

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

At 7:00pm Vice Chairman Scott Swan called the meeting to order. Trustee Ann Hanna and Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell were excused. New township road superintendent, Brian Langston, was welcomed. He comes with experience from both Solon Schools and most recently Kent State University.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO representative Lt. Scott Witkoski stated that patrols have been increased in the areas of the former village, Kent Park, Diagonal Road, and Overlook on the lookout for ATV traffic.
- Several residents of the Brady Lake area were in attendance and expressed concerns about the water level of the lake and the spillway. Residents have lost yard frontage of up to 35 feet from the rise and fear flooding of their homes. They are in search of possible solutions and how they can help.

In the past the township has participated in the loan and expense of a pump to evacuate water built up in the spillway, but diverted water from there impacted other resident properties negatively on Merrill Road. Mr. Todd Peetz from Portage County Regional Planning has been in contact with concerned residents and has expressed that he would be happy to assist with the reapplication for CDBG funds through what is known as an LMI (low to moderate income) grant that would assist in what could be a \$100,000 solution. This figure included engineering of the project. Mr. Peetz also opined that an environmental study would need to be done. The deadline for any study or assistance request for funding that would come in the next 18 months is this fall so the matter is time sensitive. Contacting the Kent Fire Department to see if they can assist in any way in removing some of the standing water near the spillway was also discussed. Matt Proske – 646 Westshore Drive, Marilyn Knights – 6498 Westshore Drive, Rob Swauger – 5474 Camp Road, Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard, RT Mansfield – 6540 S. Pleasant all spoke about the matter and are willing to serve as a committee for follow through. They provided contact information to the township. In conclusion, it was determined that Mr. Swauger would contact Todd Peetz at Regional Planning to get the ball rolling; the township, through Tim Benner will contact the Kent Fire Department to inquire about existing water removal possibilities; Brian Langston will inquire about the rental of a pump for more draining of that area (but at a slower pace than last time to avoid possible impact to other areas by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes.

- Ken Heller – address inaudible on recording – spoke of high grass near the Fireman’s dock and inquired about whether or not the township should mow it. Trustees responded that the motrim had been in for repair and that we are still learning what areas are township responsibilities. It will be taken care of.
- Marilyn Knights – 6498 Westshore – reported that she had a tree trimmed and is awaiting chipping to remove the brush. Mr. Langston stated the road crew would be there to pick it up.
- RT Mansfield – 6540 S. Pleasant – reported that a large tree had come down across the street from his property – water soaked ground brought the entire tree up - root system and all - and it is causing a possible road hazard from breaks in the road. Mr. Langston responded that he is aware of it – looked at it today – and is taking care of it. Mr. Mansfield noted its close proximity to both the county sewer line and his own storm drain and was assured that the township is aware and will be sure he maintains good flow from his storm line after the repair.
- Jake Frankhauser – 6463 Park Ave. – asked if it would be possible to post no parking signs near the lake area where people are parking to swim (Leonard/Lakeview corner). The road department will look into it and post if appropriate.
- Ron Stacey – 6408 Hillside – two nuisance complaints about a property on Hillside next door to him and on Lakeview. Structures appear to be unsafe, no running water, no electricity, dumping human waste on site. He is concerned for well contamination for surrounding property owners. Sam Abell is aware of both issues. **Resolution 2019-24** is a resolution authorizing the inspection of the property/structure located at 6407 Hillside by the building department, health department, and fire department and it was passed by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes. A ten day to comply letter has been sent to the Lakeview owner by the prosecutor’s office.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Sam Abell and is attached to the official record. With the addition of the above mentioned resolution to inspect a property on Hillside.

FIRE REPORT UPDATE

Scott Swan announced for the record that the Burkey hearing regarding illegal use of fireworks on Woodway over the Fourth of July has come and gone. There was no representation present from the prosecutor’s office or the Portage County Sheriff’s Office. Franklin Township Deputy Fire Protection Officer Tim Benner was not given an opportunity to address the court, to ask that Mr. Burkey be made to reimburse the township for the \$1358.00 expense incurred when the fire department responded to a call for help at the scene. The board is disappointed at the lack of communication from the prosecutor’s office and the sheriff’s department on the matter. The township will send Mr. Burkey a letter and invoice for the expense.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Brian Langston and is attached to the official record. Additionally, trustees approved the following expenses by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan and both trustees voting yes:

- \$5,110.00 to repair the one ton pickup
- \$623.00 for a new hedge trimmer/weed wacker
- \$1400 for Tom Quesenberry to remove trees located on the township owned lot adjacent to Phillips Park
- A yet to be determined expense to tree removal at the town hall parking lot.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott Swan publically thanked NOPEC for a \$1500 Community Outreach Grant awarded to the township and directed by the board to the Kent Lion’s Club to offset costs at the annual Sweet Corn Festival held at Beckwith’s Orchard.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution 2019-22** authorizing sealed bids for the sale of the boat dock located on Brady Lake was passed by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes.

FINANCES

- **Resolution 2019-23** authorizing the transfer of \$200,000 from the JEDD Fund to the Fire Fund for the purpose of fire and ems calls within the township was passed by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes.
- Payment of bills, warrants # 24622 through 24633, since the last meeting and totaling \$83,136.06 was authorized by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. Both trustees voted yes.

At 8:07pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Scott Swan. Both trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____