



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a brief summary of the May 20, 2020, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting held via ZOOM. If you missed watching the meeting live on Facebook, YouTube or ZOOM, it is available on the Township YouTube page (Franklin TownshipPA) or on our Facebook page (Franklin Township, Kemblesville, PA). You can also access it from the Township website. All Supervisors and residents were in attendance remotely.

After some technical difficulties, Chairman Morris called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. In attendance were Vice Chairman McVeigh, Supervisors Auerbach, Dea and Gerstenhaber. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Assistant Manager Jeff Eastburn and Secretary Sharon Norris. There were 7 members of the public attending via ZOOM.

The meeting commenced with the Chairman reviewing remote meeting protocols.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Supervisor Auerbach, 2nded by Supervisor Dea, the April 15, 2020 v3 minutes were approved unanimously. Chairman Morris asked that revisions to meeting minutes be submitted prior to the day of the meeting so that Supervisors have a chance to review the proposed changes.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by Supervisor Gerstenhaber, Resolution 2020-12, authorizing the erasure of the audiotape from the April 15, 2020 Board of Supervisors was adopted. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Supervisor Gerstenhaber, 2nded by Vice Chair McVeigh, the **March 2020** Treasurer's Report was approved 5-0. The report includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$193,642.52; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$4,034.46; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,330.74; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$825,830.99.

On motion by the Chair, 2nded by Mr. Gerstenhaber, the **April 2020** Treasurer's Report was approved 5-0. The report includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$340,795.03; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$3,546.48; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,330.74; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$40,961.33 and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$1,221,497.16.

HARB/HC Report: Mr. Lagasse gave a quick update on the historic resources map that the HC is working on with the CC Planning Commission. He has updated it and sent it back to them for review and correction. The program, "The Lady was a Spy" with Linda DeRoche from Wesley College was well attended back in March. The Johnson Gang talk will be rescheduled for a date in September.

Zoning Officer's Report – Mrs. McVeigh reported that in the months of March and April, 15 permits were issued, 15 inspections took place. \$5,266.03 was collected in building fees; \$3,500 was collected in miscellaneous fees and \$0 was collected in recreation, open space and impact fees.

Business:

Audit – Pam Baker and Tom Sawyer from Barbacane Thornton, the Township Auditing firm, went over the Township Audit. As required, the summary results have been published in the Daily Local News and the audit was sent to and accepted by the PA DCED (PA Dept. of Economic Development) and the PA Auditor General. Ms. Baker and Mr. Sawyer emphasized that the Township is fortunate that in such a small office, we have a Treasurer with strong financial skills and Supervisors who are actively involved in Township spending. There was discussion about the embezzlement in Kennett Square and they said we have good controls in place. Barbacane switches out the auditors ever 2 years so that the auditors have experience with a variety of townships and they can bring the good practices from each township to the others. Additionally, this prevents auditors from becoming too complacent working with the staff.

Park, Rec and Open Space Ordinance – On motion by Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Mrs. Morris, the Board enacted Ordinance 2020-02, creating a Park, Recreation and Open Space Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Appointment of Members to the Park, Rec and Open Space Board – On motion by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by Mr. Gerstenhaber, the Board appointed the following residents to these initial terms:

5-year terms – Paul Overton and Mary Hanley

4-year term – Greg Sachs

3-year terms – Jim German and Jen Albany

2-year terms – Kyle Bianco and Eli Piotrowski

After the initial terms, all members serve a 5-year term. Motion carried 5-0. The Board thanked the volunteers for their commitment to the Township.

Avon Grove Charter School Escrow #3: On motion by Mr. Gerstenhaber, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board authorized the release of Escrow #3 for the Avon Grove Charter School in the amount of \$107,833.71 leaving a balance of \$0 in their account. Motion carried 5-0. The school project has been completed for 18 months.

Hess Mill Bridge Replacement Project: on motion by Supervisor Auerbach, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board unanimously awarded the bid for the Hess Mill Bridge replacement to Contech Engineered Solutions, the lowest (and only) qualified bidder in the amount of \$201,730.00. The start of the project has not been determined as we are waiting to hear from the Chester County Conservation District on the amount of grant money to be awarded this year.

Banffshire Bridge – Mr. Gerstenhaber updated the Board on the latest bridge design provided by Engineer Wetzell of LTL who has been working with Supervisor Gerstenhaber and resident volunteer, Paul Overton. Mr. Overton will be building the new bridge with other volunteers using telephone poles. He provided a draft cost estimate and the types of machinery and help he is going to need. In a liability discussion with Solicitor Thompson, it was recommended that all volunteers sign waivers. The Supervisors agree that safety comes first and if the project will cost more to keep it safe, that's OK. Because of the pandemic, Mr. Overton is aiming for a September start date.

Resolution 2020-13: On motion by Mrs. Morris, 2nded by Mrs. McVeigh, the Board unanimously adopted this resolution which allows the Chester County Treasurer to waive the 10% penalty on late Township tax payments through December 31, 2020.

General Code Ordinance Update – A motion was made by Mrs. Dea, 2nded by Mr. Gerstenhaber, to authorize the Manager to sign a proposal from General Code to do an editorial and legal analysis of the Township Code. General Code hosts the Code of Ordinances on the Township website. The Code has some inconsistencies which can make it difficult to interpret the Code and/or enforce the Code. General Code

provided an estimate for doing an editorial and legal analysis to identify these inconsistencies. The Board had questions for GC about how these editorial comments will be presented. A resident commented on Facebook that Chester County Planning Commission sometimes has grant monies available for projects like this. The motion was withdrawn and the Board will continue this discussion at a future BOS meeting once the questions are answered.

Abel Subdivision: On motion by Mr. Gerstenhaber, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board accepted the extension of time to the review clock for the Abel subdivision through October 22, 2020. The motion carried 5-0.

Website Discussion: Mrs. McVeigh and Mrs. Dea updated the Board on the progress of the new CivicPlus website. They recommended residents look at the Downingtown, PA website to get an idea of what Franklin's website is going to look like. CivicPlus provided a draft template for the Board and their reviews are very positive. The Board encourages residents to give us feedback on the new website when it becomes available or if there is something you like/dislike about the Downingtown website that will be useful in the design of our new website.

Spending Limits on Projects Approved at Staff Meetings: this discussion included how best to manage spending decisions at staff meetings. Staff meetings are attended by two rotating supervisors. This discussion focused on road work assignments that are approved at these weekly meetings. The solicitor pointed out that road work costs are bid out and we have a current contract with approved pricing. Therefore, these costs do not have to be reapproved at a BOS meeting. Secondly many projects cannot wait for the next monthly BOS meeting. There were differing opinions on how to manage this and no decisions were made.

Thank you First Responders Coloring Contest: We have two winners! These two talented individuals will be receiving gift cards from a local business as their prize. The winning drawings are attached. Thank you to Jeff Eastburn for a great job of infusing some life into our Facebook page. Keep your eyes open for the next contest!

There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.