

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Scott Swan called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Keith Benjamin to nominate Ann Hanna as Chairwoman of the board for 2021; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. Next, a motion was made by Keith Benjamin to nominate Scott Swan as Vice Chairman; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. Minutes from the previous meeting (held in December) were approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Cindy Lukens-Wagner – 4573-4471 Newcomer Road – expressed her continuing concerns about water level issues on her property since the beginning of the Germaine Reserve development. On December 21, 2020 one well on her property lost water and it has not returned as of this meeting date. She is seeking some kind of assurance from the township and or the developer that the water will return to her well at the completion of the installation of deep digging and interruption of the water table during this early stage of the development. The pumps at the site of the construction run twenty four hours a day, seven days a week trying to handle the amount of water being displaced. While one well has run dry, the back of their property is flooding. She and her husband, Matt Wagner, of the same address, who also raised his continued concerns, have a verbal assurance from the site foreman (Mike Wohlwend) that the well will come back to use but nothing in writing. The Wagner's remain concerned that their fears of flooding and water flow disruption have not been taken seriously by anyone they have spoken to and the devaluation of their property value. Joe Ciccozzi spoke up and stated that he has been in contact regularly with the supervisor onsite and they have assured him that the project is not into the area aquifer. All three trustees responded that they have clearly heard the concerns expressed about this project from neighboring property owners, such as themselves and others, and that this is a highly scrutinized project. Every board member has personally made calls on their behalf and that eyes are on it. Ms. Hanna suggested they attempt to get something in writing from the developer stating that their well will restore itself after this part of the construction process is over.
- Paul Swigart Jr. – 2031 Merrill Road – requests approval to vacate a portion of the paper street Pearl Street adjacent to a parcel he owns that borders parcels owned by the township along Brady Lake Road. When asked if his intentions are known he stated that he intends to bundle the lots and sell it. All three trustees agreed that they see no problem vacating that portion of Pearl Street that runs through his parcels.
- Walter Schleper – 4829 Newcomer Road – expressed his shared concerns raised earlier by the Mrs. Lukens-Wagner and Mr. Wagner. He also states that the pumps are running nonstop trying to keep up with displaced water, there are now two ponds where there none previously, and that he expects his basement to flood in the event a large rain event or snowmelt event occurs. He also wanted the record to reflect that the well on his property is 47 feet deep and that his water changed color for a few days at the beginning of this dig work being done so he knows the aquifer has been disturbed. He has realistic concerns about future failure of piping and the contamination of their wells.

At 7:30pm regular session was interrupted for the opening of sealed bids for leaf pickup proposals. The only bid submitted and opened was by ABC Landscaping. For years 2021-2025 the bid has a cost of \$90,000 for one pickup and \$100,000 for two pickups. An extension of years 2026 and 2027 at costs of \$95,000 for one pickup and \$105,000 for two pickups was included in the bid. A motion to accept the bid by ABC Landscaping, with

the option to negotiate any particulars that might need discussed, was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. The only addition to the report was information given on a follow-up complaint about an unauthorized septic system/leach bed being put in at 7117 Diagonal Road two months ago. Due to some moving around of personnel at the health department no follow up was made after initial stoppage of the installation. A two month letter has been sent to the owner of the property, Mr. Hinchman, stating again that he has 60 days to have a properly installed septic system and receive approval from the health department.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. There was discussion about the discovery that during this pandemic time Mr. Smith has been made aware that annual or biannual inspections of township businesses have not been taking place in many instances. Trustees advised that Mr. Smith send a letter to each and every commercial location restating guidelines to be followed; he will do so.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Additionally, expenses totaling \$4,084.30 for tree stump removal, a new waterproof garage door opener and a truck repair were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. Following discussion about the pros and cons of using the Aquasalina ice melt additive system for effectiveness it was decided that the remaining stock be used up, the equipment cleaned and put up for sale.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Hanna volunteered to be the Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners representative for the township and Mr. Swan tentatively volunteered to be the AMATS representative depending on the time commitment for meetings and such.
- Resolution 2021-01 – reappointing Marilyn Sessions as a regular member of the Board of Zoning Appeals was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.
- Discussion about ongoing talks with the City of Kent regarding a fire and ems contract resulted in and affirmation of the township's position to not commit to the purchase of new fire equipment/vehicles beyond a portion of the CARES Act money the township has received that we can use toward the purchase of a new ambulance. Additionally, Ms. Hanna would like to revisit the authority of the Trustees approved legislation five years ago to collect reimbursement for ems calls in excess of a certain number per year at commercial properties in the township.

FINANCES

- Payment of bills, warrants #25201 through 25237, including payment vouchers, and totaling \$225,809.16 since the December 9th meeting was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 9:25pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and compensation was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:55pm a motion to resume regular session was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. A motion was made by Ann Hanna to hire Jenny August the new township administrator as an exempt employee effective 1/25/21 and to be contracted at 30 hours per week, be allowed to accrue sick time and be issued two weeks of vacation annually; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

Fiscal officer Lisé Russell submitted a 2021 wage and compensation scale for approval for all township employees in effect January 1, 2021 and it is attached to the official record. A motion to approve said scale was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 10:01pm a motion to adjourn was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____