

# FOR APPROVAL

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## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES October 21, 2020

**Call to Order:** Chairman McVeigh called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance was Vice Chair Gerstenhaber and via ZOOM were Supervisors Auerbach, Dea, and Morris. Also, in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Township Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Assistant Manager Jeff Eastburn, Secretary Mary Opromolla and 10 members of the public.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

**Board of Supervisors (BOS) Minutes of September 16, 2020:** Supervisor Morris motioned, seconded by Vice Chair Gerstenhaber, that the Board vote to approve the September 16, 2020 minutes. Motion was approved 5-0.

### **Reports:**

- a. **Treasurer's Report for August 2020:** Supervisor Dea moved, seconded by Supervisor Morris, that the Board approve the September 2020 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$156,959.45; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$11,847.75; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,330.74; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$36,167.98; the Highway Aid Fund with disbursements of \$77,074.25; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$1,026,316.56. Motion was approved 5-0.
- b. **Zoning Officer Report:** Vice Chair Gerstenhaber, reported that in the month of September 2020, 8 permits were issued. \$6,730.56 in building fees was collected and \$1,850.00 in Miscellaneous fees was collected. No Recreation, Open Space or Impact Fees were collected. 24 inspections were performed. There were 4 zoning issues reported which included: Bamboo overgrowth on Duncan Lane; High grass on New London Road. Both issues are being worked on. Container on Banffshire property removed; 3327 Appleton Road, ongoing problem, see HARB Report.
- c. **Planning Commission Report (PC):** The PC did not meet in October.
- d. **HARB/HC Reports:** Chairman Paul Lagasse presented the Annual Report for 2019. For more details please see the Franklin Township Historical Commission and Historical Architectural Review Board Annual Report. Chairman Lagasse reported that the HARB/HC did not meet on October 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues regarding 3327 Appleton Road. The owner cancelled at the last minute. The HARB/HC will meet on November 10, 2020.
- e. **Park, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Board:** Jim German of the PRO provided an update of the PRO's October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on behalf of the Township and the PRO Board. Multiple initiatives were discussed - road signs for Crossan Park on Rt 896 and Good Hope Road; replacement of the Healing

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Garden with U of D assisting in the design; development of trail maps. A grant of \$2500 along with \$750/year for 5 years maintenance of the healing garden was offered to the PRO.

Over 24 hours of volunteer work was completed in Banffshire and Crossan Parks. The PRO is looking to repair the walking boards located at the back side of Crossan Park and will seek support from the scouts. Volunteers will install a bike repair station at Crossan Park. The PRO is meeting with contractors to get estimates for the repair and/or replacement of the tennis courts. There is a possible opening on the Friends of White Clay Creek Board and the PRO is considering joining. All expenditures considered by the PRO will be brought to the Board for approval.

- f. Comprehensive Plan Task Force: Chair Nan Latimer presented the results of the Comprehensive Plan Community Survey results to the Board. The questionnaire was answered by 515 residents with any duplication of responses being checked by Chester County Planning Commission. The survey results will be posted on the Township website. The next meeting is on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.
- g. Franklin Township Sportsman's Association (FSA): Jim German gave a brief update to the Board on the members activities There are currently 35 registered members who are working on completing their proficiency shooting test. All parks have been posted with hunting season dates. The FAS completed 82 hours of community service projects from July to October 2020.

### **Business:**

- a. Avon Grove Library Update: Director Lori Schwabenbauer; reported on the activities provided by the Library. These activities can be viewed on their website [avongrovelibrary.org](http://avongrovelibrary.org) and their Facebook page. Request for additional funding will be addressed by the Board after the census results are known.
- b. Road Evaluation Report: Ron Ragan discussed his August Road evaluation Report which the Board discussed at their September meeting that Ron was not available to attend. Five roads received B+ and one C- ratings. Ron explained that the "C" rating was due to the location of the road near Rt 896 and the inability to optimize the seam in the middle of the road due to the road location and traffic flow constraints.
- c. Hess Mill Bridge: Supervisor Auerbach gave a brief update on the Hess Mill Bridge project. The project is on schedule with completion expected in early December.
- d. Banffshire Bridge Resolution No. 2020-20: Paul Overton requested a resolution for a grant he will apply for from PECO Green Region Open Space Grant in the amount of \$11,000. Chair McVeigh motioned; seconded by Supervisor Dea authorizing the motion. Motion was approved 5-0. If successful, the grant would be for \$5500 and a small sign would be erected at the Banffshire bridge to acknowledge the PECO grant.
- e. Lexington Pointe: Solicitor Mark Thompson provided an update. An agreement will hopefully be presented to the Board within a few weeks. The Board agreed that any decisions on Lexington Pointe activities should be reviewed by the Board before they can move forward.
- f. Franklin Township Assessment: The Board had contacted Mr. Vargo from ARRO consulting to discuss a review of the structure and operations of FT. Supervisor Morris motioned, seconded by Supervisor

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Auerbach to authorize the Township manager to sign the contract for the assessment in the amount of \$6,565.00. Motion was approved 4-1, with Supervisor Gerstenhaber voting Nay.

- g. *Newsletter and Website update:* Supervisor Dea thanked Chair McVeigh, Secretary Norris and Secretary Opromolla for their efforts in creating the Newsletter and noted the positive comments from FT residents. A newsletter will be published in the Spring and in the Fall. It was noted that the Comp Plan survey received an additional 50 responses after the Newsletter was received by the residents. Supervisor Gerstenhaber discussed the new township website and demonstrated ways to access information. The website is not complete, and more information will be added going forward. Supervisor Dea asked everyone to e-subscribe for information via email. This can be done by checking the upper right corner of the home page. Supervisor Morris requested pictures of our township be submitted to the office to be rotated on the website. Chair McVeigh is planning to enter the newsletter and FT livestreaming of meetings via You Tube into the PSATS Citizen Communication contest. The Township Website will be entered in the contest next year.
- h. *Spotted Lantern Fly Update:* Chair McVeigh discussed the importance of our due diligence to keeping on top of the infestation of the Spotted Lantern Fly. She requested residents visit [www.extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly](http://www.extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly) for information on what action we can take to stop the spread of this devastating insect.
- g. *Township Secretary:* The Board discussed the secretary position. A decision was made for Manager McVaugh to begin a search for a temporary part-time secretary since our current full-time secretary will be part-time as of January 2021. A final decision on this position will be made after the Township receives the assessment from Cary Vargas.
- h. *Able Subdivision:* Vice Chair Gerstenhaber motioned, seconded by Supervisor Auerbach for the Board to accept the Extension of the Able Subdivision until April 22, 2021. Motion was approved 5-0.
- i. *Preliminary Budget Discussion:* The Board began discussion on the Preliminary Budget for 2021. Supervisor Dea opened the discussion by highlighting 4 points: 1) An additional \$60K is transferred from the General Fund to the Emergency Service Fund because taxes allocated for this important service are insufficient. Similarly, \$62K is transferred from the General Fund to the Open Space Fund to help pay for a loan used to purchase open space; 2) Money allocated to the library is based on FT's current headcount. This amount can be reassessed for future budgets once the results on the 2020 census are available; 3) Funds available for improvements in the Park Fund (\$11K) are limited and should be increased; and 4) \$20K has been allocated for engineering and design work to improve the FT building. The Board agreed to increase the Park Fund by \$9K by reassigning the money for salaries to the Government Funds. The Board also agreed to use money from the Capital budget to refurbish the tennis courts. All items will be discussed again at the November Board meeting with final approval of budget at December Board meeting.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Opromolla, Township Secretary