

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Mr. Benjamin voted yes. Ms. Hanna voted yes. Mr. Swan abstained. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO – Detective DeSerio – reported that a total of 241 calls were answered in the township in the month of August. Some of the breakdown is as follows: 33 traffic stops, 10 of which warranted citations, 16 alarm drops, 18 thefts, 15 assists to other agencies such as rescue, police and fire, hit skips, menacing incidences, well checks, suspicious persons or vehicles, assaults and domestic calls. After the meeting ended he stated that the department was made aware of concerns shared last meeting about excessive speeding on Powdermill. Lt. Muir covered several patrols in that area and found no speeding but they will continue to pay extra attention there.
- Kellie Kapusta – introduced herself to all in attendance as a candidate on the ballot for Franklin Township Trustee. Ms. Kapusta is a 17 year resident of the township and a realtor with 20+ years of experience. She looks forward to serving her community in the capacity of trustee.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, audience member Marilyn Sessions – 7347 Westview – inquired about the rezoning of property located north of the tracks at the old KSU golf course. Mr. Ciccozzi replied that it is zoned for single family and the maximum density of the area would be 85 single family homes. Mr. Ciccozzi will also follow up on a request made by a local resident to take possession of three existing signposts that once held Welcome to Brady Lake signs. The signs have long been removed but the posts remain and someone wants them. Mr. Ciccozzi will further investigate their location and condition.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, following discussion of ongoing zoning and conditional use questions regarding the Jones' Hookah Palace operating in the former Arize building, Marilyn Sessions questioned whether or not the business could continue to operate until it is determined officially that conditional use variances are valid. Mr. Ciccozzi and Mr. Smith replied that they are operating at this time and are permitted to do so.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Ann Hanna and is attached to the official report. Additionally, Ms. Hanna reports that following an EPA audit at the garage it will be necessary to either locate or draft documentation that there is a plan in place for storm runoff water control in the event of flooding. The road crew members have had training about this but documentation is being looked for. Mr. Benjamin stated that he would like to see the township resume a catch basin/culvert pipe jetting and regular inspection arrangement the township had about six or seven years ago. AKE Laboratories was the company we had an agreement with in the past. Ms. August will begin investigating that company or find another similar and gather information. Todd Lamb Paving will begin the latest small paving project in the Brady Lake area of Merrill, Erie, School on Friday. The

total project will be just over \$27,000. The Purple Ranger pickup truck has been sold to Sarchione for a price of \$1500.00.

OLD BUSINESS

- Eagle Scout project at Phillips Park – this project should be completed by Friday, weather permitting. The road department crew will be in contact with the Amolsch family to assure that it is completed and that any help needed can be arranged.
- A contract with Ullman Oil has been signed and returned to the company for fuel purchases of at least 1,000 gallons per year and the lease of a storage tank to be installed at the garage.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jeff Moll – 7234 Berkley Street – is requesting the replacement of a tire on his wife’s vehicle be reimbursed by the township. Mrs. Moll was driving on a road clearly signed for road work ahead where the crew was cracksealing. Upon returning home the Molls noticed tar and road material on a tire they state did not come off. The tire needed replaced. They request reimbursement. The trustees will ask the township administrator to send them pictures of the tire and the location of the incident before making a decision on the matter.
- After discussion regarding the posting of the position for a new road superintendent, it was decided that more investigation will be done about job description and expectations. Until such time as a new superintendent determination is made a motion was made by Scott Swan to accept the offer made by road crew employee Lee Smith to be the Crew Leader on an interim basis, and pending an opinion from the Local 24 Teamsters Union increase Mr. Smith’s hourly rate by \$1.00 as the interim crew leader; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. Union representative Adam Boron was in attendance and reported that the union agrees to Mr. Smith being allowed to volunteer for the position. He would not be permitted under the current collective bargaining agreement to discipline any union employee. Information gathering on narrowing down the job description of the position of road superintendent will continue.
- A liquor permit amendment at Acme Fresh Market has been submitted to the Division of Liquor Control. After discussion about the terms they are seeking it was decided by a motion made by Ann Hann; 2nd Scott Swan and all three trustees voting yes that no hearing on the matter is requested.
- A motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna and a vote of yes by all three trustees determined that Trick or Treat will mirror that of the City of Kent this year in Franklin Township. It will be held Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 3-5pm.
- Franklin Township currently has \$47,598.00 in grant money from NOPEC. Of that total, \$13,886 is from 2019 and needs expensed this year. The township will move forward with seeking quotes to upgrade the HVAC system at the maintenance at the township garage. Buckeye Heating and Air Conditioning and Greer Heating will be contacted for quotes.
- After discussion regarding an installation/repair of a culvert on property owned by Dan Mothersbaugh Lee Smith will meet with him on Friday morning to look at the area, determine **if** the right pipe has been purchased and then install it.
- **Resolution 2021-16 – is a resolution authorizing**
- It has been communicated by the Michigan Conference of Teamsters Welfare Fund that only a partial credit of money overcharged for a period of 13 months will be approved. This stems back to March of 2020 when employee Joe Ciccozzi enrolled for healthcare coverage and his spouse was attempting to opt out of coverage because she has Medicare and it was not, at the time, an authorized or accepted plan by the union and Franklin Township. It took more than a year for paperwork to be completed and

submitted by the Teamsters Local 24 chapter to submit the completed forms, resulting in a nearly \$15,000 overcharge to the township. We will ask Brett Bencze to pursue a full credit.

CORRESPONDENCE

- It has been communicated to the township by the Portage County Solid Waste District that the District does not intend to fulfill the contract in place with Franklin Township by collecting leaf pickup assessments through the duration of the contract which ends December 31, 2024. Scott Swan asked that Brett Bencze of the prosecutor's office formally intervene on behalf of the township so that the District complies. And that he also assists in the reimbursement still owed the township for 2020 assessment collection which comes to just over \$102,000.
- Arden Sommers – President of the Twin Lakes Association – contacted the office and asked that the road paving schedule be more equitable and spread throughout the township rather than focus on areas that have been paved in the last three years. Mr. Benjamin responded at the meeting that there is a list of roads that need paved throughout the township. Prioritizing the schedule is based on safety of vehicles as they travel, potholes, etc. Roads that are not being paved are maintained through cracksealing.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25541 through 25570, including payment vouchers and totaling \$97,971.42 was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:26pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Scott swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____

