

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, October 22, 2024  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous regular and special meetings held October 8, 2024 were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio provided statistics on calls answered in Franklin Township for the month of September, including but not limited to, calls for thefts, suspicious persons, traffic stops, parking violations, assists to other agencies and the fire department, welfare checks, disorderly conduct, assault, premise checks, and alarm drops.
- Carol Dorscher – 6508 Westshore Drive – shared concerns about a fence located on Westshore near the intersection of Merrill and Westshore. She stated that is very near the road and wonders if it is private property, on the right of way or a driveway. Mr. Akerley will drive out there and take a look.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard – wanted to express for the record his gratitude for the road department in general for the great work they continue to do throughout the township and, in particular, Dave Akerley for his knowledge, expertise, and willingness to help Franklin Township residents.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill Ave. – wanted to inform trustees that the Twin Lakes area has decided to hold their Trick or Treat on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. After some confusion and changing back and forth of times for the City of Kent from 4-6, to 3-5, then back to 4-6pm they decided to remain 3-5 for safety concerns. There are no sidewalks and feel it is a better alternative for the neighborhood children. The trustees raised the consideration to resume 3-5 next year and thereafter due to safety concerns about no sidewalks and earlier darkness as well.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at the office at town hall as part of the official record. As reported, Mr. Akerley and Mrs. Kapusta met with the county engineers and representatives of a consultant firm - GPD Group – about the low-moderate income survey conducted in the spring in areas of Brady Lake in an effort to secure grant funding for road improvements. There are some obstacles in the way of securing the funding. For example, low traffic, very narrow streets, short and inconsistent right of ways, etc. Considerations for storm drainage improvements could be helpful in scoring for an award of grant funding. Mrs. Kapusta has put a great deal of effort into this endeavor with help from Mr. Akerley and others and will continue to seek assistance. Mr. Akerley also wanted to express for the record his gratitude to Richard Smith for his professionalism and commitment in doing his job as our Franklin Township Deputy Fire Protection Officer.

## ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the office at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, he informed the trustees that the Portage Bike and Hike Trail that runs behind his property has been repaved. Mr. Ciccozzi then asked the trustees if there has been any discussion or change in status about a walking path or traffic calming solution along Leonard St./Lakeview for pedestrians using Brady Lake or the growth/distribution of medical marijuana in the township. There is no change at this time.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Kellie Kapusta updated all present on the ST RT 59 Connecting Communities collaborative project between the City of Kent, PARTA, ODOT, and Franklin Township. Additional funding through grant applications is still being sought to cover remaining shared costs so there is no figure yet determined what will be the actual cost to Franklin Township – though the amount is lessening as outside funding gets approved. The project is not set to begin construction until 2027.
- Mrs. Kapusta did some investigating into the issue of reported fish dumping into Brady Lake several weeks ago. Through her research she discovered there has been one dealer permit issued to a Franklin Township resident through ODNR. This permit would be for raising or selling fish within the confines of guidelines established but would NOT allow for fish to be introduced to any public body of water. She will contact the permit owner and attempt to discover where any non-indigenous fish have been placed. Ms. Grimm asked if the information specific to ODNR guidelines for fish dumping could be shared with her so that the Twin Lakes Association could have it on hand for informational purposes.

## NEW BUSINESS

After discussion it was determined that the second monthly board meetings in both November and December fall too close to holidays to hold meetings. A motion was made by Scott Swan to cancel the November 26, 2024 and December 24, 2024 board meetings; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes. Jenny August will be asked to submit legal notices announcing the cancelation of both meetings.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell will attend the TLA Fall Forum at Fairways at Twin Lakes on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> for the purpose of answering any questions residents might have about the fire levy replacement on the ballot.
- Notification came through an Ohio Township Association legislative alert the Ohio HB 47 passed and townships with a population exceeding 5,000 that have public parks with playing fields or courts that encourage groups to engage in sport activity will be required by Ohio Revised Code to make AED's available to the public onsite. Both Phillip's Park and Brady Lake Park will qualify. Richard Smith will look into pricing and the best options.

- Glenn Russell stated that Mike Collins has been given pertinent information to sort through as a follow up to the Rootstown Road issue of jurisdiction where a resident has storm water runoff concerns and gravel in large amounts being washed into the road from his driveway. Also, the county engineer's office is preparing for a traffic study in the Germaine Reserve area in response to No Parking/speed limit signage concerns.
- Mr. Russell also wanted to state for the record that the township should revisit the issue of putting a new emergency warning siren in place where the old one was located near Towner's Woods.
- Mr. Russell was happy to report that following concerns shared by residents about mowtrimming needing to be done on county roads located within Franklin Township and his contact with Mike Collins at the county office that Ravenna Road has been mowtrimmed and motorists entering and exiting their driveways now have adequate line of sight.

## FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #26433 through 26447, including payment vouchers and totaling \$51,226.39 since the last meeting was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:00pm A motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the sale/purchase of real property by competitive bid if disclosure of the information would give advantage to the other side as per ORC 121.22 (G) (2) was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. At 8:35pm a motion to resume regular session was made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:36pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

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

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_