

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
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

- PCSO – Detective Nick DeSerio – reported statistics relating to October 2023 calls in Franklin Township – which total 301 calls for service for the month, including but not limited to calls for welfare checks, property damage, alarms/intrusions, assist other agencies, domestic situations, theft, premise checks, suspicious persons and vehicles, special details, and traffic stops. Additionally, Det. DeSerio reported that two deputies were assigned to the township for Trick or Treat hours who in addition to covering the streets to maintain safety for trick or treaters, handed out candy and posed for many photo opportunities. Mr. Russell asked if there was any information available regarding the recent increase in vandalism activity in the Twin Lakes area and Det. DeSerio responded that there are no specifics about the area. As always, the trustees expressed their gratitude for the presence of the county sheriff’s department at our meetings and throughout the township.
- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – shared concerns about food delivery people speeding excessively in the area of his neighborhood. Mr. Nichols was advised to not attempt to approach the vehicles but to instead contact DoorDash, UberEats, and GrubHub to let them know that delivery people have been driving recklessly in the area.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Akerley reported that ABC Landscaping had 4 out of 4 leaf vacuums down for a period of time thus interrupting leaf recycling abilities but that three of the leaf vacs are now back up and running. Gary Berardinelli assures him they should be caught up and back on schedule. Mr. Swan reiterated how much better the leaf recycling program has worked the last two years and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Akerley and the road crew for their efficiency in making sure signage is where it needs to be in a timely fashion and working with residents who call the garage with questions or concerns. Also, Mr. Akerley expressed his thanks to administrator Jenny August for all of the work she put in to the Nature Works grant applied for and awarded for the installation of pickleball courts at Phillips Park.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official report. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi asked the trustees if they objected to three directional signs being put up advertising an auction on Bobolink Circle being put on by Kiko. There was no objection. Administrative search warrants will be executed on November 27, 2023 on West Ave. and North Blvd. A locksmith will be on standby and confirmation will be made that the sheriff’s deputy who accompanies the inspectors is legally able to enter the premises first to clear it for safety. Two different zoning issues have arisen recently and Mr. Ciccozzi has reached out to former township zoning inspector Sam Abell for support. Mr. Swan stated for the record that it is admirable that Mr. Ciccozzi still reaches out to him for assistance when needed and that Mr. Abell is still so willing to help out.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Smith noted that a fourth overcrowding violation this year has been issued to the Burnt Pickle. No fines have been paid to this point. After discussion about the ongoing problem, Det. DeSerio suggested that the Division of Liquor Control could be contacted to see what, if any, support they might be able to offer.

Mr. Smith noted that information and thanked the deputy for his input. It was also noted that there is a private address located in the township that has made eighteen calls to 911 for lift assistance in the last five weeks. The paramedicine support person at the City of Kent Fire Department has been in contact with the resident and offered support services, which have been declined. At a contracted per call rate of \$1,460.00 before insurance reimbursement, that cost is spiraling.

OLD BUSINESS

- Leaf Recycling status update – equipment is up and running and back on schedule as of this week.
- Policing contract discussion with the county sheriff's department is progressing and will be addressed in executive session at the completion of regular business tonight.
- Snow plowing agreement with the Village of Sugar Bush Knolls is ongoing pending finalization of terms with the village.
- JEDD Exploration Committee status update – Mr. Swan reported that the first meeting was held two weeks ago and was informative. Members include representatives/residents of the Village of Sugar Bush Knolls, Franklin Township. Desired goals expressed by all members are to generate revenue, protect the rural feel of village and township land, and to develop a collaborative working relationship between neighboring entities while best utilizing resources. The next meeting will be December 7th.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2023-45 – a resolution amending appropriations to fiscal year 2023 to accommodate a \$20,000 increase in NOPEC funded expenses was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2023-46 – a resolution amending two previous resolutions pertaining to Hudson Road Phases III, IV and V and authorizing the county engineer's office to apply design expense refunds to the newly combined Phases IV and V project in the amount of just over \$18,000 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

FINANCES

Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell reported that the financial situation in Franklin Township is a healthy one with a good bank balance and appropriation/revenue statuses both reflective of where projections were made last year, noting that fire bills have only been invoiced through May of this year and impact the percentage of appropriations expended thus far. Payment of bills, warrants #26177 through 26200, including payment vouchers and totaling \$325,460.30 since the last meeting was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:10pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session to discuss ongoing contract negotiations with the Portage County Sheriff's Department and to discuss the compensation of a public employee per ORC 121.22(G) was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:55pm a motion to exit executive session and resume regular session was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

A motion was made by Scott Swan to propose and hourly increase paid to patrol officers from the county sheriff's department to \$38.17 and to leave the rate of \$14.00 per hour for the use of the patrol car; contract a one meeting per month attendance by an appointed member of the department; contract for 20 hours per week additional patrols and set the duration of the contract at three years, effective 1/1/24 through 12/31/26, concurrent with the contract between the sheriff's department and the county commissioners; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes. Next, a motion was made by Kellie Kapusta to authorize Franklin Township to pay the cost of CDL training as a one-time, no- precedent setting hiring incentive for the road department (an estimated cost of \$3500); 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 9:55pm a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____