



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the February 15, 2017 Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Schenk, Snyder and Torres. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, PC Chairman Dave Hoffman, HC/HARB Chairman, Paul Lagasse, Manager/Treasurer, Joan McVaugh, Assistant Manager, Jeff Eastburn and Secretary Sharon Norris. There were 16 members of the public present.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Chairman Auerbach, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the January 18, 2017 minutes were approved 5-0.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Chairman Auerbach, seconded by Supervisor Dea, Resolution 2017-06 was approved 5-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotapes from the January 18, 2017 BOS meeting and the January 5, 2017 Planning Commission meeting.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Supervisor Dea, seconded by Supervisor Torres, the Board unanimously approved the January 2017 Treasurer's Report which included the following disbursements: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$157,952.03; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$2,351.02; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$90,172.61; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$29.99; the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$679,811.01. Mr. Torres confirmed that the 2nd column (the comparison of last year to this year) show a year-to-date figure moving forward. Ms. McVaugh noted that the large payment out of the Open Space Fund was the loan payment.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Supervisor Schenk reported that during the month of January, 2 permits were issued and 8 building inspections took place. No building fees and no Recreation, Open Space, or Impact Fees were collected. \$100 in miscellaneous fees were collected. There are 2 ongoing zoning issues. One was related to TVs left on the road. Chairman Auerbach said he picked one up off the side of the road and brought it to the landfill. The other was related to 1620 New London Road. The owner was reminded that he needs to fill out a Conditional Use application for the multiple uses he has on the property. The Solicitor recommended the Zoning Officer give the property owner until the end of the month before we remind him again.

PC Report: PC Chairman Dave Hoffman summarized the February 2, 2017 PC meeting where the PC reviewed a sketch plan to subdivide a property at 300 Belmont Ct. The applicant was basing his ability to subdivide on a 1995 letter from the Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC). The PC noted that the CCPC does not have jurisdiction in this matter and the PC's opinion, based on the Ordinance, is that the parcel

cannot be further subdivided. Additionally, the PC noted that Southview Estates was built as a lot averaging subdivision and the lots in that development are maxed out. The PC recommended that if the applicant were going to pursue a variance, he needed to make sure that the existing parcel could host a backup septic and the newly formed lot could host both a septic and back up septic location and suggested he contact the Health Department. The PC also discussed the mini cell tower ordinance and returned it to the Solicitor to craft language for a separate stand-alone ordinance covering only the mini cell towers.

Historical Commission/HARB Report: These 2 commissions did not meet in February. Chairman Paul Lagasse reported that the Oxford Area Historical Society is holding a program at the Oxford Presbyterian Church on February 21, 2017, with speaker Milt Diggins speaking about his book “Stealing Freedom Along the Mason Dixon Line” a story of the Parker Sisters that occurred in our area prior to the Civil War. On March 9th the Franklin Township Historical Commission in conjunction with the New London Historical Society will host a talk on the Constitution by Chris Wolfe, who has built a 30-year teaching career on this topic. The program begins at 7 in the New London Academy. Mr. Lagasse hopes all will attend.

Franklin Sportsman’s Association (FSA) Report: Mr. Jim German gave the FSA’s final report of the season. Firearms and archery season ended on January 28th but he noted that goose hunting is still going on (the FSA doesn’t participate in that). The total deer harvest is 15 as follows: 7 in Franklin Preserve; 5 in White Clay Crescent Preserve and 3 in Banffshire Preserve. The FSA will be cleaning up Chesterville and Creek Roads in early March. Chairman Auerbach thanked Mr. German and the FSA for their community service and willingness to help out.

Two Boys LLC Conditional Use Public Hearing – The owners of the Fox Chase Farm have teamed up with a local winery, 1723, and are proposing a winery use on their property. The winery is proposed in the unused existing barn structure. On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Supervisor Schenk, the Board waived the land development requirement for the Two Boys Conditional Use Plan and approved the Conditional Use application with one condition: that the applicant remove the large pieces of concrete from the Geoghegan Trail and redress as necessary with soil and seed. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jim German and Mr. Kevin Barrow participated during the public hearing portion of this topic.

Ordinance 2017-01 – On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Supervisor Torres, the Board unanimously enacted this ordinance which amends Chapter 2 of the FT Code of Ordinances and adds a new Part 2, Governing Animal Control. By passing this ordinance, the Township will now be able to invoice residents for the extra fees the Township must pay when animals that live in the Township are either dropped off at or picked up by the SPCA.

Avondale Fire Company Update – Two time president, Mr. Guy Swift presented the Board with some Fire and EMS statistics for 2015 and 2016. Avondale Fire Company covers about 10% of the Township. Of note was that of the thousands of fundraising letters the fire company sends out, only about 1/10th of the people respond. The discussion focused around the difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers and the cost of their training and equipment. Everyone agreed that it would be cost prohibitive to maintain a full time Fire and EMS staff. Mr. Swift talked about the Act 172 which allows townships to reduce taxes of active volunteers and the Board advised Mr. Swift that they were authorizing that Ordinance to be advertised for passage at the April meeting. The Board thanked Mr. Swift for all that the Fire Company/EMS do for our community.

