

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, August 14, 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 Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- R. T. Mansfield – 6540 S. Pleasant Ave. – submitted the results of water sampling conducted in Brady Lake. Mr. Mansfield volunteered earlier in the summer to take samples of the lake in several areas and take them to Adams Water Lab. The results were very good and bacteria levels are at a long time low level. Adams Water Lab will send an invoice to the township.
- Carl and Tammy Wunderle – 893 Gemberling – are unsatisfied with the replaced driveway apron put in place at the completion of Hudson Rd Phase II. Mr. Biltz responded that the material used for the installation is the same as used to resurface roads in Brady Lake last fall; it stays supple and takes awhile to set. The Wunderles are not happy and state they want it looked at. Mr. Benjamin and Ms. Hanna stated they would be out to look at it and see if there is anything that can be done. Mr. Wunderle is also concerned about the low water level currently at Stewart Lake and two trailers/mobile homes just off of Ravenna Road that have been there for some time.
- Justin Money penny – 2023 Brookview – stated he has submitted a letter of interest in serving as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for the township. He has an interest in serving the community at a local level and feels he will bring a fresh and informed outlook to the board. The trustees collectively stated they appreciate his interest and willingness to serve.
- Ron Nichols – 1515 South Blvd. – recounted an incident that recently took place in the Twin Lakes area. An intoxicated individual was roaming the area naked for some time and spent the night sleeping in the swamp in Twin Lakes. He was belligerent and uncooperative with safety personnel. In light of ever rising emergency contracted services expenses with the City of Kent it is his opinion that the individual should be responsible for the township portion of the cost for the response call.
- Lauren Braber – 1707 E. Main Street – (Bahama Bodies) requested permission to display temporary signs for the business. Trustees approved thirty days for signage and Ms. Braber will return after that with another request if more time is desired. Sam Abell will make sure the signage meets township code requirements.
- Township resident – Christopher Robison was in attendance in the audience as a badge requirement for the Boy Scouts. The trustees announced his presence and thanked him for being there and showing an interest in local government workings.

At 7:30pm the regular meeting was paused for the opening of sealed bids pertaining to the sale of extra equipment and property not needed by the township. The bids were opened one at a time by the fiscal officer, Lisé Russell, and recorded on a bid sheet. The items being bid upon are a 1998 Chevrolet 3500 dump truck, a 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe, a 1920 Ford tractor, a Kubota mower, a Vermeer brush chipper, a 1986 pontoon boat (including outboard motor), and a 2003 Chevrolet C7500 dump truck. A total of ten bids were unsealed and read aloud. Each item for sale had at least one bid. Trustees agreed that no decisions on the acceptance of bids would be made at the time but would be announced later at the next trustees meeting.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted in writing by Jake Biltz and is attached to the official record. Cracksealing for the season is complete and line striping of the roads has begun. A total of 178 brush chipping stops were made in the township for this month.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Sam Abell and is attached to the official record. The assistant zoning inspector, Joe Ciccozzi was in attendance at the meeting. Additionally, based on the zoning report Mr. Biltz was asked to seek three quotes for the cost of demolition and cleanup of the property located at 6568 Crescent Lane. Also, Mr. Benjamin asked Sam Abell to look into possible health code violations at the property located at the northwest corner of Diagonal and Ravenna Roads. The property is increasingly acquiring junk and there has been a septic issue there. Lastly, Ms. Hanna asked Mr. Abell to get a status update on the Zamos properties located on South Blvd and St. Rt. 43.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Tim Benner and is attached to the official record. A list of inspections, plan reviews, meetings, and meet and greets was discussed. Additionally Mr. Benjamin asked Mr. Benner to investigate four fire and ems calls related to the address of the Tavern at Twin Lakes, which has been closed for some time.

OLD BUSINESS

- Status updates on Kent Storage LLC litigation, zoning code violations at the Garrett property on Crescent Lane and Park Avenue were discussed. Work is progressing at the Park Avenue location in bracing the structure to make it structurally safe.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2018-23 is a resolution that authorizes the civil prosecution of Jane G. Sahr for operating a motor repair type business at a location where zoning does not permit that use. The resolution was approved by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.
- Resolution 2018-25 is a resolution that appoints Justin Money penny as a regular member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. The resolution was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Trustees were given a ballot pertaining to the upcoming election of OPWC District Seven representatives. They were instructed to vote and did so.
- A Portage County Township Association meeting will be held on Saturday, August 18th in Freedom Township. Lisé Russell and Keith Benjamin will attend to hear discussion of alternative formulas being reached for the distribution of local government funds beginning next year. An alternative formula needs to be reached in order for the townships in the county to not lose a significant amount of funding in the future.
- A countywide communications meeting hosted by the Department of Homeland Security will be held on September 12th to discuss local entity response in the event of a widespread emergency and the conversion of all county entities to the MARCS broadband system of radio communication. The trustees asked that Tim Benner attend as the Franklin Township representative.
- Ann Hanna received a letter from Lis Kenneth Regula, a candidate for county auditor. She will invite him to the next trustee meeting.

FINANCES

- Local Government Fund update – Lisé Russell briefly addressed the topic. If an Alternative Formula is not reached and agreed upon by all local entities in Portage County very soon then the county budget commission has stated that the formula they will use is the one provided for in the Ohio Revised Code. This is a “needs based” formula and will change the amount of funding distributed to each entity annually, and reduce drastically the amount of funding received by this township and most of the other eighteen townships in the county, as well as villages, the City of Kent, Ravenna, the City of Aurora.
- A meeting will take place Wednesday, August 19th at HomeTown Bank with Keith Benjamin. Lisé Russell, Chris Meduri and bank representatives Mike Lewis, Brian Bialik, and attorney Scott Flynn. The purpose of the meeting is to open discussion regarding a general obligation bond agreement entered into by Brady Lake Village and the bank in 2004 in the amount of \$450,461.00. Upon the dissolution of the village, as provided by the Ohio Revised Code, the township absorbed the geographical area of the village - and all of the property and assets. HomeTown Bank is of the opinion that the township should assume the \$201,000 principal balance of the bond; even though there is no provision in the statute that states the receiving township assumes liabilities not settled by the dissolving village or the state prior to any transfer of assets.
- Resolution 2018-24 is a resolution authorizing the fiscal officer to withdraw all of the remaining balance of funds currently held at HomeTown Bank and closes the accounts. The money is to be transferred to First National Bank. The resolution was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Keith Benjamin. All three trustees voted yes.
- Bills were presented for payment, warrants # 24162 through 24208, including payment vouchers, totaling \$42,331.39. Payment of bills was authorized by a motion made by Ann Hanna; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____