

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, November 23, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:23pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order following a special hearing. Minutes from the November 9th meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tom Clapper – 5699 Powdermill Road – expressed his gratitude to Keith Benjamin as he prepares to step down as a trustee. He is grateful for the service Mr. Benjamin has provided these many years and will miss him.
- Mr. Sweitzer – 7268 Hudson Road – is here requesting temporary signage on behalf of the Stewart Lake Association. He proposes to install 6” diameter posts thirty feet off the ground and surrounding Stewart Lake. Each sign would say “No Trespassing” spaced thirty feet apart. The Ohio Revised Code provides that in order to be enforced signs must be posted that there is to be no trespassing. Carl Wunderle – 893 Gemberling – stated that he would like to see this addressed in meetings among the lake association. All of the signs, if erected, would face his property. Allen Stewart – 853 Gemberling – supported Mr. Wunderle’s position and stated that all of the signs would face his property as well. Mr. Sweitzer told the board that he poled members of the association and that twenty-five said yes to the signs. Mr. Swan asked who requested the signs in the first place and why the request was made? Joe Ciccozzi stated that the original permit request was submitted as a sign permit. Dave Shaw – 840 Stewart Road – stated the reason for the request is to clearly define the property, prohibiting the unauthorized use by nonmembers driving back to the lake. The signs would alert people to the property being private. After discussion all three trustees were in agreement that this should be an association issue.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Rd – discussed the TLA investigation of acquiring an AED (automatic defibrillator device) to have at the beach. They are seeking a possible partnership with the township or city in the purchase of one. Kent City fire chief Bill Myers was in attendance and suggested there are grants available to research as well. The association is also discussing whether or not an additional dry hydrant might be beneficial maybe in the lagoon or on West Twin Lake. Mr. Swan recalled concerns about installing one near the beach was a problem due to sloping of the land making entry/exit difficult.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that another late-night visit was necessary at the Jones Hookah Palace the preceding weekend. The number of vehicles parked in the lot far exceeded the count of people given by establishment personnel. When he was let in, with the support of the city fire department, the smoke was heavy in the air. An accurate count was not able to be obtained due to the constant movement of people. Chief Myers suggested the health department should be involved due to the smoke to determine whether to e smoking of hookah is taking place inside or if the smoke machine onstage is compliant. Mr. Swan stated that it is time to issue citations when the fire lane is blocked, as it was again this time. No more warnings to move vehicles are to be given. The fire department will work in conjunction with the sheriff’s department on citations. Also, Pebblebrook Apartments’ extinguishers are now working and compliant and Meadowview inspections are all done.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Lee Smith and Keith Benjamin and is attached to the official record. An extensive list of work completed since the last meeting was read by Mr. Benjamin. He reported also that the snow plows are ready to go in the event of inclement weather. The road crew has been busy and getting a lot of work done.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. The only additional discussion revolved around the increasing number of calls being made to the Jones' Hookah Palace for blocked fire lanes, over capacity crowds and the potential for unrest. Detective Nick DeSerio of the PCSO, who was onsite and called the township fire inspector to come over this last incident, stated that the sheriff is willing to get involved and provide support needed.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion regarding ongoing communication with the county about the solid waste district contract. Chad Murdock has been retained by the township as legal counsel as the county is attempting to void the existing contract, which runs through December 31, 2024. Mr. Murdock will be in attendance at the December 14th meeting to discuss details but at tonight's meeting a decision by the board is needed to accept the \$5.50 per month fee that will be assessed to each residence. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ann Hanna to accept the fee increase to \$5.50 per month and to convey that the township has yet to make a determination as to possible litigation for breach of contract regarding the leaf pick up assessment language in the current contract; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.
- Discussion about posting for the hire of a new full time road crew member after the resignation of Ben Mathie and whether or not to advertise for a seasonal plow person as well. A motion was made by Ann Hanna to advertise for both positions in the Record Courier and on our website; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2021-25 appointing Sam Abell as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals to a term effective 1/1/22 through 2/19/22, completing the term vacated by trustee-elect Glenn Russell was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25634 through 25644, including payment vouchers, totaling \$61,236.17 was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

Before adjournment a question was asked by audience member Mekal Banyasz as to why the township has leaf pickup. Keith Benjamin responded that leaves are considered solid waste. Picking them up for residents greatly decreases the incidences of illegal and unsafe burning and all the trustees agreed that it is a good service to provide our residents.

At 8:45pm a motion to adjourn was made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____