

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, July 13, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order. Fiscal officer Lisé Russell and road superintendent Brian Langston were excused from the meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Robert Howard – 6318 Lakeview drive – addressed the board to share concerns that he and other township residents have about an upcoming event to be held at the Overlook Restaurant and Banquet Center. On August 19, 2021 the Portage County Republican Party annual dinner will be held at the Overlook. It is scheduled to begin at 5:30. The advertised speaker will be Marjorie Taylor Greene. This speaker has a history of drawing large crowds. The concerns shared with the board are of crowd size, traffic flow, parking, and noise. Rush hour traffic on ST RT 43, including at the intersection of St Rt 43 and Overlook, is always bottlenecked as cars attempt left-hand turns onto and off of Rt 43 and concerns of off-street overflow parking along Overlook and neighboring side streets is probable. Mr. Howard provided a letter addressed to the trustees and signed by several committee members of the Portage County Democratic Party asking that township officials both notify and work with the sheriff's department of the expected capacity crowd and share any plans being made to offset the possible interruption of traffic flow and other large crowd associated issues. Mr. James Wyatt Jr. – 1813 Merrill – shares these concerns and also asked if the City of Akron should be notified as of the close proximity to the Akron waterworks property owned along Diagonal Road, intersecting Overlook. He added that the event was originally planned to be held at the Bertram in Aurora but that management at the Bertram declined to host when informed of the speaker. The trustees assured these gentlemen that the township would indeed contact the sheriff's department to cover all bases about crowd size, traffic flow, possible parking issues, etc. Richard Smith, the township deputy fire protection officer is hereby notified that he should remain aware of capacity issues that may arise at the event center. The letter submitted is attached to the official record.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted in writing by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Benjamin stated for the record that he would like clarification on why culvert pipe that has been reported as a repair in progress for the last four weeks is not nearing completion. Mr. Langston has stated that he is in the process of ordering culvert pipe. The township policy when a driveway pipe needs replaced at a resident's property has been that the resident buys the pipe after finding out what type and size is needed; contracts the installation themselves, notifies the township when it is done and the road department will inspect it. The township road crew does not do the work. He will clarify with Mr. Langston that he is aware of this policy. Mr. Swan stated for the record that he suggests Mr. Langston be contacted and asked what he is doing about this project. Ms. Hanna shared information about a used truck for sale that was found by Mr. Langston and brought to the garage for trustees to inspect before purchase. The vehicle appeared too old and not in good shape and would not meet our current needs. The township will not purchase this vehicle. As the road department has been searching for one or two new trucks to replace aging vehicles currently in use, Mr. Benjamin reported that after twenty minutes on the internet and phone he located two brand new trucks and a dealer we have used before that are equivalent in size to what Mr. Langston has been searching for. The trucks are about \$5,000 more than the used one referenced above. Mr. Benjamin also reiterated, and it was agreed upon by the other trustees present, that this replacement truck will be a utility truck to be used on job sites by the entire crew.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted in writing by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. One of the zoning violation issues Mr. Ciccozzi has been following involves the old Brady Lake school building owned by Mr. Testa. It has been turned into condominiums. There have been junkyard complaints. Upon investigation Richard Smith has become involved due to some fire code violations as well. Some of these violations involve common areas both inside and outside of the building. There is not clarity on who is exactly responsible for some of these areas and who would be cited for the violation – the owner, Mr. Testa or the individual owners. Mr. Smith and Mr. Ciccozzi are working in tandem to track down responsible parties and have the violations abated as quickly as possible.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record.

OLD BUSINESS

- Fire contract discussion status update – the trustees remain firm on their stance that Kent State University needs to be a financial supporter of the expensive trucks and ambulances in need of replacement, thus bringing down the support needed from the city and the township. The trustees remain firm that \$100K be offered for a capital investment in the new ambulance next year. They would also like more information about the number of outstanding balances referred to the State attorney General’s Office for collection.
- Mr. Swan reported that a large parking lot gathering of some kind was held at the former Arize – now Hooka Palace, building last Saturday. At least one hundred cars and there was dangerous racing along the St Rt 59 corridor as well.
- Jenny August will be asked to reach out to the sheriff’s department and ask who our regular representative will be and ask if they will be in attendance at our bimonthly board meetings.
- Keith Benjamin reminded the board that job descriptions for all nonelected positions discussed in the past should be defined soon so as to bring clarity on expectations.

CORRESPONDENCE

Emails back and forth with representatives of the Portage County Developmental Disabilities board have been taking place regarding their use of Brady Lake Park for their annual Special Olympic field events. The trustees need to schedule an evening walk of the park with these representatives for the layout of what they have in mind.

FINANCE REPORT

Submitted in writing by Lisé Russell and is attached to the official record. Additionally, payment of bills, warrants #25249 through 25462, including payment vouchers and totaling \$111,518.18 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:03pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____