



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the February 19, 2020, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. So get a snack, settle into your comfy chair, and start reading....

Vice Chairman McVeigh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Auerbach, Dea, and Gerstenhaber. Chairman Morris was absent. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Assistant Manager Jeff Eastburn and HARB/HC Chairman, Paul Lagasse. There were 14 members of the public in the audience.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Supervisor Gerstenhaber, 2nded by Supervisor Dea, the January 21, 2020 v3 minutes were approved 4-0.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Mrs. McVeigh, 2nded by Supervisor Auerbach, Resolution 2020-07, authorizing the erasure of the audiotapes from the January 21, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting and the January 9, 2020 PC meeting was adopted. The motion carried 4-0.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Supervisor Dea, 2nded by Mr. Gerstenhaber, the January 2020 Treasurer's Report was approved 4-0. The report includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$91,489.91; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$1,506.57; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$99,553.17; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$6,441.00; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$415,029.64. Mrs. Dea talked about misinformation reported in a mass email sent to Residents - specifically relating to the Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Dea emphasized that the Board is completely satisfied with the Report and the job the Treasurer does.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Mr. Auerbach reported that during the month of January, 8 permits was issued, and 13 building inspections took place. \$1,403.60 was collected in building fees, -0- in Rec, Open Space, Impact Fees and \$1,558.70.00 was collected in miscellaneous fees. The one ongoing zoning issue is at 3327 Appleton Road. The property owner continues to pay very small amounts toward the fine. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website (www.franklintownship.us).

PC Report: Mr. Gerstenhaber briefly summarized the February 6, 2020 PC meeting where the PC met with the new owner of 1691 New London Road and discussed his plans for an automotive repair shop. The PC also continued the Green Energy Ordinance discussion.

HARB & Historical Commissions: These commissions did not meet in February. Mr. Lagasse reported that the HC will be cosponsoring a talk on March 12 at 7 p.m. at the New London Academy, entitled "The Lady

Was a Spy," which will discuss the use of women as spies in WW II. The speaker is Dr. Linda De Roche of Wesley College.

FSA Report: Mr. Jim German gave the final report of the season. The FSA have harvested a total of 12 deer from the various preserves. Since hunting season is over, they have cleaned up the preserves and removed all signs. Their upcoming events are a cleanup of Chesterville and Creek Roads in March. The FSA has performed a total of 153.5 hours of community service for the Township. Bob Macknis, the FSA project coordinator, talked about future community service projects. He also noted that the vines are getting thick in the trees in Banffshire and the FSA will consider removing them as one of their service projects.

Business:

Comprehensive Plan: Susan Elks from the Chester County Planning Commission reviewed the timeline for the Comprehensive Plan update. The Township will be getting a grant through the Vision Partnership Program (VPP) to assist with the update. There will be public workshops, several public meetings and lots of opportunities for residents to contribute to the Plan with their ideas and opinions. The Board hopes that many residents will be interested in volunteering for the Comprehensive Plan Committee. On motion by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by Mr. Gerstenhaber, the Board approved the Scope of Work. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2020-01 – Historic District Ordinance Update – on motion by Mr Auerbach, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board enacted Ordinance 2020-01 updating the Historic District Ordinance, specifically the Demolition by Neglect section. Motion carried 4-0. By enacting this ordinance, the Township should be able to more effectively contend with proprieties in the Historic District that are being destroyed by willful neglect.

Chisel Creek Discussion – the possible new owners of this property came before the Board with their sketch plan to put 9 homes on large parcels on the current golf course with no further subdivision of any of the lots. They would like to place a conservation easement on a large portion of the property. Although they have some zoning challenges to deal with, the Board is interested in their plans. Paul Overton, Nan Latimer, John Krish, their realtor, and Eric Brindle participated in this discussion.

Park, Recreation and Open Space Committee formation – on motion by Mrs. McVeigh, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board authorized the solicitor to advertise the Park, Recreation and Open Space Board Ordinance for adoption at the next available meeting. The consensus of the Board was that it would be better to form a Board consisting of a group of interested volunteers to plan what projects should be done at the Park; prioritize Open Space projects, look at conservation opportunities and develop strategies so that when these projects come before the Board, they will have already been vetted. The Board will be comprised of 7 members. Motion carried 4-0.

Banffshire Bridge Discussion – This discussion focused on two different ideas about what type of bridge to build in this preserve. One bridge uses a culvert pipe as designed by the Township engineer; the other would use telephone poles, gabion baskets and wood planking as presented by Paul Overton. On motion by Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the vote to install a bridge in the Banffshire bridge using a culvert pipe failed with Mr. Auerbach and Mrs. Dea voting yay and Mr. Gerstenhaber and Mrs. McVeigh voting nay.

Hess Mill Bridge – Mr. Auerbach led the discussion and went through a timeline he had prepared. The Township is waiting to hear from the Chester County Conservation District on whether we will receive a low volume road grant for this project. The Manager will contact the CCCD to check on the status of the grant. The Board would like this bridge to be replaced before school starts.

Resolution 2020-08 – On motion by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by Mrs. McVeigh, the Board adopted this resolution which opposes House Bill 349 which would require townships to employ a minimum of two, third-party building inspectors to allow contractors and residents a choice. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: There was some discussion about being prepared for the coronavirus. Supervisor McVeigh read a prepared statement about a mass email she recently received.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.