

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, April 11, 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; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- Larry Jenkins and Mike Collins – PC Engineer’s Office representatives – addressed all in attendance about Hudson Road Phases III and IV. Final design is complete for both phases and ready for the preparation of bid specifications from the engineer’s office. Phase III will be the addition of a five-foot bike lane along the west side of Phase III and that Phase IV will have four-foot lanes on each side of the section. Tentatively scheduled for a May 9<sup>th</sup> bid opening, both projects’ projected completion is to be by the return to school at end of August. Total estimated cost of both projects to be \$697,934, with OPWC reimbursement of up to \$220,000 on Phase IV. Phase V, which will complete the Hudson Road resurfacing project is projected to finalize for bid by the end of this year to begin next spring. Resident Eric Leichliter of 6772 Hudson Road had a few questions for Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Collins regarding ditching and water runoff changes at the intersection of Hudson Road and Johnson Road. Mr. Jenkins replied that the design process addresses changes in drainage ditches and they would be moved laterally approximately four feet east. Mr. Leichliter also asked about utility poles. Mr. Jenkins replied that poles would be moved back and that the distance between the ground and the wires would not be any less than it is now. The suggestion of speed limit reduction was also discussed. There is a process in place and Mr. Jenkins encouraged the trustees to contact their office when Hudson Road is complete to explain it. History has shown that improved roads with smoother surfaces tend to facilitate speeding. He does not see a speed limit reduction being approved or necessary but will gladly share the process to apply.
- PCSO – Detective Nick DeSerio – reported that 269 calls for assistance were answered in Franklin Township in the month of March, including but not limited to calls for fraud, suspicious people or vehicles, premise checks, welfare checks, assists to other agencies, traffic stops, and suicide calls.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Mr. Akerley’s report included several quotes to begin the paving needing done on many roads throughout the township. On Mockingbird Drive, there is pipe work that needs done and Mr. Akerley asked for authorization to do the work in house at a savings of \$24,000. A motion was made by Scott Swan to authorize the pipe work on Mockingbird Drove to be done in house; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes. Another quote was discussed to bring 45 trees down that are damaged, dying, and posing a falling hazard at Phillips Park. Falls Tree Service would do the work. A motion to approve the work with the provision that the trees are inspected by Mr. Akerley to make sure each tree needs felled before it’s done was made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. The quote is for \$22,077.00

#### ZONING REPORT

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

#### FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. He also reported that the pulling of permits needed to proceed with Fire Alarm replacement at town hall are still pending and in the hands of Kent Planning.

OLD BUSINESS

- NOPEC grant funds awarded to the township that will expire in November of this year total \$47,869.00 Some considerations for projects would be lighting at the baseball field in Brady Lake, replacement of some street lights with mercury vapor lights, a digital information sign at town hall, or mobile speed signs.
- The updating of the township’s employee handbook continues. The next public workshop meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 6:00pm.
- After discussion about the building of tiny homes developments it was decided that the trustees would all like to further educate themselves on the impact of housing in other communities across the country that have them. Until they have the information they need to make informed decisions they are issuing a moratorium on tiny homes. Resolution 2023-20 placing a moratorium on the construction of tiny homes in Franklin Township was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Scott Swan expressed gratitude for our road crew and road superintendent for their quick and efficient response to recent wind storm issues and cleanup throughout the township.
- Recent communication from the County Commissioners office describing legislation enacted in the fall of 2021 providing county boards of commissioners’ discretionary authority over the restriction of construction of large windfarms, large solar farms and economically significant wind farms. They are seeking each local entity’s response on whether or not they would like such activity restricted. The Franklin Township trustees will respond that they do not want the Portage County Commissioners to restrict their ability to have such utility facilities or farms.
- Resolution 2023-16 – authorizing participation in the ODOT purchasing program for salt was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2023-18 – rescinding previous resolutions in 2022 appointing Scott Swan as the Chief Executive Officer for OPWC projects and executing contracts and appointing Glenn Russell as CEO was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2023-19 – authorizing the PC Engineer to prepare bid specifications for Hudson Road Phases IV and V was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Glenn Russell received communication from a resident requesting a chipping schedule be posted so that they might know when to put their brush out. Mr. Akerley responded that it can’t be that definitive and that it is better if he just answers specific calls from residents whose brush remains not picked up. Also, a call was received about a junk pile on Brady Lake Road near Sixth Ave. Mr. Ciccozzi is following up.

FINANCES

- A brief synopsis was given by fiscal officer Lisé Russell regarding HB1 currently being proposed in the Ohio Assembly. If passed it would drastically change funding at the local government level, placing an increased burden on township residents.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26039 through 26051, including payment vouchers and totaling \$225,090.08 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:44pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

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

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_