

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, November 28, 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; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jon Freeman – 222 Leonard Blvd. - revisited the trustees with a request to vacate a portion of a paper road known as Washington Street extension. When he made the request months ago the trustees advised him to get a surveyor to legally have the lines drawn to plot. Mr. Freeman brought the result of that mapping and presented it to the board. The section he is seeking to have vacated is approximately 151 feet long and is 50 feet wide. If vacated, the paper road parcel would be split evenly down the center, giving residents on each side an additional 25 feet of land. After discussion, the trustees unanimously agreed that the take time to research further what options are available to the township and pose some questions to the county commissioners what might be the best way to approach this – vacate the entire stretch in one action or piecemeal it as adjacent neighbors become aware of what has been done as precedent. Mr. Ciccozzi and Mrs. Kapusta will approach the commissioners for information.
- Anne Pertick – 6330 Lakeview Drive spoke in support of the paper road being vacated as an impacted resident.
- Eric Lichleiter – 6772 Hudson Road – asked for a status update on the Hudson Road Phases IV and V project to take place next year. The trustees shared that the intent of the county engineer’s office is to have the final design and bid package ready to go out for bid by end of February 2024 or early March, with a start date as soon as possible after July 1, 2024.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard – asked for an update on the LMI survey being conducted in the Brady Lake area being circulated as part of a grant application process for road work funding. Mrs. Kapusta responded that the survey is nearly completed, as she has a few new addresses to get responses from before turning the information over to regional planning.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. He updated the trustees on the results of administrative searches conducted this past week at structures located on West Ave. and North Blvd. The West Ave. structure interior was not as dilapidated as anticipated but the exterior was in bad shape. The North Blvd. structure was in worse shape with deep standing water in the basement which is open to anyone to enter through windows and doors. Electricity was on, posing a danger to anyone who entered and stood in the water. There was evidence of wildlife inside as well. Mr. Ciccozzi awaits reports from the county building department, health department, and the City of Kent Fire Department on their findings, which will determine how the township proceeds in either razing or bringing into compliance both structures.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Akerley presented a proposal to consider changing the brand and logo on township vehicles and signage in the coming months. The trustees agreed that a brand of some kind showing consistency would be aesthetically appealing and will be considered. Mr. Akerley and Glenn Russell interviewed an applicant for the open road crew position and recommended the trustees approve his hiring. A motion to hire Michael Ostrander under terms of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement in place with the Teamsters Local 24 was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported that in the past few weeks he has visited the Burnt Pickle on more than one occasion and has found them to be in compliance with their occupancy capacity. Mr. Smith also accompanied the City of Kent ems personnel to a residence in the township where numerous 911 calls for lift assistance have been over the last several weeks. The resident was transported to the hospital at the time and is now ready for discharge to an extended care facility instead of the home residence. The City of Kent has graciously agreed to split the cost of the high volume of calls placed for assistance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Kellie Kapusta received to communications from residents. First, a call from a Brady Lake area resident who is concerned about darkness while her children wait for the busses in the morning. Mrs. Kapusta asked if the current NOPEC funded street light replacement project would address lights in the area between Reeves and Merrill off of Brady Lake Road. Jenny August will check the list of locations provided by First Energy and get back to her. Also, resident in the Powdermill Road area requested contact information for the developer that owns the old Kent State golf course property where new homes are going in. She would like permission to trim pine branches to use as craft materials. Todd Peetz from Portage County Regional Planning contacted Mrs. Kapusta and asked to be invited to a meeting to present his Comprehensive Plan for Franklin Township. He will be invited to a January meeting.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #326201 through 26209, including payment vouchers and totaling \$93,374.19 since the last meeting was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:05pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the compensation of a public employee as per ORC 121.22 (G) was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes. At 8:40pm a motion to leave executive session and resume regular session was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. A motion was made by Scott Swan to award bonuses to the following employees in the following manner: Jenny August is to receive \$1,250; Dave Akerley is to receive \$1,250 and an extra week of paid vacation to be taken in the calendar year 2024 outside of plow season; Joe Ciccozzi is to receive \$1,000 and Richard Smith is to receive \$1,000; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:41pm a motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____