

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
MEETING MINUTES**

**September 10, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER** - Present were Mr. Junko, Mr. Sabot, Mr. Passalacqua and Solicitor Gary Sweat.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPENING PRAYER** – by Pastor Fred McClosky, Calvary Baptist Church

**ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS** – None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**\*\*MOTION to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019 meeting** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**BILL APPROVAL AND CHECK SIGNING**

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

**BUILDING PERMITS** – Erin Dinch reported that there were zero (0) building permits for August 2019.

**COLUMBIA GAS UPDATE**

Joe Gordon, Front-Line Leader for Columbia Gas, advised that the Dewey Avenue Project was moving along well. He said they were currently in the Trinity Park area and they would be laying a main line on Biltmore. He advised staying out of Dewey Avenue as there was a lot of work going on there. He said the Holiday Hills plan was the main focus right now with 4 main line crews working there. Mr. Sabot said they were still on schedule for an October 15<sup>th</sup> completion. Mr. Junko advised that the Supervisors were still meeting with Columbia Gas representatives weekly. Carlton, from Columbia Gas Restoration, explained that their job crew was responsible for repairing driveways, road crossings and yards. Scott from Columbia Gas advised that the Park Lane neighborhood clean-up should be completed by Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sabot noted that although the Township Supervisors were really hard on Columbia Gas after the explosion, he commended them on their work so far.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **\*\*MOTION to hire Andrew Moore to fill the Public Works/Road Crew position with a start date of October 7, 2019 subject to conditions of the Teamsters 585 Collective Bargaining Agreement** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
2. **\*\*MOTION to award the lowest bidder for the Cleveland Road Curb Project in the amount of \$8,650.00 to Ten Mile Paving, LLC.** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
3. **West Chestnut Street Update-**Solicitor Gary Sweat advised that everyone was waiting for confirmation that there is no breakage or obstruction from the Bob Evans property onto the Rite Aid property. He said it has been confirmed there is a breakage at a certain location on the Rite Aid property. He said the purpose of looking at the line from the Bob Evans property was to isolate where the problem is. He explained that Gutman is prepared to proceed on making repairs but needs to deal with Rite Aid and their legal counsel. He said once those results are in it would be decided if a Public Nuisance would be filed.
4. **2019 Street Sign Replacement Project Update-** Todd Lanch from the Road Department advised that the new street signs were about 60% complete. He advised that the Lincoln Hill, Sassafras area, and Gabby area are done (except for McJ). He said the next section would be Bellview and Zelt area, then McElree and Webb and finally Holiday Hills and Nokomis Park once the Gas Company was finished with their work.
5. **\*\*MOTION to accept lowest quote to tar and chip Canyon Road in the amount of \$9,850.00** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.
6. **\*\*MOTION to table Canyon Road Abandonment** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **\*\*MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 11 of 2019 closing three non-interest-bearing accounts from Community Bank and transferring them to three interest bearing accounts with Washington Financial Bank including Bond Fund (\$2534.20), Chartiers Creek Fund (\$1,877.46) and Sewage Escrow Fund (\$1,031.44)** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

## **ORDINANCES**

1. **\*\*MOTION to advertise a Quality of Life Ticketing Ordinance** was made by Mr. Sabot seconded by Mr. Passalacqua;. Unanimously carried.
2. **\*\*MOTION to authorize Sweat Law Offices to finalize the draft of the following Ordinance Amendments and send to the Planning Commission for review** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
  - a. **No-Impact Home Businesses**
  - b. **Political Sign Permits**
  - c. **Non-Tower Wireless Communication**
  - d. **Food Truck**
3. **\*\*MOTION to advertise a No-Parking during Snow Ordinance which also appoints a Road Crew employee as an Assistant Code Enforcement Officer for the purposes of issuing tickets when there is a violation to the Ordinance** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **\*\*MOTION to approve the 2020 MMO's (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for Police, Road Crew and Municipal Pensions** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.
2. **\*\*MOTION to raise Erin Dinch's hourly rate to \$21.64 per hour effective October 7, 2019** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.
3. **\*\*MOTION to set Trick or Treat for Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 5:30-7:00 pm** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.
4. **\*\*MOTION to advertise and set Leaf Pick-up for Monday through Friday throughout October and November 2019** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.
5. **\*\*MOTION to advertise Township Budget Workshop (s) at a date and time to be determined** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.
6. **Discuss refinancing General Obligation Bond Series of 2013-** Solicitor Gary Sweat advised that he has been meeting with investment bankers and bond council for various Townships he represents because bond rates are very low right now. He said most Townships are refinancing their bond issues at a significant savings. He explained that based on their review of the Township's bond structure, Community

Bank could offer tax free borrowing at 2.4%. He advised that this would reduce the December payment by \$50,000.00, pay off the existing bond issue, and at the direction of the board, borrow an additional \$700,000.00 to be escrowed for a new Township building. If the money is not used, it can be paid back. He said it would be a 12-year loan.

