



## OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the May 16, 2018, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 6 members of the public 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 potential litigation and Item V(g), Wyndemere Maintenance Bond release was removed from the agenda and will be considered next month.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion by Supervisor Morris, 2nded by Supervisor Dea, the April 18, 2018 minutes were approved with a minor correction (changing the date from 1997 to 2007) on page 2. Motion carried 5-0.

**Disposition of Records:** On motion by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by Supervisor Snyder, Resolution 2018-15 was approved 5-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotape from the April 18, 2018 BOS meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Chairman made a motion, 2nded by Supervisor Torres, to approve the April 2018 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$323,198.32; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$7,446.14; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,768.42; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$4,500.56; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$1,126,595.06. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Torres asked about the amount of money transferred into the Capital Reserve Fund compared with last year at this time. Manager McVaugh explained that the amount of money able to be transferred fluctuates with the amount of funds remaining at the end of the year. This is largely impacted by winter storm maintenance.

**Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report:** Mr. Snyder reported that during the month of April, 10 permits were issued and 25 building inspections took place. \$3,549.33 in building fees; \$0- in Recreation, Open Space, & Impact Fees and \$900.00 in miscellaneous fees were collected. There are four ongoing zoning issues: 308 Heather Hills: The Manager reported that the bank settled with a new owner of this property and a check for \$5,178.00 is on its way to the Township; 3300 Appleton Road: The owner has begun cleanup by removing the boats, vehicles and other items; the District Court date has been continued for 30 days; It was noted that since the Township does not have a property maintenance code, owner's vehicles, trailers, etc. are permitted on the property; 3327 Appleton Road: Jeff Vogels and the Solicitor filed the summary citation papers in District Court on May 10 and the property owner will be served; 1651 New London Road – the property owner is intending to start a paving business and was notified that he must fill out the proper paperwork for a "change of use." The entire report can be reviewed on the township website [www.franklintownship.us](http://www.franklintownship.us). Mr. Torres

asked Mr. Lagasse why doesn't the HARB oversee the condition of properties in the Historic District and Mr. Lagasse explained the HARB is strictly advisory and it would be up to the BOS to pass such an ordinance.

**PC Report:** the PC did not meet in May.

**HARB & Historical Commissions** - Chairman Lagasse reported that the May 10<sup>th</sup> program on the history of cider and how traditional cider-making is being revived at Old Stone Cider in Lewisville was very interesting and well attended. He recommended that everyone visit the Old Stone Cider barn in Lewisville.

**Proclamation for Norman Hughes** – Mr. Hughes, who had served 7 years as a supervisor from 2005 through 2011 passed away in April. The Board honored him with a proclamation. Mr. Hughes will be missed by his family, friends, and coworkers.

**Contribution Discussion** – the Board decided they would not make a policy regarding donations acknowledging former supervisors and volunteers, current supervisors and volunteers and staff. Each situation is unique and will be considered at the time. For Mr. Hughes, it was decided to plant a daylily garden at Crossan Park with a plaque in his memory. Former Supervisor, Nan Latimer, offered to contact Mrs. Hughes for some of Norman's daylilies to plant

**Opioid Epidemic** – Mr. Bob Weidenmuller, a Township resident and also past school Board member approached the Township about sharing information about the opioid epidemic. He handed out a document with talking points and asked if the Township would post this information on our Facebook page and website. In Chester County a total of 153 people died of a drug overdose in 2017 compared with 106 in 2016 and 81 in 2015. 47% of those who died in 2017 were under 35 and 53% were 35 or older. 6% were over 65. These numbers do not reflect those who overdosed and survived. Mr. Weidenmuller emphasized that this is a country and state crises, but we want to focus on what we can do in our community. Information that everyone should know is in Mr. Weidenmuller's report (attached to this document).

**Long Term Financing Discussion** – the Chairman passed out a handout and read about the following topics:

**Crossan Park** – the Chairman proposed taking all of the dedicated tax monies from the park and putting those funds straight into the General Fund so they can be used on anything. Mrs. Morris acknowledged that supervisors have differing opinions and wants the Park to be funded. Mr. Torres and Mrs. Dea recommended reducing the Park tax from .27 mills to .20 mills to keep money specifically for Park maintenance and repair. Mr. Torres would like to work with Mr. Eastburn to prioritize the extensive project list. This will be revisited during budget talks in the Fall.

**Hess Mill Road Bridge** – This timber bridge was first evaluated by PennDOT in 2009 and although there have been deficiencies noted, they have not deteriorated further over the last six years. Repairs and maintenance have been performed during this time. The Township will apply for a grant from the Chester County Conservation District to help with funding for the replacement of this bridge. State Rep Lawrence has provided the paperwork to add this bridge to the Pennsylvania "bridge bill" which would allow the township to apply for state grant monies.

