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**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
December 20, 2017**

Call to Order:

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Supervisors Dea, Schenk, Snyder and Torres. Also present were Township Solicitor Mark Thompson, Historical Commission and HARB Chairman Paul Lagasse, Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Secretary Sharon Norris. Sandi Morgan, the Township's Sanitary Engineer was also in attendance. There were approximately 11 members of the public in attendance.

Announcements: The Chairman announced that there will be an Executive Session following tonight's meeting to discuss legal issues.

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

Public Comment: Ms. Tracey Travis Lee, Township resident, commented on the unsafe conditions on Gypsy Hill Rd. She has lived on Gypsy Hill Rd. most of her life and is now afraid for her children to walk home from school because of the increase in traffic, including large trucks and school buses, and the speed at which people drive. She proposed installing speed bumps, police surveillance, reducing speed limits and signage to prohibit trucks, to improve safety. The Board will take her comments under consideration and will get back to her. However Chairman Auerbach advised her that getting approval from PennDOT for such measures is a long and involved process and is rarely successful. Ms. Lee thanked Sharon Norris for her courteous attention and prompt response to her many calls and emails regarding her concerns. Mr. Matt Deckman inquired if public comments would be accepted during the Lexington Point discussion.

Approval of Minutes:

- a. BOS Minutes of November 15, 2017: Mrs. Dea moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board approve the November 15, 2017, v2 minutes, as presented by the Township Secretary. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Disposition of Records – Resolution 2017-25: Mrs. Schenk moved, seconded by Mr. Auerbach, that the Board approve Resolution 2017-25 regarding the Disposition of Records for the November 2, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting and the Board of Supervisors' meeting of November 15, 2017. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report for November 2017: Chairman Auerbach moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board approve the November 2017 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$156,623.11; the Park & Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$5,085.88; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,974.10; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$1,000.00; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$24.99; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$763,678.66. Motion passed 5-0.

APPROVED

- b. Zoning Officer's Report: Mr. Snyder reported that during the month of November, 5 permits were issued and 21 building inspections were completed. Building fees collected were \$100.00; Recreation, Open Space & Impact Fees collected were zero; and miscellaneous fees were \$225. Mrs. McVaugh updated the Board on the outstanding zoning issues. To view the entire report, access the Township website at www.franklintownship.us.
- c. Planning Commission Report(PC): Alternate PC Member Paul Lagasse summarized the PC's 12/7/17 meeting at which the PC continued their discussion regarding the possibility of revising the Zoning Ordinance to allow in-law suites. The approved minutes of this meeting will be posted on the Township website when they are available.
- d. HARB/HC Report: Having no business before them, these commissions did not meet in December.
- e. Franklin Sportsman's Association (FSA): Mr. Jim German of the FSA reported that shotgun and archery season will reopen December 26, 2017 through January 27, 2018. Total harvest so far this season is 10 deer – 8 doe from Franklin Preserve; 1 buck from Banffshire; and 1 buck from Franklin Preserve. The last road clean-up was cancelled due to snow – they will reschedule in 2018. The FSA sponsored a family for the Holidays.

Business:

- a. Harvest Run 2018: Mr. David Berger reported that the inaugural Harvest Run held in October of this year had a good turnout with 220 participants. The Friday night 5K was run on the Geoghegan Trail which he reported was in great shape. The Saturday half marathon was run on Franklin and London Britain roads and there were plenty of volunteers to direct traffic. There were no injuries or other issues and Chairman Auerbach said there were no complaints and he is looking forward to next year's Run which is scheduled for Friday and Saturday October 12 and 13, 2018. Mr. Berger reported that the beneficiaries of next year's race will be the Mason Dixon Greenway in London Britain and the Peacedale Preserve in Franklin. He expressed his gratitude to the Wilkinsons for allowing him to host the event on their property. Maintenance of the Geoghegan trail was discussed and Supervisor Elect Nancy Morris participated in that discussion.
- b. Resolution 2017-26 – Lexington Point: This Resolution is the first level of approval of the Lexington Point Planning Module and adopting it allows the staff to submit it to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for review. The Township's Sanitary Engineer, Ms. Sandi Morgan and Mr. Fred Ebert of Ebert Engineering, representing the owner/developer Keystone Homes, were present to assist in the discussion. Chairman Auerbach summarized the extensive history of this subdivision, beginning in 1995 to the present. The current subdivision plan for 38 homes and a mechanical waste treatment plant was approved in 2007. Six homes have been built and are occupied but the approved sewage treatment facility was never built. This Planning Module relates to the Orenco system that is being proposed by the applicant to replace the sewage treatment process that was approved with the 2007 plan. The existing homes are being served by a pump and haul system which was approved by DEP as an interim solution. DEP is now urging the developer and the Township to arrive at an agreement for a permanent sewage treatment process. A two hour discussion ensued with questions and comments from the Board and from the Lexington Point residents who were present, including Mr. & Mrs. Deckman, Mr. Beattie, Mr. Kocher and Mr. Gawrysiak. Nancy Morris and Keystone Custom Home Representative, Bill Briegel, also participated in the discussion. In answer to concerns and questions regarding the

