

March 21, 2023

The Franklin Township Supervisors met on the above date at the Franklin Township Administration Building located at 889 Fairyland Road. Township Officials present were Supervisors Fred Kemmerer Jr, Robin Cressley, Jason Frey; and Secretary Brenda Cressley. An attendance sheet listing all others present is attached to the Minute Book. Chairman Kemmerer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Chairman Kemmerer began the meeting by addressing the continuing concerns with the Beltzville State Park's traffic issue backing up onto Pohopoco Drive located in Franklin Township. He said the purpose of this meeting was to hear ideas from the public and officials on how to come up with a short term solution to help with the traffic problems. The Township's primary concern is the safety of the township residents, police and roadway.

Township Resident Stephen Delello was present to suggest three ways to improve the traffic problems.

1. Place NO PARKING SIGNS with an amount of \$150.00-\$200.00; then take them to the Magistrate
2. Enforcement- have someone present to issue tickets
3. Higher a Flagger Force- Have traffic go to the Pine Run Boat Launch (in Towamensing Twp) and then only traffic from Pine Run Road can enter the park.

Towamensing Township Resident, Kevin Christman said the traffic problems are not just Franklin Township's problem it is the State Park and Towamensing's problem as well and they need to all work together on solving the issue. He suggested that the State Agency needs to strengthen the Ordinances. He also mentioned giving the people a reserved parking spot and if they do not have one they don't get in the park.

Other suggestions made were using a Loud Speaker, Using farmer fields to create temporary staging, Open another gate, install a Toll Booth to have out of State traffic pay for parking, (*Noted because it is a State Park the public has a right to attend/enter a State or Federal park without paying a fee).

Franklin Township Police Chief, Jason Doll stated his main concern was the safety of those entering and exiting the park. He said when COVID hit for some reason more & more tourists decided to visit State Parks causing the increase in traffic at Beltzville. While all of the suggestions made here are great ones, they all have their ups and downs. He stated they all work together, the State Police and the Park Rangers. He said we currently only have five police officers, one to each shift and try to cover the township 24/7, there are always empty shifts, they try to aid in the traffic control as much as they can, but Franklin Township residents are their first priority. He feels the main thing that needs to be done is to keep the traffic flowing.

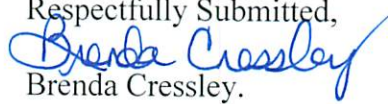
Dean Georgia a Towamensing Township Resident suggested having a detour route in place. He said a detour route keeps the traffic moving he experienced the use of a detour route when he attended Lackawanna State Park.

Other Towamensing Township residents said the traffic is not the only problem, they need to look inside the park as well. They live in close proximity to the park and have to deal with the loud music not only with the stopped traffic but also when they are inside the park.

In closing Chairman Kemmerer was pleased with the ideas brought forth and would like to hold another public meeting. He would like to review the ideas given and put their thoughts together and figure out how to move forward.

Chairman Kemmerer Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Brenda Cressley.