

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, February 11, 2020
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:06pm Scott Swan called the regular meeting to order. Minutes from the previous regular meeting were approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Lisé Russell was excused from the meeting due to illness.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Linda Nichols – 3097 ST RT 59 – LAD Sign & Lighting – asked for a banner sign extension for the Verizon Store in front of Walmart. Standing water in the area where the new permanent sign will go is preventing its installation. Banners need to remain in place until such time as installation can take place. Keith Benjamin suggested July 1, 2020 and it was agreed upon by the board.
- Laurie Cathcart – 2500 ST RT 59 – asked permission to display six signs advertising a hair cut sale at Great Clips from 2/27/20 – 3/2/20. The board agreed to her request.
- Matt Proske – 6486 Westshore – asked about the status of the Lake Brady spillway and survey taking place to help secure funds to improve the spillway. Fifteen signatures are still needed for the LMI survey being conducted by Portage County Regional Planning. Todd Peetz has Mr. Proske’s contact information and will be in touch.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – inquired about a Community Cleanup in the township as referenced at a previous meeting. The trustees will have Mr. Penix follow up again with trash haulers and the City of Kent about pricing to conduct such an event.
- Dena Ferner – 1979 East Swan Lake Circle – regarding the street parking issue in their development. The land association committee of four has met once. It is very unlikely that any changes will be made to deed restrictions. It appears there is an impasse and residents are seeking clarification from the township trustees on what they want to move forward. The trustees stated that the residents could circulate petitions, take door to door votes, or any other means they can to determine the majority consensus of Lake Royale home owners about their stance on this issue and then present those results and the means by which they were attained to the trustees.
- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – thanks to the township road crew for their quick and efficient response to a downed tree at North/South Blvds. Also, he remains concerned about an eyesore property at 1571 North Blvd. Joe Ciccozzi will look into it.
- Matt McMullen – 2090 Brady Lake Road – he and his wife, Kori, have numerous pictures of properties that need looked into with accumulated trash, junk, tires, furniture, etc. (about 3 dozen properties) Many are rentals owned by one or two common people. He wants to know how to begin the process of seeing these properties cleaned up or addressed. Sam Abell stated that the process begins with providing him the list of said properties so that the township can investigate, gather their own evidence and move from there. Mr. McMullen offered to take Mr. Abell or Mr. Ciccozzi out on the lake to take pictures from that perspective. Mrs. McMullen will provide the addresses and pictures she has to zoning. Mr. Abell also informed the audience that Portage County Regional Planning has a Fair Housing Advisor that could be a good resource for tenants living in deplorable situations and being taken advantage of by landlords/owners. He also referenced ORC section 505.86 to help explain the process.
- Marilyn Knights – 6498 Westshore – concurred with wanting these eyesore properties addressed.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted by Sam Abell and Joe Ciccozzi as written and is attached to the official record.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted by Tim Benner as written and is attached to the official record.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Mr. Langston was instructed to be in contact with Ken Penix on the minimum/maximum quantities of salt the township has to order. Additionally, pricing information is being gathered for the possible future purchase of a zero turn mower, chipper and other pieces of equipment. Grant money is always being looked into for this kind of expenditure. Mr. Langston also spoke about spending a few days in Columbus last week at the 2020 Winter Conference sponsored by the Ohio Township Association as a good educational and networking opportunity.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jenny August was appointed as the alternate for Portage County Regional Planning Commission by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2020-07 – formally indicating the method used by the township to schedule, reschedule, and cancel regular meetings and special hearings. The resolution was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2020-08 – accepting the 2020 NOPEC Energized Community Grant was authorized by a motion made Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. The money will be given the Lion’s Club for the Sweet Corn Festival.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Swan informed all in attendance that he attended the recent JEDD meeting where it was decided that JEDD funds would be allocated to carve the curb located in front of Sheetz on ST RT 59 at the intersection of Sixth Ave. to accommodate wheelchairs. The trustees unanimously approved such an improvement. Ms. Hanna received communication from the county board of elections asking entities to place information of their websites seeking polling location workers and officials.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #24860 through 24889, including payment vouchers, totaling \$55,271.10 was authorized by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:16pm the regular session was suspended by a motion made by Ann Hanna and seconded by Keith Benjamin in order to discuss employee compensation and personnel. All three trustees voted yes. At 8:45pm the regular session resumed by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. A motion was then made by Scott Swan to issue hourly pay rate increases of \$.50 each for Jenny August and Ken Penix, issue a \$1,000 annual salary increase to Brian Langston effective January 8, 2020, issue three weeks of paid vacation to Mr. Langston, and set a starting hourly pay rate of \$20.00 for the new Deputy Fire Protection Officer Richard Smith; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:46pm by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____