

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Scott Swan and Joe Ciccozzi were both excused due to illness. Minutes from the previous regular meeting and minutes from the special meeting held September 18, 2023 were approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. Both trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Christine Craycroft – Director of Portage Parks – addressed the board to discuss the levy which will be on the November ballot and some future projects by the district. The Franklin Bog Reserve and extension of the Franklin Township Park and Trail Connections will be a priority over the coming years. This is located on the north side of the township that connects to the Davey Tree SEED Campus off of OH-43 north back to the Cuyahoga River. The Parks District has been working with Davey Tree on an agreement that will allow access to the new preserve through trails off of the SEED Campus under construction now. Ms. Craycroft also informed all present that the current .5 mil levy approved by voters 10 years ago is expiring and that the district is now seeking a 1.0 mil 10 year levy to replace it. Over the last decade the district has gone from two employees to ten and they have purchased needed equipment and acquired land. The Portage Parks District has also been awarded \$7 million in grant money and \$1 million is land donations. Their mission is conservation and that has been their focus and will continue to be. Glenn Russell asked why so much of the park land owned by the district is guided tour only. Ms. Craycroft responded that opening parks to the public requires staffing they do not currently have and that they need to make parks open to the public safe for people and for the preservation of the land.
- Jacob Walker – 6454 Lakeview Dr. – addressed the board with questions regarding the survey currently being distributed in the Brady Lake area as part of a grant application process. He feels not enough information was given in the letter. Mrs. Kapusta has been working diligently on getting the 100% participation needed to qualify and was happy to respond. This application is for grant money – not a new tax or a levy or assessment of any kind on the residents of Brady Lake. The township is trying to get up to \$500,000 in funding that can be used to repair roads in that area. This will only bring money already paid to the state in taxes back to this area to benefit our residents. Mr. Walker suggested the possibility of a public forum being held at the park to inform residents or answer any questions they might have to facilitate more people completing the survey. Mrs. Kapusta thanked him for the suggestion and will follow up.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – wanted to state for the record her gratitude as a township resident for the consideration and time-consuming decision-making process the Hudson Road project completion has presented to the trustees. As a regular attendee of our board meetings, she has listened to the back-and-forth discussions, the budgeting decisions, and the ramifications of whether or not to proceed with the final phases as costs skyrocket. She appreciates the board's decision take into consideration everyone's safety and to move forward with its completion. Ms. Grimm also spoke to township road superintendent, Dave Akerley, and expressed that she recognizes that he has been put into the position of prioritizing roads for resurfacing and trying to work within the budget. Mr. Russell expressed his gratitude for Mr. Akerley's knowledge and commitment of so effectively saving the township money so that more roads can be addressed.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. In addition, the motrimming schedule was discussed at length. This is an arduous and potentially dangerous responsibility our road department handles. The line of sight for motorists is the number one priority behind this service. Due to the increased volume of calls from residents requesting more frequent motrimming of the right of way in along their properties, it was decided that information regarding the motrimming schedule and its main purpose will be placed on the township website for clarification purposes.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi in his absence.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Smith reported that when doing the run summary for August calls for 911, twenty-five were received by the Kent Fire Department on the night of the big storm (August 25th) and one hundred from the city. The Kent Fire Department answered every call.

OLD BUSINESS

The decision on advertisement/posting for the open road department position will be tabled until Mr. swan is able to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- Trick Treat 2023 was set as Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 3-5, thus mirroring the City of Kent, by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2023-40 – authorizing the Chairman to participate in and execute contracts related to OPWC for Hudson Road Phase V was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. Both trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2023 – 41 – authorizing the declaration of a nuisance and providing abatement for the property located at 1495 North Blvd was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Rusell. Both trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2023 – 42 – authorizing the declaration of a nuisance and providing abatement for the property located at 6564 Cherry Lane was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. Both trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A liquor permit transfer was requested at 1836 OH-59 at the Sunoco gas station location. This is just a transfer of permit holder names. No hearing is requested by the board of trustees.
- A complaint of speeding and the dangerous curve on Rhodes Road was received from resident Dennis Krupa. He requests sheriff patrols, better lighting and maybe more signage there. He also is concerned about increased lighting needed at Chase Park due to activity long after dark. Both of these issues will be discussed at the next meeting so that Mr. Swan and Detective Nick DeSerio can be present to discuss.
- Mr. Russell informed everyone that an information sharing meeting will take place October 2nd at town hall with Detective DeSerio, Jenny August, Lisé Russell, and himself to open discussion regarding a new contract with the Portage County Sheriff's Office. The existing one is ten years old.

- Mr. Russell received communication from an applicant seeking the road department position expressing displeasure that he was not given a chance to interview. Mr. Russell explained to the applicant that his resumé was reviewed and he did not meet the qualifications needed and posted for the position.
- Mr. Russell reported that he shared the information determined by Mr. Akerley and okayed by trustees on contracting with the Village of Sugar Bush Knolls with Councilperson Jeff Coffee. Mr. Coffee responded favorably and said he would take the information to their board and follow up with the township.
- Mr. Russell was notified that Franklin Township DFPO Richard Smith has been authorized to provide CPR/First Aid training to the road department personnel at the facility in Hudson. Mr. Akerley and Mr. Smith will coordinate dates.
- PC Engineer Project Manager Mike Collins communicated with the township that a resolution to move forward with OPWC Round 38 proposed project Sixth/Ohio needs submitted by October 13th. This item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting, to be held October 10th so a decision can be made in time.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #26165 through 26170, including payment vouchers and totaling \$56,800.26 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Both trustees voted yes.

At 8:01pm a motion to adjourn was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. Both trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____