

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

October 13, 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 Dr. Fred McCloskey, Calvary Baptist Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Frances Eates of 236 Hazlewood Drive commented on various items including LERTA taxes still due to the Recreation & Business Improvement Authority, police coverage for the Township, enforcement of speed and stop sign violations, fireworks displays, code enforcement, school police, State Police, future Park activities at the new Park, and the accessible playground equipment, new Township building funding control standards for the Community Survey.

Mr. Sweat informed Ms. Eates that the New Building money was long term debt resulting from the refinancing of the General Bond Series of 2013. Mr. Sweat advised the new General Obligation Series of 2019 has a lower interest rate allowing for additional funds for the new building without adding any additional years to the existing term (12 year pay-off) and saved the Township \$50,000 in 2019.

Mr. Sabot advised Ms. Eates that there was no way to duplicate the survey because special paper was used that could not be copied. He also advised that the Township had been spending \$1,000,000.00 a year on Township Police thus resulting in a \$700,000 surplus in 2019-20. Mr. Sabot also advised that there was very little pushback from residents when the Police were disbanded. He also said the overall opinion concerning the State Police servicing the Township has been positive. He addressed a slow down in non-urgent calls but said emergency and serious incidents are being handled with efficiency. Mr. Sabot advised Ms. Eates to call the State Police for parking violations on Township streets. He addressed the fact that Canton Township in the Trinity District is twice the size of North Franklin Township and relies on State Police. He used another example, Hempfield Township with a population of 43,000, uses solely State Police. Mr. Sabot advised that, based on the \$700,000 swing from deficit to surplus over the last two years, the current budgeting process will likely result in a tax cut for 2021.

Erin Dinch advised Ms. Eates that the handicapped accessibility of the playground was not an choice on the survey because the Township is planning to include ADA accessibility in the park design, including any playgrounds, so it is not optional.

2. Gary Terling of 721 Cleveland Road said he attended the meeting after the Police were disbanded and he felt there was some pushback. He added that he remembers the Supervisors were not at liberty to discuss Police service because of litigation. Mr. Sabot stated that the Township could not negotiate any police protection because of the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement in place at the time. Mr. Sabot added that at one time the Township offered each officer \$20,000 each to let the Township out of the sub-contracting clause in the contract agreement. However, they turned down the offer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****MOTION to approve the minutes of the September 8, 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.

BILL APPROVAL AND CHECK SIGNING

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

GUESTS

BUILDING PERMITS

Harold Ivery reported that there were three building permits in the amount of \$130.00

OLD BUSINESS

1. **West Chestnut Street Update - Widmer Engineering** – Rich Rush of Widmer Engineering advised that the new pipe is connected and working. He reported that they would have locked lids on the grates. He said the new pipe was laid next to the old one. He said the old pipe was rotted out tin whistle.
2. **Demolition Update** – Erin Dinch reported that Harshman sent a notice stating that Michael Cruny is going to court tomorrow for the order on 152 Fulton Street and once received they will issue the Notice to Proceed to Reynolds to do the demolition.
3. **Clean-Up Day October 17, 2020 – 10am -2 pm-** Erin Dinch said we would sign Community Service papers for students needing hours and for everyone to meet at the Township Building to collect their bags, gloves and reflective safety vests.
4. ****MOTION to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to pay A. Folino Construction \$75,809.50 for Application #1 and Change Order #1 for the McElree Road Paving Project** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

5. ****MOTION to authorize the Secretary/Tresurer to pay A. Folino Construction \$16,674.88 for the final invoice and Change Order #1 for the 2020 Road Improvement Project** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
6. ****MOTION to accept the North Franklin Township Community Survey results** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
7. ****MOTION to continue to utilize the Pennsylvania State Police for Township Police Protection** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
8. ****MOTION to pay the NF TWP Volunteer Fire Company \$60,000.00 to help in lost Fundraising due to Covid-19** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sabot advised that \$50,000.00 of the \$60,000.00 was initially designated to be paid from the Recreation & Business Improvement Authority money, but that doing so would have placed limits on how the Fire Company used the money. The Township is paying the money out of the General Fund and will be refunded using Rec Authority balances by paying for allowable items such as the Act 537 Plan and other Economic Development expenses.

ORDINANCES

****MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 6 of 2020 an Ordinance of the Township of North Franklin, Washington County, Pennsylvania, 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

****MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 11 of 2020 – Authorizing Erin Dinch, Director of Planning & Development to apply for two Local Share Account Grants, one for the construction of a new Municipal Complex and one for engineering/permitting costs for the design of a sewer system expansion** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

****MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 12 of 2020 – Authorizing Jackie Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer to apply for the Washington County Covid-19 Recovery Municipal Grant Program to be used to cover unbudgeted, Coronavirus expenses incurred from March 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020 up to \$131,652 was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. ****MOTION to appoint the Architectural Firm of K2 Engineering Incorporated to proceed with plans for New Township Building was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
2. ****MOTION to advertise an Ordinance amending the Township Zoning Ordinance to Permit Factory Authorized Equipment Dealer(s) in the Master Overlay District, subject to certain regulations within the Township and to provide a definition for said use was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.**
3. ****MOTION to forward the above-mentioned Zoning Ordinance Amendment to the Planning Commission for review and to set and advertise a public hearing date on Tuesday, November 10th at 5:15 pm was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
4. ****MOTION to advertise an Ordinance amending the Township Zoning Ordinance to permit Privacy Fence (10%) in the required side & rear yard replacing the current Ordinance which permits only Screening/Security Fence (25%) in side yards was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
5. ****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, November 10th at 5:15 pm was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
6. ****MOTION to table paying Rich Riggle \$650.00 for brush hogging the pond area per agreement from the Recreation & Business Improvement Authority funds was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Dave Bane reported that for September 2020 there was one (1) controlled burn, five (5) medical assists, three (3) motor vehicle accidents, one (1) rubbish fire, one (1) grass fire, one (1) each of extrication, gasoline spill, odor & smoke removal and invalid assist, eight (8) false alarms, one (1) special type incident. Total calls for the month 28 and total year to date 237 calls. Average 4.4 persons per call and average response time is 9 minutes, 13 seconds. 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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sweat explained that the right-of way over the former Pa American Water Company property that goes from Route 18 to the Mall property was originally used to connect the reservoirs to each other. He said in 1998 when the Authority was formed and they were negotiating the different cooperation agreements between the County, the Township, the School District and the Mall owners, the Mall owners agreed to convey a 100-foot strip to the Authority and/or Township based upon the considerations that were contained in the LERTA Program.

****MOTION to authorize Sweat Law Offices to work with Widmer Engineering to survey the 100-foot strip so there is an exact metes and bounds description** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT – Mr. Sabot recommended the Township organize a three or five person Activities Committee to help organize trips and other activities. This would be a recommending body to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Sweat advised that it would be permitted and that they could make a motion by Resolution and advertise for volunteers.

****MOTION to form a Township Activities Committee** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT - None

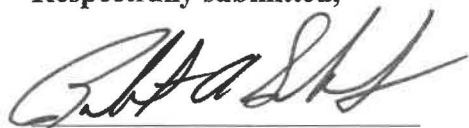
PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS –


1. Gary Terling of 721 Cleveland Road asked if another standpipe line was going to be placed on Cleveland Road. He asked if the road would be repaved. Mr. Quinn advised the repairs to the road would be made in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION to Adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert Sabot, Chairman


Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer