



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the September 26, 2018, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Snyder and Torres. Supervisor Morris was absent. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, HARB/HC Chairman, Paul Lagasse and Secretary Sharon Norris. Five members of the public were 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 legal issues.

Public Comment: Mary McVeigh of Sunset Circle thanked the Township for the nice job of paving the portion of Peacedale Road near Sunset Circle and the school. She mentioned that with the recent rains, there has been stormwater running along the edge of the road creating ruts. She is afraid the water will undermine the new road. Mr. Auerbach explained that the Charter School had given us impact fee monies as part of the cost of their addition and the Board felt it was appropriate to use that money to fix the road near the school. The Township will look at the stormwater issue. Mrs. McVeigh also commented on the need for additional dumpsters at the Charter School and parents walking in the dark across Peacedale Road after school events.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Supervisor Dea, 2nded by Supervisor Snyder, the August 15, 2018 minutes were approved. Motion carried 4-0.

Disposition of Records: On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, Resolution 2018-20 was approved 4-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotapes from the August 15, 2018 BOS meeting and the August 2, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Mr. Auerbach, the August 2018 Treasurer's Report was approved 4-0. The report includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$98,514.66; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$10,211.07; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,768.42; the Traffic Impact Fund East with disbursements of \$15,985.27; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$44,782.16; the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$1,118,873.61. Mr. Torres asked why the costs for mowing are so much greater than last year. Manager McVaugh explained that due to this season's excessive rainfall, the contractor mowed 2 additional times and will perform 1 extra overhead cut.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Mr. Snyder reported that during the month of August, 9 permits were issued and 30 building inspections took place. \$3,887.54 was collected in building fees, \$0 in Rec, Open Space, Impact Fees and \$1,775.00 was collected in miscellaneous fees. There are 3 ongoing zoning issues. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website (www.franklintownship.us). The Manager updated the Board on 3327 Appleton Road: the Solicitor is working to schedule an inspection of the inside of the building prior to the October 3rd Court hearing; the property owner at 1651 New London Road is working on his application for a change of use and the owner of the vacant Basic Gas Station removed the miscellaneous trash including the mattress and has mowed the property. It was noted that there was never anyone using the mattress for sleeping purposes.

PC Report: Mrs. Dea summarized the September 6, 2018 meeting where the PC discussed the land development plan for 476 Chesterville Road and recommended that the BOS approve the plan with 3 waivers and several conditions. The PC also recommended that the BOS approve the 308 Heather Hills Drive Lot Line Change, with conditions. Once the minutes are approved, they will be posted to the Township website.

HARB & Historical Commissions – Mr. Lagasse reported on the August 22 HARB meeting where the HARB discussed the Kennedy House (3327 Appleton Road), and training opportunities. Mr. Lagasse pointed out that at the Court Hearing the Judge specifically said that the owner would have to work with the HARB concerning the collapsed porch roof; Mr. Lagasse noted that this ultimately would require an application to the HARB. Regarding Route 896 improvements through Franklin Township, PennDOT has begun posting evaluations of historic properties. The Historical Commission is commenting on these studies where appropriate. The September 20 talk on Sunset Park, cosponsored with the New London Historical Commission was well attended and interesting.

FSA Report – Jim German summarized the first report of the season. There are 34 registered members. 10 still need to perform proficiency testing prior to hunting. All hunting zones are clearly marked. The FSA has completed numerous service projects including road clean up on Chesterville & Creek Roads, mowing the Banffshire parking area, maintaining the front part of the Form Farm trail (Mr. Whipple takes care of the back section), clearing trails in Crossan Park, painting the White Clay Crescent Sign and painting the new handicapped signpost and cap at the municipal site. The Chairman thanked the FSA for saving the Township thousands of dollars with all they do and for their service to the Township. Mr. German mentioned that archery season for this area (5C), starts earlier than other parts of Pennsylvania. To demonstrate how large the deer population is in 5C, Mr. German said that 70,000 doe tags were available. Mr. Russell Burns has offered to mow the Keen Trail entrance.

HARB and Historical Commission Appointments – on motion by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mr. Torres, the Board unanimously appointed Liz Randby to the HARB for a 5-year term and on motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, Ms. Randby was appointed to the Historical Commission for a 5-year term. Ms. Nan Latimer was unanimously appointed to the HARB as realtor for a 5-year term on motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Mr. Auerbach.

Ordinance 2018-01 – The Solicitor opened the public hearing, reviewed the ordinance and identified the exhibits (the public notice, the ordinance and the proof of publication). On motion by Mr. Torres, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, the Board enacted this ordinance on a 3-1 vote with Mr. Auerbach voting nay. Mr. Auerbach was in favor of the 40' setback from the road's edge, but felt that enforcing a 10' setback from the property line is overregulating.

476 Chesterville Road – on motion by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by the Chairman, the Land Development Plan for this property was approved 4-0. This is a 19.3-acre parcel with an existing single-family dwelling on it. The applicants are proposing to build a 2nd single-family dwelling, detached garage and a stormwater basin on the same property. At their September 6, 2018 meeting, the PC recommended that the BOS approve this plan with 3 waivers and several conditions.

American Tower – On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Mr. Torres, the BOS unanimously rejected American Tower's request to decrease their monthly rent, decrease their annual escalation and change the lease terms for their cell tower at Crossan Park. In her email to the Board, the Township Solicitor recommended that the Board reject this offer because it does not make economic sense for Franklin Township.

Public Comment: Eric Brindle, former Supervisor, Planning Commission member and Township resident, suggested that the Township contact State Rep John Lawrence about purchasing the former Insinga house and property and using that land to put in a road to bypass traffic from the historic section of Appleton Road.

Paul Lagasse asked the BOS to consider inviting Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator (Chester County Planning Commission) to a BOS meeting to discuss applying for grant money to perform a feasibility study of the Historic District to see if it can be made a more walkable and livable community and potentially a “go to” destination as well. Depending on the grant, the Township would be responsible for about 10% to 20% of the cost. Mr. Lagasse feels this study may lead to a situation in which village property could be more valuable and less likely to fall into disrepair.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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