**EMS Crises** – The number of volunteer Emergency Responders is dwindling and Townships will be responsible for funding the cost of paid employees. The Township currently supplements the Emergency Services Fund's .50 mills with General Fund money. The Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors on behalf of Pennsylvania municipalities has passed a resolution demanding that the Governor call a special legislative session to address this pressing issue.

**Open Space Program** – The Chairman read through this page which is also on the township website.

**Open Space Acquisitions – post 2011 Election referendums** – 3 parcels have been eased since 2011 at no cost to the Township: a 55-acre farm on Pennock Bridge Road, a 25-acre farm on Walker and 127 acres off of McMaster Blvd.

**Stoltzfus AG Easement** – Mr. Auerbach summarized the easement process beginning with the June 2017 Board Meeting where the consensus of the Board was to support the easement at \$144,000. Having a

consensus of the Board places a project higher on the County's list for acquisition. However, the final Funding Agreement received in early 2018 indicated an increase of approximately \$76,815. The original estimate covered 80 acres @ \$4,000/acre and the final agreement covered 98.14 acres @ \$5,000/acre. Both Mr. Auerbach and Mr. Snyder felt like this was a move to mislead the township. Other supervisors felt that this was an honest mistake. The original estimate came from a conservation organization and not the County. Mr. Torres asked if the County would consider a smaller funding percentage from the Township and said moving forward he would only give a consensus on definite dollar amounts.

**Resolution 2018-16 – Agricultural Easement** - on motion by the Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Mrs. Morris, the Board adopted Resolution 2018-16 a funding resolution for the purchase of an Agricultural Easement by Chester County and Franklin Township on a dairy farm located at the intersection of Strickersville and Appleton Roads and authorize the Board members to sign the Funding Agreement at a cost not to exceed \$220,815. The Township will not pay any incidental costs. Motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Snyder abstaining. Mrs. Dea thanked Mr. Geoff Shellington of the Chester County Land Preservation Board for working with the Township and for preserving the Boxler Farm with no monetary support from the Township. Mrs. Morris also thanked Geoff Shellington and Bill Gladden for their hard work and support.

**Avon Grove Charter School Letter of Credit Release** - On motion by Mr. Torres, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board, based on the recommendation of the Township Engineer in his letter dated May 15, 2018, authorized the release of \$568,621.58 from the Avon Grove Charter School's BB&T letter of credit leaving a balance of \$542,917.80 in this account. The motion carried 5-0.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Paul Overton commented that volunteers could do a lot of the work in Crossan Park. He reported there are 6 trees down on the Banffshire Trails that need to be cut. He suggested the FSA take on that project. He also discussed the tube trees on Goodwin and explained that the plastic tubes around trees should not be removed until they split. Paul also said that the vines wrapped around the mature trees on Goodwin will soon kill them if they aren't taken down. He requested that the empty tubes on Goodwin be disposed of. He thanked the FSA for all of their hard work. He also mentioned that on the Pennock Bridge side of the Goodwin property, someone disposed of a large amount of trash including air conditioners. Mr. Brent Van Lith asked if the Township had liability on roads and trails. Solicitor Thompson stated we have liability for our roads but not our trails.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:27 p.m.

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## **ROBERT WEIDENMULLER'S HANDOUT:**

With the frequent news reports, we should all know about the opioids and heroin crisis, but a couple of statistics may help. In 2000, less than 20,000 Americans died from drug overdose. In 2016, over 64,000 died, mostly from opioid family drugs.

In 2016, 4,642 drug-related overdose deaths were reported by Pennsylvania coroners and medical examiners, an increase of 37 percent from 2015. The presence of an opioid, illicit or prescribed by a doctor, was identified in 85 percent of drug-related overdose deaths in Pennsylvania in 2016.

In Chester County, a total of 153 people died of a drug overdose in 2017, compared with 106 in 2016 and 81 in 2015. And, in case you believe this to be problem only of young people, 47% of those who died in 2017 were under the age of 35 while 53% were 35 or older, including 6% over 65. And, these numbers do NOT reflect the number of overdoses where lives were saved with Naloxone nor where a coroner was not involved in determining cause of death.

While this is a US and Pennsylvania crisis, I want you and us to focus on what can be done in our local community.

My challenge to all local entities (school districts, townships, churches, libraries, etc.) is for you to examine what you can do to help and to act. I believe that all these entities have 3 specific resources that can help. One is a list of people in our area (e-mail, address, etc). Two is social media sites like websites and Facebook. And Three is physical buildings for possible meetings for communication and recovery.

I have worked with some dedicated leaders in the opioid area to put together a communication package. I ask the Franklin Township Board of Supervisor, as well as the other entities in our community to issue this package (or one of their choosing) on a periodic basis that makes sense for their audience. As example, perhaps Franklin Township might communicate with all residents once a year. And this communication is not focused just on residents; aunts, uncles, parents and grandparents should all know this information. I also ask Franklin Township as well as the other entities to understand and reach out to the various support organizations with the purpose of offering meeting space where it might be needed.

