

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, April 23, 2019
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7pm, chair Ann Hanna Called the meeting to order. Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell was excused due to illness and Sam Abell due to vacation. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All 3 trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lt. Witkowski of the PCSO was not in attendance
- Jill Grimm - 1509 Merrill Rd – Thanked the road crew for gravel and fill materials in Twin Lakes area.
- Trudy Capel - UPS STORE – 1675 E main St – asked for the thirty day book buy back signage to be allowed for the store. The three trustees agreed that UPS had always followed the zoning code and allowed the signage.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard St – expressed a complaint regarding 6426 Lake St. and possible zoning issues with trash and accumulation of “stuff”. Mr. Lehman shared the same concern about this address last year and Mr. Abell did investigate it. It will be investigated again.
- Charlotte Pliske – 7384 Myrna Blvd – shared her concerns about the flooding in her neighborhood and the surrounding area. She is concerned that the township has not performed proper maintenance to alleviate the issue. She acknowledged a letter sent from the county engineer, Mickey Marozzi, with his assessment of the situation and said it contained good ideas. Ms. Hanna stated that this was the way to fix the issues if the residents could come together.
- Ron Nichols -1515 South Blvd. - mentioned he noticed on his daily walk that the Portage County Water Resources truck was out investigating pipes. He found, after a brief conversation with them, that they have concerns about the influx of additional water to their plant and that old clay tiles are not holding up. Mr. Nichols also noted that the Ella St. catch basin had a complete wash out and called Lee Smith at the garage, who promptly came to look at it. Mr. Nichols brought up old business about the Zamos properties and the sale. He wants the township to move forward on this. Scott Swan and Ann Hanna stated that the township has received correspondence that the sales are moving forward. North and South Boulevards both have had some wash away at the roadside due to heavy rain and he would like the road crew look at that area too.

ZONING

Joe Ciccozzi is the acting zoning inspector while Sam Abell is on vacation. He read the zoning report and mentioned that next meeting he will have broken down the fees collected on this report. Keith Benjamin brought up the old “Tenney” property on the corner of Judson and Hudson and asked to revisit that property. The trustees are aware that there are some “personal domestic issues” between the property owners and that has delayed the cleanup process. Mr. Ciccozzi then mentioned the “green” house across from Raccoon Hill Golf Course that has not been kept up. They will investigate that also. Scott Swan asked if they had heard anything about the video store in front of Gabriel Brothers on ST RT 59. Mr. Ciccozzi responded that it looks to be a large dumpster, as if someone is ready to do renovations.

FIRE REPORT

Keith Benjamin read into the minutes the fire report including payment of the fire bills for January and February which totaled nearly \$167,000. Grumbles were heard.

OLD BUSINESS

- 6527 Park Ave demo - The land bank has offered to demo this property. After discussion the Board decided to accept The Portage County Land Bank Revitalization agency’s offer to demo 6527 Park Ave pending verification from the Portage County building department that progress has stalled and the property remains non compliant and unsafe. Ann Hanna made the motion; 2nd Scott Swan. All three voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS

- An amendment to a previous expenditure approval for cracksealing was discussed and then the cracksealing costs for this year were changed from \$46,000 to \$40,000 by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Ann Hanna had a call from Ravenna Road resident Sean Collins about noise issues caused by dirt bikes and four-wheelers driving down and riding under the high tension wires. Ms. Hanna suggested he call the Portage County sheriff’s office as a non-emergency and report it. It is believed to be occurring on railroad owned property.
- Received the NOPEC Annual Report
- Keith Benjamin received notice of the joint meeting between the Township and City of Kent about the appointment to the Standing Rock Cemetery Board being held May 1, 2019. He also confirmed the May 1, 2019 appointment of a safety inspector to audit the garage for possible safety issue before they arise.

FINANCES

- Payment of Bills, warrants #24509 thru #24553, including payment vouchers and totaling \$190,699.80 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

ADDITION TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Swan thanked everyone and Charlotte Pliske for attending the meeting and expressed that it does help to have on public record videos and written letters from residents.

Jill Grimm revisited the water issue to mention that the Twin Lakes Association has had the county engineer and Portage County Water and Soil representative James Berlier out to observe all the areas Franklin Township asked them to check. Both the engineer’s office and Mr. Berlier found that all inflows and outflows work as planned. There are many issues that do compound the drainage in that area and that add to the water/ flooding of the lakes. Mr. Berlier also noted the fact that the water table is extremely high and has not been able to drop.

Hal Lehman asked about a community “clean up”, Keith said that is not on the schedule as of now. Jill Grimm mentioned that Staples will take all electronics except for TVs.

A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____