



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the October 17, 2018, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Morris, Snyder and Torres. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Assistant Manager Jeff Eastburn, HARB/HC Chairman, Paul Lagasse and Secretary Sharon Norris. Four members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There will be an Executive Session after tonight's meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues. The Manager announced that the November Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. This was approved at the January Organization meeting.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Supervisor Morris, 2nded by Supervisor Dea, the September 26 minutes were approved with two revisions. Motion carried 5-0.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Supervisor Dea, 2nded by Supervisor Snyder, Resolution 2018-21 was approved 5-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotapes from the September 26, 2018 BOS meeting and the September 6, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Chairman Auerbach, 2nded by Supervisor Torres, the September 2018 Treasurer's Report was approved 5-0. The report includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$103,038.16; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$7,770.68; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,768.42; the Traffic Impact Fund East with disbursements of \$13,351.11; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$39,404.20; the Highway Aid Fund with Disbursements of \$500.00; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$37,115.62; the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$1,051,219.55.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Mr. Snyder reported that during the month of September, 11 permits were issued and 23 building inspections took place. \$7,156.00 was collected in building fees, \$0 in Rec, Open Space, Impact Fees and \$2,925.00 was collected in miscellaneous fees. There are 6 zoning issues. The Manager updated the Board that 1651 New London Road has applied for a change of use; 3327 Appleton Road: the District Magistrate imposed a minor fine on 3 of the 5 violations but the structure still needs to be compliant with the HARB requirements; 223 Highland Drive has confirmed that water is not bypassing the drywells; 1762 New London Road has been mowed and rubbish removed; 1620 New London Road is an ongoing issue that is being discussed during Executive Session; 206 Fox Run Road: the bank has secured the property and will be putting it up for sale. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website (www.franklintownship.us).

PC Report: Mrs. Dea summarized the October 4, 2018 meeting where the PC continued the discussion on Additional Dwelling Units with the Zoning Officer in attendance. She stressed that the PC understands that people want to be able to move their parents or children into their homes and give them an independent living space. They are working diligently to ensure that no unintended consequences occur with the passing of this ordinance. This discussion has been going on for most of 2018 and it is the Chairman's opinion that the ordinance will be ready for the Board's review by the end of the year. Mrs. Dea commended the PC group and thanked them for their careful consideration of ordinance updates. Once the minutes are approved, they will be posted to the Township website.

HARB & Historical Commissions – The HARB and HC did not meet in October. Mr. Lagasse announced that a talk entitled “When the Great Pandemic Struck Southeastern Pennsylvania” (Influenza 1918) given by Roberta McManus a well-regarded speaker on this topic will be held at the New London Academy located in the New London Township building. On a sad note, Mr. Lagasse informed the Board about the passing of Mary Linda Vannoy Priestly, president of the New London Historical Society. He remembered her as a “great woman.” He will attend her funeral on 10.18.18.

On October 6, Mr. Lagasse attended the Hallowed Ground Conference on cemeteries that contain African American Civil War Veterans. He had hoped by attending he could find out who holds the deed to the cemetery at the corner of Hilltop and Church Hill Roads. He reported there are more than 70 people buried there and at least 10 are veterans. He is not 100% sure if they are all civil war veterans. He discovered that Church Hill Road was named for the church – which was named Church Hill African Church - and not named because there was a “church on the hill” which has been popular opinion. Mr. Auerbach commented that cleaning up the cemetery and restoring the gravestones could be an Eagle Scout project. Mr. Auerbach gave a shout-out to Nathaniel Krinoch, a Township resident and newly pinned Eagle Scout who spent over a year cleaning up the White Clay Creek Cemetery as his Eagle Scout Project.

FSA Report – Jim German summarized the 2nd report of the season. There are 35 FSA registered members. 10 still need to perform proficiency testing prior to hunting. All hunting zones are clearly marked. One buck was harvested from Franklin Preserve. Recent service projects include mowing the Ford Farm Trail and an upcoming Keen Trail Clean up on October 28th. Mrs. Dea complimented the FSA on the job they did repainting the lower pavilion at Crossan Park.

