



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the July 17, 2019, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Morris and Torres. Supervisor Snyder arrived after the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, HARB/HC Chairman, Paul Lagasse, Assistant Manager, Jeff Eastburn and Secretary Sharon Norris. There were 4 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 Morris, 2nded by Supervisor Dea, the June 19, 2019 v2 minutes were approved 5-0.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Mrs., Dea, 2nded by Mrs. Morris, Resolution 2019-13, authorizing the erasure of the audiotape from the June 19, 2019 BOS meeting and the February 7, 2019 PC meeting was adopted. The motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, the June 2019 Treasurer's Report was approved 5-0. The report includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$97,116.50; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$9,739.43; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,553.17; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$2,320.00 the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$59,073.89 and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$1,329,281.52.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Mr. Snyder reported that during the month of July, 8 permits were issued, and 27 building inspections took place. \$1,786.00 was collected in building fees, \$667.41 in Rec, Open Space, Impact Fees and \$1,625.00 was collected in miscellaneous fees. The same 2 zoning issues were reported: 1620 New London Road: the owner states he is selling the property as the stormwater requirements are cost prohibitive. The Zoning Officer informed the owner he must cease all of the business activity at the property by July 30 or the Township will issue a Notice of Violation. 3327 Appleton Road: still waiting for the Court of Common Pleas Judge to make a ruling. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website (www.franklintownship.us).

PC Report: Mrs. Dea summarized the July 11 PC meeting where the PC recommended approval of the Cox 2-lot subdivision. Also, they authorized the PC Secretary to sign the Cox and the 1723 Winery Planning Module which notifies the DEP that the Planning Module meets the Township ordinances.

HARB & Historical Commissions: Mr. Lagasse reported that the Historical Commission and the Historical Architectural Review Board had held a joint meeting on July 2. They briefly reviewed a number of ongoing issues, including the proposed 896 Roadwork and Walkable Village, respecting there had been no changes; the

Church Hill African Cemetery, deed research on which will not happen till the fall at the earliest; the Franklin Township Historic Resources Map, which should be reviewed and finalized in late July; and the Franklin Township Historical Commission website, which is soliciting scans of postcards, photos, and other documents from anyone who is willing to share them for posting on the website. The members also discussed possible speakers for the 2019-2020 historical talks season that the HC cohosts with the New London Area Historical Society. Mr. Lagasse asked HARB members who do not also serve on the HC already to consider joining the HC, which has membership slots open; this would facilitate achieving a quorum for the HC should some members be away, without imposing any hardship on HARB members, since both bodies now hold joint meetings.

Business:

Cox 2-lot Subdivision: This plan creates 2 lots from 1 existing 5.43-acre parcel. Lot 1 will be 1.87 acres and Lot 2 will be 3.56 acres and will contain the existing dwelling unit. On motion by Mrs. Morris, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, the Cox Final Minor Subdivision Plan was approved with one waiver. The motion carried 5-0.

Agricultural Security Area: Owners of a 13.7-acre parcel on Peacedale Rd. have submitted an application to be placed in the Township Agricultural Security Area (ASA). The ASA protects farmers against nuisance complaints and/or lawsuits. The acceptance of this application begins a lengthy process toward potential inclusion into the ASA. The property owners are interested in placing an AG easement on the property. To have your property considered for an AG Easement, the property must first be placed in the Township ASA. The Solicitor explained that if a property is in the ASA, it cannot be taken by eminent domain and there is no tax benefit to being in the ASA. On motion by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by Mr. Auerbach, the Board of Supervisors accepted the ASA application. Motion carried 5-0.

Solar Ordinance Discussion: As a result of last month's discussion, the Zoning Officer submitted the first rough draft ordinance regarding solar and wind energy. The Board entered into a lengthy discussion which resulted in the Board determining that they do not want to discourage commercial alternate energy sites; however, setbacks, screening and stormwater are the 3 important components of the new ordinance that the Board would like Jeff to follow up on. The Board thought Mr. Vogels provided an excellent starting point and will discuss the ordinance again before submitting it to the PC for their review.

Public Comment: Mr. Tom Veasey and Mr. Dan Mahala from the Kemblesville Methodist Church attended the meeting to discuss financial difficulties the church is having. Due to a 75% decline in membership, the Church cannot meet their debt service and in 3 months will not be able to meet their bills. The men discussed 3 options: offer the building to the Township at a cost of only the debt (approx. \$425,000); build low income housing for veterans and/or seniors – similar to Luther House. This would require a grant from the State of Pennsylvania and the grant application must be submitted by November; Sell/Rent the space for commercial office space. The Church is seeking a consensus of the Board as to whether they would look favorably on any or all of these ideas. The Board was not opposed to the low-income housing or office space and would like the developer to come in and answer some questions. The Board is willing to have a special meeting (which will be advertised) so the discussion would not have to wait until the August 28th BOS meeting. (Side note: At the January Organization meeting, the August meeting was set to August 28th to accommodate one of the Board members schedules.)

Zach Elwyn, Township resident, discussed the cell tower issue in New Garden Township and whether or not the Township would have a site that could provide some much-needed coverage.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.