

# APPROVED

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## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES MAY 20, 2009

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Richard Whipple called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Supervisors Nan Latimer, Paul Overton, and Eric Brindle. Norman Hughes was absent. Also present were Solicitor Mark Thompson; Assistant Township Manager, Jeff Eastburn; Township Secretary, Sharon Norris; Township Engineer Steve Woodward from Kohli & Asso.; Planning Commission Chairman, Ralph Olivier; and Open Space Chairman, Phil Geoghegan. There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

*BOS Minutes – 4/15/09:* Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Brindle, to approve the minutes of April 15, 2009 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution 2009-22:* Mr. Whipple, moved, seconded by Mr. Brindle to approve Resolution 2009-22 authorizing the disposition of records. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports:**

*Treasurer's Report:* Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to approve the April 2009 Treasurer's Report, as presented by the Township Treasurer, including disbursements and transfers from the General Fund totaling \$135,401.23; the Park & Rec Fund totaling \$15,632.15; the Open Space Fund totaling \$372,262.08; the Emergency Services Fund totaling \$489.47; and the Fire Hydrant Fund totaling \$653.40; with total balances in all funds, at 04/30/09, equaling \$5,435,738.91. Motion carried unanimously.

*Solicitor's Report:* Solicitor Thompson advised that the codification of ordinances is ongoing and he has been in contact with Keystates in coordinating the final document. Once completed, it will be advertised for official adoption by resolution.

*Zoning Officer/Bldg. Inspector Report:* Mr. Eastburn provided a summary of the Zoning Officer's report which includes the issuance of 13 building permits, total building fees of \$1,830.15 and 25 building inspections.

### **Planning and Zoning:**

*Planning Commission Report:* Mr. Olivier provided a summary of activities at the May 7, 2009 Planning Commission Meeting including a review of the Charlton Preliminary Plan and Energy Endeavors Sketch Plan.

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A. HARB/Historical Commission Report: Mr. Olivier provided updates on the activities of the HARB and the Historical Commission. The HARB met May 5, 2009. Wendy Toman made a presentation and offered training for HARB members concerning the reconstruction of a historic wall at the property where she is currently living. The members of the HARB presented Mrs. Toman with a gift certificate and a key chain with a picture of the Township Historic District sign as a thank you for her many years of service to the Township and her efforts to have the signs installed identifying the Historic District.

The Historical Commission met and discussed educational and outreach opportunities such as sponsoring field trips, etc., to encourage interest in historical subjects.

### **Extensions:**

Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Brindle, that the Board approve the following requests for extensions:

Miller Property – September 30, 2009  
Charlton Property– June 18, 2009  
Hess Mill, Lot 6 & 8 – September 19, 2009  
Logan – September 30, 2009  
101 Stonegate – September 30, 2009  
Ashby Hills (Christens) – September 30, 2009  
Brothers Property – July 16, 2009

Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business:**

a. Franklin Chase Discussion: Present on behalf of Franklin Chase were three residents, Shawn Mitchell, Bill Steele and Robert Ross. Mr. Steele stated that although they have not yet taken over the Home Owners Association (HOA), they are preparing to do so by selecting board members. It is their understanding that the builder (Tropea) has filed for bankruptcy and the developer (Ruggerio Development Co.) may be doing so as well. Solicitor Thompson will determine whether or not a bankruptcy has been filed by either entity. The residents submitted their concerns in writing to the Township and Township Engineer Grant Hitchens responded as noted in his memo of May 14, 2009. Engineer Steve Woodward works with Grant and was present at the meeting on behalf of the Township. Mr. Whipple reviewed the list of concerns and Mr. Hitchens' responses. Asst. Mgr. Eastburn will ask the zoning officer to contact Mr. Ippolito regarding the lots that need to be mowed and Solicitor Thompson will look into the issue of insurance on the land that has been designated as open space. Mr. Whipple summarized the discussion by stating that the Township has been and continues to be in communication with the developer regarding the work that remains to be completed and dedication will not be accepted until all requirements of the Plan are met. Items such as driveways, etc., are between the home owner and the builder. He encouraged the Franklin Chase residents to continue frequent communication with the Township in order to be sure nothing is missed. He thanked the residents for their attendance and for their diligence in following up on outstanding items.

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- b. Grant Application – Phil Geoghegan: Mr. Geoghegan went over the preliminary scope of the work involved in the White Clay Creek Trail Project and provided a very rough cost estimate of \$160,000. He explained that his purpose at this meeting was to get the Board's input on the scope of the project; to discuss things that can be done to strengthen the grant applications; and to get a consensus of the Board on whether to proceed with the Chester County Grant application which is due on July 17, 2009. Ms. Latimer expressed concern that installing a trail system of this magnitude may be more than the Township can handle at this time. She suggested waiting another year before putting in grant applications and during that time taking on smaller pieces of the project such as putting in parking lots at strategic locations, and laying out trails, etc. Mr. Geoghegan believes that the PECO Grant which has already been received, must be spent within 18 months. He would like to spend a portion of it to have Janet Ebert come in and do a field survey and lay out some trails. He will follow up with PECO and confirm the timing and their requirements regarding how it can be used. The consensus of the Board is to hold off on applying for the Chester County Grant until July 2010.
- c. Recognition of Phil Geoghegan's Contributions as Chair of the Open Space Committee (OSC): Mr. Overton commented on the effectiveness of the Open Space Committee in general and the fact that Franklin Township has one of the best records in the state for obtaining grant money which is due in large part to Phil's hard work and grant-writing ability. Phil is stepping down as Chair of the OSC but will remain actively involved. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Overton presented Mr. Geoghegan with a gift certificate and a Certificate of Appreciation for his many contributions to the OSC and the Township. Ms. Teddy Price has accepted the nomination of Chairperson replacing Mr. Geoghegan.
- d. Resolution 2009-23 – Authorizing the hiring of a summer intern: Ms. Latimer summarized the scope of the intern's job which was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Overton, to adopt Resolution 2009-23 concerning the hiring of a summer intern for GPS activity. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Olivier asked the Board to consider recognizing the contributions of the eagle scouts and their troops by placing plaques or signs on projects that they do for the Township. The Board agreed that this is a good idea and Ms. Latimer and Mr. Eastburn will follow up.

**Adjourn:** On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Mr. Overton, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris  
Township Secretary