308 Heather Hills Lot Line Adjustment Plan – The Chairman made the motion to approve this Preliminary/Final Lot Line Adjustment Plan for Parcels 72-2-71.7 and 72-2-73 in the Heather Hills Subdivision. This plan allows the first lot in the development to remove the “finger” that jutted out to Chesterville Road and has been a nuisance to keep mowed. It also allows for the adjacent owner to incorporate that “finger” into his parcel to make it eligible for Act 319. The soon-to-be new owner is aware of the mowing issue and has committed to keeping that parcel mowed and visibility at the intersection clear. There were several minor waivers granted since no additional building will take place. Per the Zoning Hearing Board decision, there will be a deed restriction placed on parcel 72-2-73 so that no new driveway onto Heather Hills Drive can be created. The applicant will send a draft of the revised deed to the Solicitor for review prior to recording. Mr. Auerbach complimented the new landowner on being a good steward of the land. The motion passed 5-0.

Wyndemere HOA Project Discussion – Mr. Chris Perkins from Wyndemere discussed his plan to build two bridges on the Keen Trail, located on the Wyndemere HOA-owned land. Supervisor Morris confirmed that this was a public trail. Solicitor Thompson confirmed that since the Township is donating the material, they would not be liable for anything that happened on the bridges. The Chairman wanted to make Mr. Perkins aware of a number of issues such as: 1) notifying the HOA's insurance company of this project; 2) load ratios for the bridge and railings; 3) using an engineered plan. Mr. Perkins was confident that he can build the bridge to the correct specifications and has gotten informal approval from Jeff Vogels. He has not finalized the project yet. Mr. Perkins put together a materials list and the Township is still gathering cost information. The consensus of the Board is that they support this project. Mr. Perkins will come back before the Board in November. At that time the Board will discuss how much they will commit to the project.

2019 Preliminary Budget Discussion – this was the first discussion of the 2019 budget. At the November 14, 2018 BOS meeting, the Board will authorize the budget for advertising and it should be adopted at the December 19, 2019 meeting. The Board discussed projects at the Park and acknowledged that many things have been put off for a long period of time. One of the projects considered for next year is refurbishing the bathrooms. Assistant Manager Jeff Eastburn has put together a catalogue of park projects and the Board will use that as a guide. Since the Park loan will be paid in 2019, the .27 mills dedicated to the Park will be reduced to .2 mills with the .07 mills reverting back to the General Fund. These funds, along with the amount the General Fund usually contributes to the Park Fund, will now go to the Open Space Fund to cover the cost of the Stoltzfus Ag Easement.

The Board also discussed the Reserve Fund. By continuing to put in \$45,000/year, the fund will be at its goal in 2020; the Board discussed putting in a little less and putting that extra money toward something else. The consensus was to wait until we hear about the Chester County Conservation District grant for the Hess Mill Bridge. Emergency Services was the other discussion topic. It was noted that more money was budgeted for Emergency Services. The Chairman explained that WGFC's expenses have gone up. With fewer and fewer volunteers signing up, they are going to have to rely on paid help. Mr. Auerbach complimented WGFC on their auditable budget. He explained that he worked with an adhoc committee from the municipalities served by WGFC for over a year to agree to a funding formula that was fair to all municipalities and that was agreeable to WGFC for ambulance coverage. This formula uses number of runs and population, not appraised value. On the flip side, the Township has been trying to work with Medic 94 to come up with a fair funding formula and hasn't been able to reach an agreement since Medic 94 works with 17 municipalities. Currently Medic 94 uses appraised real estate value for their calculation. The Townships and Medic 94 have agreed to work together to come up with a more agreeable funding formula. The Township has agreed to pay Medic 94's full request for 2019.

Mr. Auerbach complimented the Township budget saying it was clear and concise.

Abel Extension – On motion by Mrs. Morris, 2nded by Mr. Torres, the Board authorized the extension to the review clock for the Abel Subdivision to April 19, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Regarding ways to make the Historical District walkable and more livable, Paul Lagasse met with Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator (Chester County Planning Commission) regarding the 2009 Taming Traffic Booklet and Feasibility Study of the Historic District. Ms. Marshall would like to ask Natasha Manbeck of McMahon Engineering to review the 2009 Study, free of charge, to see if the plan is still viable. Ms. Manbeck was the former Director of Transportation Services for the Chester County Planning Commission and was involved in the creation of that original plan. Once she is done her review, the results can be discussed at the next BOS meeting. Ms. Marshall required the Board's OK before she speaks with Ms. Manbeck. The Board gave their authorization.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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