

FOR APPROVAL

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES APRIL 21, 2021

Call to Order:

Chairman Mary McVeigh called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance via ZOOM meeting were Vice Chair Gerstenhaber, Supervisors Auerbach, and Dea. Absent was Supervisor Morris. Also, in attendance on behalf of the Township were Solicitor Mark Thompson, Township Manager/Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Township Assistant Manager Jeff Eastburn, and Secretary Mary Opromolla. There were sixteen members of the public in attendance.

Announcement – The Board of Supervisors (BOS) held an executive Session on April 21, 2021 to discuss legal issues.

Announcement – Chairman Mary McVeigh announced that Ron Ragan, Township Road Engineer will be presenting The Road Program first due to a conflict. This change in the agenda is not reflected in the order items are summarized in the meeting minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment: No public Comments

Approval of the Minutes:

- a. *BOS Minutes for March 17, 2021:* Supervisor Auerbach moved, seconded by Supervisor Dea, that the Board approve the March 17, 2021 v.1 Minutes, as submitted by the Township Secretary. Motion was approved 4-0.

Reports:

- a. *Treasurer's Report for March 2021:* Supervisor Dea moved, seconded by Supervisor Auerbach, that the Board approve the March 2021 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$175,360.47; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$3,409.36; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,098.75; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursement of \$1,732.50; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$43,333.72 the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$891,015.75. Motion was approved 4-0.
- b. *Zoning Officer Report:* Vice Chair Gerstenhaber, reported that 9 permits were issued, and 42 building inspection were performed in the month of March 2021: \$2,262.10 in building fees, \$667.41 in Impact Fees and \$2,325.00 in Miscellaneous fees were collected. 42 inspections were performed. There were 2 bamboo zoning issues reported which are ongoing from the previous month.
- c. *Planning Commission (PC) Report:* The PC did not hold a meeting in April.
- d. *Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB)/Historical Commission (HC) Reports:* Paul Lagasse gave a brief update on the HARB/HC meeting held on April 13, 2021. The research is continuing for the Church Hill Cemetery. Mr. Lagasse cautioned that the Church Hill burial plots near Parcel

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72-3-3 are not well marked and any planned roadwork for Church Hill /Hilltop Roads should use caution. The HARB/HC approved their Annual Joint Report that was submitted to the Board. The HARB reviewed the Chester County Historic Preservation Network Leadership conference. The HARB approved clarification changes to the Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) form. The HARB also recommended approval of the CoA application for 105 Walker Road for garage doors.

Mr. Lagasse spoke of a Mason Dixon Connectivity Partnership that is being developed with Chester County Planning Commission, New Garden, London Britain, and Franklin Townships. The Partnership is requesting representation of one to two people from each Township. Vice Chair Gerstenhaber and Resident PRO member Paul Overton were nominated. The Partnership is looking to connect the hiking and biking trails along the Mason Dixon Line.

- e. *The Park, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Board* – Chairman Greg presented the PRO's recommendations for improvement projects to the Board in priority order: 1) Tennis Court Resurfacing (already approved; crack repair will take place in May and resurfacing will start in June); 2) Replanting of the Healing Garden; 3) Re-design of the Pickle Ball court; and 4) Re-caulking an area by the Comfort Station.
- **Healing Garden** (\$5500): The PRO recommended that Natural Lands design the gardens; Redtail Restoration install the plantings and weed the garden; and Signature Landscapes remove old shrubs/mulch/stone and prep the garden beds. Mr. Sachs also reported that the PRO has received a \$2,500 grant from the Nancy Dee Davidson Memorial Fund (included in the cost of project) to be used towards the garden and \$750 per year to provide maintenance.
 - **Pickle Ball Courts** (\$5100): Paul Overton presented the recommendation for the re-design of the Pickle Ball courts with Lefever Concrete.
 - The **Comfort Station re-caulk and joint repair** (\$1188) which will also be completed by Lefever.
 - Crack sealing of the parking lot will also take place this year.

The FSA updated their website as suggested by the PRO. The PRO is supportive of the renewal of the 2021 FSA Hunting License. Resident Steven Carnell is interested in volunteering to help the Township identify invasive plants so they can be removed.

