

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, August 27, 2024  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Road Superintendent Dave Akerley was excused from the meeting. Minutes from the previous regular meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- Portage County John Kennedy was in attendance and asked to address all present regarding a few county topics. First, he briefly addressed the recent county wide property tax reappraisals. His office, as well as Portage County Auditor Matt Kelly's office have been inundated with calls questioning hefty increases in values. The average rise is 30% but there are a good number of properties that saw increases closer to 45%. He relayed that a 30% increase in valuation will equal about a 15% increase in taxes and a 50% increase will equal about a 30% increase in taxes. If residents believe the increase is overvalued, they have the right to appeal. Mr. Kennedy suggests they document with pictures, find a reputable realtor to give an appraisal, and find comparable values in their neighborhoods then schedule an appointment with Matt Kelly's office. What citizens can do in the meantime is contact their state legislators to voice their concerns about the tax structure changes they would like to see prioritized. As school funding - which has been ruled unconstitutional since the 1970's in Ohio - is such a large contributor to property taxes citizens pay, the topic should be a priority. He then spoke about the loan program offered by the Portage County Treasurer's office referred to as Portage Growlink. These are low interest loans for Portage County homeowners, family farms, and small businesses. Information can be found on the county website at [www.portagecounty.oh.gov/treasurer](http://www.portagecounty.oh.gov/treasurer)
- Carol Dorscher - 6508 Westshore - addressed the trustees with continued concerns about the increase in storm water runoff that is running onto her property. Glenn Russell and Kellie Kapusta both stated that they separately drove to her location during that last storm to get a sense of the water flow. Road Superintendent Dave Akerley went as well. Mrs. Dorscher was given contact information for Eric Long - the Storm Water Engineer for Portage County and advised to contact him. Mrs. Dorscher remains firm that this is a more recently developed issue since the parking lot across the street from her was redone and the ditch changed.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as part of the official record.

#### ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, Mr. Swan asked Mr. Ciccozzi to take a look at possible work being done at 6209 Marteney Blvd. where no permit appears to be displayed.

FIRE UPDATE - Richard Smith reported that he met with Betsy Justice of Lovelight Daycare (located in the old Refresh Dental building on SR 59) to listen to her talk about what she plans for the building. He reiterated what the code will require and what she must do to remain compliant with regulations. He also spoke of an email received from someone in Germaine Reserve about kitchens - extra refrigerators, stoves, etc. - going into garages. The fire department has no authority to inspect private properties and that was Mr. Smith's reply to the email.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion about solutions to the walkway situation for safe access from the Brady Lake Park to the lake were tabled until Dave Akerley could be in attendance.
- The search for grant funding for a new siren at Phillips Park is still underway – two grants are submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2024-29 – amending an existing resolution passed in 2018 pertaining to the storage of junk cars on private property to reflect the specific Ohio Revised Code section referenced was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- An email sent from Germaine Reserve resident Farhad Ahmadazi asking township officials to have a pedestrian sidewalk installed along Newcomer Road was read into the record.
- Germain Reserve resident Austin Lesak emailed regarding the legality of current no parking and “private property” signs. He stated in the email that a home located at 4744 Newcomer Rd. has repeatedly allowed cars to park on Germaine Reserve property, which is killing grass. Residents of that home have been known to dump grass clippings and materials on Reserve property as well.

FINANCE REPORT

Submitted as written by Lisé Russell and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. The balance to date of all funds stands at just over \$4 million - with outstanding payments and encumbered funds for the remainder of 2024 currently of just over \$1.6 million. Year to date expenses as of this date total \$2,181,584.50. Payment of bills, warrants #26403 through 26411, including payment vouchers and totaling \$83,696.24 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:26pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

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

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_