**\*\*MOTION to authorize Joe Muscatello, of Boenning and Scattergood, to serve as a placement agent for the Township regarding the bond refinancing** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

7. **Discuss Street Sweeper-** Mr. Sabot advised that the residents of the Township like to have the streets cleaned. He said they need to sell it while its still running. Todd Lanch said the shell is not in as good as shape as the truck. Mr. Sabot recommended getting a new street sweeper, going in with another Township to share one, or renting a street sweeper. Erin Dinch said you could rent one with a driver for \$3,000.00 per week.

**\*\*MOTION to sell the 1998 Eglin Street Sweeper on Municibids** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

#### **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Bane was not present. Lisa Quinn asked if anyone would help the Volunteer Fire Company on Halloween Trick or Treat? She said they would need flares. Mr. Junko said the Road Crew would supply flares and help out that night.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

Matt Malik of Harshman Group reported that there were eighteen (18) claims investigated. Seven (7) trash and junk, five (5) high grass, one (1) vehicle and five (5) other. He advised they had a hearing for 10 Greenhill coming up, but it was extended for 30 days. Mr. Junko asked about the abandoned house on Franklin Farms Road. Matt advised that they have been trying for a year to locate an owner. Solicitor Sweat said you could execute the lien, have a Sheriff's sale, get the deed and sell the property and recoup the cost. He said they would have to talk about it. Mr. Sabot said they were checking into someone dumping materials on Cumberland Avenue. Mr. Sabot also wanted Matt to check out garbage being dumped at 5 Milbeck. Matt said they would be filing citations.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Gary Sweat advised that the final hearing on the Police grievance is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Union Hall in White Oak. Mr. Sweat advised that Guttman Oil and Bob Evans are prepared to file a private nuisance complaint against Rite Aid if it's not resolved by the end of the month. He also explained that Michael Cruny was working on the mistakes made on the LERTA properties. He then advised that there is renewed interest in the former PA American property by the dams being developed. He said it was spearheaded by Alex Paris. He said CONSOL was done with the water for fracking and that the dams should fill back up. Mr. Sweat said he was meeting with Alex Paris tomorrow. He said the moratorium on sewer taps wouldn't

change until a pump station was built. He said he would be meeting with PA American, CONSOL and others to help solve the sewage issues and put together a comprehensive report.

#### **SUPERVISOR JUNKO'S REPORT**

None

#### **SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT**

Mr. Sabot advised that if the Crown Center Mall is at its max with stores, it becomes the largest employer in the Township. He said the Supervisors are requesting to meet with the mall owners or at least the Mall Manager, Civil Knox. He said the loss of Macy's, Bonton and Sears and the bad condition of the building is hurting the Township

#### **SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA'S REPORT**

None

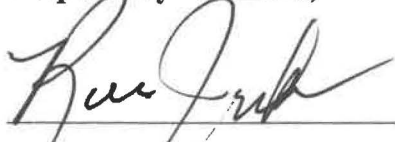
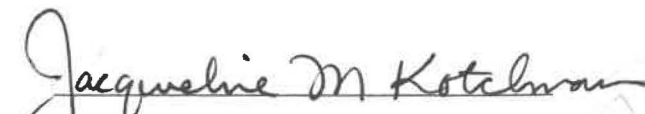
#### **PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Bob McGowen requested an update on the Police Arbitration issues. Mr. Sweat stated that the Cavanaugh hearing had been concluded and the Township was waiting for a decision from the arbitrator.
2. Richard Haskey of Milbeck said it was the second time in 11 years he saw the street sweeper being used and he appreciated it.
3. Keith Loughman of McElree said he asked a year ago about the Township cleaning out a culvert on McElree. Erin Dinch explained that the Township has applied for a dirt and gravel grant to be able to fix it correctly using wing walls, etc.... She said they are waiting to hear about the grants.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters and to adjourn** was made by Mr. Sabot at 6:00 pm; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ron Junko, Vice-Chairman  
Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer