

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

February 11, 2020

5:30 pm

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER – by Reverend Carl Sprowls

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Sabot added the Conditional approval of the Haynes Estate Subdivision No. 2 contingent on the list of items specified by Widmer Engineering to No. 6 under New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS -None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Mr. Quinn abstained. Motion carried.

****MOTION to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

GUESTS - None

BILL APPROVAL AND CHECK SIGNING

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

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there was one (1) building permit totaling \$2359.50.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **West Chestnut Street Update-** Mr. Sweat advised that the Township has been in touch with attorneys of Bob Evans and Guttman Oil and they are deciding on how they want to proceed. They understand that this is a private civil action between them and the owners of Rite-Aid. Mr. Sweat said he expects them to file an action to ask the Judge to intervene. Mr. Sabot added that this has been going on for a few years and the Township has no standing in this matter. He also thanked former County Commissioner, Harlan Shober, for his work on stream and flooding issues. Mr. Shober advised that in September the Corp of Engineers design study will be released and actions should follow.
2. **Blighted Properties-** Jarrod D'Amico of Harshman Group advised the Board that they created a packet listing all the blighted properties previously discussed. He said the house at 484 Franklin Farms has been sold. Mr. Sabot advised him to meet with Erin Dinch to go over the properties and report back to the Supervisors with any actions to be taken.
3. **New Township Building Update –** Mr. Sabot advised that the Supervisors have looked at various sites to build. He said they have asked for proposals on core borings at the site located on Franklin Farms Road behind the old water company building. He said they would continue to analyze sites to determine the best possible area in relation to flooding and the Rec Authority parks already in place. He advised that the Recreation and Business Improvement Authority would be closing down at the end of 2020 and approximately \$500,000 will roll back into the General Fund for recreational purposes around the new township building.
4. **Sewage Tap Update - None**
5. **Police Arbitration Opinion Award and Effects Bargaining -**Mr. Sabot advised that this was the last of the grievances/lawsuits as far as the Board is aware. Mr. Sweat advised that he and Mr. Binotto were extremely pleased with the decision. He said the decision could not be released until the appeal period (30 days) is over.

****MOTION to accept the Police Arbitration Opinion Award between Teamsters Local 205 and North Franklin Township dated February 1, 2020 was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

ORDINANCES

****MOTION to advertise an Ordinance declaring certain Trees, Shrubbery or Brush as nuisances and providing penalties for failure to abate was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

Erin Dinch explained that at the last meeting the Shade Tree Commission Ordinance was repealed, and the new Ordinance will require residents to cut any trees or shrubbery back if it hangs in the Pubic Right-of-Way and/or poses any danger.

RESOLUTIONS

****MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution No. 6 of 2020 – Establishing the Eligibility Criteria under the Volunteer Service Credit Program Pursuant to ACT 172 of 2016 was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. ****MOTION to approve Kennywood ticket purchase and for Township Residents to receive a discount with the Township paying \$6 per ticket and residents paying \$20 per ticket was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
2. ****MOTION to donate \$1000.00 to Lincoln Heights Community Park/Playground was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.**
3. ****MOTION to approve a Wild Things Township Day for Saturday, August 1st which includes a reserved seat and a hot dog, chips & drink for a ticket cost of \$20; Residents will pay \$10 per ticket and the Township will pay \$10 per ticket; the Wild Things will donate \$10 per ticket to the North Franklin Volunteer Fire Company, was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
4. ****MOTION to authorize Widmer Engineering to prepare the Act 537 Plan at an estimated fee of \$40,000.00 was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

Mr. Sweat advised that in order for the Township to proceed with any development in the Township, the sewage systems would need to be upgraded to allow for more sewer taps. He said there is interest from a number of developers and investment groups that are looking at developing the Dam property area. He advised that current owner, CNX was looking to liquidate and sell the property. He said the Act 537 plan studies watersheds, pump stations, etc.... and is essential before any sewage development can take place.

5. ****MOTION to set Township Clean-Up Day for Saturday, April 25th from 10am to 2 pm was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.**
6. **** MOTION to approve the Haynes Estate Subdivision No. 2 contingent upon the developer satisfying the review comments and conditions set forth by the Township Engineer, Rich Rush in his email dated February 10, 2020 was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Dave Bane reported that for January 2020 they had one (1) cooking fire, one (1) chimney fire, five (5) medical assists, three (3) motor vehicle accidents, four (4) false alarms, six (6) other incidents for a total of twenty (20) calls. He advised that there were eight (8) calls less than January of 2019. He said they averaged four (4) persons per call with an average response time of eight (8) minutes per call.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Jarrold D'Amico of Harshman Group advised that stream behind Taco Bell had been cleaned up. In addition, he said there were some complaints about 151 Thorne and potential squatters but it was determined that there were none. The taxes are paid and the property is in good shape. He said the tents from the American Legion property have been removed. He advised that he and Matt Malik have put together a detailed report for the Supervisors on known blight properties and he would meet with Erin in regards to them. He reported there was one magisterial hearing for commercial vehicles and the offender was found guilty.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sweat advised that there were new bidding threshold requirements for 2020:
\$0-\$11,300 – Township may deal with a single customer service provider
\$11,300 - \$21,000 -Requires at least three (3) written or telephone quotes
\$21,000 and over- Must be advertised according to Township Code

Mr. Sweat advised that the Recreation & Business Improvement Authority paid off the Community Bank Mortgage balance in full in January 2020 so they have no debt. He said the only thing left for them to do is collect the 2020 assessments for the school district then the Rec Authority will cease operations by December 31, 2020. He estimated there to be about \$600,000 to be turned over to the Township at years end.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT - Mr. Sabot advised that the \$600,000 from the Recreation & Business Improvement Authority will be earmarked for recreation purposes in the Township. In addition, Mr. Sabot advised that he will be undergoing EMC (Emergency Management Coordinator) training in March to ensure the Township has the proper leadership during an emergency crisis situation.

SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT – None

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Robert McGowan of 724 ½ McElree Road discussed his approval of the Township's handling of the Police Arbitration issues. He also reminded the board to look into growing hemp to help support the Volunteer Fire Company. In addition, he discussed the Convention of States Project, a national effort to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution to impose term limits on its officials and members of Congress.

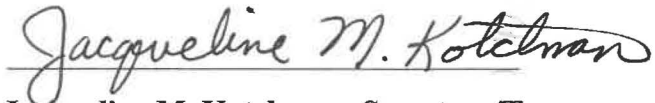
ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION to recess for the Columbia Gas Presentation then return to Executive Session to discuss legal matters and to adjourn** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn.
Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Sabot, Chairman



Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer