

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, November 9, 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 Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scot Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio – 8240 Infirmary Road – reported statistic of causes for response by the department in Franklin Township in October. A total of 215 incidences were reported, including but not limited to, 911 calls, alarm drops, assists of other departments such as fire/ems and police, juvenile complaints, thefts, and other criminal complaints. There were 62 traffic stops made in the township. He further discussed a call to the Jones Hookah Palace on Saturday, October 30th which required responses from the Kent Fire Department and the sheriff's department. Upon entry to the building more than 300 people were in attendance (over capacity), firefighters and deputies witnessed cooking taking place in the kitchen (not a permitted use) and overheard discussion among attendees about weapons being hidden in the woods. The crowd dispersed as safety personnel arrived. Additionally, that same weekend the new PACE initiative lead by Detective James was in force in the township. During that time period, 82 of the reported traffic stops were made, felony warrant arrests were made, drugs and paraphernalia seized, and misdemeanor arrests as well. After discussion regarding the Hookah Palace incident, it was determined by the trustees that the establishment will be considered a nuisance. Citing blatant disregard for adhering to guidelines set forth for ownership and management as evidenced by numerous calls to the location for the fire and sheriff departments a motion was made by Scott Swan to issue and immediate cease and desist and ordered all business operations to be shut down at the Jones Hookah Palace until such time as cooperation and compliance is shown; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. The prosecutor's office will be asked to notify the owner and his legal counsel as soon as possible.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – expressed gratitude on behalf of the Twin Lakes Association for Richard Smith and job he does for the township and its residents. They are grateful that he continuously makes himself available whenever needed.
- Walt Schleper – 4829 Newcomer Road – returns to tonight's meeting with continuing concerns about the construction activity related to the Germaine Reserve. He has spoken with the construction site manager several times about his concerns. Silt fences are down and not set back up, the cul-de-sac is encroaching on the wetland area behind the property, retaining walls are eight-ten feet in height and some are not holding up. Large trees in the area are drowning in water and he is concerned that several large oaks will end up uprooting and fall on his house. He is addressing the board tonight because he feels he has nowhere else to go and is asking for suggestions. Ms. Hanna assured Mr. Schleper that the developer has met guidelines set forth and suggested he call the EPA and share his concerns. Then both she and Mr. Swan stated that they would drive back there and take a look.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Keith Benjamin and Lee Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, all plow trucks are prepared and ready for plowing, checklists are complete for each vehicle, November chipping is done, and parks are being prepared for winter.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, there was discussion about the property at 6543 Cherry Lane being listed as a dangerous zone and labeled as such with a sign noting that in the event of a fire no safety personnel are to enter the structure due to its unsafe condition. It will be signed as such and a deputy from the sheriff department will accompany the road crew when the sign is erected.

OLD BUSINESS

- The township road crew was helpful in completing the Eagle Scout project begun at Phillips Park months ago by the Amolsch family. Some seeding and planting will take place in the spring to finish it up. The trustees unanimously agreed that Mr. Amolsch fulfilled commitments he made when he proposed the project and completed it to the best of his ability.
- Scott Swan made a motion to launch a JEDD Exploratory Committee comprised of any interested persons (residents and/or non-residents) interested in sharing ideas and input; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. It will be advertised on the township website and in the TLA newsletter as well. Interested person are to contact the township administrator.
- After determining that the discussion of setting a job description for the road superintendent and making a decision on when to advertise for the position it was decided that a special meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7th at 7:00pm for such a discussion.
- A status update on the ongoing situation with the Portage County Solid Waste Management District and their intent to not fulfill the existing contract shows that the township's legal counsel is drafting a letter on behalf of the township affirming our position that the contract be upheld.
- Mr. Benjamin asked that the township look into the installation of solar panels at the maintenance garage. Also, he suggested that stop signs that have the lights flashing at the top be considered for some the higher traffic volume areas and he notified Jenny August of a list of streetlights in Brady Lake that are out and need replaced.
- Contract talks with the City of Kent regarding a contract for emergency medical services and fire protection on the township are nearing completion. The trustees are firm in their resolve and have agreed to many of the city's proposals. The township agrees to a seven or ten year contract, a \$40 cap on per call rate increases annually, all existing township owned fire equipment and vehicles be turned over to the city, to refurbish the medical unit currently owned by the township and turn it over to the city and wants language removed from the city's version of the contract stating the "Any remaining CARES ACT funds will be turned over to the city." Further, Chief Bill Myers was in attendance and informed the board that progress is being made on the launching a paramedicine service in Kent that he anticipates will significantly reduce the number of non-emergent calls answered both in the city and the township. He anticipates that it will begin early 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE

Brady Lake residents Reed Havel and Corrine Wise have expressed an interest in serving on the zoning commission. They have been encouraged to attend the next hearing and attend the next trustee board meeting to introduce themselves.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #265613 through 25632, including payment vouchers and totaling \$115,784.32 was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:42pm a motion to adjourn was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____