

APPROVED

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES September 18, 2019

Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Dea called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Morris, Snyder and Torres. Chairman Auerbach was absent. In attendance on behalf of the Township were HARB/HC Chairman Paul Lagasse, Township Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Assistant Township Mgr. Jeff Eastburn and Secretary Sharon Norris. Jim German, representing the FSA was also present.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes:

- a. Board of Supervisors (BOS) Minutes of August 28, 2019: Supervisor Morris moved, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, that the Board approve the August 28, 2019 v.2 Minutes, as submitted by the Township Secretary. Motion passed 4-0.
- b. Disposition of Records – Resolution 2019-15: Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Supervisor Torres, that the Board approve Resolution 2019-15 regarding the Disposition of Records for the July 11, 2019 PC meeting and the August 28, 2019 BOS meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

Reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report for August 2019: Supervisor Torres moved, seconded by Mrs. Morris, that the Board approve the August 2019 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$87,011.52; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$7,260.20; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,553.17; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$93,146.51; the Highway Aid Fund with disbursements of \$148,285.93; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$961,101.68. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion: Mr. Torres inquired about the difference in permitting revenues and expenses. Manager McVaugh explained that it was a timing issue as permit revenue can be posted in one year and the inspection expenses posted at a later time.

- b. Zoning Officer's Report: Mrs. Morris reported that during the month of August, 5 permits were issued and 34 building inspections were completed. Building Fees collected were \$624.00; Recreation, Open Space & Impact Fees collected were zero; and \$700.00 in miscellaneous fees were collected. There are 4 ongoing zoning issues: 3327 Appleton Road – The Solicitor will be contacting the Judge to inquire about the status of his ruling. 1620 New London Road is in compliance and is now being used solely as a residential property. The civil complaint has been dismissed. 7 Bullock Road – the complainant notified the Township that the issue has been resolved. 6 Kathleen Drive – the violation has been remedied. The entire Zoning Report can be reviewed on the Township website (www.franklintownship.us).
- c. Planning Commission (PC) Report: Mgr. McVaugh provided a summary of the PC meeting of 9/5/19 at which the PC started their review of the Green Energy Ordinance. For details see the approved minutes of that meeting.
- d. HARB & Historical Commissions (HC): The HARB and HC did not meet in September. Chairman Lagasse reported that the September 12th presentation at the New London Academy entitled

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“Setbacks & Successes: A history of vines and wines through the years” was a big success. Mr. Cody, the co-owner of the 1723 Winery, provided a very interesting and informative presentation. Mr. Lagasse spoke about his past practice of communicating via email with PennDOT’s Cultural Resource Team, specifically Monica Harrower, regarding how the proposed improvements to 896 may impact the Township’s historical resources. PennDOT’s (PD) practice has been not to respond. However, his most recent letter dated 8.30.19 to Monica Harrower, regarding PD’s proposed improvements to the 896/Appleton Rd. intersection has solicited a response and an invitation to meet with PD’s project team on site to discuss the Historical Commission’s concerns. Mr. Lagasse expressed his desire to have one or more of the supervisors present at that meeting. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 8 at 4 p.m.

- e. FSA Report: Jim German provided the first report of the season. The FSA is at full capacity of 35 members. Four recent vacancies were filled with Township residents who were on the waiting list. Archery and shot gun proficiency testing is underway. Twenty-two have passed for archery and 21 for shot gun. Archery hunting season starts September 21st. Dove and Goose season is currently open. Buck season for shot gun will open the Saturday after Thanksgiving instead of the following Monday as it has been in the past. The FSA is finishing up marking the hunting areas in the following preserves: Banffshire, Franklin, Goodwin and White Clay Crescent. Since July, the FSA has provided the Township with 58 hours of community service and are currently working on installing 5 charcoal grills at Crossan Park. The FSA has contributed more than 300 hours of service to the Township in the last 3 years. Many thanks to the FSA for their many contributions to the Township.

Business:

- a. Radar Sign on Appleton Rd.: The Board and staff discussed the high speed at which drivers exit Route 896 onto Appleton Road. Because there is nowhere to install a warning sign alerting drivers of a reduced speed on Appleton Road, the police are not permitted to enforce the 25 mph speed limit. The staff looked into obtaining a flashing radar sign that warns drivers that they’re speeding, similar to the one on Gypsy Hill Rd. The cost is in the range of \$4,000. PennDOT said the sign would have to be moved every 6-8 weeks. In their research the staff discovered another possibility, i.e., a radar sign on a small trailer so that it could be easily moved and used in other areas as needed. The cost of the trailer is \$2,400. After further discussion, Mrs. Dea moved, seconded by Mrs. Morris, that the Board authorize the purchase of a radar sign and trailer not to exceed \$6,500.
The motion passed 4-0.
- b. Landscaping Plan: Mr. Torres discussed the landscaping plan he and Mr. Kealy devised for the healing gardens at Crossan Park, and additional screening at the municipal site to hide the concrete blocks in the maintenance yard. Mrs. Dea moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board approve the planting of an additional staggered row of trees at the municipal site and implementing the landscaping plan for the healing gardens by the end of October if there is money left in the Park budget. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment:

Regarding the 896 project, Mr. Lagasse suggested having an “Experts Section” on the website which would give residents the names of local contractors and arborists/tree experts to assist them with understanding and making decisions regarding offers received from PennDOT. The need to be impartial was discussed. This will be reconsidered at a later date.

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Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris
Township Secretary

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