

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairperson Kellie Kapusta called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. Votes - Mr. Russell – yes; Mr. Swan – yes; Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mona Work – 2528 Oaks Ave. – addressed the trustees with a request to film a scene for an independent student film at the pavilion located at Chase Park. Filming would take place on either Friday or Saturday, March 14th or 15th, from approximately 11:00am to 4:00pm. This is a Kent State student endeavor and there were no objections from the trustees.
- Rob Wiggins and Jeff Kegg – 6500 Lakeview – addressed the trustees to share some ideas regarding the concept of recreating Captain Brady Days. They are not opposed to leaving the parking lot open and available for use at the Events at Parkside location but would be opposed to heavy food trucks and such parking there or on the extended use lot across the street. They will also not be offering public restroom use on those days. At the mention of food trucks Mr. Wiggins stated that it is not unheard of for a portion of the sales for the day be used to offset any costs incurred by Franklin Township during the event. The Wiggins family and the Kegg family also each presented donations from The Events at Parkside, LLC and Apollo Sales Consultants, LLC of \$125.00 to be used to continue upgrades and upkeep at Brady Lake Park. Mr. Swan stated for the record that the trustees have not been made aware of progress in discussions about Captain Brady Days and are unaware of any itinerary or dates. Hal Lehman – 2318 Leonard – stated the next meeting about it is in May and the members intend to update the trustees following that meeting. They are looking at 2026.
- Carol Dorscher – 6508 Westshore Drive asked for any updates on the stormwater flow situation in her area. Mr. Akerley responded that they do have some ideas that they hope will alleviate the problem to some degree but they have other pressing township issues that must be resolved before they can address her concern. Mr. Akerley and Mr. Russell stated the situation would be addressed this year.
- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio presented statistics for calls answered throughout Franklin Township for the month of February. These included, but were not limited to, calls for welfare checks, assists to the rescue squad, thefts, suspicious persons and vehicles, premise checks, accidents, alarms, parking violations and traffic stops. Mr. Russell commented that he has noticed more patrol car presence throughout the township and is appreciative. Mr. Swan asked if the report information can be formatted into a spreadsheet. Detective DeSerio will make sure that Jenny August receives the call information he provides here and she will make a spreadsheet.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. Additionally, Mr. Akerley reported that when the next salt contract with ODOT comes up this spring he recommends the township increase their commitment from 1200 tons of salt to 1400 tons of salt. There was no disagreement among the trustees. Also, Mr. Russell stated for the record that the road crew has been diligently working on the 'new' used truck purchased on Gov Deals and it is looking like it is nearly brand new! It will be a very useful addition to the township fleet. Additional road resurfacing needs in the township were also briefly discussed, specifically Woodway, Thorndale, Rhodes Rod (and the possibility of timing that with the ST RT 59 project to save some money).

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. Additionally, a garbage complaint has been received regarding litter/garbage along Newcomer Road. Because the amount would not compose 75 sq. ft. it is not considered a zoning violation. After discussion about who is responsible for picking up garbage along the road side it was decided that homeowners/property owners are responsible for picking up litter/garbage from their property along the roadside. Mr. Ciccozzi will reach out to those owners and instruct them that picking up litter is their responsibility as owners. Also, Mr. Ciccozzi is awaiting communication from Assistant prosecutor Tom McCarty on how to proceed regarding the zoning violations at 6426 Lakeview. Mr. Swan asked if there was any update on new construction at the former Twin Lakes Country Club site (there is a two-year time limit from the date of demolition before the property reverts back to residential use). Mr. Ciccozzi has not heard from Mr. Dave Beck but will follow up. Mr. Swan asked if Mr. Ciccozzi would also ask if Mr. Beck has made any plans for the five-acre parcel located at Cox/ST RT 59. Mr. Ciccozzi also paid a visit to Larry's Riding Stables just to inquire about it being open for business still. It is, though there are about half as many horses there as before.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. Additionally, batteries for the new siren are here and it is anticipated that they will be installed in time for the next waring siren testing.

OLD BUSINESS

- As a result of previous discussions about street parking becoming a hazard in some places throughout Franklin Township – in cul-de-sacs where a firetruck would be not be able to make the turn-radius or where snow plows are unable to safely remove snow and ice due to vehicles parked in the way and whereas Section 505.17 (A) and 505.17 (B) (1) authorizes local authorities to regulate the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction, Resolution 2025-04 – authorizing the board of trustees to post No Parking and Snow Ban Parking signs in Franklin Township where needed was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. Votes - Mr. Russell – yes; Mr. Swan – yes; Mrs. Kapusta – yes.
- ST RT 59 Alternative Transportation Project update – scheduled to begin construction in 2027. This will narrow lanes along ST RT 59 from Horning Road to RT 261, have mid-road islands, curbs, and roundabouts at Horning Road and possibly RT 261. All three trustees are impressed by the plans and look forward to the implementation.
- Brady Lake LMI survey and grant update – according to Lisa Reeves at Portage County Regional Planning the survey was approved and accepted. More information is needed to be eligible for additional money which requires information about storm water, piping, and drainage. Mr. Akerley and Mr. Russell both commented on these same issues that exists throughout Franklin Township where culverts, catch basins, and pipe replacements are needed.
- Franklin Township Employee Handbook work dates were scheduled to begin on the third Tuesday in May. They will occur on Tuesdays in between regular board meetings at 6:00pm (unless otherwise noted) at town hall).

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Swan readdressed the topic of the Franklin Township/Sugar Bush Knolls JEDD Committee and its status. As previously discussed, the purpose for establishing the committee – and a JEDD along the ST RT 43 north corridor was twofold; 1) protection from annexation by the City of Kent and 2) to generate revenue for both entities. Through information discovered during committee meetings and research we learned that there would be no protection from annexation and that the Village of Sugar Bush Knolls is not currently taxing its businesses. Further, there are no parcels currently available to tax within the proposed JEDD area. Therefore, Mr. Swan asked for a formal motion from the board of trustees to recommend disbanding the committee at this time but continue efforts to work collaboratively with the village in other areas. Motion was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Votes - Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes, Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Russell has meetings scheduled in April to begin collective bargaining discussion/negotiations with the Teamsters Local 24; Mr. Russell and Mr. Akerley have a meeting scheduled this week with Eric Long and members of the Twin Lakes Association to discuss lake water levels and increased flooding on Clio Ave.; Mr. Swan will attend the county Health Distric annual meeting; Mrs. Kapusta will the Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners annual meeting.

FINANCES

Lisé Russell reported that she attended a meeting with several Huntington Bank representatives to discuss any benefit to Franklin Township that could arise from switching banks (we currently bank at First National). Following the meeting, Mrs. Russell recommended staying with First National to avoid risking investments of our tax dollars and the potential risk involved. Mr. Swan commented that he is thankful for the relationship Franklin Township has with First National Bank and the other trustees agreed that no change is necessary. Also, payment of bills, warrants #26534 through 26541, including payment vouchers and totaling \$65,965.32 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan Votes – Mr. Russell – yes, Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

At 8:20pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Votes – Mr. Russell – yes, Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairperson _____