

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, May 23, 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

- Eric Kolb – 100 Johnson Road – introduced himself to trustees and explained his intent regarding the property he owns on Johnson Road. Mr. Kolb requested detachment of the portion of his 39 acres that was previously a township parcel but was annexed into Kent years ago. He wishes to have the parcel back in the township and utilize the land for farming and family recreation. His neighbors vocally opposed this detachment at the recent Kent City Council meeting and his request was denied. He expressed his intent to take the next step in continuing to seek the detachment.
- Marilyn Sessions – 7347 Westview – proactively spent some time with Mr. Kolb and Joe Ciccozzi today touring the above-mentioned property in the event his request comes to fruition and he should need anything from the Board of Zoning Appeals in order to be better informed.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, it was brought to the attention of the trustees that two Bobolink Circle residents damaged a township road. They suspected a water leak and had a contractor cut up a 10x10 ft section of Bobolink Circle and dug to a depth of approximately seven feet looking for the water leak source. There was no leak found. The contractor then backfilled the hole incorrectly. The resident was honest with Mr. Akerley when he discovered the damage to the road today and admitted what they had done. The trustees do not want these residents or any contractor they hire to attempt any further repair to the township road. Mr. Akerley is to take charge of the repair and the residents will be billed for the cost. Mr. Russell and Mr. Swan will contact the Portage County Sheriff's Office tomorrow, Wednesday, May 24th, to file a report.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi will follow up on a home located at First Ave/Kent St that is being used as a home for cognitively disabled individuals to ensure that the number of residents living there complies with its current zoning status.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that inspections are coming along well and that titles for township donated equipment, a grass truck and a Seagrave pumper truck, have been turned over to the city.

OLD BUSINESS

- Alarm system installation continues at town hall. Work on the fire alarm and security alarms should be done this week.
- Hudson Road Phase III and Phase IV project status – upon the recommendation of the county engineer's office, the project will be rebid. At the previous meeting, three bids were opened and none were within the required 10% window of the estimated cost projected by the county engineer. After a lengthy discussion about changes or postponement, and implications that would have on project cost, a motion to rebid the project with the following modifications was made by Scott Swan – to remove Phase III bike lane from the project at this time, extend the road closure time to a 45 day maximum, and extend the completion date to October 1, 2023; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Additionally, Mrs. Kapusta and Mr. Akerley will meet with Mike Collins, project manager for the Portage County Engineer and representatives from AMATS to clarify funding and modification ramifications.

- Brush chipping at The Pines – township administrator Jenny August will begin drafting a release from liability agreement to entered into with the housing association with The Pines and have the agreement checked by Brett Bencze at the prosecutor’s office prior to getting it signed. This agreement needs to be in place before any chipping will be done within the development as the roads are private roads, not township roads.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-26 – authorizing the Chairman of the trustees to prepare and submit an application for participation in the Ohio Public Works Commission state capital improvement program and execute contracts as required was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell, 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Scott Swan received notice that a relative who lives on Ohio Ave. returned home from an outing to find a bullet hole shot through her backdoor which traveled through the home and lodged in her bedroom door. A report was filed with the Portage County Sheriff’s Office and is under investigation
- Glenn Russell was made aware of vandalism that took place at the Brady Lake Park (the fencing erected by the county DD Board) and suspected drug activity taking place in the park at night. Security lighting will be investigated and considered for installation on the three poles that exist there.
- Glenn Russell attended the recent Zoning Commission hearing where topics being discussed were not under the direction or at the request of the board. He asked that the three trustees take an interest in the direction the commission takes and utilize their research skills in a more collaborated way. One topic, for example, was affordable housing. A brief discussion followed and an agreement reached that trustees will collaborate and supply some guidance for what the commission focuses on.

FINANCES

- A proposed budget for the 2024 tax year was presented by Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell. A brief overview was given and trustees, along with the road superintendent, were asked to carefully look the budget over prior to the next meeting and be prepared to ask questions or suggest changes at the next meeting. There were no questions from residents in attendance. The budget hearing will be held at 6:45pm on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 to vote on the budget.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26059 through 26077, including payment vouchers and totaling \$86,585.55 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 9:02pm a motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____