

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, August 8, 2023
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 Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lauren Manfress – 7351 Westlake Blvd – address the trustees with concerns about speeding on her street and on other main thoroughfares in the area, such as Sylvan and Merrill. Many motorists travel these streets coming off of ST RT 43 and are traveling in excess of 40mph. There are many residents walking these streets, kids playing, pets outside. She is seeking solutions. Mr. Russell responded that the township can reach out to the county engineer's office to ask about additional signing to slow down and the possibility of speed warning signs. Mr. Swan thanked her for coming to a meeting to share these concerns and informed her of the additional sheriff patrols paid for by the township. Detective Nick DeSerio was in the audience and addressed her concerns directly. He will make sure the department knows that is a targeted area, inquire about a portable speed warning sign used by the sheriff's office being placed there and asked that she call the non-emergency sheriff's office number if she notices a pattern developing of the time of day where speeding is worse. Detective DeSerio mentioned also that Franklin Township 'blitzes' are about to resume where four hour shifts are devoted to Franklin Township only using the money appropriated by Franklin Township for extra patrols.
2. Ron Nichols – 12515 South Blvd. – raised a question to Detective DeSerio regarding a vehicle that was parked on a neighborhood street for an extended period of time. When the driver was asked what he was doing there he responded that he was a private investigator and was there legally and notified the sheriff's department but would not state his reason for being there. Detective DeSerio responded that private investigators are not required to notify the department and are not required to divulge their purpose for being on a public road. He was not aware of this incident.
3. Tim Reder – 296 Spell Road – addressed the trustees with concerns about what he deems unfair treatment regarding the excessive amount of brush chips he has on his property. Several years ago he was issued a cease and desist for having these chips brought by the truckloads to his property, as they were piling up in the township right of way. He feels he has adequately removed them from the right of way and should be able to have chips delivered to his property as he sees fit. Mr. Reder has spoken to Dave Akerley about what his plans are to use them as landscaping material. Zoning inspector, Joe Ciccozzi stated that there are still large piles of chips that have been there for an extended period of time, constituting a zoning violation because they are in excess of 75 sq. ft. of yard debris, which according to our Zoning Resolution, is considered junk. After continued discussion back and forth Mr. Russell intervened and stated that the trustees would have a discussion with Mr. Akerley first to ascertain what needs done to comply with the right of way and road safety. After that is taken care of, they would have a discussion with Joe Ciccozzi about zoning compliance. Then the information would be shared with Mr. Reder. Mr. Russell closed public comment on this topic at that point.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, after meeting with representatives from the county engineer's office regarding several trees on Crystal Street posing a problem, it was determined that the township should not be taking down live trees unless they are impeding the storm water or road resurfacing improvements/modifications. Also, due to the way roads were done in Brady Lake Mr. Akerley is unable to clearly determine where the right of way is on these small, narrow roads. The Portage County Engineer's Office will survey the roads to determine right of way. Then, if the trees are indeed in the right of way they can be evaluated by a professional to determine if they are live, healthy trees.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

- Hudson Road update – Mr. Russell reported that he, along with Jenny August and Dave Akerley, attended a meeting with Mike Collins and PC Engineer Larry Jenkins to find out what our options are after two unsuccessful biddings for Phase IV this year. Option one would be to simply abandon the project and consider just paving the surface at some point. Option two would be to combine the two final phases and bid them together for 2024. The engineer’s office will put in a request to OPWC and ask if an extension is possible for Phase IV so that the road could be finished in its entirety next year. If OPWC does not approve the extension, then we would lose the funding, be required to pay back engineering and design costs already paid, and risk approval for future projects. Lisé Russell then gave a brief synopsis of funding options should the project move forward for next year. The trustees unanimously decided to wait for a decision from the engineer’s office and OPWC before making a decision.
- ST RT 59 Project update – score cards were completed and Arcadis was scored highest of the two agencies involved in the project.
- Grant seeking for CPR and First Aid training for township employees has been unsuccessful thus far. Detective DeSerio suggested we contact UH Portage as a possibility and Scott Swan suggested Kent State.

NEW BUSINESS

- With Mike DeLeone’s retirement and Tom Workman’s resignation, the township had two open road crew positions. Ken Middleton has been hired, leaving one position open. It will be posted on our website, Indeed.com, and in the Record Courier.
- There has been recent concern about moisture being detected in the basement at town hall. It could possibly be related to heavy rains and gutters that need cleaned out. Jenny August will be asked to contract someone to come and clean out the gutters.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Scott Swan was contacted by Kent Park resident with concerns about the deer population increase and problems it is causing.
- Glenn Russell was contacted by Jeff Coffee of Sugar Bush Knolls. The village is interested in contracting Franklin Township to plow and salt their 2.8 miles of roads beginning this winter. The trustees advised Dave Akerley to put some numbers together on what it might cost the township to do so, taking into consideration fuel usage, wear and tear on equipment, salt, overtime, wages, OPERS contributions, etc. After looking over that information a decision will be made.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2023-37 – a resolution authorizing the transfer of \$200,000 from the JEDD Fund to the Fire Fund for the purpose of paying fire and ems services was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26124 through 26138, including payment vouchers and totaling \$248, 241.54 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:34pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____