

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
MEETING MINUTES**

**October 8, 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 Dr. Michael Roach, Trinity Bible Fellowship

**ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA** – Canyon Drive

**PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS** – None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**\*\*MOTION to approve the minutes of the September 10, 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. Unanimously carried.

**BUILDING PERMITS**

Erin Dinch reported that there were three (3) building permits for September 2019 for \$2539.25.

**GUESTS**

Sean Garin of Dinsmore & Shoul, LLP and Joe Muscatello of Boenning & Scattergood, discussed refinancing the Township's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2013. Mr. Muscatello explained that the 2013 Bonds could be refinanced at a new rate of 2.425% while borrowing additional monies for future projects. He said the Township would save about \$50,000 initially on this year's current bond payment and the term of the loan would still mature in 2032. He advised that the additional \$1,145,000.00 would cost the Township an additional \$100,000.00 per year for a debt service total of \$305,000.00.

Mr. Garin advised that once Community Bank gives a commitment, the Township could move forward and officially approve the transaction and accept the commitment at a Special Meeting.

### **COLUMBIA GAS UPDATE**

Scott Waitlevertch, External Affairs Coordinator, Columbia Gas, advised that all the pipeline and service line replacement has been completed for the Dewey Avenue Project. He explained that they were in the final phases of restoration, including yards and sidewalks. He added that they were in the process of paving Dewey within the next two weeks. He said they would work with the Township on any final restoration issues. Bob Sabot advised that he took a drive through the work area on Sunday and felt that the job at Trinity Park was outstanding. He recognized Columbia Gas for their cooperation and their donation of \$25,000 to the Volunteer Fire Company.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Sycamore Reserve Street Dedication**-Solicitor Michael Cruny advised that Sycamore Reserve Developer Lewis Keith would like to turn over the Roads to the Township. He said the Township still needed an official survey and the deed to the property.

**\*\*MOTION to accept Conditional approval for the Deed of Dedication for Sycamore Reserve roads subject to final confirmation of satisfied requirements by the Engineer, and approval and review by the Township Solicitor, to include wording that Lewis Keith pay any fees and recording costs due** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Keith advised that there were 240 residents living in Sycamore Reserve which have generated over \$700,000.00 in wage taxes, \$200,000.00 in Real Estate taxes, \$150,000.00 in building permit fees, \$150,000.00 in realty transfer taxes for North Franklin Township and 1.35 million in transfer taxes and school taxes for Trinity. He said there are 85 completed homes with 15 more to go.

2. **West Chestnut Street Update-Public Nuisance Discussion**- Chairman Ron Junko explained that Bob Evans and Marathon were supposed to do a camera inspection but it hasn't been completed. Discussions proceeded about filing a Public Nuisance. Solicitor Cruny advised that there is a collapse about 100 feet in on the Franklin Farms side under the Rite Aid property.

**\*\*MOTION to file a Public Nuisance against Rite Aid landowners and to notify Steve Marriner, Rite Aid's legal counsel, of the citation** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

3. **2019 Street Sign Replacement Project Update**- Todd Lanch from the Road Department advised that there were only 10 more signs left to be installed in the Greenhill/McElree area. He added that they would also order signs for Sycamore Reserve and out at the mall. He said Leaf Pick-Up has started. He also advised that PennDOT would be replacing the Rt 18 bridge by Scotty's in 2022 and would allow one lane traffic each way.

## **ORDINANCES**

1. **\*\*MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 4 of 2019 Parking and Snow Removal Ordinance** was made by Mr. Passalacqua seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
2. **\*\*MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 5 of 2019 Quality of Life Improvement Ordinance** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
3. **\*\*MOTION to advertise the following Ordinances amendments; No-Impact Home Business, Political Sign Permits, Non-Tower Wireless Communication and Food Truck Ordinance** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
4. **Canyon Drive Abandonment-** Solicitor Michael Cruny advised that Canyon Drive needs a lot of work including drainage. He explained that the Township received an estimate for \$9850.00 to tar and chip the roadway. He said one of the residents had an issue with tar and chip and wanted regular paving done. Mr. Passalacqua advised that the double tar and chip that was quoted is a very good quality paving job. Mr. Cruny advised that the Township can abandon the roadway and individuals could file objections. He said the discussions that were had with the homeowner's attorney was that the Township would give the homeowners the \$9850.00 and if they wanted paving instead, they could pay the difference. However, the Township would no longer maintain the road and would move forward with the abandonment with an agreement that anyone who had objections would no longer object. The adjoining property owners would then own to the center of the road. In addition, the attorney would request that the Township withdraw any claims it has for Oil & Gas interest underlying the road.

**\*\*MOTION to make an offer of \$9850.00 to the Canyon Drive homeowners** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

**\*\*MOTION to move forward with the Canyon Drive abandonment procedure and to advertise and set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **\*\*MOTION to advertise an Ordinance electing to amend the Non-Uniform Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law updating and restating the Pension Plan onto IRS Tax qualified documents** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

2. **\*\*MOTION to approve a 12-month extension of the Conditional Use approval granted to Sprague Operating on April 10, 2019** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

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

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Quinn reported there were 34 calls for the month of September including one (1) fire other, one (1) vehicle fire, five (5) medical assists, one (1) gas leak, two (2) service calls, three (3) stand-by, three (3), six (6) canceled in route, one (1) wrong location, one (1) smoke scare, one (1) EMS call, five (5) false alarms and one (1) special incident. Mr. Sabot voiced concerns about the man power of the department. Mr. Quinn advised that the turn out for calls was low and response per call was low. He also said they advertise in their newsletter and through the school for recruitment.

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

The Harshman Group Code Enforcement Officers were not present as they were attending a training seminar.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Michael Cruny advised that Pennsylvania American Water emailed him stating that they would be getting in touch about a meeting to discuss the remaining property by the existing water company building.

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

None

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

Mr. Sabot advised that Erin Dinch has set up a meeting with the Supervisors and representatives of the Crown Center Mall next week. He said the Supervisors are concerned with the loss of stores at the mall and want to know what their plans are going forward. He said the Township is interested in improving the condition of the closed bridge off of Franklin Farms Road. He advised that the Supervisors are still meeting with Columbia Gas every Thursday for updates on the Township Gas replacement line projects. Mr. Sabot gave an update on the Police arbitration concerning a former police officer's appeal of a 30-day suspension. He said they are waiting for a ruling. He said there was another arbitration which questioned how the Township determined paid-out sick days and vacation.

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

None


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


1. Bob McGowen of McElree Road questioned why the Township was in a situation with the former Police Department. Discussion ensued about various Township issues.
2. Don Foringer of McElree Road complained about an abandoned house at 640 McElree Road which abuts his property. He said it has been empty for 4 years. Discussion ensued about its history and condition. Mr. Sabot asked if it needed to be condemned and recommended Code Enforcement to check into it again.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters and to adjourn** was made by Mr. Passalacqua at 6:01 pm; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

**Respectfully submitted,**

  
**Ron Junko, Vice-Chairman**

  
**Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer**