

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, July 11, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Minutes from the 6/27/23 budget hearing, 6/27/23 regular meeting, and the 6/30/23 special meeting were all approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. Mr. Russell and Mrs. Kapusta both voted yes and Mr. Swan abstained.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dan Morganti – Portage County Land Bank representative – introduced himself and gave some background information on what purpose the county land bank serves. It is a non-profit, quasi-governmental agency whose purpose is to facilitate the conversion of unused or vacated/abandoned land in Portage County back into tax paying ownership. There is a specific parcel he referenced located near 2337 Leonard that is a 20' X 100', small enough to be considered a side lot. It is delinquent more than \$1,000 in taxes but has a value of only \$200 with the county auditor's office. Because the delinquency so far outweighs the value it has come under the umbrella of the land bank. The agency was contacted by representatives of the Beck family about acquiring the parcel and the potential request to vacate a ghost road, Brothers St., adjacent. Mr. Swan asked why the parcel had not just been listed for public auction or sale and the reason given was due to the disparity in delinquency and value. The trustees were in agreement that the owner of the adjacent property should be made aware of the availability of the property and given the opportunity to purchase it. Mr. Morganti acknowledged that it would absolutely be appropriate to do that. Mr. Russell thanked Mr. Morganti for his time and the information on the process of how these delinquent or abandoned properties come under the management of the Portage County Land Bank.

#### ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. No additional business was discussed.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. A needed change on the report was noted, the bid opening for Hudson Road Phase IV will be July 25, 2023, not May 9<sup>th</sup> as written on the report. Also, there was discussion regarding a potential culvert project on Powdermill Road. There is a 550' long ditch line that has next to no fall and causes standing water and storm water drainage issues along property owned by Mr. Thigpen, who would like to put a driveway entrance there but has concerns about the ditch. After meeting with Mr. Eric Long from Portage County Water Resources at the location and getting a recommendation from him, Mr. Akerley is recommending the installation of three drop inlet catch basins and connecting them with pipe adequate for drainage. The estimated cost of the project will be \$6500. It is Franklin Township protocol for residents to assume the cost of pipe that the township road crew will install to our regulations. Mr. Keith Benjamin - 6206 Sixth Ave. – made a suggestion that perhaps the cost of the project be split between the owner and the township. A motion was made by Scott Swan to inform Mr. Thigpen that he will be responsible for the cost of the pipe that goes under his driveway and the balance of the pipe will be paid for by the township; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes. This particular area poses a safety threat due to the high volume of traffic and the speeds at which the vehicles travel and Mr. Akerley's concern that the standing water will cause the road to erode at a much faster rate than usual.

Additionally, Mr. Akerley presented a spreadsheet to the trustees of Brady Lake Roadway evaluation and estimates to resurface. The roads are prioritized for maintenance needs based on a scale of 1-5, one being the best condition and five being the worst condition and in need of attention. This information is extremely helpful and necessary for the upcoming low to moderate income survey to be conducted in the area as part of the application process for CDBG funding, which can be used to repair Brady Lake area roads. The trustees were all impressed with this spreadsheet and thanked Mr. Akerley and Jenny August for putting this together.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. No additional topics needed discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

- In response to residents’ concerns about illegal parking along the lake on Lakeview and Leonard St., Mr. Russell spoke at length with Mike Collins at the county engineer’s office. Upon his recommendation, traffic studies for this and other concerns to be addressed would need to be conducted. A motion was made by Scott Swan to authorize a parking study to be conducted by the county engineer’s office along Lakeview/Leonard; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. A motion was made by Scott Swan to authorize a traffic study at the intersection of Lakeview and Leonard St to allow for the consideration of a three-way stop at the intersection and to address speeding along that area; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Approval to move forward with the low to moderate income survey in the Brady Lake area as part of the application process for CDBG funding to repair area roads was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was discussed for this time period.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #260922 through 260933, including payment vouchers and totaling \$136,286.43 since the last meeting was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:11pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment and compensation of a public employee (ORC 121.22) was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:16pm a motion to end executive session and resume regular session was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

A motion to hire road crew applicant Ken Middleton at 85% of the top tier road crew payrate, with approval from the Teamsters Local 24 Union and start date asap, was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. A motion to increase the compensation of the following employees as follows effective the next pay period was made by Glenn Russell: Dave Akerley increase of 5% of annual salary, Jenny August 7% of annual salary, and Richard Smith 2.5% of hourly pay rate; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 9:16pm a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_