

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, August 13, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio addressed the board about follow up regarding the parking issues around Brady Lake of vehicles and watercraft that do not have current registrations. He and Lt. Harry Muir spent some time out there looking for feasible options and he will continue to work with the trustees and Dave Akerley for solutions. Detective DeSerio then shared statistics of calls answered in Franklin Township in July, some of which include, but are not limited to, theft, wellness checks, premises checks, domestic situations, shootings, assists to other agencies, and traffic stops for a total of 316 calls for service. Later in the meeting, Mrs. Kapusta asked what the standard protocol is for current registrations for boats and the enforcement of rules. Det. DeSerio stated that just like cars on roads, all watercraft on a public waterway must have a current registration and the owner must have a title. The township is still in the process of firming up a solution to ongoing complaints about lake use that has people parking illegally, parking boats on Franklin Township owned property, and not having current registrations on their boat. A letter is drafted and will be modified prior to sending it out to effected residents as a soft start approach to let people know that the situation is being addressed.
- Austin Lesak – 124 Wanda Court – asked if the Germaine Reserve roads have been dedicated yet and under the jurisdiction of Franklin Township. Mr. Akerley stated that yes, they are, and when chipping is completed and the development has been inspected by OUPS for underground utility lines, the speed limit signs and no parking signs will be placed throughout the development.
- Carol Dorscher – 6508 Westshore – addressed the trustees with concerns about heavy storm water runoff during rain that comes directly onto her property from the ditch across the street from her in front of The Clubhouse. Mr. Akerley and Mr. Russell were onsite yesterday looking over the situation and the road crew hand dug the ditch to clean out debris but it will not be sufficient. Mrs. Dorsch stated that the problem has only existed for the last approximately two years, which coincides with the parking lot put in at the Clubhouse at the same time. Mrs. Kapusta stated that she will contact the Clubhouse owner to let them know about the issue and Mr. Akerley will make another visit to the site to see what else needs to be done, perhaps to see if the ditch needs to be deeper.
- Marilyn Knight – 6498 Westshore – also spoke to the runoff issue as a neighbor of the Dorschers and attests that the water is running fast and is deep when coming across from the ditch into the Dorschers' property.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – advised that when considering signs to post at Brady Lake about swimming that the signs read, "No lifeguard on duty. You are responsible for your own safety." We should avoid "swim at your own risk" signs as they are an invitation and imply encouragement to swim.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, after discussion about an above ground pool complaint on Carl Drive, the trustees instructed Mr. Ciccozzi to follow through with the property owners to enforce the Zoning Resolution and secure access to the pool. There is currently no fence around the pool and there is not locked gate to prevent access, only a removable ladder.

The trustees are concerned about the safety of an unsecured pool that is of a height that children could climb over the side while the owners are not at home or unaware. Also, the ongoing noncompliance issue on Cherry Lane with Mr. Spitzer remains at a stalemate. No progress has been made bringing the property to a habitable status. Mr. Ciccozzi will confer with Brett Bencze at the prosecutor's office and share information so that trustees can decide at the next meeting how to proceed. There followed a brief discussion of how to best address the recreational marijuana issue facing Ohio communities as far as growing, distributing, and use of the drug. Det. DeSerio stated that the use is treated much the same as alcohol – never while operating a vehicle, the drug being contained within its original packaging while on public property, etc. More research is needed by the trustees before any guidelines can be established.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as a part of the official record. Also, Mr. Akerley stated that he spoke at length with Brady Lake property owner Mr. Frankhauser regarding a possible walking path and viable parking solutions to aid lake users. He will review the information and share his recommendations with trustees at the next meeting. Mr. Russell then stated that he would like the road department to have a professional grade level to use - versus the smaller one they currently have – and the trustees agreed that Mr. Akerley should purchase one. Also discussed was the sometimes buildup of materials that need stored at the maintenance garage such as fill dirt, topsoil, grindings, etc. The EPA does not want the service department to store these materials so historically, at times, they are given to Franklin Township residents to avoid largescale buildups.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is on file at town hall as part of the official record.

OLD BUSINESS

- Siren at Phillips Park – NOPEC has approved the purchase of a new siren as an authorized grant expense. Some of our grant money has already been earmarked for security lighting at parks so other grant possibilities are being sought.
- Master locks at all Franklin Township parks will be put in place so that both law enforcement and fire personnel have access to the parks at night in an effort to discourage illegal activity in the parks, especially after dark.

NEW BUSINESS

- A Kent Parks and Recreation soccer coach contacted Jenny August about scheduling a once weekly regular use of the soccer field at Brady Lake Park. The trustees unanimously agreed that the soccer field at Phillips Park is a better option. There are already nets there. Kent Parks and Recreation would only have to paint the lines. Ms. August will contact the coach.
- A liquor permit transfer request was received to the Lake House Kitchen and Bar from The Twin Lakes Tavern. Since there is no change in classification, only ownership, the trustees will not request a hearing and they have no objection.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Franklin Township residents Karl and Michelle Martin sent a letter praising the road crew and the work they did on ditching and culvert work in their neighborhood but pointed out that our road crew carries out ALL of their responsibilities – and there are many – in a professional, friendly, and caring matter.

- Clio St. resident Mr. Frank called the office to praise the brush chipping work done by our road crew this month. He was very pleasantly surprised by the speed and efficiency shown by our friendly and respectful crew. As a Franklin Township resident he couldn't be more pleased to have such a great bunch of hardworking, friendly guys on our crew.
- Sixth Ave. resident Scott Baughman sent a letter to trustees addressing concerns he has about two vacant parcels at 6175 and 6185 Sixth Ave. that have several large trees that appear to be ready to fall, possibly into the road. More than one tree has done so in the past, as well as fallen onto neighboring properties. The vacant parcels are owned by Foundation Architecture Building LLC. Mr. Akerley will keep an eye on the trees but as the parcels are privately owned the township has no jurisdiction to be on the property.
- Lisé Russell has drafted an email to Wendy Di Alesandro at The Portager regarding Portage County fire levy information in the hopes that a story will appear educating voters about skyrocketing fire and emergency protection service costs in front of the replacement with an increase levy being put on the November ballot. Trustees will review and approve.

FINANCES

- Resolution 2024-27 – authorizing an increase in appropriations to the General Fund of \$53,000 for the purpose of completing the basement repairs and renovation at town hall for \$15,000 and paving the Brady Lake parking lot for \$38,000 was passed by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2024-28 – accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Ohio Budget Commission for the 2025 Tax Year was passed by a motion made Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #26383 through 26401, including payment vouchers and totaling \$227,010.19 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:35pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for two purposes – 1) per ORC 121.22 to discuss the compensation of more than one public employee and 2) ORC 121.22 (G) (2) 'To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, ... if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest' was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. At 9:45pm a motion to resume regular session was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. A motion was made by Scott Swan to hire a surveyor to define to parcel borders on Crystal Street all the way to Park Ave.; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. A motion was made by Kellie Kapusta to issue 2.5% cost of living increases to Joe Ciccozzi, Richard Smith, and Jenny August and to increase the annual salary of Road Superintendent Dave Akerley to \$70,000 annually; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 9:40pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____