

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, July 25, 2033
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

1. Denise Smith – representative of the Portage County Board of Elections – addressed all in attendance with information regarding the upcoming special election on August 8, 2023. All Ohio polling locations will be active. There is only one issue on the ballot. Issue 1 is an initiative seeking change to the Ohio Constitution. It's passage would then require all citizen ballot initiatives to receive 5% of voters in all 88 Ohio counties (a change from the current 44 counties required), rule out a simple majority vote and require a 60% majority vote (a change from the current 50% +1), and remove the cure period petitions now have to replace invalid signatures by having petitioners start over. She explained there are three ways to vote: 1. Early voting in person at the Board of Elections with a valid photo ID; submission of an absentee ballot that is received no later than August 11, 2023 at 8:30pm; poll voting on August 8th with a valid Photo ID (Ohio driver's license, State of OH ID, military photo ID). She further reiterated that absentee ballots must be put in the ballot box or brought in person but voter registration forms can be turned in by anyone.
2. Deb Green – representative of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources – addressed the board regarding the process of implementing regulations pertaining to Brady Lake. Should ODNR be engaged for such a purpose by the trustees she would seek input from all Brady Lake residents about what they want to do with the lake, what purpose they want the lake to serve, how do they want to use it, etc. by conducting neighborhood meetings. Ms. Green would take that information back to her department and devise regulations regarding motoring uses, boat size and type, motor horsepower limits, etc. There would be no cost to the township for this service. Local law enforcement would be responsible for the enforcement of these regulations. When asked if her department had been involved in working with local residents in the establishing of a lake association she stated that the state does not involve themselves in that but offered a resource, The Ohio Lake Communities Association, that could share all of the resources available. The trustees thanked her for coming in to speak about the issue in response to concerns brought to trustees about fishing, pontoon boats, speeding and safety concerns and such brought to their attention by some concerned residents. Mr. Russell asked for any questions from the audience or other trustees and there were none. Mr. Swan asked if she would please share with the township arrangements that have been made in other areas where lake associations were formed.
3. Lori Miller – 2219 Erie Street – asked if any such community meetings about the lake had been held so far; there have not been.
4. James Samels – acting Kent Fire Department Chief – introduced himself in a goodwill gesture. The purpose of his attendance this evening was to assure the trustees and Franklin Township residents that though there are personnel changes due to retirements and such services remain top notch, calls are being answered with the same level of professionalism and experience as in the past, and that the township DFPO, Richard Smith, remains a valuable asset to Franklin Township and to the City of Kent. He also briefly described a grant the city is applying for to supplement the income of first responders through the pandemic and asked for Franklin Township's support – which the trustees unanimously supported. Mr. Russell informed Mr. Samels that he had spoken with the former Chief, Bill Myers, about CPR and first aid training being made available to township employees, especially the road crew. Acting Chief Samels responded that with costs for such services skyrocketing and the department being in a state of transition that it would be his recommendation to go through the American Red Cross. Franklin Township support of the grant application referred to earlier was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

5. Sandra Dixon – 6531 Cherry Lane – shared her concerns regarding the structure next door to her home. The property she refers to is owned by Mr. Spitzer and has been deemed unfit for human habitation by the county building department, the county health department, and the Kent Fire Department. The owner bathes in Brady Lake. There is no running water in the home. There are no utilities on and generators are used for lights. Insects and feral cats have become an issue for neighbors. Mr. Russell informed her that he has spoken to Mr. Desorio at the health department and was informed that the state health department has been notified and is now involved and working on a solution.
6. Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Ave. – reiterated that she, as well as the Twin Lakes Association, met previously with some Brady Lake residents interested in the formation of a lake association, sharing as much information as requested and stated she would be happy to do so again. It was discussed that TLA is a property owners association which would differ from a homeowner’s association, changing the way tenants in rental properties would be considered.
7. Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – shared pictures with the trustees of problem of high grass at 1495 North Blvd. The township has been in contact with Bowers to have it mowed but that has not happened yet. Trustees and Mr. Ciccozzi will follow up.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. There are several very large, old trees that need taken down before they fall and cause damage to homes or roads. A first quote of \$20,652 from Falls Tree Service has been received. Trustees asked that one or two more quotes be sought and permission to move ahead with the lowest quote was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes. Also, due to a shorthanded crew with the resignation of Tom Workman and the announcement of Mike DeLeone’s retirement a culvert/piping job on Merrill Road and Powdermill will be contracted out.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Resolution 2023-36 authorizing a lien and title search on 6542 Cherry Lane was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that there was a fire at 6476 Cherry Lane that show the house burned, windows are gone but lights are on. Mr. Smith will follow up.

OLD BUSINESS

- Resolution 2023-32 – authorizing participation in the ODOT Cooperating purchasing program was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Renewal of the township’s Record Courier subscription was discussed and approved.
- Mrs. Kapusta reported that the ST RT 59 project has moved into the design phase. The township’s share of the local portion of this expense is \$12,330. The expense was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. When all is said and done, depending on what grant is approved for the entire project, Franklin Township’s portion of this project should be in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

CORRESPONDENCE

- The township has received long time road department employee Mike DeLeone's retirement notice. His last date of employment will be August 31, 2023. The trustees are grateful for his service to the township and we all wish him well.
- Mrs. Kapusta was contacted by a concerned resident about the activator signal located on Powdermill Road at ST RT 59 not functioning. Dave Akerley will follow up with the county engineer's office.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #26123 through 26131, including payment vouchers and totaling \$122,567.23 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:56pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____

