

# APPROVED

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## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES February 5, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

### **Call to Order:**

Township Chairman Gerstenhaber called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Vice Chair Dea and Supervisors Dowling, Johnston, and Odgers. Also, in attendance on behalf of Franklin Township (FT) were Township Operations Manager Jeff Eastburn, Township Controller and Office Manager Melissa Ortega, and Township Secretary Stacy Hollis. There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes:** There were no Workshop Meeting minutes to approve.

- a. *Big Elk Creek (BEC) Development Project Advisory Board Nominations:* Chairman Gerstenhaber led the discussion on FT's nominations for their Advisory Board representatives. Mr. Gerstenhaber nominated FT resident Antea Consorto and East Nottingham resident Eileen Butler. He cited Ms. Consorto's grassroots efforts to involve the community and her extensive research on the proposed Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) project in the Big Elk Creek Park. Mr. Gerstenhaber explained that Ms. Butler has a vast amount of experience and knowledge working with the Delaware branch of the DCNR on projects involving the White Clay Creek. The four Board members agreed with the Chairman and were in full support of the nominees.

**Motion:** Chairman Gerstenhaber moved, seconded by Supervisor Dowling, to name Antea Consorto and Eileen Butler as the representatives for FT on the BEC Development Advisory Board. Motion passed 5-0.

- b. *Pennoni/Ragan Engineering MS4 Consultant Discussion:* Vice Chair Dea discussed plans for FT to shift MS4 Stormwater Management services from ARRO Associates to the combined services of Pennoni Associates and Ragan Engineering with Pennoni responsible for all FT's field work projects. The Board expressed their concerns that ARRO did not proactively discuss the allowed practice of parsing of land from the MS4 project requirements – a practice which could significantly reduce the overall cost of the MS4 projects. Supervisor Dowling asked if FT had a contract with ARRO and Township Operations Manager Jeff Eastburn responded that FT does not.

**Motion:** Vice Chair Dea moved, seconded by Supervisor Dowling, that the Board of Supervisors transition the Township's current MS4 consultants from ARRO Associates to Ragan Engineering and Pennoni Associates. They will each keep the same hourly rates approved by the Board of Supervisors at the January 2, 2024 Organization Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

- c. *Township Roadside Cleanup Event Discussion:* Chairman Gerstenhaber stated that this annual event typically falls around Earth Day. This year it will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

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Resident John Auerbach agreed to manage the 2024 clean-up. Mr. Auerbach has led this event in the past. Mr. Auerbach will discuss signage and supplies with the FT staff.

- d. Easter Event at Crossan Park: Township Secretary, Stacy Hollis discussed options for a FT Easter egg hunt event at the park. Ms. Hollis gave an overview of the activities geared toward younger children. Supervisor Dowling explained that FT typically trades off year-by-year with Penn Township to host this event and this year is FT's turn. The Board agreed to host the event at Crossan Park on Saturday, March 16, 2024.
- e. Fall Festival at Crossan Park: Supervisor Dowling proposed hosting a second Franklin Fall Festival due to the popularity of the first one. The Board agreed to host the event and a date of September 14, 2024 was selected for the event. Supervisor Dowling will be forming a volunteer committee and those interested in helping should contact the Township office.

**Public Comment:** Chairman Gerstenhaber opened the floor for public comments. Township Operations Manager, Jeff Eastburn, stated he received information that Elk Township has selected as their BEC Development Project Advisory Board representatives: Judy Jordan, Melanie Ryan (Elk Township Planning Commission member), and as an alternate, Milt Rudy (Elk Township Supervisor). Resident Auerbach commented on the Earned Income Tax and cautioned the Board on assuming this level of tax revenue will continue. Mr. Auerbach also complimented the Board on their MS4 work to decrease costs to the Township. The newly appointed BEC Development Project Advisory Board representative, Anteia Consorto, informed the Board that she has obtained a report through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request to the National Parks Service. The 4,300-page report details the mitigation of lands and the land use requirements for PA state parks, including Big Elk Creek. This report will be available at the [Savebigelkcreek.org](https://www.savebigelkcreek.org) website.

**Adjourn:** Chairman Gerstenhaber moved, seconded by Supervisor Johnston, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Hollis  
Township Secretary