APPROVED

approval of this Stage 1 of the Planning Module, Ms. Morgan explained that it only represents the “concept” of a wastewater treatment system. She referenced her letter of December 19, 2017, in which she detailed the issues that needed to be addressed prior to the Board’s approval and submission to DEP and the issues that could be put off until the design permit stage. The suggested corrections were made. Stage 2 of the Planning Module approval process will provide the opportunity to work through the engineering aspects of the system including design blue prints and specifications, meeting with the manufacturer (an American company) and dealing with any issues that may be outstanding at that time. She and Fred Ebert will be working through this process together. She believes that significant progress has been made and her recommendation to the Board is that they approve this “concept” Planning Module, realizing that there will be another level of review at the design and permit stage. She also confirmed that she does not anticipate any major obstacles that could derail this project from moving forward and obtaining a well-documented blue print that covers all the characteristics of this sewage treatment system. The residents’ questions were centered on the projected cost to individual households and Mr. Ebert’s estimated time line for the entire project. Mr. Ebert estimates that the cost will be in the neighborhood of \$1,800/household. Other estimates range from Aqua Water’s estimate of \$1,750 to \$2,900. Mr. Auerbach stated that since the Township will own and be fully responsible for the operation and maintenance of this system, it is imperative that an administrative structure to manage this function be developed. He will be working on this over the next year with a goal of being able to provide a more accurate estimate of cost/household when this work is completed. Ms. Morgan noted that the reason the Aqua Water estimate is low is that it represents operating costs only. Because they are a utility and are governed by the PUC they are not permitted to include the capital reserve component in their estimate. She suggested disregarding their estimate because a utility will not be interested in operating the Lexington Point Facility. (A resident) expressed a concern that the Board is approving phase one of the Planning Module without knowing what the cost to the residents will be and asked that the Board table the vote for a month to possibly arrive at a more accurate figure. Mr. Ebert stated that this system is the most cost effective system currently available for this type scenario and delaying the vote for a month will not enable the Board to arrive at a more accurate number. Ms. Morgan agreed and noted that based on DEP’s restrictions on the treatment and disposal system required, there is very little choice in the type system that can be used. In addition, there’s no economy of scale with a 38 home subdivision that must sustain their own treatment facility. Unfortunately labor is the largest component of the cost and you have to pay an operator to monitor the system whether it’s serving 300 homes or 38. The time line estimated by Mr. Ebert based on previous practice indicates that construction of the facility, including half of the drip field, could start sometime between September of 2018 – April of 2019.

Mr. Auerbach moved, seconded by Mrs. Dea, that the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution 2017-26, approving the revised Planning Module for the Lexington Point Subdivision. The motion passed 4-1 with Mrs. Schenk voting Nay.

The meeting was adjourned for a five minute break and reconvened at 9:37 p.m.

APPROVED

Proclamation for Supervisor Schenk: Chairman Auerbach read a proclamation thanking Supervisor Schenk for her hard work and many contributions to the Board and to the Township residents during her 6 year term. The Board wished her well in all her future endeavors.

- c. Resolution 2017-27 – Final Budget Approval: Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mr. Torres, that the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution 2017-27 approving the 2018 Final Budget. Motion passed 5-0.
- d. Resolution 2017-28 - Tax Levy Resolution: Mr. Torres moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution 2017-28, setting the tax rate for 2018. Motion passed 5-0.
- e. Resolution 2017-29 – Fire Hydrant Resolution: Mrs. Dea moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder that the Board adopt Resolution 2017-29, setting the Fire Hydrant Tax for \$36.00 per parcel within 780 feet of a public fire hydrant. Motion passed 5-0.
- f. January 2018 Meeting Schedule: Mrs. Schenk moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder that the Board of Supervisors authorize the staff to advertise the January 2018 meeting schedule. Motion passed 5-0.
- g. Site Improvement Plan: It is understood by the Board that work to improve the office cannot proceed until Municipal Lane is repaired to correct the issue of stormwater entering the building. The entire lane will not be repaired at the same time. Specific areas of the lane will be designated for repair as part of the 2018 Road Program. Supervisor Torres recommended fixing the lane early in the road program in order to move forward with the additional plantings in the spring. It was noted that the 2018 Road Program is directly affected by how many winter snow storms have to be dealt with.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris
Township Secretary