



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the November 16, 2016 Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Schenk, Snyder and Torres. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, HC/HARB Chairman, Paul Lagasse, Manager/Treasurer, Joan McVaugh and Secretary Sharon Norris. PC Chairman, Dave Hoffman arrived at 7:12 p.m.. There were 15 members of the public present.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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

Chairman Auerbach announced there would be an Executive Session after the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Chairman Auerbach, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the October 19, 2016 minutes were approved 4-0. Supervisor Torres abstained as he was absent for that meeting.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Chairman Auerbach, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, Resolution 2016-24 was approved 5-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotape for the October 19, 2016, Board of Supervisors meeting and the October 6, 2016 Planning Commission meeting.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Supervisor Torres, the Board unanimously approved the October Treasurer's Report. The report included the following disbursements: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$114,932.60; the Park & Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$7,881.63; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$7,172.61 the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$18,617.19; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$29.99; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$881,281.42.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Chairman Auerbach reported that during the month of October, 10 new permits were issued. There were 10 various inspections. Building/zoning fees collected: \$1,442; Recreation and Impact fees \$-0-; and \$1,040.00 in miscellaneous fees. There are 2 ongoing zoning issues.

PC Report: Chairman Hoffman reported that the PC reviewed the Vineyard Church Sketch Plan. This plan involves 2 parcels: one 8.135 acre parcel in Franklin and one 8.139 acre parcel in London Britain Township both owned by Vineyard Christian Fellowship. This plan intends to create 1 new 2-acre residential parcel in Franklin and annex the remaining 6.135 acres of land to the existing parcel within London Britain Township. The PC also discussed revisions to the Township Ordinances dealing with billboard signs and mini cell towers. The PC requested that the Solicitor be in attendance to offer

guidance regarding the changes to the two ordinances. For more details, please see the approved PC minutes when they are available.

Historical Commission/HARB Report: Chairman Paul Lagasse reported on the November 10th joint talk with the New London Historical Society on “A Few Old Homes in New London presented by Mary Linda Priestly and Alan Jones. The talk was well attended and very enjoyable. The HC also discussed the Eastern Shore Natural Gas pipeline (ESNG) with respect to historic properties and the ESNG Fairhill/Jennersville Loops when work will begin in 2017. Members of the Historical Commission manned an Election Day information table and managed to distribute 750 pieces of historical pamphlets. Paul encourages everyone to visit the Franklin Township Historical Commission on Facebook. The required quarterly meeting of the HARB consisted of the approval of minutes and was over in 3 minutes! You can email the Historical Commission at FTHC1825@comcast.net and visit them on Facebook at FTHCPA.

FSA Report: Jim German gave the FSA’s monthly report. He reminded everyone that archery season is closing on November 26th and shotgun season begins on November 28th. Mr. German also advised that goose hunting is in season so if residents here a succession of rapid fire, it must be hunters shooting at a flock of geese. Mr. Paul Overton asked about a deer stand in the Banffshire Preserve. Mr. German explained that the FSA removes all of their deer stands so that one must belong to a poacher. The FSA will check it out and remove it as soon as they can. Mr. Lauria stated he found a deer head left on Creek Road and all members of the BOS and public were disappointed to hear that. To date 10 deer have been harvested: 2 buck and 8 doe. Mrs. Lauria asked if the FSA knew how many deer were harvested from Banffshire and Mr. Overton suggested in the future that the FSA could report the deer harvest for each preserve.

Escrow Releases: On motion by the Chairman, and 2nded by Supervisor Schenk, the BOS unanimously authorized the final escrow release for the Wyndemere Subdivision, Phase 2 in the amount of \$112,092.29. The Developer has provided an acceptable maintenance Bond in the amount of \$56,229.51. The Township Engineer has approved these transactions.

Business:

The Chairman made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Snyder to accept the dedication of Catherine Lane and the remainder of Castlebay Lane in the Wyndemere Subdivision. This included the adoption of Resolution 2016-25 memorializing this action which was unanimously approved. It was noted that the Solicitor has reviewed and found all of the required documentation which included the deed of dedication, the maintenance agreement and the bond acceptable. All invoices are up to date.

