

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, July 27, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Joe Ciccozzi and Lisé Russell were excused from the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lowell Zurbuch – 6901 Hudson Road – shared concerns with the trustees about consistent speeding on Hudson Road and the dangers it poses. He asked if it were possible to erect more speed limit signs and possibly and flashing roadside sign that would alert passing motorists to excessive speed. Mr. Benjamin asked if there is a certain time of day when this is more consistently happening in order to ask for increased patrols there by the sheriff's department. Mr. Swan expressed an interest also in a flashing roadside sign alerting drivers to their speed. The board will have Ms. August reach out to the sheriff's department.
2. Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Road – thanked the road department for the quick response to concerns about trees hanging close to power lines. She also informed the board that the Twin Lakes Association highlighted the township on the on their business highlight section of the website. Ms. Grimm also shared that the association will be remaining neutral on an upcoming scheduled event at the Overlook which has stirred some controversy in the township. The association will share information when necessary, work to make sure all common areas surrounding the Overlook are maintained safely and do so in neutrality. Mr. Swan responded that he has been in contact with republican party members in charge of sponsoring the event and shared township concerns regarding traffic safety, capacity issues, etc. Portage County Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett also assured the township that they have been in contact with the PCSO as well.
3. Matt McMullen – 2090 Brady Lake Road – informed the board that parking along Lakeview, surrounding Brady Lake, remains an issue. When the sheriff's department is contacted about the illegal parking they refer residents to the Ohio Highway Patrol. According to Mr. McMullen and resident Hal Lehman there has been an increased highway patrol presence and they are asking parkers to move their vehicles. Mr. Swan assured Mr. McMullen and Mr. Lehman that the township is also feeling the absence of PCSO representation at our meetings to share these concerns and that they are working to address it.
4. Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard Blvd. – stated that he nearly struck a moving car at the intersection of Hartman and Lakeview where he asked weeks ago for a mirror to be replaced, helping motorists see oncoming traffic when coming off Hartman. He asked if the mirror that had been there for years be replaced. Mr. Langston replied that he is still working on it and that the job is on a list of things to do.
5. Meka Banyasz – 6556 Westshore Drive 0 asked that zoning take a look at the Hansen owned property immediately to the north of her where an apparent storage structure of some kind has been erected and.
6. Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – expressed concerns about communication from the road service department. He contacted the department about fallen tree ownership concerns and clarification about the tree possibly being in the township right of way. Mr. Swan and Ms. Hanna both reiterated that only trees in or near the township right of way will be looked at for a determination of ownership and cared for by township personnel. The township does not have the authority to make determinations of ownership of trees on private property.

ZONING REPORT

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

FIRE REPORT UPDATE

Richard Smith shared a letter drafted and ready to send to owners of condos in the old Brady Lake School building at 1945 Brady Lake Road. There are some fire code violations that need rectified but there is some confusion on ownership and responsibility for common areas in the building. Mr. Smith is continuing to clarify and find who is ultimately responsible to abating the violations. Mr. Swan also added that he remains concerned about the Jones Hookah Palace capacity issues that could arise from the large gatherings of vehicles in the parking lot. Mr. Smith will follow up with the building department for capacity specs and Ms. August will follow up with the PCSO to make them aware of the activities.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Additionally, approval for paving at a cost of \$22,204.00 to Todd Lamb Paving was given after a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. The three roads involved are in the Brady Lake area. There was more discussion regarding the steep hill at the spillway area that washes out every time it rains heavily. Mr. Benjamin would still like to see rip rap rock installed to slow down the erosion. Mr. Langston feels it would require heavy equipment the township does not have to reach down the thirty feet to install it. He suggests more fill dirt to lessen the slope and plant seed of some kind. Ms. Hanna then asked for clarification on when and to whom vacation request forms for the service department are turned in for approval. Mr. Langston has been turning them into the administrator so that she can update the calendar. Ms. Hanna stated that he should be turning them into the fiscal office with payroll and asked that he do so from this point forward.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mr. Benjamin reported that he has secured a new truck for purchase at Sarchione Ford. It is an F-350 S-Cab 4x4 with hitch and a utility body. With extras discussed the price will be \$53,371.50. The truck will be used as a utility work truck by all crew members and will not be used as a plow truck. The purchase was authorized by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. He asked that Mr. Langston be in touch with Ravenna Oil to price out a fuel tank and using their gasoline.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2021-12 authorizing an assessment of \$375 be attached to the taxes at 524 Judson Road for mowing. More information is needed about back taxes already owed so the issue was tabled.
2. Township resident Reed Havel is interested in serving on either the Board of Zoning Appeals or the Zoning Commission. Trustees are in speaking to him about his willingness to serve.
3. Scott Swan has reached to Boardman Township officials seeking information on how they maintain their social media presence. He awaits a response.
4. Mr. Benjamin reported that he went to the Events at Parkside during an event and discussed with management how much space they believe they will require for overflow parking on a township owned parcel across the street. The owners responded that 110x110 feet would be adequate. This was an effort to clarify based on the pending partnership of Franklin Township and the PC Board of Developmental Disabilities to use Brady Lake Park for Special Olympics events.

- Ann Hanna reported that a letter was received from Brady Lake area residents Ann and RT Mansfield that water samples were taken from several points in the lake and taken to Adam's Lab for E-coli testing. The results show the water quality is good.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #25464 through 25474 and totaling \$34,104.73 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:00pm Ann Hanna motioned to suspend regular session and moved into executive session to discuss personnel matters; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. At 8:44pm Ann Hanna motioned to resume regular session; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

Mr. Swan stated that the administration, service and zoning departments would work collectively to better define the parameters of job descriptions, collaborate to set priorities and how to best execute them, and work on both short term and long term planning. At 8:50pm Ann Hanna motioned to adjourn; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____

