



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the December 21, 2016 Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Schenk, Snyder and Torres. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, HC/HARB Chairman, Paul Lagasse, Manager/Treasurer, Joan McVaugh and Secretary Sharon Norris. There were 10 members of the public present.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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

Chairman Auerbach announced there would be an Executive Session after the meeting to discuss personnel issues and obtain legal advice from the Township Solicitor.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Chairman Auerbach, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the November 16, 2016 minutes were approved 5-0 with one change. Under the FSA report, Mrs. Lauria was quoted instead of Mr. Lauria.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Chairman Auerbach, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, Resolution 2016-26 was approved 5-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotape for the November 16, 2016, Board of Supervisors meeting and the November 3, 2016 Planning Commission meeting.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Supervisor Torres, the Board unanimously approved the November Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$200,791.27; the Park & Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$7,876.06; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$27,377.93; the Traffic Impact Fund East with disbursements of \$17,680.00 the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$26,201.97; the Highway Aid Fund with disbursements of \$29.99; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$0; the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$804,611.24. Supervisor Torres had a question about transferring money from one fund to another.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Chairman Auerbach reported that during the month of November, 6 new permits were issued. There were 31 various inspections. Building/zoning fees collected: \$4,852.00; Recreation and Impact fees \$-0-; and \$450.00 in miscellaneous fees. There are 2 ongoing zoning issues.

PC Report: No representatives from the PC attended the meeting and therefore, no report was given. For details, please see the approved PC minutes when they are available.

Historical Commission/HARB Report: Chairman Paul Lagasse reported that these two commissions did not meet in December.

FSA Report: Jim German gave the FSA's monthly report. Firearms season was quick, opening on November 28 and closing December 10th. He reported there were no issues. Three deer were harvested this month. Mr. German said they all saw lots of deer but mostly the deer were too far away. The mixed archery/shotgun season opens December 26 and closes January 28th. Supervisor Dea followed up with Mr. German about the deer stand in Banffshire. Mr. German explained that there is some question about whether or not the stand was on Township property or private property and the FSA, after identifying the owner, and wanting to be good neighbors, just left it there. Chairman Auerbach thanked the FSA for all of the community service projects they do for the Township. Total Harvest for the season: Franklin Preserve – 6/White Clay Crescent – 4/Banffshire – 3.

Business:

Gourmet's Delight Final Plan:

The Planning Commission, at their December meeting, recommended that the Board approve this plan with conditions. Chairman Auerbach made the motion, 2nded by Mr. Snyder that the Board approve the final plan with waivers and conditions (for a list of the waivers and conditions, please see the BOS minutes when they are available). The motion passed unanimously. The Chairman told the audience that moving forward, the Township wants to work together with Gourmet's Delight and the neighbors in an effective way. He thanked Mr. Talwin for the thorough job he did representing the neighbors. Mr. Riper, on behalf of his clients, was appreciative of the handling of their plan this year and assured the group that the Pia's are good citizens and will work with the neighbors.

Conservation Easement Discussion – Mr. Auerbach began the discussion with a history of the properties. One property is adjacent to the Peacedale Preserve and in the opinion of most of the Board, is not a property that would generate a whole lot of development. It has a beautiful home and several outbuildings and is not a working farm. However, the other parcels which equal 55.3 acres and is a working farm would be attractive to a developer. Initially he was against the idea due to the cost and the proximity to his son's property; however, in doing the research, he was coming to this meeting prepared to vote "yes" to contributing to the cost of the easement. However, much to everyone's surprise and just today, the Township received notice that the Chester County Agricultural Land Preservation Board had agreed to purchase the AG conservation easement outright (on the parcels that are currently an active farm) with no contribution required from the Township! All members of the Board and audience were delighted! Additional discussion included identifying what makes a good open space purchase. Everyone agreed that the Township is in favor of contributing to open space projects, but not raising taxes to do so. Mrs. Schenk pointed out that 28% of the township is preserved in one way or another. The following members of the public participated in this discussion: Nancy Morris and Celeste MacElrevey.

Harvest Run Half Marathon

Mr. David Berger, runner, resident of Landenberg and running events organizer, presented his plan to hold a Half Marathon race in the Township on October 14th benefitting various local agencies which have not been finalized. He proposes that the race begin and end at the Fox Chase Farm. The weekend will start with a Friday evening 5K race to take place on the Geoghegan Trail (located on the farm). The Saturday half marathon would have runners going down Appleton Rd. to Elbow Lane to Flint Hill to Indiantown to London Tract to Strickersville to Mt. Olivet to Walker to Peacedale to Kimbelot to Peacedale to Franklin to Cavender to Walker and back to the Farm for an after run celebration. The race route is not finalized. Mr. Berger is hoping to get approval from all the affected Townships and then go to PennDOT to get their approval to close the roads for short periods of time as runners come through. Mr. Berger had plans regarding insurance, Emergency Services and cleanup. He anticipates that the entire race would be over by 11 and all residents would be able to get where they needed to go while the

race was taking place. Mr. Paul Lagasse recommended not going by the Kemblesville Post Office as Saturday morning is their busiest time. Ms. Morris supported the idea and suggested that the race support Natural Lands Trust because of the Peacedale Preserve. Mr. German also participated in this discussion. Overall the Board was supportive and asked that Mr. Berger return next month after they have had time to digest the information. Mr. Berger said he would attend the January 18, 2017 BOS meeting.

Ordinance 2016-09 – On motion by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Torres, the board enacted Ord. 2016-09 establishing speed limits and other regulations governing roads in the Township. Motion carried 5-0.

Hess Mill Bridge – the Chairman identified the two Township-owned bridges. One is located at Walker and Mt. Olivet. The other is the Hess Mill Bridge located approximately at the intersection of S. Guernsey on Hess Mill. The Hess Mill Bridge is evaluated each year by PennDOT and PennDOT has made some recommendations. The Board agreed to have the Township Contractor install 8 additional pilings on the wing walls. The Board discussed repairing the bridge in the Timber Bridge Style which could save the township quite a bit of money as it wouldn't involve permits because the work would be done in the road. Also, agreements from the 4 neighbors would not be necessary because no private property would be disturbed. The Township will also investigate the cost of putting in a new bridge similar to the one installed by New London Township on East Avondale Rd.

2017 Final Budget: On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Supervisor Schenk, the 2017 Final Budget was approved, via Resolution 2016-27 and passed 5-0.

Tax Levy Resolution 2016-28 – On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Supervisor Torres, the Board adopted Resolution 2016-28, setting the tax rates for 2017 as follows: General Fund @ 1.225 mills; Emergency Services @ .5 mills; Park & Rec @ .27 mills and Open Space @ .5 mills for a total tax rate of 2.495 mills.

Fire Hydrant Tax Resolution 2016-29 – Chairman Auerbach motioned with a second from Supervisor Dea that the BOS adopt the fire hydrant tax rate of \$36.00 per parcel located within 780' of a fire hydrant. Motion passed 5-0.

Authorization to Advertise January 2017 meeting schedule – on motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Supervisor Schenk, the Board authorized the staff to advertise the January meeting schedule as follows:
BOS Organization Meeting – January 3 @ 7 p.m.
Elected Auditors Meeting – January 4 @ 8:15 a.m.
Historical Commission and HARB – January 4 @ 7 (HC begins at 7 with HARB immediately following)
PC – January 5 @ 7 p.m.
BOS – January 18 @ 7 p.m.

ADA Bathroom Update – the Chairman has been working on gathering measurements and preparing a scope of work and will present that to the Board when it is finished.

Public Comments: Ms. MacElrevey asked about the Township's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Auerbach explained that the Township has a plan and it will be up for review in 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.