

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

July 9, 2019

5:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER - Present were Mr. Junko, Mr. Sabot, Mr. Passalacqua and Solicitor Michael Cruny.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER – by Rev. Erik Hoeke, Avery Methodist Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****MOTION to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting**, was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

****MOTION to file the Treasurer's Report for future Audit** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

BILL APPROVAL AND CHECK SIGNING

****MOTION to approve total bills and check signing** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Motion unanimously carried.

BUILDING PERMITS – Erin Dinch read the June report which included six (6) building permits totaling \$2896.63

GUESTS - None

OLD BUSINESS

1. ****MOTION to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 2019 – Volunteer Service Credit Program** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
2. ****MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 2 of 2019 – Amendment to Chapter 13, Part 1 - Transient Merchant License** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
3. ****MOTION to accept Municbid winning bid in the amount of \$6,300.00 for the 2007 Dodge RAM 1500 SLT 4 x 4 Pickup Truck** was made by Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

4. ****MOTION to accept Woltz & Wind Ford, Inc. COSTARS bid in the amount of \$67,650 for a 2019 Ford F-350 XL 4 x 4 Pickup Truck with Snow Plow upfit** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
5. **Kennywood Ticket Update-** Secretary/Treasurer Jackie Kotchman advised that to date the Township has sold 376 tickets and will be ordering 50 more this week.
6. **2019 Street Sign Replacement Project-**Director of Planning & Zoning, Erin Dinch advised that Chemung would be delivering the posts this week and the street signs were scheduled to be shipped out Monday, July 15th.
7. **Savvy Citizen App Update-**Director of Planning & Zoning, Erin Dinch advised that the Savvy Citizen advertisement road signs were posted throughout the Township and informational cards were available at the Township office. She explained that there was a direct link on the App to the Township calendar. She said non-profits can advertise their events on the calendar App for free.
8. **Chartiers Creek/Army Corps of Engineers Update-**Mr. Junko advised that the Township would be doing a walkthrough next week with the Army Corps of Engineers and County Commissioner Harlan Shober to address flood situations that exist in the Township. Mr. Junko also recommended that the Secretary/Treasurer escrow money each month into the Chartiers Creek Fund for future projects.
****MOTION to escrow \$5000.00 per month to the Chartiers Creek Fund for future projects** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
9. **Holiday Hills Update-**Mr. Junko advised that the Township has met with Columbia Gas and they are delaying their scheduled projects for Holiday Hills which in turn will delay the Townships plan to pave those roads. He explained that most of the Columbia Gas work was going to take place on private property and not the roads. He said they would be upgrading their gas lines.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ****MOTION to advertise an Ordinance establishing a Volunteer Service Credit Program to implement Act 172 of 2016** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Director of Planning & Zoning, Erin Dinch explained that in the Ordinance passed at the beginning of the year the Service Credit was only for firefighters. The new Ordinance will include social members who fundraise for the Volunteer Fire Company.

2. ****MOTION to advertise an amendment to the Section 1205(G) of the Township Zoning Ordinance-Temporary Political Signs** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sabot advised that the amendment would allow political signs to be posted 4 weeks prior to an election and 2 weeks to remove the signs after the election. He also said a deposit fee would be charged (\$25 local candidates and \$50 for all others) prior to the signs being posted and returned if all the signs are removed 2 weeks after the election.

3. ****MOTION to sign agreements for the winning bidders for On-Call Construction Equipment** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Junko explained that this would allow for more in-house work to be done.

4. ****MOTION to Repeal the High-Powered Rifle Ordinance No. 2 of 1973** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

Solicitor Michael Cruny advised that State law supersedes Municipal law allowing the use of high-powered rifles in the Township. The old Ordinance forbid any use of high-powered rifles and therefore is being repealed.

5. ****MOTION to approve filing applications for Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Grants** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

Erin Dinch, Director of Planning & Zoning, advised that the Township was filing for two grants, one for \$10,795.58 and one for \$20,741.16. The projects include a bridge on McElree that needs cleaned out and banks repaired and a culvert where McElree and Scenic Drive intersect that needs cleaned out and shored up.

6. ****MOTION to authorize the Township Engineer to get quotes for Cleveland Road curb installation** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

7. ****MOTION to advertise for a fulltime Pubic Works/Road Crew employee** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

STATE POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Jeremy Barni of the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Investigative Unit for Troop B advised that once the State Police take over a Township, they try to get out to the Township meetings once or twice a year. A resident of North Franklin Township, Sergeant Barni is concerned about it. He reported that since January 1st, 2019, the State Police have responded to 666 calls. This included thirty-one (31) theft calls, nine (9) criminal mischief, three (3) burglaries, sixteen (16) DUI arrests, eight (8) drug arrests, twenty (20) assaults (including the shooting at the theatre), forty-seven (47) crashes (including Interstate), one hundred forty-five

and (145) traffic stops. He said the State Police were trying to get in the Township as much as possible. He said Canton Township is their busiest township in Washington County and they are there frequently so its an easy response time. He said Canton Township has its own car and North Franklin Township shares a car with South Franklin.

Mr. Sabot asked Mr. Barni if there was anything the Supervisors should be concerned about. Mr. Barni responded that he didn't think so. He said he could go back and compare the former police department's numbers with the State numbers but that he didn't see an increase in anything since they have taken over. He also said that compared to Canton, North Franklin Township is a slow Township. He advised that the mall increases the number of calls. Mr. Junko asked Mr. Barni how the State Police manpower was currently. Mr. Barni advised him that the State Police are down 400-500 troopers. He said he felt Washington County had good coverage and that they can reach out to other municipalities if needed.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Bane reported that for June 2019 the Fire Department had 30 calls including two (2) building fires, one (1) other, eight (8) medical assists, six (6) motor vehicle accidents, one (1) gasoline spill, one (1) gas leak, one (1) assist Police, two (2) public service, six (6) false alarms and one (1) flood assessment and one (1) call canceled in route. He stated that for the year to date they had 207 calls. They averaged 3 persons per call and the average response time from dispatch to arrival on scene was 9 minutes and 42 seconds.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Matt Malik of Harshman Group reported that there were 9 claims investigated. Two (2) trash and junk, three (3) high grass, two (2) vehicles and two (2) other. He reported on 871 Park Avenue. He said he listed the grass as cut in his report but it has not been cut. He said the Township could schedule the road crew to cut it and lien the property. Mr. Sabot said he sent Matt out to Fulton Street to check on a yard with shingles strewn around.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Michael Cruny advised that District Attorney, Gene Vitone has reached out to the detective that was overseeing the clean out of the evidence locker. He also explained that there was some action concerning the West Chestnut Street flooding. He said the Gas Station Gutman and Bob Evans have reached out to set up a meeting. He also said the Bond claim with Surety required additional documentation that he was sending to them.

SUPERVISOR JUNKO'S REPORT

Mr. Junko advised that they were going to move the Abitibi Paper Recycling bin to the triangle area on Park Ave which would make it safer. He also said the new fence would allow the road crew to lock the entrance gate to the road crew building.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT

Mr. Sabot advised that there is a similar stormwater case in Rostraver Township regarding a sinkhole. He said Rostraver Township has stated that "it is a private matter between property owners and they will not get involved". He said the sinkhole is nearly 25 feet wide. He

emphasized that Townships cannot be responsible or take over something that is not theirs. He said the Township is trying to bring the property owners together but that one is not cooperating.

Mr. Sabot advised that he asked Harold and Erin to look into a complaint on Braddock. He was referring to a resident who is trying to put an access road on private property. He explained that an approval is needed from zoning as well as other permits before that could happen.

Mr. Sabot advised that there is also a problem on West Chestnut Street right before Denny's to the second traffic light with the turning lane. He has asked PennDot to put a solid white line all the way through the intersection to keep people in their lanes to avoid future accidents.

Mr. Sabot advised that he spent two days in arbitration with the Labor Attorney Phil Binotto in regards to Jerry Cavanaugh's thirty-day suspension that he received in 2018. He said the ruling should be out by October. He explained there are approximately 12 outstanding grievances from 2016, 2017 and 2018. He said the Township Labor Attorney advised them to get an arbitrator. He said the former police officers' position is that the Township still owes them \$118,000 based on sick and vacation days for 2019. He said they are basing this on 12-hour shifts as opposed to the Collective Bargaining Agreement that clearly states it should be based on an 8-hour shifts. He said the police were also not going to let the Township out of the no sub-contracting clause which runs through the end of 2020. He said the Township was not willing to discuss anything until they are released from the no sub-contracting clause. He said the Township was not going to be held hostage.

SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA'S REPORT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Richard Haskey of 60 Milbeck Drive advised that the culvert by Foodland has ivy growing out of it. He said he had reported it previously. He was concerned that the ivy would get into the cracks of the bridge and fill with water and freeze to cause additional damage. He also said there is a lot of trash near the Foodland entrance and high brush. He explained that coyotes have been seen in the area where the elderly walk and that kids are starting fires in the area. He said coyotes are coming down from the golf course and he can shoot them from his porch. Mr. Junko said he would have Matt from Harshman discuss it with him.
2. Kevin Songer of 200 East Canyon Drive said that the road needs paved. He advised that if the Township would bring the road up to Township specifications then they would take it over. Mr. Sabot said there were several property owners abutting the road. Mr. Songer said the road is in very bad shape and it needs paved before winter. Mr. Sabot advised that the Township is interested in abandoning it but that the Township would not pave it completely. He said if the Township agrees to tar and chip it and then abandon it, it would be up to the property owners to take over it from there.

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.**

The Supervisor's returned from executive session.

****MOTION to adjourn was made at 6:10 pm by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Junko, Chairman



Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer