



## OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the June 19, 2019, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Snyder and Torres. Supervisor Morris arrived at 7:18 p.m. Also, in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, HARB/HC Chairman, Paul Lagasse, 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 Dea, 2nded by Supervisor Snyder, the May 15, 2019 v3 minutes were approved 4-0.

**Disposition of Records:** On motion by Mr. Auerbach, 2nded by Supervisor Snyder, Resolution 2019-12, authorizing the erasure of the audiotape from the May 15, 2019, BOS meeting was adopted. The motion carried 5-0.

**Treasurer's Report:** On motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Supervisor Torres, the May 2019 Treasurer's Report was approved 4-0. The report includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$175,173.26; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$18,744.49; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,553.17; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$1,384,627.38.

**Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report:** Mr. Torres reported that during the month of May, 6 permits were issued, and 25 building inspections took place. \$1,555.71 was collected in building fees, \$-0- in Rec, Open Space, Impact Fees and \$1,150.00 was collected in miscellaneous fees. There are 2 zoning issues: 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 June 26<sup>th</sup> if he hasn't complied with the Conditional Use requirements by that time. 3327 Appleton Road: still waiting for the Court of Common Pleas Judge to make a ruling. Solicitor Thompson reiterated that the Judge works alone and there are no time requirements for issuing a ruling. Mr. Thompson thought we could expect a ruling sometime this summer. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website ([www.franklintownship.us](http://www.franklintownship.us)).

**PC Report:** Having no business before them, the Planning Commission did not meet in June.

**HARB & Historical Commissions:** Chairman Lagasse reported that these two committees did not meet in June. The talk presented by the Oxford Area Historical Society entitled “On the Homefront – Tales of the Revolutionary War” told by Susannah Brody, a Revolutionary War storyteller was rescheduled due to weather and will be held Thursday, June 20th at the Oxford Masonic Lodge at 245 N. Third St. Oxford, PA at 7 p.m. Google the Oxford Area Historical Society for details. <https://www.oxfordhistorical.org/events.htm>. Also, the Chester County Planning Commission’s Town Tours and Village Walks summer program has begun. For more information visit <http://www.chescoplanning.org/HisResources/TownTours.cfm>.

\*Supervisor Morris arrived at this point.

**Business:**

**DEP MS4 Permit** – At the April 17, 2019 Board meeting, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Township Engineer to advertise the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan for the White Clay Creek/Christina River watershed and the Pollutant Reduction (PRP) Plan for the Big Elk Creek/Chesapeake Bay watershed. The advertisement requested input from the public. After a 61-day review period, the Township received no comments, written, emailed or in person. On motion by the Chairman, 2nded by Mr. Snyder the Board authorized LTL Consultants to submit the revised MS4 Permit to the DEP no later than June 28, 2019. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Auerbach reviewed the types of projects the Township could do as part of our permit: stream bank restorations (expensive and could wash out); basin retrofits (which are also expensive and run the risk of washouts) or tree planting (which is less expensive, grants are available and has multiple benefits). The Township will do the tree planting mostly on private properties. The Board also noted that since farmers have to have an approved conservation plan overseen by the Chester County Conservation District, their AG load was removed from our calculations.

**Solar Ordinance Discussion:** This was the first of what will be many discussions on developing this type of ordinance. Months ago, the Zoning Officer, Jeff Vogels, approached the Board about developing a solar array/alternative energy ordinance as the Township currently does not have one. At that time the Board did not feel there was a pressing need to develop this type of ordinance. Recently, after receiving inquiries on this subject, the Board feels it is important to have regulations in place so that there will be consistency with these projects. Jeff Vogels provided a summary of considerations and after some discussion, the Board agreed with Jeff, that small and medium solar installations would continue to follow the regulations for accessory structures. Large, commercial scale solar arrays will need to have specific guidelines surrounding installation, maximum height, buffers, glare/reflectivity stormwater, decommissioning, site restoration and financial security. On motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Mrs. Morris, the Board directed the Zoning Officer to draft an outline of a solar, alternative and wind energy ordinance for Board review at a future meeting. Supervisor Dea thought we should also include wind energy while we were developing this ordinance. After the Board has approved the draft, it will be sent to the Planning Commission for in-depth review. Mr. Matt Goin and Mr. Dave Gerstenhaber participated in this discussion.

**New Heater:** The heat exchanger on the existing heater is leaking and the heater needs to be replaced. The Board determined they want to install a high efficiency condensing heater but wanted reassurance that the pipe that takes the water from the heater to the drain wouldn’t freeze as it is located in the unheated area of the building. The plumber provided the necessary information to convince the Board that this could be done. On motion by Mr. Torres, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, the Board authorized the Township Manager to move forward with the purchase of the new heating system from Marano Plumbing and Heating in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00. Mr. Auerbach commented that the Township purchased two parts from eBay to fix the air conditioner for \$50 and is hoping the plumber will install them.

**Water Issue on Ways Run:** Recently the Township fixed part of the cul-de-sac on Ways Run, putting the crown back into the road so that the stormwater would flow properly. Now that the water is flowing properly, it is washing out the bottom of a nearby gravel driveway. Upon examination, it was determined that the water is flowing the way it is supposed to. At the same time, the road crew found a nonfunctioning pipe nearby that needs to be cleaned out as the outfall is completely covered. The reason this was brought to a BOS meeting was discussed. Two supervisors, the Township Manager, the Road contractor and staff participate in weekly staff meetings. At these meetings, road issues and estimates are reviewed and approved or not approved. Because of the cost of the Ways Run project and the fact that there was a BOS meeting that night was what prompted this issue to be discussed at a BOS meeting. Mr. Torres requested that the staff send out an update after each staff meeting to non-attending supervisors.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Paul Lagasse asked about the Referendum and what needs to be done. Mr. Thompson said that the results were certified by Voter Services and will be sent to the Liquor Control Board. Nothing more needs to be done by the Township. Mr. Lagasse also related that he recently learned a lot about Wind Farms as this was a topic in a municipality in the Poconos where he has a home. However, those turbines are 300' high and most likely turbines located in Franklin would be no higher than 40'.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:29 p.m.