

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – asked where Lisé Russell was tonight. Mr. Russell explained that she stayed home tonight due to illness
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Street – inquired about the vacant properties on Sylvan that are adjacent to the back entrance of Phillips Park. Though they are not common properties, therefore not under the jurisdiction of the Twin Lakes Association, she stated that there would be resident support for the possibility of forming an easement agreement with the township thus facilitating the connection between the neighborhood and the park.
- Jon Freeman – 2221 Leonard St. -status update on the request the vacate the unbuilt portion of northern Washington Street. Mr. Russell explained that he visited the area with Dave Akerley and Joe Ciccozzi. They are in agreement that the only possible use they foresee for that parcel would be a possible parking area, though Mr. Russell does not necessarily support putting parking there, but in the interest of the township has to consider all possible uses of taxpayer owned land. Mrs. Kapusta also spoke to the idea of any parking uses for that area and believes that would only exacerbate issues already occurring where nonresidents are utilizing the nearby Brady Lake as a dumping ground for trash. She also believes residents of that area would not appreciate parking at that location. Should trustees decide to vacate that portion of the road the township would lose all options of what to do with the land, it would be split right down the middle and each half would be absorbed by the adjacent properties. The trustees will be prepared to make a final determination at the next scheduled board meeting.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file as official record at the township office. Additionally, in response to an onsite meeting at the Germaine Reserve with Mr. Akerley, Mr. Russell, Mike Collins, and the Germaine developer to review a punch list of fixes prior to dedicating the roads as Franklin Township roads, there was discussion at this meeting about signage regarding parking and speed limits. Mr. Swan stated for the record that he wants to make sure the signs are made and ready to be erected as soon as the township takes the roads over. Austin Leasak – 121 Wanda Court – who is the president of the Germain HOA stated that parking remains an issue. Residents are ignoring common sense and existing common laws about not parking in front of fire hydrants and that many continue to park in the cul-de-sacs continually. Richard Smith informed him that those cul-de-sacs are the size they are to allow for the turning radius of ladder trucks used by the fire department (the same for width of the roads). He suggested Mr. Leasak share that information with all Germain Reserve residents to discourage them from doing so. Mr. Swan and Mrs. Kapusta agreed and stated that they suggest he address these issues with all residents at their next HOA meeting and inform them that can either stop parking in front of hydrants and on cul-de-sacs on their own or be cited when trustees are forced to have signs put up and have them ignored. Also, Mr. Akerley is in the process of completing the equipment condition report requested by Mr. Russell. There was discussion about the need to consider replacing the old yellow ranger and purple pickup trucks that are on their last legs and the continued repairs needed for the chipper. The chipper underwent significant repairs last year. Mr. Akerley is of the belief that the chipper was sabotaged - though there is no supporting evidence or a way to prove it – and has taken steps to prevent a repeat of the damage being repaired at this time. MR. Akerley also thanked resident Red Nichols for bringing donuts to the garage. The entire crew was very appreciative.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that the City of Kent officially promoted Jamie Samels to Fire Chief and hired two additional fire fighters.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file as public record at the township office. Mr. Ciccozzi requested authorization for the prosecutor’s office to pursue contempt for zoning violations for the property located at 7426 Lakeview. Authorization was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Additionally, the following resolutions were voted upon regarding properties with long standing violations:

- ✓ Resolution 2024-12 – requesting a title search for real estate located at 7743 West Blvd – motion to approve made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes
- ✓ Resolution 2024-13 – requesting a title search for real estate located at 1495 North Blvd, - motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Ms. Grimm asked about the responsibility of the cost of any demolition of the above-mentioned properties. Should the properties on West Blvd. and North Blvd be deemed eligible for demolition it would be at the expense of the township. Mr. Ciccozzi would confer with the prosecutor’s office as to who would then have ownership of the vacant properties.

OLD BUSINESS

- Hudson Road status update – upon meeting with Mike Collins of the county engineer’s office and discovering that another increase in estimated costs for Phases IV and V of Hudson Road brings the estimated combined total of completion to \$788,258.00, discussion was held about whether or not it has become cost prohibited to continue. Taking into consideration figures compiled by the fiscal officer and seeking the input of our road superintendent, the trustees have reached a conclusion about the project moving forward. Regarding Resolution 2024-11 – authorizing all actions necessary for the county engineer’s office to proceed with preparing a bidbook and set the advertisement and bid opening for Hudson Road Phases IV and V a motion to proceed was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted no. The unanimous no vote signifies the decision to not move forward with the completion of Hudson Road and the consideration of other resurfacing options.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for trustees with the exception of Mr. Freeman’s request to vacate a portion of paper road on Washington Street.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #26284 through 26290, including payment vouchers and totaling \$125,153.13 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 7:50pm a motion to adjourn was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____