

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
MEETING MINUTES**

September 8, 2020

5:30 pm

**CALL TO ORDER** - Present were Mr. Sabot, Mr. Passalacqua, Mr. Quinn, Solicitor Gary Sweat, Secretary/Treasurer Jackie Kotchman and Erin Dinch, Director of Planning & Development. The meeting was held via teleconference with public attendance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPENING PRAYER** – by Rev. Richard Wilson

**ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

**PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**\*\*MOTION to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting which recessed and was reconvened on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 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.**

**BILL APPROVAL AND CHECK SIGNING**

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

**GUESTS**

Dave Hommrich, President of Penn-Micro, a solar energy company, gave a presentation on Microgrids. He explained that a Microgrid could possibly create revenue for the Township. He said they were proposing a solar and natural gas fired generation of energy for the Township. He advised that he was looking at the land around the Washington County Airport. He proposed that his company would do a feasibility study at their expense and come back and present the costs and plans to the Township. Mr. Sabot advised that the Board would review it and get back to him if they were interested.

## **BUILDING PERMITS**

Erin Dinch reported that there were three building permits in the amount of \$275.00

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **West Chestnut Street Update**- Mr. Sabot advised that a new line was being installed at no cost to the Township residents. He said they would discuss possible litigation in Executive Session. He said the work should be completed in about three weeks. Mr. Sweat recommended having an Engineer give a report in the October meeting on what has been done.
2. **Demolition Update** – Matt Malik met with Ms. Porfilio of 22 Mill Street and she is working with her engineer, HMT, to have it inspected. He reported that Mr. Cruny was placing an advertisement and requesting a court order of approval to move forward on the demolition of 152 Fulton Street. He reported that 15 Altamont will be torn down and the McElree Road property was being repaired.
3. **Western PA Teamsters Pension Discussion** – Mr. Sweat advised that he consulted with Attorney Binotto from Steptoe & Johnson so pension specialists could review the plan. He reported that the withdrawal liability for the Township is currently \$378,630.00. He said the law states that the money must be paid over a twenty-year period if there is a withdraw of the funds. He said the interest rate on repayment is 2-3% and would be equal to about \$20,000.00 per year for twenty years. He advised that Western PA Teamsters has not submitted a plan for rehabilitation of that amount. He said if the Teamsters made some prudent decisions going forward, the unfunded liability could be eliminated. He advised to wait until the end of the year and get the unfunded liability letter to see how the fund is doing. He said there is federal insurance that covers these pensions preventing the pensioners from losing their money. He said withdrawing the money and transferring it to a 401K would create a defined benefit that would have to be met along with the unfunded liability. He said the Collective Bargaining Agreement would have to be revised to negotiate where the \$20,000.000 over the defined benefit contribution would come from. Mr. Sweat advised that there was no need to do anything immediately and to wait to see if the unfunded liability goes down. Mr. Sabot said the Township taxpayers had to be protected as well as the employees. Mr. Sweat advised that he would get more information from the Pension specialist.
4. **North Franklin Township Community Survey** – Erin Dinch reported the Community Surveys would go out around September 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sabot explained that the survey includes a cover letter form the Township Supervisors, tax bill information, a survey on police protection and a survey on future recreation activities.
5. **Clean-Up Day**  
**\*\*MOTION to advertise and set Township Clean-Up Day for Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 10 am – 2 pm was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

## ORDINANCES

**\*\*MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 6 of 2020 an Ordinance approving the termination of the North Franklin Township Recreation & Business Improvement Authority and Certificate of Termination presented by that Authority was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

**\*\*MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 7 of 2020 an Ordinance of the Township of North Franklin, Washington County, Pennsylvania, establishing a Fire Response Stipend to be paid to the North Franklin Volunteer Fire Company to be calculated based upon each response made by a qualified volunteer of the North Franklin VFC was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

**RESOLUTIONS - None**

## NEW BUSINESS

- 1. \*\*MOTION to approve the 2021 MMO's (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for Police, Road Crew and Municipal Pensions was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
- 2. \*\*MOTION to approve the deed from Ballpark Scholarships, Inc. that a lot piece of ground situated in the Township of North Franklin, County of Washington, PA being known as Parcel "K-Rev" (Nature Reserve) in the Re-Subdivision of "Parcel K" "Parcel A" and the Ward Property in Washington Square Plan of Lots recorded Instrument Number: 201438383 was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
- 3. \*\*MOTION to set Trick-or-Treat for Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 6:00-7:30 pm made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
- 4. \*\*MOTION to advertise and set Fall Leaf Pick-up for Monday through Friday beginning October 19<sup>th</sup> and ending November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
- 5. \*\*MOTION to donate \$500 to Trinity Youth Football Association was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
- 6. \*\*MOTION to advertise and set the 2021 budget workshop for Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 2:00 pm was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT** – Chief Dave Bane reported that for August 2020 there was one (1) building fire, one (1) vehicle fire, five (5) medical assists, three (3) motor vehicle accidents, one (1) power line down, one (1) gas leak, two (2) public service calls, five (5) false alarms, three (3)

smoke detectors activated/malfunctioned, one (1) sprinkler activation unintentional, two (2) smoke detectors unintentional and three (3) alarm system unintentional. Total calls for the month 28 and total year to date 209 calls. Average 4.2 persons per call and average response time is 9 ½ minutes. Chief Bane also announced that the VFC was doing parking lot pull-tabs on Friday nights form 6-8 pm as a fundraiser.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT**

Matt Malik reported there were 14, five (5) junk & trash, one (1) nuisance vehicle, three (3) Structures, four (4) grass and one (1) other. He advised there were hearings coming up. Mr. Sabot asked him to notify Alicia Berry of 490 Palm Street that she must disconnect her temporary utilities by October 31, 2020.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT** - None

**SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA’S REPORT** – None

**SUPERVISOR QUINN’S REPORT** – None

**SUPERVISOR SABOT’S REPORT** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS** –

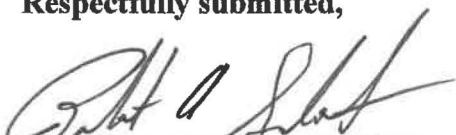
1. Gary Young 1294 Overlook Drive questioned the fact that it was mentioned that if Community Survey’s were not turned in, they must be happy with the State Police. He thought that if they are not interested in sending it in, then the surveys received should be calculated by the majority. Mr. Sabot said if there was a low response of surveys, people are either satisfied with the State Police or just don’t care. He stated that he was leaning toward more Police protection. Mr. Sabot also said that he didn’t think if we had our own Police it would have stopped Kay Jewelers from being robbed.

Mr. Young also complained about the speeding, running through stop signs and cars with loud mufflers on Overlook Drive. Mr. Sabot said the Township could look into some electronic speed detectors through a grant.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sabot made a motion at 6:38 pm to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and litigation with no action; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert Sabot, Chairman

  
Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer