

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

March 10, 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 Eric Hoeke, Avery United Methodist Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA -None

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 11, 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. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. 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 were two (2) building permits totaling \$321.00.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. West Chestnut Street Update-** Mr. Sabot advised that there is a meeting being held March 11, 2020 at 10:00 am with the property owners involved and their attorneys. He said Guttman Oil had threatened a lawsuit against the owner of the Rite Aid property and that has created more cooperation from Rite Aid.

2. ****MOTION to authorize Harshman LLC to consult with Sweat Law Offices and proceed with the steps to obtain bids and demolish any and all properties meeting the guidelines for demolition in the Township** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
3. ****MOTION to approve the water company property located on Franklin Farms Road as the tentative site for the new Township building pursuant to meeting engineer specifications** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
4. ****MOTION to accept and award the bid for the 2020 Township Road Project to A. Folino Construction, Oakmont PA in the amount of \$307,700 for the base bid plus, alternates 1 and 2** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sabot advised the project would include the Holiday Hills Plan and Greenhill Drive.

5. ****MOTION to authorize Widmer Engineering to prepare and advertise bid documents for the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Project on McElree Road** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
6. ****MOTION to advertise the Double Tar & Chip Seal Coat Project for McElree Road and East Canyon Drive as prepared by PennDOT Municipal Services** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

ORDINANCES - None

RESOLUTIONS

****MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 7 of 2020 – Authorizing Erin Dinch, Director of Planning and Development, to complete and sign grant documents for the Township’s Application to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Erin Dinch advised that the grant is for planning of the Park which will tie into the existing park and include areas around the new Township building. She explained it requires a 50% match and that the Township would utilize funds being turned over by the Recreation and Business Improvement Authority for the match.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ****MOTION for the Township to join the Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$300.00** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

2. ****MOTION to approve a Road Maintenance Agreement and Resolution, if required, with South Franklin Township** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Erin Dinch advised that the very end of Vankirk Road (the majority of which is located in our Township) that meets Route 18 belongs to South Franklin and 1/10 of a mile of Moore Road (the majority of which is located in South Franklin) belongs to North Franklin. We maintain snow removal and pothole filling on their section of Vankirk and they do the same for Moore Road. The agreement would state that we would pave our portion of Vankirk Road down to the bridge and they would pave the bottom part on the other side of the bridge. It would also confirm that the bridge belongs to South Franklin. It also confirms that we will reimburse South Franklin for the cost of tar & chipping our portion of Moore Road. Mr. Sweat advised that the Township may need a Resolution, so approval of a Resolution, if needed, was included in the vote.

3. ****MOTION to advertise an Ordinance amending the Township Zoning Ordinance to define Mini Warehouses or Self-Storage Facilities; Light Manufacturing and Light Manufacturing (High Technology Industries); to provide for said uses in the Master Overlay District, Planned Economic Development District and Industrial District subject to certain Regulations within the Township** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sweat advised that this amendment is directed at some new development that looks very promising for the Washington Crown Center. He said there were groups interesting in developing new uses for both Macy's and Sears. He said the uses they are interested in aren't listed for that zoning district. He said one of the companies could possibly employ 200-250 people as a tenant and the other company was interested in indoor storage. He said if Macy's was sold it could also provide additional monies as Realty Transfer Tax, an increase in tax assessment and job creation.

4. ****MOTION to forward the above-mentioned Zoning Ordinance Amendment to the Township Planning Commission for review and to set and advertise a public hearing date on Tuesday, April 14th at 5:15 pm** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
5. ****MOTION to authorize Widmer Engineering to inspect the closed Mall Bridge once an easement is granted so the Township can proceed with plans to open the bridge up to pedestrian traffic and design a beautification restoration plan for it** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
6. **** MOTION to appoint Laura Keisling as the exclusive collector of the Mercantile Taxes in North Franklin Township** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - None

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Jarrold D'Amico of Harshman Group advised that he had created a list of blighted properties that needed attention and came up with a punch list and sent notices out on them. He said they had a complaint about chickens in an R-2 district and a zoning notice went out to that resident. He reported they had ten (10) total complaints, including five (5) for trash and junk, one (1) for vehicles, three (3) for structures and one (1) other. He said there are no hearings scheduled at this time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sweat advised that the arbitration decision on the Police Department is final and the Union did not file an appeal. He said the Union attorney approved the final numbers for the owed vacation pay. He said if someone wants the report it would only be released under a Right-to-Know request filed with the Township. Mr. Sweat also advised the Board that Governor Wolf was seeking legislation that would require every township to make a payment to the State for State Police protection even if you had your own police department.

****MOTION to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to pay the former police officers monies owed to them for vacation pay per the Arbitrators decision and the amount agreed upon by Legal Counsel, the Township and the Union's attorney was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.**

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT - Mr. Sabot advised that tax notices were going out the week of March 16th and that he has completed his first Emergency Management Coordinator class at the 911 center. He said Census forms were also going out next week. He advised that the most recent information on the COVID-19 Coronavirus was up on our website. Mr. Sabot said the Volunteer Fire Company was interested in participating in a pay-per-call agreement and that they would be meeting to finalize a plan. He said a check would be sent to the Fire Company quarterly and they would distribute the money to their members. He also recognized the Road Crew for all the work they have done to clean up the Township, especially picking up 90 bags of litter along the Township and State roads.

SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT – Mr. Quinn advised that everything the Board does is for the benefit of the Township residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

****MOTION to go into Executive Session at 6:11 pm to discuss legal and zoning matters was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

RECONVENED

The Board of Supervisors returned from Executive Session at 6:45 pm. The Board had a number of concerns and questions concerning a mini warehouse, self-storage facility in the Mall portion of the Township and is not willing at this point in time to move forward with an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that addresses mini warehouses or self-storage facilities. This brought forth the following motions:

****MOTION to retract Motion #3 under New Business, to advertise an Ordinance amending the Township Zoning Ordinance to define Mini Warehouses or Self-Storage Facilities; Light Manufacturing and Light Manufacturing (High Technology Industries); to provide for said uses in the Master Overlay District, Planned Economic Development District and Industrial District subject to certain Regulations within the Township was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

****MOTION to advertise an Ordinance amending the Township Zoning Ordinance to define Light Manufacturing and Light Manufacturing (High Technology Industries); to provide for said uses in the Master Overlay District, Planned Economic Development District and the Industrial District subject to certain Regulations within the Township was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.**

****MOTION to retract Motion #4 under New Business, to forward the above-mentioned Zoning Ordinance Amendment to the Township Planning Commission for review and to set and advertise a public hearing date on Tuesday, April 14th at 5:15 pm was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.**

****MOTION to forward the Zoning Ordinance Amendment amending the portion of the Zoning Ordinance that deals with Light Manufacturing and Light Manufacturing (High Technology Industries) to the Township Planning Commission for review and to set and advertise a public hearing date of Tuesday, April 14th at 5:15 pm was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Sabot, Chairman



Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer