



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the March 28, 2018, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Morris, Snyder and Torres. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Historical Commission and HARB Chairman, Paul Lagasse, Manager/Treasurer, Joan McVaugh, and Secretary Sharon Norris. There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Supervisor Morris, 2nded by the Chairman, the February 21, 2018 minutes were approved, 5-0.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Supervisor Dea, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, Resolution 2018-12 was approved 5-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotapes from the February 1, 2018 PC meeting and the February 21, 2018 BOS meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Supervisor Snyder made a motion, 2nded by Mr. Torres, to approve the February 2018 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$122,515.63; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$1,394.79; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,768.42; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$5,681.00; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$493,879.46. The motion carried 5-0.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Supervisor Torres reported that during the month of February, 5 permits were issued and 26 building inspections took place. \$601.00 in building fees; \$-0- in Recreation, Open Space, & Impact Fees and \$675.00 in miscellaneous fees were collected. There is one ongoing zoning issue at 308 Heather Hills. The Manager reported that there is an April 20th hearing date set; however, the Solicitor and the bank that owns the property have been working together to reach an agreement prior to this date. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website www.franklintownship.us.

PC Report: Mrs. Dea summarized the March 1 meeting where the PC recommended that the Board enact the revision to the zoning ordinance to allow for accessory living units wherever single family houses are allowed. They also discussed setbacks for the winery/brewery ordinance and that discussion will continue at their April meeting. The PC also approved their annual report.

HARB & Historical Commissions - Chairman Lagasse reported that these two commissions did not meet in March; however the HARB has a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for a re-roofing project to review at their April meeting. Both commissions will review their annual reports at their April 4 meetings. On May 10th, the HC is cosponsoring a program entitled the "History of Cider Making" with the New London Historical Society at the New London Academy (the New London Township Building). Cold Stone Cider will be presenting and will talk about what they do and the history of their product.

2017 Audit Presentation – Mr. Tim Sawyer, a Partner at the Audit firm, Barbacane Thornton reviewed the 2017 Audit with the Board. He complimented the Township on a smooth Audit and pronounced that the Township is in good shape with no issues. The audit can be viewed in full on the Township website under the “Township Financials” tab.

Pickle Ball in Crossan Park – Several residents from Den Road requested that the Township add extra lining to the tennis courts to allow for people to play pickle ball. Currently the players have to travel to the Newark Senior Center to play. On motion by Supervisor Snyder, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board unanimously accepted the proposal to turn the vacant skate park into a pickle ball court and to install the proper equipment at a cost not to exceed \$1600. The Chairman requested that the staff search for the best prices for the equipment.

School Children and Excessive Speeding on Gypsy Hill Road – A resident who has come before the Board previously is very concerned with speeding and unsafe conditions on Gypsy Hill Road. She noted that the fence at the apartment complex has been hit 3 times in the last year and a pole was also hit. She is afraid that a child will be the next one to be hit. She made a heartfelt plea to the Board to place 2 speed tables on Gypsy Hill to divert the cut-through traffic and slow the traffic down. Manager McVaugh reported that she and Jeff Eastburn are working with the school district to change the location of the bus stop which is currently at the intersection of Gypsy Hill at 896 which will make things much safer for the children. The school district seemed agreeable to requesting that the bus companies allow their buses to travel down Gypsy Hill and drop the children off at their designated driveways rather than having to walk down the road. The Township has also considered purchasing an electronic sign that will display “Slow Down” or “Too Fast” rather than the speed of the vehicle which, according to reports, tends to motivate the driver to drive faster. Each Board member spoke individually about why they felt that speed tables were or were not the right choice. The majority of the Board noted they would not want speed tables on Gypsy Hill.

Excessive Speeding on Appleton Road – a resident on Appleton Road has also experienced unsafe conditions due to speeding traffic on Appleton Road. She has contacted the Township, the State Police and PennDOT. The State Police noted that due to one of their rules, they could not enforce the speed limit between exiting off of Route 896 and the stop sign at Appleton Road. However, they would make sure to have patrol cars monitoring the 4 way stop at Appleton and Walker as drivers tend to run that. The Sgt. at the barracks did note that the majority of offending drivers are local and live off Walker Road which was very discouraging to hear. Ms. Randby is going to purchase signs to place on her lawn to bring attention to the drivers that this is her home and kids and families live there and to PLEASE SLOW DOWN. The Chairman read aloud a Letter to the Editor he had written in 2013 about excessive speeding all over the area, not just in Franklin Township. Everyone agreed that speeding is a universal problem.

2018-2019 Hunting License: On motion by Supervisor Dea, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, the Board adopted Resolution 2018-13, issuing a hunting license to the Franklin Sportsman’s Association for the 2018-2019 season. Mrs. Dea thanked the FSA for their service. Supervisor Morris requested that the FSA cut the Geoghegan Trail since the resident who currently maintains it as a service cannot commit to ongoing management. Mr. Jim German, a member of the FSA, agreed. The Chairman also thanked the FSA and acknowledged that they are good stewards of the land and save the Township money by doing projects that we would have to pay our contractor to do.

Snow Emergency Resolutions – The Board acknowledged that they passed Resolution 2018-10 and Resolution 2018-11, Declarations of Emergency; to allow for the Township to apply for aid should money become available from the state to reimburse township expenses from the two storms in March. This also allows the Township to use extra equipment if necessary without having to go through the bidding process. However, at this time, no money has been made available.

Accessory Living Units Ordinance for Advertising – On a motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board authorized the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance 2018-01, updating the Township’s Code, Chapter 27, to delete Section 27-1712 Residential Conversion and references to the term granny flat and adding the term

additional living unit and a new section 27-1721 governing additional living units for enactment at a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Great American Cleanup - Supervisor Morris is leading this year's Great American Cleanup of Franklin Township. It will take place on Saturday April 21 with a raindate of April 22. Students needing community service hours are encouraged to participate; the Township provides letters. Residents can clean up their own neighborhoods or we will assign you a road. Clean up starts at 8 a.m. and goes through noon. Participants should meet at the Township Office. Safety vests, gloves and bags will be provided. Please call the office if you have any questions or would like to register. 610-255-5212.

Stantec Proposal – On a motion by Mr. Torres, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, the motion to approve the proposal from Stantec to evaluate and test Peter Christopher Drive, Benjamin Run and Peacedale Road was tabled. This proposal is to help the Township determine who is responsible for the failure of these roads after they were just improved as part of the 2015 Road Program. When the failure was discovered, representatives from PennDOT, the paving contractor and the Township engineer all walked the roads to examine them closely. The Manager is going to contact PennDOT to review the proposal. This was tabled until the April BOS meeting.

Open Space Discussion – Supervisor Morris led the discussion requesting that the Township pay for a survey for a property owner who is interested in placing an Agricultural Easement on their Property. If a land trust organization and the County agree to ease the property, then the Township would be reimbursed for the cost. At this time, many of the Supervisors did not believe there were enough details available about a potential deal with the property owners to warrant the township paying for the survey. Mrs. Morris also brought the Board up to date on her meetings with the County and Natural Lands regarding attracting buyers for the golf course. The Board also discussed the 100-acre dairy farm that they had previously offered a letter of support for an Agricultural easement. They would like more details on the costs.

Conservation Easement – Since the Eastern Shore pipeline is now going through the Fox Chase Farm, the value of the conservation easement has decreased. The farm owner received compensation from the Pipeline Company and the Township and the Land Trust will also receive compensation since they all contributed money for the conservation easement. The Board must sign an updated Easement Agreement to acknowledge that this new pipeline is now going through the property. On a motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Mr. Torres, this action was approved 5-0.

Public Comment: Mr. Lagasse alerted the Board and audience that the Chester County Planning Commission is hosting an open house at the New Garden Township Building and inviting the public to help draft the County's long-range plan "Landscapes3." The open house is on Tuesday, April 10th and begins at 5:30 p.m. The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. Public officials are also encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

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