

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Scott Swan called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting and special hearing on January 11, 2022 were approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Major Larry Limbert – PCSO – 8240 Infirmary Road – presented a nice overview of the Portage County Sheriff Office’s jurisdiction and related services they provide. Nearly 82% of Portage County falls under the jurisdiction of the sheriff’s office. The department has taken measures to spread out facilities that allow for shorter response times, have departments within that specifically address drug enforcement, K9 use, the county corrections facility, P.A.C.E task force, the Citizen’s Academy that is free and open to the public, and others to service residents of Portage County. He also provided a report listing the volume and breakdown of calls to the township in 2021, which totals over 2,000. Detective Nick DeSerio then reported on January statistics. Scott Swan expressed sincere gratitude for the report, statistics provided and the services provided by the department throughout the year. Residents of Franklin Township are grateful for the presence they show work they do.
- Chief Bill Myers – City of Kent Fire Department – updated the board on projects in progress. Station 2 work and renovation is coming along well and opening is expected in two-three weeks. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for May 7, 2022 and all are welcome to participate. The community Paramedicine program is getting ready to start as well, as interviews for a full-time person (a registered nurse/paramedic) next week. Chief Myers reported that the department answered over 5,000 calls last year, and average of 25-28 calls per day. The establishment of the paramedicine program is likely to reduce the call volume as it takes hold.
- Wayne Hickin – 360 Judson Road – expressed his gratitude to the board and to the road crew of Franklin Township for the great job done thus far on keeping our roads safe for travel during the snow and ice events we have endured this season. The trustees wholeheartedly agreed and stated that, while down one full time crew member and one employee out on medical for four days, the remaining guys have really done an excellent job!
- Joe Ciccozzi – 200 Spell Road – expressed his gratitude for the job being done by the road crew on roads as well.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. After Mr. Ciccozzi completed his report, Glenn Russell stated for the record that he has been very impressed with the work Mr. Ciccozzi has been doing and that he has been an asset to the township

OLD BUSINESS

- Resolution 2022-06 – MOU between the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Franklin Township regarding the use of Brady Lake Park for Special Olympics - as details have all been worked out in agreement a motion to approve this resolution was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

- Communication capabilities for the road crew was discussed and the general consensus seems to be investigating the MARCS System currently in use by the City of Kent first responders. Chief Myers will pass the information along to department personnel and assist us in any way they can.
- Annexation of the Davey Tree property at 6700 SR 43 will be discussed at a special hearing on February 15, 2022.
- Resolution 2022-09 – agreement between the Portage County Solid Waste Management District and Franklin Township to assure curbside recycling in Franklin Township but hold separate the portion of the preceding contract pertaining to the leaf collection rebate that was to be in effect until December 2024. As the agreement is satisfactory to the board a motion to approve this resolution was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2022-07 – accepting 2022 grant money from NOPEC in the amount \$14,130 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2022-08 – appointing Scott Swan as chairman for the upcoming Hudson Road Phase IV project was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- NOPEC annual Community Event Grant for \$1500 is available again. A suggestion was made to award the grant to the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities for use at the Special Olympics being held in Franklin Township this summer. A motion to approve the suggestion was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.
- The suggestion of erecting snow emergency parking ban signs was discussed. As there are several steps that need followed each time said ban would go into effect if the township established the bans officially, other options were considered. Road Crew employee Adam Boron was in attendance and stated such signs posted would help the crew tremendously – there are areas within the township that present regular street parking problems during snow events, prohibiting snow plows to get through. The question of whether or not the township can legally have parked cars removed during these times would need presented to the prosecutor’s office. A notice will be posted on the website encouraging all residents to refrain from parking in the street when snow exceeding two inches is predicted. Making and erecting signs that reflect this same message will be done as well.
- Scott Swan reported that the certification of actual Franklin Township road miles has been certified by the Portage County Engineer’s office – the amount certified is 31.907 miles.

CORRESPONDENCE

- The township received a few emails from township resident Michael Smith regarding his displeasure with snowplowing in his neighborhood. Kellie Kapusta visited Mr. Smith at his home to get a better understanding of what he would like to see happen and shared that information with the road crew.

FINANCES

- Payment of bills, warrants #256978 through 25720, including payment vouchers and totaling \$476,015.56 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:20pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation possible was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 9:27pm a motion to resume regular session was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. A motion was made by Scott Swan to approve a 2022 wage and salary schedule as presented by fiscal officer Lisé Russell (and is attached to the official record) with the following changes:

- An hourly increase of \$2.50 will be made to the highest current rate paid to the road crew, bringing the hourly rate to \$23.87
- In keeping with the collective bargaining agreement in place with the Teamsters Union Local 24, the hourly rate of the employee currently in his second year will increase to 85% of that highest rate, or from \$18.17 to \$20.29 per hour
- The increase will be made retroactive to January 1, 2022

A second was made by Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes. Additionally, Mr. Swan stated for the record that a large snow pile located at the corner of Lakeview and Brady Lake Road, accumulated from snowplowing, needs to be removed or spread as it is blocking the sight line for drivers turning onto Brady Lake Road. He will inform the road crew.

At 9:30pm motion to adjourn was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____

