

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Scott Swan called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous regular meeting and special meetings were approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Portage County Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett was in attendance to introduce herself and welcome newly elected trustees Glenn Russell and Kellie Kapusta. She expressed her eagerness to help in anyway possible and stated that she has an open-door policy for all Portage County residents.
- Chief Bill Myers – City of Kent Fire Department – reported that there was a house fire in Franklin Township on Stewart Road over the weekend. The cause is still under investigation. There were no injuries. Surrounding fire departments were called to assist from Streetsboro, Hudson, Ravenna Township and Brimfield Township fire answered another call that came in to help out.
- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – expressed continuing concerns about a fence on a property located across the street from his home. Previously, a violation had been issued because of the poor condition of a portion of the fence that needed either repaired or taken down. The owner complied but the posts remain standing, as does the rest of the fence that the zoning inspector and board of trustees deem acceptable. Mr. Nichols strongly disagrees. Mr. Ciccozzi will contact the owner again to inquire about her intentions, will she replace the fence that came down or will she remove the empty posts. Mr. Nichols also expressed gratitude to the road crew for the great job they have done this season plowing roads during snow and ice events.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Ave. – stated for the record that the owner of the home where the above-mentioned fence is located also owns the property next door to it. She lives in one home and rents the other, thus there would be no complaint from the neighbor who shares the fence in question.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that he continues to address concerns at the Hookah Palace and will work with Joe Ciccozzi and the city fire department on fire lane blockage citations and over capacity concerns.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record.

OLD BUSINESS

- The City of Kent has rejected both counter proposals made by the township regarding the annexation of Davey Tree Company located at 6700 SR 43. The township counter offered to approve the annexation request if a JEDD was immediately established upon annexation that included the property OR split the revenue generated on the property, having the City of Kent collect the property taxes and the township collect the income taxes generated once occupancy is established. The city declined. They have issued a deadline of February 28, 2022 for the township to accept their offer of a ten-year reimbursement period wherein the township will be paid the first three years of real estate taxes and then a 45% portion of any income tax collected after occupancy, which is estimated to be not until the end of 2025.

- NOPEC grant money possible projects were discussed such as solar panel installation at the maintenance garage, solar powered road signs that detect speed, chargers, street light upgrading or solar panels at the park shelters.
- Our website should reflect a message of encouragement for all township residents to refrain from parking in the street when two inches or more of snow is predicted to allow snow plows to safely prepare roads for travel.
- Kent service Director Melanie Baker has agreed to meet with Glenn Russell and a member of the road crew to discuss the MARCS system used by the city for communication with personnel on the roads.

NEW BUSINESS

- The trustees agreed to utilize E-Waste Day on February 25th at the Portage County Solid Waste Management District location for old computers and monitors. The township should receive documentation verifying the safe disposal of computers with information on them.
- Snow removal on sidewalks that line the JEDD District along SR59 needs addressed. Mr. Swan will address the issue at the next JEDD meeting. The solution needs to be long term and a collaborative effort between the township, the city, and JEDD businesses to assure that pedestrians do not have to walk in the street to travel on foot.
- Resolution 2022-11 – a resolution acknowledging the northern jurisdictional boundary recorded on the tax map by the Council of the Village of Kent in 1917 pertaining to property located at the back of the River Bend Estates. The resolution was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25721 through 25732, including payment vouchers and totaling \$23,851.21 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

At 7:42pm Glenn Russell made a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing pending court action; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. Assistant prosecutor Brett Bencze was in attendance.

At 9:00pm a motion was made by Scott Swan to resume regular session; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. A motion was then made by Scott Swan to accept the annexation proposal made by the City of Kent on behalf of Davey Tree Expert Company with the added stipulation that the ten-year reimbursement period begin when income taxes start being collected on the property; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. Mr. Swan voted yes, Ms. Kapusta voted yes, and Mr. Russell voted yes as a show of good faith in support of the board of trustees.

At 9:02 a motion for adjournment was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____