

APPROVED

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES November 12, 2008

Call to Order:

Chairman Richard Whipple called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Supervisors Nan Latimer, Norman Hughes, Paul Overton and Eric Brindle. Also present were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Township Treasurer, Joan McVaugh; Assistant Township Manager, Jeff Eastburn; and, Township Secretary, Sharon Norris. There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Mr. Brindle, the Minutes of October 7, 2008 were approved as presented. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

New Business:

PECO Green Region Grant – Resolution 2008-20: Chairman Whipple explained that the Township is applying for a \$10,000 PECO Grant to help with the Middle Branch White Clay Creek Trail Development Project. The Resolution, which is required by PECO, indicates the Township's commitment of funds in the amount of \$15,306 to the project and authorizes Mr. Geoghegan, Chairman of the Open Space Committee, to execute and file the appropriate forms for PECO's Green Region Grant Program. The Grant will be awarded in 2010. Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Brindle, that the Township adopt Resolution 2008-20, a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Franklin Township, regarding the PECO Green Region Grant Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Authorization to advertise Debt Ordinance: Since the Open Space Referendum passed in November 2002, it has always been the plan, when needed, to borrow funds for open space purposes, with the annual revenue from the Open Space Tax being applied to any such open space related debt obligations. Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to publish an advertisement of a notice of meeting on November 19, 2008, for consideration of a proposed ordinance to authorize the issuance of non-electoral debt to fund certain capital projects consisting of the conservation and protection of open spaces, forests, woodlands, farmlands, parklands, undeveloped lands adjoining park or recreation sites, scenic areas and sites of historic, geologic or botanic interest through fee simple purchase or acquisition of development rights. Motion passed unanimously.

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2009 Budget Review: Township Treasurer McVaugh summarized each section of the Budget, providing time for Q & A after each. There were no questions and only one adjustment to the Insurance & Bond Account in the General Fund. In addition, Supervisor Brindle proposed a 5% decrease in real estate taxes to provide some relief to the residents in this time of economic hardship. Mr. Whipple advised that such a decrease would involve adjusting the millage from 3.245 to 3.083 and that would require adjusting the general fund millage from 2.075 to 1.913. The overall impact would be a decrease in revenue for the general fund of approximately \$44,000. It was noted that such a decrease would more than likely be reflected in a reduction in the road program for 2009.

Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Overton, that the Board of Supervisors approve the 2009 Preliminary Budget with the following changes: an increase to the line item for Insurance and Bonding in the General Fund, and the appropriate changes to reflect a 5% decrease in real estate millage from last year (resulting in a General Fund millage of 1.913, Open Space millage of .5, a Park and Recreation millage of .27 and an Emergency Services millage of .4 – totaling 3.083) and to authorize the Staff to place a public notice in the newspaper advising the public that the proposed budget will be on display for review between the hours of 8 and 4, Monday – Friday with final adoption to occur on December 10, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McVaugh advised that the reduction in real estate tax changes the revenue for the GF to \$1,306,800, Cash & Revenue to \$1,518,571 and the Net Cash Balance at the end of the year to \$65,164.

Mr. Whipple thanked Treasurer McVaugh and Supervisor Latimer for a job well done.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjourn: On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Mr. Overton, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris
Township Secretary

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