

# FOR APPROVAL

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## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES December 16, 2020

**Call to Order:** Chairman McVeigh called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. via ZOOM meeting. In attendance was Vice Chair Gerstenhaber, 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.

**Announcement:** An Executive Session was held on December 4, 2020 to discuss personnel.

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

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

**Board of Supervisors (BOS) Minutes of October 21, 2020:** Vice-Chair Gerstenhaber motioned, seconded by: Supervisor Dea to approve the October 21, 2020 minutes. Motion approved, 5 to 0.

**Board of Supervisors (BOS) Minutes of November 18, 2020:** Vice-Chair Gerstenhaber motioned, seconded by: Chairman McVeigh to approve the November 18, 2020 minutes. Motion approved, 5 to 0.

### **Reports:**

- a. **Treasurer's Report for November 2020:** Supervisor Morris motioned to approve, seconded by Supervisor Dea, that the Board approve the November 2020 Treasurer's Report which includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$340,736.26; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$5,512.38; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,330.74; the Capital Reserve Fund with disbursements of \$279,884.73; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$823,254.09. Motion was approved 5-0.
- b. **Zoning Officer Report:** Supervisor Auerbach reported that 14 permits were issued, and 31 inspection were performed in November 2020. \$3,740.90 in building fees and \$2,935.00 in Miscellaneous fees were collected. Four ongoing zoning issues reported which included: bamboo overgrowth on Duncan Lane, high grass on New London Road, and a Zoning violation at 3327 Appleton Road.
- c. **Planning Commission Report (PC):** The PC did not hold a meeting in November.
- d. **HARB/HC Reports:** The HARB/HC did not hold a meeting in December. Chairman Paul Lagasse reported the ongoing issues regarding 3327 Appleton Road. The HARB is waiting for permission for our engineer to inspect. The HARB will need to work through the review process and will need to make decisions based on information available. The HC is making progress with identifying the owner of Church Hill Road African Methodist Cemetery. At this time, they feel the property is abandoned.

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- e. Park, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Board: Chairman Sachs of the PRO provided an update of the PRO's December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: multiple initiatives were discussed. Plans for the design of the Healing Garden are being discussed by the PRO with assistance from Danilo Maffie Landscape Design. Input from the Board is welcome. The Landscape Designer will be submitting a proposal for design services. The Banffshire bridge foundation has been installed as per the engineer design along with a temporary trail to walk around the construction area. The owner of the Auburn Road property is interested in exploring the possibility of preserving their property and they were referred to Natural Lands Trust. The PRO Board is assisting the owner through this process. A Motion will be added to the next BOS Meeting to approve the transition of the land (located on the south side of the gardens towards the road) to a meadow to allow for a once-a-year mowing. This initiative should lower mowing costs, assist with stormwater, and improve vegetation and the habitat. A proposal to increase the number of Pickle Ball courts has been forwarded to the PRO Board for discussion along with a list of other priorities for Crossan Park.
- f. Comprehensive Plan Task Force: Chair Nan Latimer did not attend the BOS meeting but reported that there were no significant updates, and everything is as scheduled.
- g. Franklin Township Sportsman's Association (FSA): Jim German gave a brief update to the Board. Shotgun and Archery Season is officially closed and will open again on December 26<sup>th</sup> – January 23<sup>rd</sup> as Franklin Township is part of the extended season due to the deer population. There were no issues or concerns with hunting, 10 deer were harvested. No service projects this month due to hunting season being open.

### **Business:**

- a. Lt. Nichole Palmer, Avondale State Police (ASP): Lt. Palmer provided a brief update to the Township stats from 2019 to 2020. Lt. Palmer indicated that ASP does patrol checks for each Township. As expected, the stats have been going down due to COVID. However, thefts did go up in Franklin Township from 15-18 for 2020. In addition, there are domestic security checks on schools as well as house checks if requested.
- b. Lexington Point: Vice Chair Gerstenhaber motioned, seconded by Supervisor Dea that the Board approve a Submission of the Part II Permit Amendment to DEP, for Lexington Pointe, condition on pending review and approval of changes by AECOM including the addition of the in-line pH sensor and a recorder be added to the design to Part II Permit Amendment. Motion was approved 5 to 0.
- c. Hess Mill Bridge: Supervisor Auerbach gave a brief update on the Hess Mill Bridge project. The project was completed on time except for the guardrails. The guardrails are expected to be on December 18<sup>th</sup> (this date has been changed to December 21<sup>st</sup> due to the weather). Once the guardrails are installed, the bridge will be open to the public. The final wear coat for the road will be applied in the spring of 2021. A formal announcement of the opening will be made on the Franklin Township website and on Facebook page.
- d. Franklin Township 2021 Final Budget Resolution: Supervisor Morris made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Gerstenhaber to approve Resolution 2020-21 for the 2021 Final Budget Approval. Motion was approved 5 to 0.

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- e. Franklin Township Tax Levy: Supervisor Dea made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Morris to approve Resolution 2020-22 for the 2021 Tax Levy, setting the Township Tax Rate for 2021 (same rate as 2020). Motion was approved 5 to 0.
- f. Franklin Township Fire Hydrant Tax Rate: Supervisor Auerbach made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Gerstenhaber to approve Resolution 2020-23 Fire Hydrant Resolution setting the tax rate at \$36.00 (same rate as 2020) for households who live within 750' of a fire hydrant. Motion was approved 5 to 0.
- g. Franklin Township Office Part-Time Secretary: Vice Chair Gerstenhaber discussed with the Board the next step for the advertisement and the staffing of the part-time secretary role. It was agreed to place the advertisement as soon as possible. Manager McVaugh will start the process on Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- h. 2021 Interim Road & Maintenance Contract: Vice Chair Gerstenhaber motioned and seconded by Supervisor Dea to award the 2021 Interim Road & Maintenance Contract to Yardworks. Motion approved 5 to 0.
- i. 2021 Road Program Evaluation Process: Chair McVeigh discussed the process for an agreed outline for the Road Program Evaluation/Education with the Board and Engineer Ron Ragan. Informational Meeting will be scheduled for January and a public meeting will be held in February and in March.
- j. 2021 January Meeting Schedule Advertisement: Supervisor Auerbach motioned and seconded by Supervisor Dea to approve the Advertisement for the January 2021 Meeting Schedule. Motion was approved 5 to 0. Dates and times of the meetings in January can be found on the FT website.

**Public Comment:**

No public Comment.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Opromolla, Township Secretary