

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, October 23, 2018  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Keith Benjamin called the meeting to order. The minutes from our previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes. Jake Biltz was excused from the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – spoke on behalf of the Twin Lakes Association asking for a status update on the testing of dry hydrants. She reiterated that the association has made it clear that they want contacted when the testing is to take place and want to have a representative present. TLA should be called whenever any work is taking place on common properties. The association's phone number is 330-678-9116.
- Dan Russell – 1360 ST RT 43 – asked the board for their position on the obligation bond left unpaid by the former village and HomeTown Bank's opinion that the township should pay it down. Residents not in attendance at previous meetings were made aware of the pending situation by an article in the Plain Dealer newspaper. Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell gave background information for those in attendance. In 2004, Brady Lake Village officials entered into a bond obligation with HomeTown Bank in the amount of \$450,461, for recreational use and property acquisition of the ball field, village hall and the surrounding parcels. (+ \$35,000 toward the purchase of a fire truck). The repayment of the bond was scheduled as biannual payments to be made from revenue generated by a five year bond levy to be renewed until the debt was paid in full in 2024. Regular payments were made by the village through December 2017, with \$247,400+ in principal and \$273,700+ in interest paid over the thirteen year period of time. A principal balance of \$203,045. The township became aware of the debt prior to the state audit exit conference and inquired about how the debt would be handled. No answers were ever given and the state closed the books on the village without settling the matter. When contacted by the bank in July of 2018 about the village's missed June payment discussions began. Bank officials were not interested in taking the village hall property in question as is and disposing of it as they saw fit. The township board collectively believes this is what should have taken place under the supervision of the state auditor's office prior to finalizing the village dissolution. Instead, HomeTown Bank has indicated they will attempt to recoup their losses through litigation against Franklin Township. Mr. Russell asked what the ramifications would be for township residents should the township be forced to pay in excess of \$200,000 to close the debt. Trustees stated that services would be maintained in the township – leaf pickup, brush chipping, snow removal, etc. However, needed road repair and heavy equipment replacement needs would be rethought and extended. Mr. Russell stated that he believes the Record Courier should be contacted and residents made aware of the issue and expressed his support for the township's position that it is not the resident's debt to pay down.
- Deb Butler – 6949 ST RT 43 – believes it should have been the responsibility of former village residents to pay for the debt and agrees that the newspaper should be made aware. Several other residents concurred.
- Steve Boyles – 1350 Mockingbird asked if the properties in question had been appraised. The board Chair Mr. Benjamin replied that formal appraisals had not yet been done, as it would likely cost taxpayers approximately \$5,000. Mr. Boyles stated that established values would give the township bargaining power to perhaps satisfy part of the debt. The board should hold firm that the debt is not the township's responsibility.

- PCSO Deputy Scott Witkoski reported to trustees that traffic enforcement in the township has been good. He also assured trustees that there would be extra patrol coverage this coming Sunday for Trick or Treat.

**ROAD REPORT**

Submitted as written by Jake Biltz and is attached to the official record.

**ZONING REPORT**

Submitted as written by Sam Abell and is attached to the official record. Additionally, in response to a question about the allowed size of signs on private property Mr. Abell stated that if the signs are political they are exempt from regulations as long as they are not in the right of way. Mr. Abell reported that status updates on the structure located at 6527 Park Ave will come from the county building department through Charles Cochran who is responsible for monitoring progress there.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- The board accepted the resignation of Frankie Tadsen from the Zoning Commission.
- The township is in the process of writing new credit card legislation policy as required by the state.
- Approval to move the leaf collection start date back one week was given by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.
- Lisé Russell attended state required fiscal officer training in Twinsburg.
- A motion was made by Scott Swan to have the former village properties – village hall, parking parcels, the fire and old police buildings - surveyed by Rob Szuch (or another reputable and available surveyor)and listed for sale as soon as possible; 2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.

**FINANCES**

- Resolution 2018-34 – a resolution approving a supplemental appropriation to the Fire Fund in the amount of \$55,500 for the purpose of payment for fire and emergency services was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2018-35 – a resolution approving a transfer of \$60,000 from the JEDD Fund to the Fire Fund for the purpose of payment for fire and emergency services was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.
- 2017 employee bonuses- to be paid on the last payroll of December - were set as follows: Sam Abell, Ken Penix, Jenny August, and Jake Biltz - \$1,000 each; Tim Benner \$500; and hourly pay rate increases for Ken Penix and Tim Benner, to \$21.50 and \$20.00, respectively, to be effective December 31, 2018. This was approved by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants #24276 through 24290, including payment vouchers, totaling \$124,985.24 was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:25pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

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

Chair \_\_\_\_\_