



## OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the September 20, 2017, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Schenk, Dea, Snyder and Torres. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, 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.

**Announcements:** There was an Executive Session after the meeting to discuss legal issues.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment. The Chairman noted that the Board would entertain public comment during each agenda item.

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion by Supervisor Dea, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the August 16, 2017 minutes were approved 5-0.

**Disposition of Records:** On motion by Vice Chair Schenk, 2nded by Chairman Auerbach, Resolution 2017-17 was approved 5-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotape from the August 16, 2017 BOS meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chairman Auerbach made a motion, 2nded by Mr. Torres, to approve the August 2017 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$100,981.91; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$13,301.72; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,974.10; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$41,208.57; the Highway Aid Fund with disbursements of \$138,308.13; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$29.99; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$932,170.51. The motion carried unanimously.

**Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report:** Mr. Snyder reported that during the month of August, 11 permits were issued and 25 building inspections took place. \$2,011.80 was collected in building fees; \$0- in Recreation, Open Space, & Impact Fees was collected; and \$2,540.00 in miscellaneous fees was also collected. Manager McVaugh updated the Board on the following 3 zoning issues: 6 Meadow Wood Lane - the home has new ownership and improvements and mowing are in process; 308 Heather Hills – the bank has taken back the house and will begin improvements soon; 534 Church Hill Road – the owner is working on getting the chicken coup resituated to the back yard. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website [www.franklintownship.us](http://www.franklintownship.us)).

**PC Report:** Having no business before them, the PC did not meet in August.

**Historical Commission/HARB Report:** These Commissions did not meet in September.

**Franklin Sportsman's Association (FSA) Report**– Jim German from the FSA gave the first report of the season. The FSA thanks the Board for the opportunity to hunt on the Preserves. The FSA has a full complement of 35 members. The annual proficiency shoot was held on September 9 and 10. Archery Season began on September 16 and closes Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. It reopens on December 26 and closes January 27<sup>th</sup>. Shotgun season opens November 27 and closes Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. It reopens on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> and closes on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Community Service projects from June through September were: Road clean up on Chesterville and Creek Roads; maintaining grassy area around the entrance to Banffshire to include mowing and weed whacking.

**Boardwalk in Crossan Park Eagle Scout Project** – Austin Gaydos, a junior at Avon Grove High School presented his project to build a boardwalk in the wet area of the Crossan Park trail behind the lower pavilion. The Board is enthusiastic about his project as it will complete a loop in the lower trail. On motion by Supervisor Dea, 2nded by Supervisor Schenk, the Board authorized assistance in an amount up to \$500 toward this project. This motion passed unanimously.

**Bat Houses in the Parks and Preserves Eagle Scout Project** – Jacob Shuster, a junior at Avon Grove Charter School, presented his project to build 8-10 bat houses and place them in various locations in the Park and Preserves. The Board is also enthusiastic about his project and will help him decide on placement of the houses. On motion by Mrs. Schenk, 2nded by Supervisor Dea, the Board authorized assistance in an amount up to \$500 toward this project.

**Ordinances:**

On motion by Mr. Torres, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board unanimously enacted Ordinance 2017-03, authorizing a 3-way, all-way stop intersection at Franklin and Peacedale Roads. This involves removing the “except for right turn” on the Peacedale Road West stop sign and adding a stop sign to Peacedale Road East. The scrub brush was also cleared at the triangle to improve site distance. With the Kemblesville Charter School adding an additional grade and area residents concerned about safety at this unconventional intersection, the Board unanimously agreed that this was a necessary safety improvement.

On motion by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by Mr. Torres, the Board unanimously enacted Ordinance 2017-04 regarding the regulation of the use of engine retarding devices in the vicinity of 1903 New London Rd. It was noted that because of the PennDOT signage requirements, New London must also pass this Ordinance in order to place the signs.

On motion by Mrs. Schenk, 2nded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board enacted Ordinance 2017-05, the Flood Plain Ordinance to allow for residents who live in a FEMA designated flood zone to secure flood insurance. Motion carried 5-0.

On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Vice Chairman Schenk, the Board unanimously enacted Ordinance 2017-06, which adds certain definitions relating to wireless communication facilities and establishes standards related to the location, placement, construction and maintenance of tower and nontower based communication facilities located with the public rights of way.

On motion by Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Mrs. Schenk, the Board unanimously granted the request to waive the stormwater requirement of Section 19-3089.1.A for the proposed new home at 223 Highland Drive. This home was part of a subdivision plan that was approved well before the 2013 stormwater ordinance was enacted. This one particular section of the new stormwater ordinance not only causes a hardship due to the steep slopes and heavily wooded nature of most of the property, but since this property is 5 acres, any runoff would not impact any surrounding existing or future building.

**Resolution 2017-19** – On motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Mr. Torres, the Board unanimously adopted this resolution supporting Chester Water Authority’s continuing operation as a publicly held utility.

**Resolution 2017-18** – on motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Mr. Auerbach, the Board adopted Resolution 2017-18, authorizing West Grove Fire Company EMS to be the primary contact for 911 when a backup ambulance is necessary and Medic 94 to be the primary contact for 911 when an advanced life support backup is necessary. Mr. Harold Walls, the Township’s Emergency Management Coordinator, assisted the Board with this discussion as did Mr. German, who is a paramedic. Mr. Walls explained the purpose of passing this resolution. 99% of the time the Chester County 911 system is able to locate EMS companies within the County to respond to emergencies. But in the event that all Chester County Emergency service vehicles are in use and there is still a need for additional backup, only the Fire Chief has the ability to communicate via radio with neighboring counties in different states (Cecil County and New Castle County for example). In our area, sometimes the closest companies would be located in Delaware or Maryland. The County 911 system has to communicate with EMS companies located out of the state via a land line. Passing this resolution allows for the WGFC Chief to use his radio to call for additional back up.

**Site Improvement Plan:** Supervisor Torres reported that he met with Clark’s Nursery and got a quote to install 5 Norway spruce trees and 12 green giant arborvitaes in efforts to screen the equipment and material yard from passersby. On motion by Mr. Torres, 2nded by Mrs. Schenk, the Board authorized this purchase at a cost not to exceed \$2,727.00.

**Hess Mill Bridge Discussion** – This is the first of many discussions regarding this timber bridge built in 1973. PennDOT inspects this bridge annually and has lowered the weight limit. The two options discussed are a pre-made concrete bridge similar to one that New London Township recently installed on West Avondale Road and rebuilding the timber bridge. The benefits to concrete are that it is long lasting and there would not be a weight restriction as there is on the timber bridge. The Township could install timber on the sides to make it more aesthetically pleasing. Alternate Engineer, Ron Ragan, gave his best estimate as to the cost of a concrete bridge which is approximately \$350,000. The Township received a rough estimate of \$250,000 for a timber built bridge. Since Hess Mill Road is a low volume road, The Chester County Conservation District will evaluate this bridge and determine whether the Township would be eligible for any grant money toward the project. Also, PennDOT advised Manager McVaugh to ask that State Representative Lawrence add this bridge to the Bridge Bill so that we may be eligible for state and federal funds in the future.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Snyder thanked Assistant Manager Eastburn for his hard work and persistence in getting PECO and Verizon to remove poles and relocate wires at the intersection of Hess Mill Road and 896. Now that the mess has been cleaned up, the sight distance is greatly improved.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:05 p.m.

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