

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
JULY 18, 2007**

Call to Order:

Chairperson Juanita Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Supervisors Dick Whipple, Norman Hughes (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Teddy Price and Roger Wilson. Also present were Solicitor Vince Donohue, Eric Brindle, Chairman of the Planning Commission, Scott Allen, Engineer for McCormick Taylor, Sandi Morgan and Stan Corbett of URS, Jeff Eastburn, Assistant Township Manager and Stephen Ross, Interim Township Manager. There were 7 members of the public in the audience.

Public Comment: No public comment

Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2007:

On motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Wilson, the minutes of June 20, 2007 were approved, subject to the following correction:

Page 4, 1st paragraph, 6th line, correct the spelling of “Donohue”, replace the “a” with “o”. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

- a. Treasurer’s Report – June 2007: Mr. Ross presented the monthly report showing total Township funds of \$2,865,425.71. This compares to a fund balance of \$2,070,786 for the same period in 2006. The report also includes deposit and disbursement detail for all funds. Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to approve the June Treasurer’s Report. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Mid-Year Financial Report: Mr. Ross provided a six month budget report including any noteworthy line items for both revenue and expenses. It was reported that Franklin Township is on sound financial footing for the 2007 budget. There were no comments from the Board.
- c. Manager’s Report: Mr. Ross provided a summary of his monthly report, commenting on the Crown Castle Cell Tower Agreement, the Township Newsletter, receipt of two grant checks toward purchase of the Howard property, and the public meeting of the Impact Fee Advisory Committee which will be held on July 30, 2007 at the Township office.
- d. Solicitor’s Report: The municipal law section of the firm continues to work with the Township on the pending legal issues. Mrs. Bennett asked if a meeting had been scheduled with the TND representatives. Mr. Donohue stated that he is attempting to set up a meeting with the developers and the Township to discuss the Stipulation and the revised plan.

APPROVED

- e. Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Mr. Ross summarized the report by advising that 13 permits were issued \$2,373.35 of building fees and \$1,269.02 in miscellaneous fees were received. Thirty-six building inspections were conducted, as well as zoning tasks, HARB activities and 1 zoning site visit.

Old Business:

- a. Kemblesville Area Sewage Options: At the request of Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Bennett, URS, the Township's sewer consultant, reviewed several options for providing sewage service to the residents of Kemblesville Village. As part of the Stipulation Agreement the residents of the Village are to be served with a sewage system that would cost the homeowners in the range of \$3,500 to \$5,000. In a report dated July 3, 2007, URS advised that there were potentially 102 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU's) in the village. This includes 52 existing units, 32 EDU's allocated to the Kemblesville Elementary School and potential lots not yet developed. The URS discussed three community sewage system options to address these sewage needs in the event the sewage system proposed by the Stipulation Agreement did not proceed. Preliminary cost estimates ranged from \$18,000 to \$25,000 per household. These options are stream discharge, subsurface disposal, and land application. Representing the Township and providing further technical input were Stan Corbett and Sandi Morgan of URS. The Board members raised various questions that were answered by the consultants. Mr. Donohue advised that a meeting was necessary with Greg Adelman, attorney for the developers of McMaster/Echo Hill, to resolve the various issues including roads and sewage. The Board authorized the Solicitor to proceed with scheduling the meeting.

- b. Area Wide Traffic Study: Mr. Ross provided background information including the Developer/Township Stipulation where certain improvements are to be identified by the Township and the developers are to obtain estimated costs within 60 days. The Township will review the estimated cost and validate the estimates. Once there is an agreement between the developer and the Township the developer will proceed with making the improvements. Mr. Scott Allen of McCormick Taylor was introduced and provided an explanation of his study and answered questions from the Board.

The consultant's recommendations for road improvements are identified in the following table:

Location	Improvement	Funding Mechanism	
		Agreement	Exclusive
SR 896 & Appleton Rd.	Close Appleton Rd. at SR 896 and extend Walker Rd extension (to SR 896)	■	
Walker Rd.	Extend Walker Rd. to SR 896, east of Appleton Rd. preferable opposite the TND Access	■	
SR 896, Walker Rd. Extension and TND access 10	Construct a roundabout	■	■
SR 896 and Good Hope	Construct a roundabout		■

APPROVED

SR 896 and SR 841	Construct left turn lanes on northbound (100') and southbound (75') SR 896	■	
SR 896 and Parsons Rd.	Construct left turn lanes on northbound (100') and southbound (150') SR 896	■	
SR 896 and McMaster Blvd.	Construct a roundabout	■	
SR 896 and Peacedale	Realign to intersection SR 896 at McMaster Blvd.	■	
SR 841 and Flint Hill Rd.	Construct left turn land on southbound SR 841 (75')		

Regarding the cost of roundabouts, Mr. Allen explained that due to the number of variables involved with construction costs, it is not reasonable to provide detailed cost estimates for roundabouts until a detailed study has been conducted and final decisions have been made by the Township. He explained further that those improvements marked as "Exclusive" in the above table are improvements that are not included under the \$1.7 million allotment in the Stipulation Agreement and will have to be funded outside of the Agreement. Solutions to the Kemblesville curve were discussed and input was given by several members of the public.

Mr. Whipple recommended, and the Board agreed, that a meeting should be scheduled with Mr. Adelman to determine if the improvements included in the Stipulation Agreement are still in tact in light of the reduction of housing units in the Echo Hill/McMaster Development. Once the Township understands what improvements will be funded by the developer, the Township will prioritize the improvements outlined in the consultant's list.

- c. Intersection of Rts. 896 and 841: In his letter of June 25th, Mr. Ross advised PennDOT of the most recent accident that occurred at this intersection and requested their help identifying and implementing corrective measures. Mr. Allen advised that he and Mr. Federico have reviewed all of the recent correspondence between the Township and PennDOT. One of the more apparent problems at the intersection is that vehicles traveling southbound on Rt. 896 approaching the 841 intersection are challenged by a blind grade in the road which inhibits their view of the intersection. Vehicles on 841, attempting to cross 896 or enter onto 896 cannot see the vehicles approaching in the southbound lane. The Township requested that PennDot study this intersection and assist the Township by making certain road improvements including geometric modifications with substantial work on the embankments of Rt. 896 to improve sight distances. PennDOT District Traffic Engineer, Lewis B. Belmonte, responded to the Township in a letter dated June 28, 2007 recommending that a 4-way stop sign be considered however the Township must be willing to install and maintain a warning flasher on Rt. 896 displaying an "Intersection Ahead" sign in advance of the Rt. 841 intersection. He also suggested transverse rumble strips on southbound 896 approaching 841.

As short-term improvements, McCormick Taylor recommends that the Township advise PennDOT to:

- Install transverse rumble strips on SR896, provided PennDOT will remove the rumble strips if the noise becomes too intrusive for the adjacent residents.

- Upgrade the intersection warning signs in conjunction with the installation of flashing beacons on both approaches of SR 896.

Mr. Allen advised the Board that the installation of warning beacons would cost the Township approximately \$25,000 and would need to be permitted through PennDOT.

Ultimately more substantial improvements are needed to this intersection which would address the limited sight distances and/or excessive travel speeds. Such improvements have been outlined by the Township, the Route 896 Task Force and the DVRPC. Suggestions include multi-way stop signs; traffic signal; roundabout and left turn lanes on SR 896. Mr. Allen led the discussion regarding the pros/cons of each suggested improvement. He advised that McCormick Taylor does not recommend pursuing the 4-way stop sign due to the existing sight distance limitations. In addition they do not recommend a traffic signal or roundabout without an in-depth study and funding commitments. They do, however, recommend that the Township consider pursuing the installation of left turn lanes on the 896 north and southbound approaches to 841.

Regarding overall funding of these improvements, Mr. Allen stated that the State Transportation Commission is currently in the process of updating the Twelve Year Program and there is a public hearing scheduled for August 19th at the offices of the DVRPC. Mr. Allen suggests contacting Lee Whitemore in advance of the meeting in an attempt to encourage further discussion of this matter. They also suggest that there may be funding available through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Contact between the Township and all elected officials is recommended. In addition, McCormick Taylor will be contacting representatives of Chester County, PennDOT and DVRPC, to assess the potential for the availability of funding for this project.

Mr. Ross suggested the following course of action to the Board:

1. Advise PennDOT that the Township is in favor of PennDot installing transverse rumble strips on Rt. 896 subject to having the strips removed if the Township receives excessive complaints from the residents.
2. PennDot will install and upgrade the existing "Cross Road" warning signs and consider erecting advisory speed plaques.
3. The Board is generally in favor of supporting the installation of warning flasher lights but this will be evaluated in conjunction with the Township's 2008 budget.

Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Mrs. Bennett, to authorize the Manager to proceed with the action as outlined above. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Planning and Zoning:

- a. *Planning Commission Report:* Mr. Eric Brindle advised that the Planning Commission cancelled the July meeting.
- b. *Extension Letter - Godfrey Property Final Plan:* On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Ms. Price, the Godfrey Final Plan was extended to October 24, 2007. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

New Business:

- a. *Trail Study:* Mr. Ray Ott of Ray Ott & Associates, was present and provided a status report on the Trail Study being conducted by the Open Space Committee. His overview

included the scope, status and team membership for the project. Mrs. Bennett asked about insurance to cover incidents that might occur on the trails. Mr. Ott was not aware of what is available but stated that there is specific legislation in PA protecting private property owners. Unidentified members of the public commented on a number of concerns regarding issues such as the potential for invasion of privacy, littering, the effect on property values, appropriate use of Township funds and trespassing on private property. Mr. Ott advised that there will be a public meeting on September 10th and members of the Board advised that additional information will be forthcoming.

- b. M.I.R.T. Assessment: Mr. Ross explained that M.I.R.T. stands for the Chester County Major Incident Response Team and includes police representatives from most of the municipal departments within the County. Their purpose is to provide police officer assistance during a defined emergency or planned event. A planned event is described in a letter from Patrick Davis of the Chester County District Attorney's Office as an event such as civil disobedience gatherings, a school hostage or shooting situation or any emergency where a large number of officers are needed. The Township is being asked to contribute \$250 for the remainder of 2007 and another assessment in the beginning of 2008. After speaking with Lt. Sneed of the State Police, the Manager recommended against the Township's participation in the MIRT program. The Board agreed with the Manager's recommendation.

Public Comment:

1. Jane Brown inquired when the Trail Committee meets, are the meetings public and are the members of the committee listed on the website. Ms. Brown also expressed concern about the possibilities of eminent domain occurring in the Township and read from the Comprehensive Plan Chapter 9, 3-27 in that regard. Ms. Brown also asked the reason for listing the native plant population on a property.
2. Janet Brown asked who authorized the representative of the Botanical Survey to access private property and why not all property owners received the letter.
3. Mr. Brechter questioned whether the Township was aware of conditions at the Chisel Creek Golf Club and having the temporary office/snack bar trailer removed within ten days from occupancy of the new club house.

Many comments were made by individuals who were not identified.

Adjourn: Mrs. Bennett adjourned the meeting at 10.22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephen J. Ross
Township Mgr./Secretary

7.18.07.v.3.er