- f. *Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan)*- Comp Plan member Kathy Goin provided a brief update on the March 23rd meeting. The Comp Plan Taskforce has reviewed the first chapter of the Plan, Agricultural Retention Chapter and provided comments. The next Comp Plan Meeting has been re-scheduled for May 25th, 2021. The Taskforce will review Natural Resources and the Trails Chapters in May.
- g. *FSA Report*: No report was presented as the hunting season has ended.

Business:

- a. *Ron Ragan Engineering presented the 2021 Road Project Summary* – Ron Ragan gave a detailed presentation on his road evaluation and made recommendations for the 2021 Road Projects. The presentation included a summary of suggested roads, drainage area improvements and guiderail installation. The estimated project cost and identified roads were listed in the following order:
1. *Hess Mill Road*

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2. *Gypsy Hill Road*
3. *Schoolhouse road*
4. *Duncan Lane*
5. *129 Cavender Ave*
6. *3 Mackey Court*
7. *Cavender Lane & Walker Road*
8. *Laurel Bridge Road*
9. *Hilltop and Church Hill*

Road Program Approval Supervisor Auerbach moved, seconded by Supervisor Dea to authorize the advertisement to bid the Road Program for items 1-6 and to include 7, 8, and 9 as discrete added alternates. Motion was approved 4-0.

- b. Lt. Dan Steele of the PA State Police (PSP)- Lt. Steele introduced himself to the Township. He is replacing Lt. Nicole Palmer, who recently retired. Lt. Steele discussed his background and spoke highly of Chester County. Lt. Steele reported that there were ~ 900 calls of service to Franklin Township of which 34 were crashes, 57 property crimes, and 24 personal crimes. He stated that Franklin Township works closely with the PSP and indicated that FT is a very safe place to live.
- c. Tim Sawyer of Barbacane Thornton & Company (BTC) presented the 2020 Audit Report. – The audit was conducted according to DCED standards and was given a “clean opinion.” The audit included a review of the internal controls over financial reporting, procedures, financial statements, and the effectiveness of Franklin Township’s internal controls. A recommendation to further strengthen the Township’s internal controls was to include a board member or rotate board members to review the monthly bank reconciliations and sign the statement documenting their approval. It is recommended that the board member review the main checking account monthly while other accounts can be reviewed on a random basis throughout the year.
- d. 105 Walker Road Hearing – Vice Chair Gerstenhaber moved, seconded by Supervisor Dea, to approve the COA to replace the garage doors on 105 Walker Road. Motion was approved 4-0.
- e. 3327 Appleton Road Hearing – A hearing was conducted to discuss the Demolition Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for 3327 Appleton Road. Michael S. Gill, Esquire, representing DiFrancesco Appleton Trust and Mark Thompson for the Township conducted the hearing. Franklin Township BOS has five days to issue a decision. A meeting will be held on Monday, April 26.
- f. Hess Mill Bridge Update – Supervisor Auerbach gave a brief update on the recent graffiti on the bridge and the process for covering the graffiti. This work will be added to the Township’s Project List.
- g. Resolution 2021-12 Renewal License for the FSA- Supervisor Dea moved, seconded by Vice Chair Gerstenhaber, to approve the renewal of the FSA Hunting License. Motion was approved 4-0.
- h. Crossen Park Project Approvals - Vice Chair Gerstenhaber moved, seconded by Supervisor Dea, to approve the Pickleball Court Project for \$5,100. Motion was approved 4-0.
Vice Chair Gerstenhaber moved, seconded by Supervisor Dea, to approve the Comfort Station Project for \$1,188. Motion was approved 4-0.

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Vice Chair Gerstenhaber moved, seconded by Supervisor Dea, to approve the Healing Garden Project for \$5,500. Motion was approved 3-1, with Supervisor Auerbach apposing the motion due to the deer invasion of new plantings.

- i. Lexington Pointe Updates – Solicitor Mark Thompson indicated that there were no significant updates at this time.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 a.m. April 22, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Opromolla
Township Secretary