

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:10pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the regular meeting to order following a special meeting on zoning items. Minutes from the previous regular meeting were approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard St. – stated for the record his thanks to the township road department and crew members for their jobs well done following storm cleanup and the amount of brush chipping they completed. Area residents are all grateful for their hard work.
- Ted Freeman – 2221 Leonard St. – requested that trustees vacate a paper road near his property (Washington). Mr. Swan responded that the trustees will consider his request and will additionally take a look at the list of paper roads (a lengthy list) throughout the township and see what should remain and what should be vacated. A public meeting and consultation with the road department would be beneficial to help make the decisions. Mr. Ciccozzi stated that historically, when roads are vacated, the road is split in half at the center and each half goes to the property owner attached to it gets the property.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – stated that the Twin Lakes Association looked into doing the same with paper roads in the Twin Lakes area and abandoned the idea due to its high cost.

#### **ROAD REPORT**

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, the following topics were discussed: brush chipping and leaf pickup in the Pines area off of Diagonal Road is to be addressed, the Reeder property on Spell Road is not to have any more chippings delivered there due to a cease-and-desist order issued to Mr. Reeder previously for piling them up at the road, Mr. Akerley is to contact Mike Collins at the county engineer's office to clarify the dollar amount of work a single contractor can be paid to do in a calendar year, and a list of road projects for this year was approved at a cost of \$321,865 by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Roads approved are the Lakeview/Park intersection, Onondaga St., Sixth Ave., and Mockingbird Dr.

#### **ZONING REPORT**

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, **Resolution 2023-23** authorizing the prosecutor's office to pursue contempt procedures for junk against the owner of 6426 Lakeview Dr was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. **Resolution 2023-24** authorizing the prosecutor's office to pursue contempt procedures for junk against the Shane Clark, the owner at 5738 Caranor Dr. was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Mr. Russell also asked Mr. Ciccozzi to take a look at the large woodpile located in Martinel Dr. and Sixth Ave. He is concerned about wildlife nesting there.

#### **FIRE UPDATE**

Richard Smith reported that open burning materials were taken to an address on Judson Road where open burns have been taken place; Alpha Pro Pets has been sold; Mars Motors on St RT 43 has now become Lucky Bonsai (Mr. Ciccozzi will follow up for changes in use); and the former Jones Hookah Palace location will now be a manufacturing type business.

## OLD BUSINESS

- NOPEC grant funds spending options were discussed. A new generator is on order at Cassi Electric and Jenny August is getting a list of street lights within the township to use as reference in replacing old mercury vapor lights with LED lights if an approved grant expense. We are investigating lighting at the Brady Lake ballfield that is used by the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities.
- Work on the installation of the new alarm system continues as panels and wiring are inspected and updated.
- Council members of Sugar Bush Knolls made a request to have an alarm code issued for when they use town hall for monthly meetings. It was unanimously decided that due to the infrequent use of the building it is better to continue as planned and not set the alarm on the evening they plan to meet and let them use the key given to them.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A motion was made by Kellie Kapusta to appoint Glenn Russell as the Standing Rock Cemetery representative for the duration of Mr. Russell's term; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- **Resolution 2023-22** issuing a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries within Franklin Township was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. It was noted that one location could conceivably have a dispensary as approved previously by a conditional use issued to by the Board of Zoning Appeals that stays with the property.
- A discussion was had about the possibility of changing office hours from 1-4pm to 11-3pm. It was unanimously decided to have the hours remain the same.
- **Resolution 2023-21** – appointing township resident Greg Huck to the Zoning Commission to fulfill the term of exiting member Reed Havel was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Discussion regarding the use of the Brady Lake ballfield by organized baseball teams was held. Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities uses the field per an agreement with the township for their Special Olympics and has spent a large sum of money improving the field and surrounding area. Mrs. Kapusta talked with the board director and their groundskeeper and they both agreed that they want the community to use the field for local residents' enjoyment but do not want the field altered in anyway. It was also noted that it is not a regulation field, as it meets specifications for participants with special needs. The trustees unanimously agreed that the field can and should be used by the Kent Parks and Recreation teams for practice with the stipulation that they do not drag or rake the field or otherwise change it. Organized teams, like travel leagues and those not affiliated with Kent Parks and Recreation, will not be permitted regular or scheduled practice or game use of the ballfield. Local Kent and township residents and their children have the priority for use of the field. Rules will be drafted and posted to be followed by any Kent Rec team to follow when using the park and they should work around the scheduled use needed by the PortageDD board.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Kapusta was notified just today that the field area behind the home run fence at Brady Lake Park was turfed. She is investigating to see if she can determine who was responsible.

**FINANCES**

- The township was notified that the 2023 fire and ems call rate will be \$1,460 per call.
- **Resolution 2023-13** – amending the language to this previously approved legislation to accommodate language changes needed at the Board of Elections was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26052 through 26057, including payment vouchers and totaling \$85,720.32 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:35pm a motion to adjourn was made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

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

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_