

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:01pm Chairperson Kellie Kapusta called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mr. David Smith – 1390 Partridge Lane, Akron, OH 44333 – representing the owner of Singh Biryani restaurant requested approval from the trustees to provide outdoor seating in the form of picnic tables upon their opening, which is anticipated the first week in April. If approved, they will seek further approval from the county building department. A motion to approve the picnic tables based on rendered drawings provided was made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard Blvd. – expressed gratitude to the road crew for the excellent job they have done thus far during snow and ice events keeping roads in Franklin Township clear. Mr. Lehman also asked if there was an update or either the traffic calming proposal submitted by Mr. Freeman at a previous meeting or the zoning violations at a home on Lakeview. Mr. Ciccozzi responded that there is no update on the Lakeview home (waiting for a response from the prosecutor's office) and Mr. Russell responded that there has been no response yet from the county engineer's office on traffic calming. Mr. Lehman then notified the board that church flea market signs previously approved would be going up the first week in May.
- Dr. Erica Mathey – representing the Tinker's Creek Watershed Partnership – attended the meeting at the invitation of the trustees to give information regarding services that could be accessed should the township decide to join the partnership. They are a nonprofit agency seeking to meet the needs of communities with which they are affiliated, assist in finding funding for community/neighborhood/individual property plans, address flooding/storm water management needs when requested and educate the public. Franklin Township did have an annual membership several years ago but found that the services were not utilized and information on what those services were and how to access them was not forthcoming. Dr. Mathey presented handouts to the board and represented well services that could be important to our residents; help with cleanups, tree plantings, rain gardens, storm water management, etc. The partnership does work with The Portage Soil and Water Conservation District and has some experience with helping solve small community storm water management issues through grant seeking to alleviate trouble. Austin Lesak – 124 Wanda Court – stated that as the Germaine Reserve HOA president he believes their residents could benefit from these services, as did Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – as a Twin Lakes Association representative. Bob Walsh – 6945 Hudson Road – asked if the cost of membership would be covered as a budgeted expense and Lisé Russell responded that yes, it could be covered. A motion was made by Glenn Russell to explore a one year membership (cost \$1500) to start in March of this year after plans can be put in place to organize how best to utilize the services offered; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried.
- Jim Sweitzer – 7268 Hudson Road – asked for an update on the timeline for the Judson Road bridge closure. Mr. Akerley responded that the township has no jurisdiction over the bridges in Franklin Township and that the Portage County Engineer's office has jurisdiction and would be able to supply him with that information. Mr. Swan provided him with the phone number to reach Larry Jenkins, the county engineer.

**ROAD REPORT**

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, Mr. Akerley reported that the county engineer's office will likely decide by week's end whether or not temporary repairs can proceed on the Judson Road bridge at this time. The bridge is slated for replacement/rebuild this summer regardless. Secondly, a meeting is scheduled next week with Portage County project manager Mike Collins to discuss faulty resurfacing on Sixth/Ohio/Second Ave last fall. Mr. Akerley has also expressed concerns he has about the chip and seal project done last fall on Judson/Hudson/Spell roads. He and Mike Collins have discussed contacting Ronyak Paving to see what can possibly be done. The weather (early cold rains and temperatures) played a part in the materials not setting properly.

**ZONING REPORT**

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, Mr. Ciccozzi reported that the software he utilizes for zoning at an annual membership fee of \$5500 paid by the township is possibly expanding capabilities. If they are able to provide access, he requested he will ask the trustees to expand the membership to \$7800 annually to utilize the information it provides. Mr. Ciccozzi also clarified that a previous mention of Brady Lake residents attempting to resurrect Captain Brady Days and inquiring about the use of food trucks would not be a request through zoning, but instead would need trustee approval and then county health department guidelines would need to be met.

Then, resident Jim Sweitzer of the Stewart Lake Association had a question regarding a permit Mr. Ciccozzi issued to a resident for an additional accessory building. There are conflicting guidelines in the Stewart Lake Associations guidelines and the Franklin Township Zoning Resolution. Mr. Ciccozzi assured him that the Franklin Township Zoning Resolution would take precedence over any HOA guidelines. The permit issued allows that resident to add the structure desired within the parameters set on the permit issued and that HOA guidelines should not have guidelines that are outside of what the township allows. The trustees determined that Zoning Inspector Joe Ciccozzi would continue to serve as the Franklin Township representative to the Portage County Regional Planning Commission for a two-year term beginning this year. An alternate needs chosen and Mr. Ciccozzi suggested approaching a Zoning Commission member to see if there is an interest. The trustees agreed that it is a good idea. Mr. Ciccozzi will follow up.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Flooding concerns on Clio – Glenn Russell and Dave Akerley met with Portage County Storm Water engineer Eric Long to discuss this and the levels of water in Twin Lakes, which are related. It is a storm water management issue, not a road issue, and the township has asked Portage County Soil and Water to take the lead on this issue.
- Hudson Road status update – Mr. Akerley has expressed some concerns about the upcoming project and some places where more depth repair could be warranted. After the winter season ends he will meet again with Mike Collins at the engineer’s office to further evaluate. Right now the project is set to bid in early May and bids opened in June to accommodate the July 1<sup>st</sup> contract validation date with OPWC.
- SR 59 Connecting Communities Project update – as sought funding for this partnership project (The City of Kent, PARTA, ODOT, Kent-Franklin JEDD, and Franklin Township) some grants have already been secured and more await notification. Should all of the funding sought be awarded the local share portion of the project would be roughly \$148,000 and Franklin Township’s portion of that (16.7%) would be \$12,358. JEDD money can be spent for construction on this project. Of the entities participating Franklin Township will score the highest with OPWC on a grant application so they are asking if Franklin Township would be willing to take the lead on applying. Over the next few weeks Mr. Akerley and other trustees will make a determination if other township road projects will be OPWC worthy projects before committing to taking the lead on the SR 59 project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Resolution 2025-01 – authorizing all actions necessary in accepting the 2025 NOPEC NEC grant award of \$13,330 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Russell. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried.

**FINANCES**

Payment of bills, warrants #26511 through 26518, including payment vouchers and totaling \$28,469.28 was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried.

- At 8:25pm a motion to suspend regular session and enter executive session as provided for by ORC 121.22 Section (G) (2) to discuss the purchase of property (both real and personal, tangible or intangible), or to consider the sale of property (either real or personal) by competitive bid if disclosure of the information would give a competitive advantage to the other side by division AND to prepare for collective bargaining strategy by division as provided for by ORC 121.22 Section (G) (4) was made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried and executive session began. At 9:23pm a motion was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried and regular session as resumed. A motion was made by Scott Swan to note for the record that Glenn Russell would assume the responsibility of negotiating with Teamsters Local 24 for a new collective bargaining agreement – the current one expires in June 2025; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried.
- At 9:25pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes. The motion carried.

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

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

