

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, October 24, 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

- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – informed the trustees that there has been an uptake in suspicious criminal activity in the Twin Lakes neighborhood surrounding Sylvan Drive and West Twin Lake – suspicious people walking late at night with headlamps, car break-ins, attempted home break-ins and, recently, a break in attempt with damage at their meeting hall. The sheriff's department is aware and residents have been encouraged to contact the sheriff's department whenever any such suspicious activity is noted. Mr. Swan recalled a time years ago when the same activities were happening in the Kent Park neighborhood and it was determined that youth living in the area were responsible for the damage and crimes committed. She also noted that many Twin Lakes residents have expressed strong support for the installation of pickleball courts at Phillips Park and look forward to having them built if approved by an ODNR grant.
- Patricia Quillin – 1513 Merrill – informed the trustees that her neighbor (Mr. Zamos on ST RT 43) has had a maroon truck parked in his driveway without plates and three flat tires for several months. Zoning inspector Joe Ciccozzi has actually addressed the matter previously and will follow up again with Mr. Zamos.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, he updated the board about ongoing concerns expressed by some Twin Lakes residents about a low-flying helicopter owned by Diagonal Road resident Kenneth Leonard that is landing on his property that is zoned residential. Mr. Ciccozzi remains in contact with both local and federal aviation agencies and has been able to track flight patterns of the helicopter. He has also been in contact with Mr. Leonard and will continue monitoring the situation and issue a citation if needed.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. The final paving project of 2023 was just completed along Sixth and Ohio Streets and the chip and seal project on Spell, Season, and Judson Roads is nearly complete with line striping. A sizable piping/backfill project that needs done on Walnut Dr. will begin shortly. Mr. Russell and Mr. Swan both expressed gratitude to Mr. Akerley for the continued great work being done by the road department and for making himself available to the trustees when needed to explain necessary projects and repairs.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that one open burn occurred in the township and the fire department extinguished it. A resident on Shawnee Trail inquired about snow plowing. Shawnee Trail is a private road. The township does not plow private roads.

OLD BUSINESS

- Resolution 2023-43 – declaring the .5 mile length of Lakeview Drive from the Lakeview/Leonard intersection to the Merrill Road/Lakeview intersection a No Parking zone as authorized by the Portage County Engineer's Office was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- A snowplowing agreement between The Village of Sugar Bush Knolls and Franklin Township is in the works and will be completed as soon as possible. There is 2.35 miles of road in the village which will make for just about five miles of additional plowing for the road crew. Mr. Akerley assured everyone that the same level of service and care will be offered to village roads as is shown to township roads.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary discussions will begin during executive session tonight regarding negotiation of a new policing contract with the Portage County Sheriff's Office.

CORRESPONDENCE

Resident Romi Fox sent an email with an attached article stating why it is better for nature to not pickup leaves and allow them to compost in yards. She requested that the township discontinue our leaf recycling program. Based on response from the majority of residents who support the leaf recycling program wholeheartedly it was decided that the township would continue as it has in the past.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #26177 through 26187, including payment vouchers and totaling \$151,401.13, was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 7:50pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Portage County Sheriff's Officer pursuant to the ORC Section 121.22 section (G)(4) was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:50pm a motion to exit executive session and resume regular session was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Chairman Glenn Russell asked if there was anything for the good of the order left to discuss and Mr. Swan responded that with the retirement of Mike DeLeone and the pending extended military leave of Michael Jones, that a push to hire be done on Indeed.com; that we discuss the possibility of incentives for hiring; and that Zoning Inspector Joe Ciccozzi contact the City of Kent zoning department to inquire about the process of placing a sign advertising hire for the road department in the front yard at town hall on Gougler Ave.

At 8:55 motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____