

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, September 10, 2024  
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

- Austin Lesak – 124 Wanda Court – shared concerns about a resident who does not live in Germaine but lives across the street from the development repeatedly ignoring posted “Private Property” and “No Parking” signs on the common property owned by Germaine Reserve. This resident is also dumping grass clippings on the property. When Mr. Lesak addressed the issue with the resident there was a verbal altercation. The trustees suggested Mr. Lesak attain pictures of parked vehicles when there and clippings as well then suggested the PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio be contacted and ask for assistance in setting up a meeting with Germaine representation, The Stow Police Department and Det. DeSerio to discuss enforcement.
- Joe Licitri – 48 Wanda Court – stated that he is unhappy with the No Parking signs posted in the Germaine Reserve development; he wants people to be able to park freely. Another resident who lives in the development, Joe McNamee – 4612 Jenna Circle – agrees. Mr. McNamee lives on the larger cul-de-sac within the development and stated there should be no problem with residents parking on the street or in the cul-de-sac. Mr. Swan responded that as a new development, the safety of residents was the first priority in the decision to post signs being made. Road superintendent Dave Akerley then added that snow plows, recycling trucks, garbage trucks, and leaf recycling equipment would not be able to proficiently perform their services if vehicles are parked on the street. Deputy Fire Protection Officer Richard Smith added that the turning radius required by the City of Kent fire trucks was provided to the developer and parked vehicles along the streets or in the cul-de-sacs would impede their ability to maneuver to vehicles when responding to emergencies. Mr. McNamee responded that he read the Franklin Township Zoning Resolution online and that nowhere in it does it address street parking as prohibited. Mr. Ciccozzi responded that parking is not a zoning issue therefore not addressed in the resolution. When Mr. McNamee replied that he would continue to park in the cul-de-sac when desired. Mr. Russell reiterated that residents have been given the reasons why parking has been prohibited. Mr. Lesak then added that additionally cul-de-sac parking and street parking interfere with accommodating school buses. Mr. Lesak also inquired about a possible “No Outlet” sign being posted at the development entrance to discourage non resident traffic. Mr. Akerley will consider it.
- Carol Dorscher – 6508 Westshore – brought to the attention of trustees a social media post about some residents putting 500 fish in Brady Lake to try and control seaweed growth. Mrs. Kapusta had also been aware of the issue. Mr. Swan responded that since the dissolution of the village and its absorption into Franklin Township the trustees have strongly urged residents owning property along the lake to form an association of some kind to establish guidelines for lake usage, similar to the Twin Lakes Association and others in Ohio. Jill Grimm of the TLA has numerous times offered assistance and information to Brady Lake residents in attempts to do so. There have been attempts to begin that process by some, but not all, lake property owning residents. Mr. Swan reiterated that wither the residents will have to find a way to come together and establish some kind of formal guidelines or the trustees will have to take it upon themselves to do so at the risk of making some residents unhappy about the results. Mr. Russell added that Brett Bencze of the prosecutor’s office informed him that as the largest lake property owner, the township would need to be a part of that association. The matter is still being researched.
- Marilyn Knights – 6498 Westshore - stated that she agrees an association should be established but open discussion has fizzled.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. As a part of that report, Mr. Akerley recognized all of the Portage County DD personnel and Franklin Township officials and employees who have worked together so well in improving Brady Lake Park. The trustees collectively acknowledged how big of a role Mr. Akerley and the road crew have also played in this project thus far. Additionally, there are eight trees that are posing a potential hazard near 7521 Hudson Road that need removed. Mr. Akerley provided a quote from Barberton Tree Service to remove those trees at a cost of \$3200. The work was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

#### ZONING REPORT

Submitted by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi informed the trustees that he has been contacted by an individual who was granted a marijuana permit and was inquiring about the status of the moratorium expanded to include recreational marijuana by the board last year. The trustees responded that they will put the issue back into consideration. Also, Mr. David Beck inquired about what possible options might be for the property formally known as the Kentwood.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted by Richard Smith and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. Additionally, Mr. Smith reported that a fire was reported yesterday at Schneller Corp. It was contained to the control box only but there was a great deal of smoke.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion of a walkway connecting Brady Lake Park to the lake along Lakeview. Mr. Frankhauser has been involved in possible solutions and states two neighbors thus far are onboard but six to seven others would be needed. Mr. Akerley stated that the lot at the bottom of the hill by Lakeview has several large trees that would need removed. There are thirty-seven property owners whose parcels extend into the lake, the largest of which is Franklin Township. The township’s interest would be liability driven. Mr. Russell stated for the record that he believes rules and regulations for the walkway and the lake should be kept separate and also reminded everyone that the road department is currently loaded with work to do throughout the township. Mrs. Kapusta suggested inviting all neighbors that would be impacted to attend a meeting to gather their input.
- Follow up on the storm water issue at 6508 Westshore was discussed again. Mr. Russell stated that he drove out there again to take a look and found Eric Long, the Portage County Storm Water engineer onsite with property owner Carol Dorscher in discussion. Mr. Long will contact Dave Akerley with possible solutions or suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jeff Coffee, Mayor of the Village of Sugar Bush Knolls sent a letter to the board explaining the Village’s offer to allow Franklin Township residents to opt into their energy aggregation agreement. The trustees will table until further research is done.
- Kellie Kapusta has been working on assembling a Franklin Township newsletter to be mailed out to residents. She asked other trustees and administration to look over what she has thus far and add suggestions. A motion was made by Scott Swan to review and move forward with the newsletter; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.
- A motion to hold an open meeting on October 8, 2024 at 6:00pm to discuss township services and answer any questions residents have regarding the upcoming fire replacement with an increase levy on the November ballot was made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Glenn Russell received a complaint from a resident about the chip and seal done on Judson Road last fall. It hasn’t held up as well as anticipated. Mr. Akerley stated that he did have some concerns about how late in the season the job was done and believes that impacted the setting on materials used but stand by the decision to move forward with the job. The road surface needed addressed.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #26412 through 26421, including payment vouchers and totaling \$45,206.65 since the last meeting was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

A motion adjourn was made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

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

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_