

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:05pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Doug Bjerre – 5905 Roc Marie – is experiencing water runoff issues on his property. He believes a drain across the street is clogged and water flow has been impeded, thus causing water to back up and inundate his yard (front and back). Dave Akerley replied that he has been to the area in question along with Portage County Storm Water Engineer Eric Long to discuss possible solutions. He also stated that he did find a few areas where the township has ditch repairs to make. He will follow up with Mr. Long and get back to Mr. Bjerre. Mr. Russell then asked Mr. Bjerre if this seems to be a newer problem. Mr. Bjerre responded that yes, it is. He has been a resident there 31 years and it has never been this bad. It began around the same time a building was built up the street.
- Carol Dorscher – 6508 Westshore Drive – asked for an update on water concerns at her property. Mr. Akerley responded that he is waiting to hear back from Eric Long. He also wanted to be clear that any solutions being thought of should be taken into consideration at length, looking at the bigger picture.
- Cathy and Mike Ray – 7080 Hudson Road – are seeking authorization to build a second home on their property. They want to parcel off about two acres and give it to a family member to build a house on that would sit directly in front of the Ray's current home. Joe Ciccozzi has spoken with them at length previously and informed them that the zoning code in place requires 60 feet of frontage on a street for a house to be built. After looking at the property on a map for some time, the trustees collectively stated they could not see a way to work it so that each home could have the required 60 feet of frontage. This situation would call for a BZA approved variance at any rate. A variance would stay with the property, not the landowner, so issues could arise upon the sale of either or both homes in the future.
- Ms. Costa – 4653 Jenna Circle – spoke seeking support for an Eagle Scout project to be located in Germaine Reserve. She wishes to erect a Little Library to be placed near the development mailboxes. The trustees were happy to hear about this project and are happy to send a letter of support. Ms. Costa agreed to work with the township road superintendent, Dave Akerley regarding exact placement – taking into consideration snow being thrown by plows, underground utilities, etc. Ms. Costa has the support of the Germaine HOA.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the township office as part of the official record.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. Additionally, the leaf pickup schedule was discussed and is already posted on the website – informational signs will go out next week. Mr. Swan asked that the record reflect the amazing job the road department has done placing signs throughout the township reminding residents when to have their leaves ready and the great job ABC Landscaping has done for us here in Franklin Township. Also, noting a callout for township road crew members to remove a downed tree on Diagonal Road at Overlook, discussion was held about jurisdiction. As the above mentioned are county roads, the county emergency number should have been called for county employees to do the removal work. When dispatch couldn't get the county to answer they called Mr. Akerley. With safety in mind, he called in members of our road crew to handle it. A conversation needs to be had with the county to make sure that dispatch has the correct numbers to reach them to take care of their roads for cases of emergency. Also, Mr. Russell asked if the road department will be working on chipper maintenance over the winter while brush chipping is finished. The answer was yes, they have plans to make sure it is up and running well for next chipping season.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. Mr. Smith conducted a cul-de-sac inspection in Germaine Reserve to assist in making it clear to development residents why street parking is not permitted. All three of the cul-de-sacs meet the requirements necessary for the largest fire department truck to make a turn within and meet the requirements set forth by the state fire code. However, the turning radius does not allow for parked vehicles and still maintain clearance for emergency vehicles, school busses, garbage/recycling trucks. Mr. Smith also noted that LaTerraza has officially closed its Franklin Township location.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution 2024-31** – requesting a title search and administrative warrant for the property at 6192 Cox Ave. was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.
- Noted for the record that the Franklin Township Office and garage will be closed for business on Monday, October 14, 2024 in observance of the national holiday.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Russell reported that he received communication from resident Ryan Woofter – 5342 Rootstown Road. Rootstown Road is half owned by Ravenna Township and half owned by Franklin Township. Mr. Woofter is having difficulty with stone from his drive washing away and into the road. Ravenna Township has informed him that it is Franklin Township’s responsibility. That is in question. Mr. Russell has contacted Mike Collins at the engineer’s office for clarification.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2024-30 – authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the General Fund in the amount of \$11,000 for the purpose of meeting administration payroll through December 31st and the cost of printing and mailing the township newsletter was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26433 through 26438, including payment vouchers and totaling \$150,520.32 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:07pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____