



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the January 21, 2020, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Morris called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Auerbach, Dea, Gerstenhaber and McVeigh. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, PC Chairman, Dave Hoffman, HARB/HC Chairman, Paul Lagasse, and Secretary Sharon Norris. There were 23 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 McVeigh, the December 18, 2019v2 minutes were approved 5-0.

On motion by Supervisor McVeigh, 2nded by Mr. Gerstenhaber, the January 6, 2020 v2 minutes were approved 5-0.

Disposition of Records: On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Supervisor Auerbach, Resolution 2020-06, authorizing the erasure of the audiotapes from the December 18, 2019 and the January 6, 2020 Board of Supervisors meetings and the December 5, 2019 PC meeting was adopted. The motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Supervisor Dea, the December 2019 Treasurer's Report was approved 5-0. The report includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$455,877.66; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$750.33; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,553.17; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$61,073.89; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$566,342.07.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Mrs. Dea reported that during the month of December, 1 permit was issued, and 21 building inspections took place. \$250 was collected in building fees, -0- in Rec, Open Space, Impact Fees and \$100.00 was collected in miscellaneous fees. The one ongoing zoning issue is at 3327 Appleton Road. The Zoning Officer and Township Solicitor will appear in Court on Wednesday January 22, 2020 as the property owner is appealing the fines. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website (www.franklintownship.us).

PC Report: PC Chairman, Dave Hoffman, briefly summarized the January 9 PC meeting where the PC elected their officers and continued the Green Energy Ordinance discussion.

HARB & Historical Commissions: Mr. Lagasse reported that the HARB and HC also elected their officers and discussed 896 roadwork and the walkability of Kemblesville; however, there is no real update to either of those topics. The research on the Church Hill Cemetery must be done in West Chester. Township

Manager/Treasurer McVaugh updated Paul and the BOS that she spoke to PennDOT about installing crosswalk lights as a safety precaution for pedestrians when they are getting ready to enter the crosswalk on 896 in front of McMaster Blvd. They press a button and the lights flash alerting motorists that the crosswalk is in use. PennDOT was receptive to that idea.

FSA Report: Mr. Jim German reported that the FSA members have harvested 2 more deer this month for a total of 12. Deer hunting season ends on Saturday, January 25th. The FSA has performed a total of 153.5 hours of community service for the Township and adopted a local family at Christmas.

Business:

Avon Grove Library: Library Director, Lori Schwabenbauer and Township Volunteer Library Board of Directors Shelly McCoy and Lisa Zawada were in attendance to talk about the library and the benefit it brings to the Avon Grove community. The library offers many services including free delivery of books to homebound card holders, the Libby app which allows for downloading books to read on your electronic devices; free internet, access to Ancestry.com; after-school tutoring, and numerous children's programs to name a few. The Avon Grove Library, located in West Grove is the #1 library in the Chester County library system for children's programs. The Township currently contributes \$5 per capita toward the library. The per capita number is based on the most recent (2010) census figures. If you don't have your library card, it is easy to get one. Don't delay and get yours today!

Bike Trails in Crossan Park and Franklin Preserve – Matt Thompson from the Velo Amis organization presented his group's plan to build trails in Crossan Park and the adjacent Franklin Preserve for their youth trail biking program and at no charge to the Township. The group has pledged to maintain the trails in the future. There was an enthusiastic crowd of approx. 19 young people and adults from Velo Amis who were eager to share their organization's principles of: leave no trace, give back to the community, get kids outside and help them develop a love of nature. This group of youth named their team the Hellbenders, after the eastern lizard, which were once common but are disappearing throughout much of their habitat mainly due to declining water quality and habitat degradation. There was a lot of discussion about the building of the trails; how will they address stormwater issues and bridges. Dave Bartoo who built the bike trails in White Clay Creek State Park and is in charge of trail building for the state of Delaware has committed himself to assist with building these trails. Jim German, Brent Van Lith and Paul Overton contributed to the discussion. On motion by Mr. Gerstenhaber, 2nded by Chairman Morris, the Board permitted Matt Thompson and the Velo Amis organization to build youth bicycle trails in Crossan Park and Franklin Preserve with the intent of allowing all members of the public to have access to these trails. The motion carried 5-0 with Mr. Auerbach voting "aye" but would like the plan reviewed by the Township's Planning Commission.

Park, Recreation and Open Space Committee formation – Chairman Morris lead the discussion on the formation of a Park, Rec and Open Space Committee. The consensus of the Board was that it would be better for a group of interested volunteers to plan what projects should be done at the Park; prioritize Open Space projects and develop strategies so that when these projects come before the Board, they will have already been vetted. The Board authorized the Solicitor to draft an ordinance for review at next month's meeting.

Ordinance 2020-01 – Historic District Ordinance Update – on motion by Mrs. McVeigh, 2nded by Mr. Gerstenhaber, the Board authorized the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance 2020-01 for enactment at the next available BOS meeting. The changes to the Ordinance appeared minor but the solicitor advised that the Judge in the 3327 Appleton Road case recommended the Board review the Ordinance as the current ordinance was not clear with regard to enforcement.

Hess Mill Bridge – Mr. Auerbach led the discussion on the condition of the Hess Mill Bridge and the plan for repair for the benefit of the two newest supervisors. The Bridge is inspected annually by PennDOT and has consistently been rated “4” since 2009 when the inspections began. The Township has already applied for and received the necessary permits to replace the bridge with a precast bridge system and is waiting to see if we receive a grant from the Chester County Conservation District. The grant would cover all but approx. \$75,000 of the \$371,450.00 cost. Mr. Auerbach opined that a bridge failure would not be a catastrophic failure, but it would mean that the bridge would be out of commission for a longer period of time than if we replaced it on our schedule. The consensus of the Board is to wait to see if the Township is awarded the grant from the CCCD and if not, the BOS can explore short term, low interest loans through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure bank.

Refugee Discussion – President Trump issued Executive Order #13888 requiring that states and their counties provide written consent permitting refugees to settle in their communities. Chester County then pushed that decision onto each municipality. A Federal Judge has blocked this Executive Order; however, the Board entered into the discussion as this topic will continue to be of importance. The Board had many questions which went unanswered and the Manager/Treasurer said that in discussions with other Managers, they too had many questions which were unable to be answered. In summary, the Board learned that these refugees are documented and lawful and but there was no way to know at this time what kind of monetary commitment was required of the Township. Mr. Lagasse, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Reynolds and Mr. Reynolds participated in this discussion.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.