

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, August 25, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous regular meeting and the special hearing held August 17, 2021 were approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Richard Smith was excused from the meeting due to an out of town vacation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Beth Geist – 5724 Powdermill Road – addressed the board with concerns about excessive speeding on Powdermill Road. As a long time resident there she can attest that the speeding increases significantly in the fall when Kent State resumes session. Keith Benjamin and Scott Swan both thanked her for sharing her concerns and stated that this is why it is so important for a representative from the Portage County Sheriff's office to be in attendance at our meetings to hear residents' concerns and help them target traffic areas that need extra monitoring through our additional patrol scheduling. Joe Ciccozzi also suggested she contact the Ohio Highway Patrol for some additional support. Later in the meeting Detective DeSerio from the PCSO arrived at the meeting and Ms. Geist was able to share these concerns with him. He assured her he would make the problem known to the department and extra patrolling would be set up for that area. Ms. Geist offered to allow the patrols to sit in her access driveway to watch.
- Hal Lehman – 2318 Leonard Blvd. – inquired about a status update on the property on Woodlawn that has been having debris dumped on site and is piling up causing a zoning junkyard violation. Mr. Ciccozzi responded that he has been in contact with the owner and is keeping an eye on the situation.
- Detective DeSerio – PCSO 8240 Infirmary Road – will be one of the regular representatives at our board meetings. He will share the responsibility with Detective James and they will alternate monthly and there will be a representative at one meeting per month. He reported some statistics on activity in the township for the month of July. There was a total of 297 calls for service in July. Of those there were 34 traffic stops and a host of other calls including, but not limited to, domestic disturbances, alarm drops, assists for fire and rescue squad, thefts, suspicious persons and vehicles, and 911 calls. The trustees thanked him for attending the meeting and expressed their gratitude on behalf the residents for the services and support given by the department. Mr. Ciccozzi also made Det. DeSerio aware of the activity at Jones Hookah Palace and informed him that there is no conditionally permitted use of the property past 2:00am, despite Instagram ads for events scheduled until 4:00am. Marilyn Sessions – 7347 Westview questioned theft reports for shoplifting at Walmart and whether or not the company contributes toward the cost of those calls. The store itself is located in Ravenna Township but the parking lot is located in Franklin Township. The patrols are aware of this and when on patrols for the township only respond to calls related to the parking lot unless it is an emergency and backup is needed in the store.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. The planned paving project with Todd Lamb is postponed due to health issues for the owner. Ann Hanna asked if there is a backup plan in place should it not resolve. Mr. Langston responded that he has contacted two other companies and hasn't received a reply. Mr. Benjamin asked about the status of when cracksealing would be complete and how many more roads need done. Mr. Langston replied that he has the crew working on a driveway culvert project on that was awaiting materials on back order and will resume cracksealing when finished. Additionally, approval was sought for JD Line Striping to stripe township roads at a cost of \$18,587.50. Approval was given by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. Ms. Hanna asked if the original stabilizer bars had been installed on the mower to make it less jarring to ride and Mr. Langston replied they had and the mower rides fine now. Lisé Russell asked if there had been a trade in yet of the purple ranger pickup truck following the purchase of a new truck. An offer \$1500 from Sarchione is on the table. Mr. Langston will contact Valley Truck where another new truck purchase is in the works and see if they will offer at least the same.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Resolution 2021-15 seeking authorization for an inspection warrant for the property located at 6543 Cherry Lane was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Also, Mr. Ciccozzi reported that a shed that had been erected years ago on Brady Lake Village property, which became township property upon the dissolution of the Village, has been removed as requested by the township months ago.

OLD BUSINESS

- Eagle Scout walkway project at Phillips Park – is progressing toward completion. The Amolsch family requires about two more work days and think that should be enough time to finish. Mr. Langston reported that the road crew spent some time at the site spreading dirt around and it is looking better.
- After discussion about fuel usage and storage tank possibilities regarding the Ullman Oil proposal Mr. Benjamin worked out it was decided that township usage for gasoline is approximately 1200 gallons per year. After speaking to the representative from Ullman he said the township could set whatever minimum gallons usage they feel appropriate and the 300 gallon storage tank would be free with the signed contract. A motion to approve the contract with Ullman Oil and specify a minimum usage commitment at 1,000 gallons per year was made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.
- Mr. Swan stated that he would like to get things moving forward on a new contract with the City of Kent Fire Department. Administrator Jenny august will draft a letter formally stating the trustees response to their latest counteroffer – The township will agree to the seven year average of calls answered cost; the township agrees to fund the refurbishment of the township owned ambulance; the increase per call cap of \$35.00 remains in place; the transfer of all township owned inventory to the city be taken into account monetarily; and the township makes no commitment to future equipment purchases made by the city.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Standing Rock Cemetery Board requires one township official to serve on the board. Mr. Benjamin has served in that capacity for several years. The new appointee will be decided after the election this fall names the new trustees and a decision will be made regarding who will sit on the cemetery board.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25532 through 25540, including payment vouchers and totaling \$106,165.56 was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:21pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna made a motion to suspend regular session and call an emergency executive session to discuss discipline of a public employee; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Mr. Benjamin voted yes. Ms. Hanna voted yes. Mr. Swan abstained.

At 9:32pm Ann Hanna made a motion to leave executive session and resume regular session; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Keith Benjamin made a motion to dismiss the road superintendent effective immediately and pay out his existing vacation, comp time, and sick time accrued; 2nd Ann Hanna. Scott Swan voted no. Keith Benjamin voted yes. Ann Hanna votes yes. The motion carried by majority vote. At 9:36pm Scott Swan motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ann Hanna voted yes. Keith Benjamin voted yes. Scott Swan voted no. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____