

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

January 14, 2019

5:30 pm

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER – by Reverend Fred McCloskey, Calvary Baptist Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS -None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****MOTION to table approval of the minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting due to Mr. Passalacqua’s absence** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

****MOTION to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 Reorganization Meeting** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

BILL APPROVAL AND CHECK SIGNING

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

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were four (4) building permits totaling \$2970.00.

GUESTS - None

OLD BUSINESS

1. **West Chestnut Street Update-** Solicitor Gary Sweat advised that at the last meeting the parties reviewed Attorney Marriner’s settlement agreement. He explained that the agreement was not advantageous to the Township and that it should be discussed in

Executive Session. He said Mr. Cruny has had discussions with legal counsel for Guttman Oil and it looks as though the Township is not able to proceed against the offender under a nuisance theory as it was thrown out by the Magistrate because the Township does not have standing. He said the owners of Gutman Oil and Bob Evans do have standing because it is a private property issue. He said he encouraged Gutman Oil to file an action for an injunction from a local judge that would permit Gutman excavators to go under the property. He said our Engineers are quite certain that the problem is where the cave in is and if it gets fixed it will eliminate the problem. The difficulty is getting onto the property legally without an agreed upon easement or a court order. He believes that Gutman Oil may be inclined to do that and that our Engineer's testimony could help them.

****Motion to reject Steve Marriner's settlement proposal in its entirety** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

****Motion to authorize Sweat Law Offices to participate with Gutman Oil and Bob Evans legal counsel in the event that they decide to go into court for an emergency injunction to access the Rite Aid property to solve the problem** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

2. **Blighted Properties-** Jarrod D'Amico of Harshman Group advised they have been making a list of blighted properties in the Township which is attached in their report. In addition, 474 Franklin Farms and 640 McElree Road are abandoned, and citations were sent but the owners are hard to find. Also added were 16 Altamont (3-year building permit) and 1059 south Main Street (deceased owners). The Township can take the next step to lien the properties. Jarrod said he would present a full report on each property for the next meeting. He also reported that the tents in the woods have been taken down near Trinity Park.

3. ****MOTION to repeal the Shade Tree Regulations Ordinance 7 of 1993** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Erin Dinch advised that our Code Enforcement Officer needs to be able to site property owners and make them trim trees that are hanging in the road and are deemed dangerous. She explained that at one time there was a Shade Tree Commission that decided if trees needed trimmed. The first step is to repeal the Ordinance then update it.

4. ****MOTION to repeal the Political Sign Ordinance 9 of 2003** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sabot advised that the Township was going to change the Ordinance but were advised that they cannot single out sign types. He said he advised the Road Crew to remove any signs that are up for a long time and are old, faded, and in the public right-of-way.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ****MOTION to authorize the Township Engineer to prepare drawings and bid documents for the 2020 Road Project** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sabot advised it would include Holidays Hills, Greenhill Drive, Webb Drive and Hazlett Drive.
2. ****MOTION to authorize PennDOT Municipal Services Representatives to prepare bid documents for the Double Tar & Chip Road Project for McElree Road and East Canyon Drive** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
3. ****MOTION to approve 2020 Expenditures for the Road Department including service to the Coray Vac/Shop Heater and hand tools up to \$1000** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
4. ****MOTION to approve Road Department Projects for 2020 to include Milbeck, Sassafras and Cleveland Road underdrains, West Palm Curb & Inlet Placement, and a Guardrail on Thorne Drive** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
5. **Sewage Tap Upgrade** – Mr. Sabot advised that the Township needs to upgrade its sewage plan if the Township is to grow. Erin Dinch advised that she did meet with W.E.W.J.A. and they were looking into it and Sarah Boyce of Widmer Engineering is looking into the next steps the Township needs to take to update our 537 Plan.
6. **New Township Building** – Mr. Sabot advised that the Supervisors were looking to select a site by the spring. He said there is in excess of 1.1 million dollars earmarked for the new building. Mr. Sabot said that in the past he questioned if the Recreation & Business Improvement Authority was spending money appropriately. He added that after being a Supervisor the past two years and seeing the Rec Authority reports, he feels the Rec Authority has been run very well. He projects the Township will inherit approximately \$600,000.00 from the Rec Authority when it ceases to exist, which may be by the end of 2020.
7. ****MOTION to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to pay the North Franklin Volunteer Fire Company 2020 donation of \$40,000, to be paid in equal quarterly payments of \$10,000,** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
8. ****MOTION to appoint Cathy Lynch to the Board of Auditors for a 2-year term (2020-2021)** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

9. ****MOTION to approve the plans for Conditional Approval of the Dayna Dunn Sage Minor Subdivision No. 1 Plan, subject to the comments contained in the review letter of Rich Rush, Township Engineer dated December 27, 2019** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chris Quinn reported they answered 401 calls in 2019, including 26 fire, 144 rescue and emergency medicine, 19 hazardous conditions with no fire, 55 service calls, 48 good intent calls, 75 false alarms, 19 severe weather and natural disaster calls, and 15 special incidents. For December 2019 they answered 26 calls, including 6 medical assists, 1 emergency medical service other, 1 EMS, 3 motor vehicle accidents with no injuries, 2 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, 1 gas leak, 2 carbon dioxide calls, 1 smoke odor removal, 2 dispatch canceled in route, 1 system malfunction, 1 smoke detector activation with malfunction, 1 flood assessment and 2 special incidents.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Jarrold D'Amico of Harshman Group said prior to tonight's meeting, they spoke about debris on the Holiday Motor Lodge/Ramada Inn property near the mouth of the crushed pipe on West Chestnut Street. He said the property owners hired a contractor and cleaned it out and did a great job. He said a shopping cart buried into the hillside we be left, as it was holding up the hillside. He directed the Supervisors to his report for further information.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sweat advised that Michael Cruny found a policy that has been implemented by Plymouth Township, Pa concerning the pay-per-call fee schedule for Volunteer Firefighters. He said the Supervisors should look at it in order to help them decide if such a policy is feasible.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT

Mr. Sabot advised that there was still one outstanding grievance filed by the former Police Department regarding vacation pay, military time, and early retirement. He said it should be determined by February. Mr. Sabot also said police services for the Township would be revisited at the end of 2020.

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT

Mr. Quinn advised that the Volunteer Fire Company firefighters go unrewarded and wishes everyone in the Township could hear tonight's report and realize all that they do.

SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA'S REPORT – Mr. Passalacqua was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. John Martin of 142 Woodside Drive, owner of Ramada Inn, said he felt they did more than enough to clean up the area on his property near the mouth of the crushed pipe. He wanted to know how he would know if the Supervisors were satisfied with the clean-up work. Jarrod D'Amico said that Matt (from his office) had talked to his contractor today and he would call the contractor tomorrow and let him know.
2. Robert McGowan of 724 ½ McElree Road asked where the Township was with money in reference to the disbanded Police Department. Mr. Sabot explained the Township budgeted an extra \$100,000 for 2020 just in case any arbitration decisions were lost. He said there might be a decision by the next meeting. Mr. McGowan also asked if he could view the documents that were made public concerning the sexual harassment cases. Mr. Sabot advised him it was available here at the Township building for review. Mr. McGowan also advised the Supervisors that they could grow hemp on Township property to raise money. Mr. Quinn advised Mr. McGowan that Townships are not money-making organizations and taxes are set in place to cover the costs the Township incurs.

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION to enter executive session to discuss legal matters and to adjourn** was made by Mr. Quinn at 6:47 pm; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sabot, Chairman

Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer