yes, Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Carol Dorscher – 6508 Westshore – had a few questions for the trustees. First, she inquired how to report a streetlight in need of repair – she is to call the township administrator to give her the information of its location and Ms. August will contact First Energy. Next, she asked if the township had a person(s) responsible for picking up roadkill. Dave Akerley responded that our road crew does pickup roadkill when spotted or when a report is received provided it is on a township road. Due to liability issues, our road crew will not remove roadkill from county or state roads. Lastly, Mrs. Dorscher inquired about the locked gates at the Point, a location on Brady Lake some people previously used as a boat launch. Mr. Akerley responded that he does not have a key because it is county owned property. Laurie Herrington – 2320 Ravenna Road – suggested the township might attempt to work out some kind of schedule with the county where the gates could be opened and relocked by the township road department.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – shared some information garnered by a Twin Lakes Association member who attended the Ohio Lake Communities Association conference recently. Ms. Grimm suggested Brady Lake residents consider establishing a public safety organization with 501c3 status which might help qualify the area for grant money. Also, the issue of short-term rentals facing Ohio communities and zoning codes that prohibit their existence was discussed. There is pending litigation among HOA's and the state to amend the Ohio Revised Code to allow these short-term rentals by code, in which case Franklin Township's Zoning Resolution would indeed have to adhere to the ORC.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, progressing with the completion of pickleball court installation at Phillips Park was discussed. In light of increased popularity in the game, the alternative of forgoing the planned shelter with two courts was presented and installing a third court instead. A quote from Perrin Asphalt has been received for labor costs of \$14,500 to extend the area to include a third court and Mr. Akerley estimated the cost of purchasing asphalt at a cost of \$10,288.00. Glenn Russell moved to approved the third pickleball court instead of the shelter; 2nd Scott Swan. Rollcall votes Mr. Russell – yes, Mr. Swan – yes, Mrs. Kapusta – yes. Further discussion on the incomplete OPWC project of resurfacing Sixth/Ohio streets last fall was discussed. It has been concluded that some aspects of the project were not engineered as they should have been at the county level and that Cardinal Paving bears some responsibility as well. Mr. Swan asked Dave Akerley to contact Mike Collins at the county engineer's office and ask for a resolution to be presented to Franklin Township by May 12, 2025 so that decisions can be made about other pending project funding. The late fall 2024 chip and seal job done at Seasons/Judson/Spell Roads also needs addressed, as weather last fall adversely effected the materials' ability to bond/set properly. Decisions need to be made about these two unresolved projects before plans can be made on how to proceed with road resurfacing throughout the township.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi asked for some clarification from the trustees regarding what their expectations are for the Zoning Commission when considering recreational cannabis. While the trustees are not open to lifting the moratorium at this time on recreational cannabis growth, research, processing, or distribution related facilities, Mr. Russell and Mr. Swan are both interested in having the commission explore and research any changes in state requirements and such and how any of the permitted uses could be applied in Franklin Township. Also, Mr. Swan asked Mr. Ciccozzi to look into a property located on Marteney with an increasing property maintenance code problem.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that the new siren installation at Phillips Park has been completed and the new batteries installed. The next scheduled test will be the first Wednesday in May at 11:00am. Also, letters to the owners at LaTerrazza have finally been answered and they have expressed an interest into bringing the vacant building into compliance with the fire code. Mr. Smith is currently working on phone contact with the owners.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion about the township newsletter being continued resulted in a decision to continue it biannually. The next issue will be released in June, then again in December. Kellie Kapusta has agreed to continue putting it together with support for proofreading, etc. Township resident Anne Reid graciously offered to help with the proofing.
- Employee Handbook meetings were scheduled for May 6th and May 20th at 6:00pm to resume progress on completing a Franklin Township Employee Handbook.
- The ongoing SR59 Improvement Project was discussed. This is a joint partnership project with Franklin Township, The City of Kent, ODOT, and PARTA. OPWC is being approached to apply for \$1million in funding. The City of Kent is asking that Franklin Township take the lead on the project and apply to OPWC for the funding. If that were to happen, it would preclude the township from applying for any other project for that round. It would also make Franklin Township, specifically the fiscal officer, the project manager for the funding (which includes an interest free \$150,000 loan). The city feels that Franklin Township would score higher in the application process than would the city. This is an important project that will benefit and beautify the area affected and businesses in the KENT/FRANKLIN JEDD will benefit but this is not a Franklin Township project. It is a City of Kent project. State Route 59 is an ODOT road, not a township road. The trustees unanimously agreed that this \$6million project is outside of the scope of what Franklin Township is willing to take on and negatively impact our ability to apply for township projects. Scott Swan moved to consider the City of Kent's request to assume the role of project manager by applying for OPWC funding for the SR59 Improvement Project; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Rollcall votes Mr. Russell – no; Mr. Swan – no; Mrs. Kapusta – no. The City of Kent's request has been declined and Mrs. Kapusta will share the decision with the city's representatives.

NEW BUSINESS

- Draft letters to Senators Moreno and Husted voicing Franklin Township's support for the City of Kent seeking funds toward a new ladder truck were considered. Mr. Swan voiced a desire to change some wording and did so. Based on those changes, Mr. Russell moved that the letters be sent to the Ohio senators; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Rollcall votes Mr. Russell – yes, Mr. Swan – yes, Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Russell received communication from a Roc Marie resident concerned about street parking on Roc Marie. Busses are having trouble getting through the area because of it and the resident is also concerned that emergency vehicles will have trouble as well. Mr. Russell advised the resident that currently there is not a parking ban in that area but that the trustees do have legislation in place that allows them to make decisions about No Parking areas throughout the township. This would not happen any time soon, however, so he suggested the resident speak to the offending neighbor or consider calling the sheriff when the car is parked there. The resident also had some storm water runoff concerns and Mr. Russell shared the address with Dave Akerley.

FINANCES

The finance report was submitted as written by Lisé Russell and is on file at the town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, payment of bills, warrants #26562 through 26564, including payment vouchers and totaling \$97,798.59 was approved when Kellie Kapusta moved to approve payment; 2nd Scott Swan. Rollcall votes Mr. Russell – yes, Mr. Swan – yes, Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30pm Scott Swan moved to adjourn the meeting; 2nd Glenn Russell. Rollcall votes Mr. Russell – yes, Mr. Swan – yes, Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairperson _____