

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, January 14, 2025  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairperson Kellie Kapusta called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous regular meeting, held December 10, 2024 were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Charlie Hall - 6568 Tower Street – addressed the trustees with questions about how to proceed with resurrecting Captain Brady Day in some form. The group attempting this endeavor has many questions – are they permitted? Are they allowed access to the ballfield? Are permits of any kind required? Are food trucks allowed? Is there any liability? Mrs. Kapusta commented that due to our partnership with Portage County DD they would need to make sure that any dates they choose to use the field would not be previously reserved for Special Olympics and to make assurances that the turf and field would not sustain damage. The trustees all agreed that they would need details, preferably established and then submitted or presented for approval or discussion, including but not limited to details regarding parking, activities, anticipated attendance, possible security, etc. Maybe it would be appropriate for a member of the committee to attend a meeting monthly with updates. Detective DeSerio will look into what the requirements are for having security protection for large crowd gatherings. The township will also seek legal advice on whether or not the use of public funds would be permitted and what those parameters would be.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – shared information with the board about the Twin lakes Association working closely with Eric Long at Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District in monitoring the lake water levels. This information is in response to concerns that have been shared by Clio Ave. residents about road flooding along the lake. Ms. Grimm shared contact information for Mike Starkey – an association trustee as well as their lake management representative – with Dave Akerley. Mr. Akerley and Mr. Russell will be meeting very soon with Eric Long to discuss.
- PCSO – Detective Nick DeSerio – presented statistics for December calls throughout the township. Calls for theft, domestic disturbance, assists to the rescue squad and other agencies, premises checks, suspicious person, and welfare check are among the 291 calls for service answered in December for Franklin Township. A total of 313 calls were answered in November and a grand total of 3,846 calls for service were answered in 2024, averaging about 10.5 calls per day.

### **ROAD REPORT**

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, a summary of road resurfacing projects completed in 2024 was presented. Greenwood Ave, Merrill Ave., Knoll Road, Westlake Blvd., Carlton Dr., Sixth Ave., Second Ave., and Ohio Street were all resurfaced for a total of 1.83 miles at a cost of \$322,766.93. This does not include chip and seal, crack sealing, and patchwork performed on other roads.

### **ZONING REPORT**

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at town hall as part of the official record.

### **FIRE REPORT**

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. It was noted that 2024 totals show that the City of Kent Fire Department answered a total number of 5,889 calls, 779 of which were in Franklin Township (representing 13.22% of calls answered).

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- AED installation at public parks update. Richard Smith provided quotes from Coro Medical LLC for units that would be adequate for installation at Phillips Park and Brady Lake Park. The newly updated Ohio Revised Code provides that all public parks where organized group sports activities take place (soccer, basketball, pickleball, Special Olympics, etc) have an AED available. Including the storage cabinet capability the units will cost approx. \$4,300 a piece and will be put in place this spring when the park activities resume.
- The new emergency warning siren for Phillips Park is being built currently and will be installed when received. Kent State University bought three sirens and Franklin Township bought one.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- The trustees have been informed that the bridge located on Judson Road has been temporarily closed for repair by the county engineer's office and a detour has been established.
- After discussion, it was determined that the township will discontinue their contract with Terminex for pest inspection and control and that Dave Akerley will renew his pesticide license and assume the responsibilities.
- Portage Parks survey – this decision is tabled so that each trustee can give the questions more thought.
- After receiving communication from concerned residents about safety at the Ferguson Rd/Ravenna Rd stop sign. Many motorists are running the stop sign and there have been near collisions. Further investigation will be needed to determine who has the jurisdiction to erect blinking lights or warnings at dangerous intersections. Scott Swan will follow up with Mike Collins.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Mr. Russell reported he had a few communications regarding flooding on Clio. He also reported that interest has been shown on following up on easement access from Sylvan Dr. into Phillips Park.
- Mr. Swan reported that he had communication from a Caranor Dr. resident concerned about a neighbor parking in the street and blocking his ability to back out of his driveway. Mr. Swan will attempt a conversation for resolution with the offending neighbor to see if it can be worked out.
- Mrs. Kapusta reported that she has received photos and calls regarding the jurisdiction of Cox Rd Ext. There are potholes and it does need asphalt (as do many other roads in Brady Lake). The township road crew plows it.

**FINANCES**

Submitted as written by Lisé Russell and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, payment of bills, warrants #26480 through 26510, including payment vouchers and totaling \$221,108.72 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:05pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All the trustees voted yes.

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

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_