

APPROVED

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES December 18, 2019

Call to Order:

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Morris, Torres & Snyder. Also in attendance on behalf of the Township were Solicitor Mark Thompson, HARB/HC Chairman Paul Lagasse, Township Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Secretary Sharon Norris. Four members of the public were in attendance.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes:

- a. *Board of Supervisors (BOS) Minutes of November 20, 2019:* Mrs. Morris moved, seconded by Mrs. Dea, that the Board approve the November 20, 2019 v.2 Minutes, as submitted by the Township Secretary. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. *Disposition of Records – Resolution 2019-19:* Mrs. Dea moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board approve Resolution 2019-19 regarding the Disposition of Records for the November 20, 2019 Board of Supervisors' Meeting and the Planning Commission meeting of October 3, 2019. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

- a. *Treasurer's Report for November 2019:* Chairman Auerbach moved, seconded by Supervisor Torres, that the Board approve the November 2019 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$143,343.43; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$5,790.08; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,553.17; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$11,253.75; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$688,679.41.

Discussion: In light of the recent embezzlement in Kennett Township, Manager/Treasurer McVaugh asked the Board if they had any questions or concerns about the Township's finances. She and the Board reviewed the checks and balances that the Township has in place and the transparency shown by publishing the Township's Treasurer's Report, budget and audit reports on the website. Mrs. Dea noted that fund balances in this month's report are lower than last year at this time as a result of the appropriate management of money that was budgeted for specific projects. There is a Reserve Fund in case of emergencies. She credited Mrs. McVaugh with properly managing a tight budget. Mr. Auerbach noted further that the monthly Treasurer's Report is a compilation of the actual costs and income incurred by the Township during the month. The Annual Budget acts as a spending plan which, when compared against the monthly treasurer's report, provides the opportunity for cost control. Mr. Torres asked about the negative number in the Park Fund. Mrs. McVaugh explained it was a bounced check and it will show a positive number next month. The Board members complimented Mrs. McVaugh on her meticulous management of Township funds. Motion carried 5-0.

- b. *Zoning Officer Report:* Supervisor Snyder reported that during the month of November, 12 permits were issued, and 32 building inspections took place. Building Fees collected were \$1,973.76; Open Space and Impact Fees collected -0-; and miscellaneous fees collected were \$1,525.00. Regarding

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the one ongoing zoning issue at 3327 Appleton Rd., Mgr. McVaugh updated the Board as follows: The Court ruled in the Township's favor and the property owner is making small payments to the Court. The Township has not yet received any money. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website at (www.franklintownship.us).

- c. Planning Commission (PC) Report: Mrs. Dea reported that at their December 5th meeting, the PC continued the Green Energy Ordinance discussion which focused on dealing with stormwater.
- d. HARB/HC Reports: Mr. Lagasse reported that to fulfill the requirement of holding quarterly meetings, the HC met on December 3rd. They also had a quorum of HARB members. The HC meeting was mostly a repeat of the last HARB meeting where there was not a quorum of HC members. They recapped the 896-roadwork plan, talked about the Church Hill Cemetery investigation and discussed the success of the November 14th talk at the New London Historical Society regarding the Lenape Indians. There are 2 programs scheduled for 2020 with the New London Historical Society. In March a program on women spies in WWII will be presented and in May a program on the Landenberg Johnson gang will be presented.
- e. FSA Report: Jim German reported that the FSA members have harvested 10 deer as of December 15th, 4 buck and 3 doe from Franklin Preserve and 3 doe from White Clay Crescent. They have not seen any unauthorized hunters and there have been no safety issues reported. The FSA members have completed 153.3 hours of community service this year. He noted that during their most recent roadside cleanup there was less trash than usual on both Chesterville and Creek roads. They adopted a family for Christmas.

Business:

- a. Ordinance 2019-03 – Park Rules: Chairman Auerbach moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board enact Ordinance 2019-03 updating the operating hours of Crossan Park and allowing the use of BBQs. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Resolution 2019-20 – Final Approval of 2020 Budget: Supervisor Snyder moved, seconded by Supervisor Auerbach, that the Board adopt Resolution 2019-20 approving the 2020 Final Budget. Motion passed 5-0.
- c. Resolution 2019-21 – Tax Levy Resolution: Supervisor Torres moved, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, that the Board adopt Resolution 2019-21, the tax levy resolution, setting the Township tax rates for 2020.

Discussion: The tax rates remain the same as last year.

- d. Resolution 2019-22 – Fire Hydrant Resolution: Supervisor Morris moved, seconded by Supervisor Dea, that the Board adopt Resolution 2019-22 setting the tax rate of \$36 per household for those within 750 feet of a fire hydrant. Motion carried 5-0.
- e. January 2020 Meeting Schedule: Supervisor Dea moved, seconded by Supervisor Morris, that the Board of Supervisors authorize the staff to advertise the following January 2020 meeting schedule in the next available edition of the Daily Local News: All meetings are held in the Township Building.
 - Monday January 6 @ 7 p.m. - Township Organizational Meeting;
 - Tuesday January 7 @ 8 a.m. – Elected Auditors Meeting;
 - Tuesday January 7 @ 7 p.m. – Joint HARB/HC Meeting;
 - Thursday January 9 @ 7 p.m. – Planning Commission Meeting;
 - Tuesday, January 21 @ 7 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Note: The January BOS meeting is on a Tuesday rather than the usual Wednesday. All other BOS meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Motion passed 5-0.

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Public Comment: At an earlier point in the meeting Mrs. Morris asked Mgr. McVaugh what one future cost she is most concerned about. Mrs. McVaugh replied that she is most concerned about Emergency Services. Other members of the Board agreed. These costs will continue to grow as the volunteer force continues to shrink. Medic 94 and ambulance service are already paid services. Only fire fighters continue to be staffed by volunteers. Also mentioned as concerns were paying for state police coverage and the cost of meeting MS4 requirements.

The Board and public thanked outgoing Supervisors Snyder and Torres for their contributions to the Township as Board members for the last 6 years. Their terms end at the end of this year.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris
Township Secretary

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