

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm 2023 Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Kellie Kapusta to nominate Glenn Russell as Chairman for 2024, and nominate Scott Swan as Vice Chairman; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Mr. Swan then thanked Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell for swearing him into office prior to the meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting, held December 12, 2023, were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- City of Kent Fire Chief Jamie Samels attended the meeting tonight seeking agreement from the board of trustees to support The City's application – on behalf of Franklin Township – for a Turnout Gear grant in the amount of \$15,000. This grant is sponsored by the State of Ohio Department of Commerce and has an application deadline of January 31st. The average cost for one set of turnout gear for a firefighter is between \$4,000-\$5,000 and the life cycle of said gear is approximately ten years. Should the grant be awarded in full, the city will purchase three sets of gear. One of the requirements of the grant is that the population of the entity be less than 25,000 people. Franklin Township has a population of just over 6,000 people, thus the city will apply on our behalf, without any cost to the township. All three trustees are in support of the application and wish the City of Kent well in their endeavors.
- PCSO Detective Captain Lew Finsen attended the meeting tonight to report on December 2023 statistics. A total of 259 calls for service were answered in Franklin Township – including but not limited to calls for theft, suspicious circumstances, 911 assistance to the rescue squad, welfare checks, stolen vehicles, shoplifting, premise checks, traffic stops, and domestic situations.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, a letter of thanks was read aloud into the record for the extensive culvert and catch basin work performed by the road department at 1734 Walnut Road. Karl and Michelle Martin were impressed and grateful for the professionalism, knowledge, and work ethic demonstrated during the project. Mr. Swan also thanked Mr. Akerley for his attention to a possible safety concern that arose on Crescent Lane which later turned out to be a problem on private property.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. A situation has arisen at a residence on Spell Road wherein new owners of a home have two junk cars on the property they just purchased that belonged to the previous owner who has declined to have them removed. After discussion about whose responsibility it would be to pay for the removal of the junk cars, it was determined that it would be the property owner's responsibility to incur whatever is associated with the towing.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. He reported also that there was an alarm sounded today at LaTerraza caused by a badly leaking ceiling that filled the alarm panel with water. Mr. Smith left specific instructions with new management there about being on fire watch until the alarm system can be repaired.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Akerley, Kellie Kapusta, Jenny August and Lisé Russell all met with John Vennetti and other representatives of the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Gary Isler to discuss improvements scheduled to be made at Brady Lake Park. The Portage DD Board applied for, and was awarded, a grant that will allow them to construct a paved half mile walking path around the park, install a new piece of adapted and accessible play equipment, paved corn hole courts, two dugouts, and clear out some older and now non-compliant equipment to make way for new pieces and the addition of pickleball courts in the near future. This is all at a cost of approximately \$360,000. The township trustees will support this endeavor in any way possible and are excited to see the improvements being made.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2024-01 – reappointing Shawn Martin as a member of the township Board of Zoning Appeals for a two-year term was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2024-02 – reappointing Judy Spencer as a member of the township Zoning Commission for a two-year term was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Glenn Russell nominated Joe Ciccozzi as the Franklin Township representative and Jenny August as the alternate for a term of two years to the Portage County Regional Planning Committee in a motion; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Scott Swan reported that the above reference call from Laura Gabella about a possible safety hazard at 6654 Crescent Lane was investigated by the road superintendent. Kellie Kapusta reported that she was notified by resident Kristen Ellsworth about someone living in a trailer next door to her residence. It is being investigated. Glenn Russell reported that resident Beth Geist shared that there have been many cars parked along Powdermill Road (some in vacant lots) and some even for a few days at a time. He has shared that information with Detective DeSerio.

FINANCE REPORT

Submitted as written by Lisé Russell and is attached to the official record. Additionally, payment of bills, warrants #26223 through 26256, including payment vouchers and totaling \$242,406.23 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 7:58pm, a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment of a public official, as per ORC 121.22 section (G) (1) was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. At 8:45pm a motion to leave executive session and resume regular session was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

Chairman Glenn Russell asked if there was a motion to reappoint Mekal Banyasz as a member of the township Zoning Commission. No motion was made.

At 8:47pm a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____