Mr. Overton discussed the need for a bridge on the trail between the Keen & Wyndemere trails. Chris Perkins also discussed the bridge. He feels the Wyndemere Trail is great but it is difficult to continue on to the Keen Trail without a bridge. The bridge would cover a “gully” where the stream splits. It would be approximately 18” off the ground with a 12’ span and overall length of 25’. The Wyndemere Plan stated that the Township would be responsible for any additional features installed or added to the trail. After some discussion the Board agreed to look into the possibility of purchasing the lumber for the bridge and donating it to the HOA who would be responsible for building and maintaining the bridge. Chairman Auerbach was concerned that the Township might have some liability. Solicitor Thompson indicated that since neither property was owned by the Township there would be none. Members of the public who participated in this conversation were: Julia Engelis, Tony Lauria, Nancy Morris, Ginger North, Paul Overton, and Chris Perkins

Discussion on Traffic and Combustibles: Chairman Auerbach spent the last month gathering information surrounding the issues he felt were most worrisome to the residents affected by the Gourmet's Delight proposed development of the Benmark property. He met with the Fire Chief who assured Mr. Auerbach that there are sufficient safeguards in place to extinguish any fires that could be caused by hay bales. He also stated that Gourmet's Delight would be responsible for any damage to neighboring homes. Residents also asked about passing ordinances to restrict the placement and size of hay bales. Mr. Auerbach stated it was necessary to research how an ordinance might affect other farmers.

The 2nd area of concern was traffic on Auburn Road. After talking with a London Grove supervisor, Mr. Auerbach discovered that they also felt the curves in their township were dangerous and would be willing to work on some improvement. The Chairman also explained that Franklin was willing to stripe Auburn Road to improve safety. The idea of weight restricting the road was raised again by residents. The Solicitor commented that even though you can pass an ordinance that restricts traffic, delivery trucks can still get through so it would not solve the problem.

The following residents participated in this discussion: Julia Engiles, Bob Konopka, Tony Lauria, Ginger North, Paul Overton and Janet Smith.

Conservation Easement Discussion – the Board and members of the public discussed the 2 properties that are the subject of this discussion. One property is adjacent to the Peacedale Preserve and in the opinion of most of the Board, not a property that would generate a whole lot of development. However, the other parcels which equal 55.3 acres and is a working farm would be attractive to a developer. Supervisor Dea lead the discussion saying in no uncertain terms that she was against raising taxes to purchase open space, but at the bargain price of \$5,000/acre, the Township should find money in the budget to assist with the purchase of the easement. The County is looking for the township to contribute 45% of the cost. Supervisor Dea identified several areas of the preliminary budget where she thought the money could come from without taking away from any services especially the road program. Members of the public were very supportive of this purchase and agreed that even though they may not have voted to raise the open space tax, they see the value in the purchase of conservation easements. The lower cost of managing open space vs. the cost of development was discussed. The Supervisors were not prepared to vote on this topic but they gave their opinions. Mrs. Dea was in favor of doing everything the Board can to find the money in the budget; Supervisor Schenk first explained that if there was extra money in the budget, she would like to use it to lower taxes; however, she would be very willing to assist in the purchase of AG easements or worthy open space properties once the township's loan is paid off and the dedicated open space fund can pay for the purchase; Mrs. Schenk also pointed to the purchase of an AG easement on the Echo Hill McMaster property which was not funded by any Township money. Mr. Snyder is irrevocably not in favor of open space; Mr. Torres spoke positively about the contribution toward the AG easements and noted that the budget could support the expenditure. He is cognizant of the township's open space debt service and the amount of money the township already spends on open space. He noted that the Township contributes more than its fair share to WGFC and WGFC EMS and Medic 94 and transfers money to fund the Emergency Services fund so why does the Board have a problem transferring money into an account for a defined 5 year period which in the long run would have a positive effect on the Township because there will be less infrastructure to support. Mr. Auerbach is a no vote for the Walker Road property and he would abstain from voting on the 55 acre farm since it is adjacent to his property.

Residents in attendance were very positive about preserving open space and leaving a legacy for future generations. The general feeling was that this was a terrific opportunity. Commenters suggested using land conservation organizations such as Natural Lands Trust or Brandywine Conservancy to look for possible funding. The Board of Supervisors was appreciative of the public discussion at this meeting.

2017 Preliminary Budget: On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Supervisor Snyder the 2017 Preliminary Budget was approved, 5-0 and the staff was directed to advertise it in the next available edition of the Daily Local News. The Preliminary Budget is available for review in the Township office and will be available on the township website shortly. The 2017 Final Budget will be adopted at the December 21, 2016 BOS meeting.

Bid Awards:

On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Supervisor Schenk, the 2016-2017 contracts for the Interim Road and Maintenance bid and the Snow Removal and De-icing Bid were awarded to Yardworks, the sole responsible bidder. The motion passed 5-0. Chairman Auerbach complimented the work of owner Jim Dorazio and his group and commented that by using Yardworks for our road program saved the Township a substantial sum of money this year as well as producing a better product!

Public Comment: Mr. Zach Elwyn commented on the intersection of Appleton Road and 896. He questioned whether PennDOT provided any timeframe for making improvements.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.