

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, June 13, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Dave Akerley was excused from the meeting. Mr. Russell acknowledged the recent passing of long time Franklin Township Jim Henry. Mr. Henry was a retired Kent Schools teacher, coach, a former marine and a long serving member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for our township. His service and presence will be dearly missed. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – approached the desks to pass along a letter of thanks to the Franklin Township Trustees for the professional, efficient and skilled storm drain repair work done by our road crew near South Blvd. and Addie St. Residents Jennifer Looper and Elizabeth Hilton at 1498 South Blvd. are very grateful.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Scott Swan stated for the record that it is good to see a road report that lists so much road work taking place throughout the township.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi asked for permission to mow at four different properties. Resolutions will be prepared for authorization. Also, a complaint was received this past week from a township resident about the orange bicycles and scooters that are being seen throughout the city and now in the township. These cycles and scooters are from a company called Spin. They supply scooters and cycles and provide access to paying riders through an app. Unfortunately, these scooters and cycles are being abandoned in front of businesses, on sidewalks, in yards, and other places causing and inconvenience and, now, a safety hazard. The complaining resident tripped over a scooter trying to enter a township business. Mr. Ciccozzi spoke to a Spin representative and an Albrecht Company representative as well, as the incident occurred in Acme Plaza. Neither the owner of the business in the plaza or Albrecht was aware that these vehicles were being “parked” or dropped off there. A follow up will be conducted by our administrator, Jenny August, to find out what the protocol is for drop off and return of the scooters/cycles and what other areas are doing about similar situations. Also, Ron Nichols brought to Mr. Ciccozzi’s attention two problem properties that need zoning follow up – the North Blvd. property now owned by Coblentz Remodeling and 7758 West Blvd for the addition of a fence and now an accessory structure without visible permits.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official record. Additionally, the new fire alarm system installed at town hall is functioning and we have been removed from fire watch. The city must still inspect it.

OLD BUSINESS

- Hudson Road Phase IV status – Glenn Russell spoke to Mike Collins at the engineer’s office today. The plan is to be ready to present EDG Design Group’s new information for rebid of the project at the next regular meeting and to schedule new bids by July 11, 2023. If a bid is accepted construction will hopefully begin as soon as possible.
- Burnt Pickle status update – the prosecutor’s office has become involved in the process of solving many zoning, fire, and building code violations and all of the township’s information has been turned over to Chris Meduri.
- A township road damaged by a resident who took it upon themselves to try and make repairs has been fixed to satisfaction by township hired contractors and the resident will be billed for reimbursement.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2023-26 – a resolution accepting text amendments to the Zoning Resolution as recommended by the Zoning Commission regarding the definitions of accessory structures and buildings was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Russell was contacted by township resident William Seavy regarding his difficulty utilizing leaf pickup services due to the depth of the culvert at the road along his property frontage. He is unable to get his leaves to the other side of the culvert and ABC Landscaping does not have hoses long enough to vacuum them from the other side of the culvert. Mr. Akerley went to the Seavy property and has worked out a solution – Mr. Seavy will pay for the cost of new culvert pipe and the township road crew will install it, bringing the culvert up to an accessible level and the problem should be resolved.
- Mrs. Kapusta received a call from Dollar Lake resident Lynn Duffy asking for procedure to close Elm Drive for a period of four hours to host a neighborhood party. The road department will provide road closure barricades that the residents will be responsible for putting up, notice to the township of the date and times of closure will be provided, and notice to the City of Kent fire department and the Portage County Sheriff’s Office will be provided as well.
- Lisé Russell provided a summary of information gained at the recent Portage County Township Association meeting. The Ravenna Road Bridge work at Towners Woods is scheduled to be bid out at the end of 2023 and construction is scheduled for 2024. It will hopefully be completed in 2024 but could run into 2025. Also, Competitive bid limits that are currently set at \$50,000 will be raised to \$75,000 (with a 3% increase annually) which will allow local entities to get more contracted work done without the expensive and time consuming bid process. Franklin Township has been approved for Round 38 OPWC project funding for 2024 for Hudson Road Phase V.

FINANCES

- A brief discussion was had about the upcoming budget hearing on July 27, 2023. There were no questions from the audience or the board. A brief summary of what the budget includes was given by Mrs. Russell
- Payment of bills, warrants #26078-26089 and 260900-260901, including payment vouchers and totaling \$177,425.56 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

Before adjournment, Mr. Russell provided copies of a letter written by Dave Akerley to present to the Portage County Sheriff’s Office in relation to the township road damage done by a resident and the contractor he hired. This written account of events was needed for the report filed.

At 7:49pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____