Please let me repeat; you already have many resources that can help to confront the opioid crisis. Please use them.

## **Opioid Crisis: Information that everyone at every age should have in our area.**

### **Help cut the supply of Opioids by dropping off un-used prescriptions at one of 4 drop boxes in our community:**

- State Police Barracks – Avondale. 2 Moxley Lane. Open 24 hours/7 days a week.
- Kennett Square Police. 155 North Broad Street. Open M-F 8:30 to 4:30
- Oxford Police – Oxford. 57 North Fourth Street. Open M-F 8 to 4:30
- Southern Chester County Regional Police Force – Landenberg (temporary). 385 Starr Rd. Open M-F 8 to 4

### **Help save lives:**

Naloxone is the generic name of a drug that can reverse the impact of an opioid overdose and save lives. The drug has no abuse potential and counteracts the life-threatening effects of an overdose. It is also known by the brand name Narcan. This is administered as a nasal spray. The Surgeon General of the United States just recently recommended more people carry Naloxone. Naloxone is available without a prescription in Pennsylvania at CVS and Walgreens stores. The cost of a Naloxone dosage can be about \$130, although many insurance plans cover some of the costs. Additionally, the local support groups, Live4RJ and Kacie's Cause will help to obtain low-cost Naloxone (see more below).

On December 1, 2014 a new law went into effect in Pennsylvania which changes the state's drug laws to provide immunity for people who suffer a drug overdose and for people who report a drug overdose, as long as certain criteria are met. The law is titled Drug Overdose Response Immunity. The law states that *a person who assists a person experiencing a drug overdose* cannot be criminally charged and is immune from prosecution in either of the following instances:

1. The person transported a person experiencing a drug overdose to a law enforcement agency, campus security office or health care facility AND law enforcement only became aware of the incident and of certain criminal offenses because of that person's assistance;
2. The person reported the drug overdose in good faith to law enforcement AND the person provided their name and location to law enforcement AND the person remained with the person needing medical attention until law enforcement arrived.

The law also provides that *a person experiencing a drug overdose* cannot be criminally charged and shall be immune from prosecution if the person who assisted them qualifies for immunity in one of the two instances listed above.

### **Learn more about the Opioid Crisis:**

A great source of statistics and information is <https://www.overdosefreepa.pitt.edu>  
The “View Overdose Death Data” shows information about Chester County and even down to zip codes.

Another source of information is Chester County’s Department of Drug and Alcohol Services site, <https://www.chesco.org/216/Drug-and-Alcohol>

Also learn more at the site for the Chester County chapter of the Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education (NOPE) group, <http://www.nopetaskforce.org/chapter-chester.php>

### **Support and Information:**

There are at least three local support/action organizations in our area as well as chapters of national organizations.

Live4RJ provides Addiction Crisis Response where anyone can call to find access to treatment, regardless of insurance by calling 484-247-4911. They also provide peer mentoring to help those on the road to recovering. Live4RJ just opened a Recovery Clubhouse called Miracles Off Main at 406 W. First Avenue in Parkesburg. They are also actively working on opening an additional Recovery Clubhouse in the Avon Grove area. Live4RJ also provides addiction and recovery presentations and information as well as hosting overdose awareness vigils. And Live4RJ also can help obtain lower-cost Naloxone. Their website is <https://www.live4rj.com>

Kacie’s Cause, as their website states, has a vested interest in providing educational information to a sometimes unsuspecting or unaware community. They accomplish this in various ways, collaborating with the local school districts and Chester County drug programs to presenting drug awareness information during townhall meetings, community events, parents support groups, art programs for at-risk elementary students, educational activities for intermediate and middle school students, addiction awareness and education assemblies for high school students, and Narcan training and distribution. Their website is <https://www.kaciescause.com>

If Love Was Enough is a new group in the area focused on helping parents who have lost a child (at any age) to an overdose. If Love Was Enough can be reached by contacting Annalie Korengel at 610-952-2992, Jacki Smiro at 484-639-7990 or through their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/388442971615123/>

The list of local Narcotics Anonymous meetings can be found at <https://www.na.org/meetingsearch/>

The list of local Alcoholics Anonymous meetings (and yes, those in recovery have said AA meetings help) can be found at <https://www.aasepia.org/meetings/?tsml-day=3&tsml-region=5009>

**Special information for Senior Citizens:**

The Opioid Crisis does not just impact younger people. In 2015, 2.7 million Americans over the age of 50 abused painkillers, taking them for reasons or amounts beyond what their doctors prescribed, and the hospitalization rate due to opioid abuse has quintupled for those 65 and older in the past two decades. AARP published a great series of articles with opioid information specific for Senior Citizens which can be found at <https://www.aarp.org/health/drugs-supplements/info-2017/opioid-drug-addiction-pain-pills.html>