Home Occupation Application Discussion – Part of the process when applying for a home based business license in the Township is that residents who live within 500’ of the applicant are notified of the application. Some residents of Thompson Estates were notified that a neighbor had applied for a Home Occupation license to sell firearms via the internet. They had concerns about the amount of visits to his home this would generate and the amount of merchandise the homeowner would be able to keep in his house according to our Ordinance.

After speaking with the Zoning Officer and reading the Township Ordinances, these residents had a different interpretation of the Ordinance than that of the Zoning Officer. In speaking with the Board and Solicitor, the Manager will discuss the situation with the Zoning Officer and the residents will be updated once their review is completed. Ms. Sue Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Barrow and Mr. Walter Johnson participated in this discussion.

Great American Cleanup – Resident Cyndi Yurkovich and her two boys Nick and Eric have volunteered to head the community clean up again this year. It will take place on Saturday April 22, 2017 with a rain date of Sunday, April 23rd. It was Mrs. Yurkovich's brownie troop that got the Township involved in this clean up 6 years ago! The discussion centered on how best to get the word out to people about this worthwhile activity. This year, the township will be sending out a hard copy township update to residents and the event will be publicized in that. We have about 40 yard signs to put around town and we will also be utilizing Facebook and contacting Home Owner Associations in an effort to target communities to not only clean up their subdivisions but the roads that border them. The cleanup makes a great community service project and the township provides a letter to any organization upon request.

Former McKean/Matsen Property – the owner and son were in attendance for this discussion. Mr. Matsen Sr. is looking to sell his historic home and Mr. Matsen Jr. was hoping it could be developed into something that would allow public access such as a distillery, winery or brewery, allowing more people to enjoy the property. Mr. Lagasse did some research and presented it to the Board and the Matsens. There was discussion about the Township being dry which may prohibit a distillery. It would require a referendum on the ballot to remove the dry status. Since the Matsen's are in the initial stages of selling, the Solicitor will do some more investigation and the Board recommended the Matsen's should also investigate the rules with the Liquor Control Board and the State.

2017 Road Program update – Last year, the Township made a fundamental change from the usual road program and approached road repair from a different perspective. It was determined that if the base of the road was in good shape, the road should last about 10 years and after that, just an overlay would bring it back to a good standard. Moving forward, as part of the road program, the contractor performs "coring" tests to determine the makeup of the road. And if necessary, a road will be rebuilt to ensure its longevity. The Board, staff and Township contractor, along with the engineer when necessary, have created a road program that incorporates these pursuits: paving, road reconstruction, drainage improvements, inlet box maintenance, pipe replacement, shoulder hardening, widening where possible and road stripping. This method was successful in 2016 and the Board is going to move forward in 2017. The following sections of roads are being considered: 2 sections of Parsons, Auburn, S. Guernsey, Hilltop, Conard Mill, Scott's Glen, Hess Mill and sections of Municipal Lane near the post office.

Website Upgrade – The current website platform (website Builder v6) is no longer supported by GoDaddy. The webmaster has presented a plan to migrate to version 7 and the Board was in favor of making that move.

Resolution 2017-07 – PA One Call Resolution – The PA One Call System is a not for profit utility service information center celebrating its 45th year of continuous service to the Commonwealth. It is key to preventing injuries and damage when excavating. PA One Call wants to remind residents and contractors to always call 811 before doing any digging. It will save you a lot of money and could save your life! PA One Call would like PA municipalities to recognize April as PA 811 Safe Digging Month and asked the Township to pass a resolution. On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Mr. Snyder this motion proclaiming April as PA 811 Safe Digging Month passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2017-02 – This Board authorized the solicitor to advertise this ordinance at last month's meeting. However, after additional review, the Solicitor made some major changes and the ordinance was re-presented this evening. On motion by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Snyder, the Board authorized the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance 2017-02, providing 100% EIT and 20% municipal real estate tax relief for residents who

are active volunteers of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies. Due to the advertising requirements, this ordinance will be enacted after a public hearing at the April 19, 2017 BOS meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

ADA Bathroom Update – the Chairman has presented a scope of work for the meeting room ADA bathroom. It is now ready for the contractor to review the plan. The toilet, sink and hardware have been ordered.

Municipal Site Improvement Plan – the contractor is ready to get the materials yard organized. The Township is proposing to install a fence along the property line behind the salt shed.

Public Comment: The Manager brought up an issue with the Lil Ducklings Day Care Center sign permit application. Lil Ducklings is located in the old Happy Harry's building which stood vacant for 12 years. The daycare applied for a sign that did not meet the current ordinance for height. The Board, Manager and Solicitor compared the proposed Lil Ducklings sign and the approved Happy Harry's sign shown on the recorded, approved plan. The Manager is going to discuss this with the zoning Officer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.