

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

March 9, 2021

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 available via teleconference with public attendance. The public could email questions using an email address that was advertised in the newspaper and also made available on the Township website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER – was given by Dr. Fred McCloskey, Calvary Baptist Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Sabot added Resolution No. 8 of 2021, Urging Pennsylvania's Independent Regulatory Review Commission to reject the proposed carbon dioxide budget trading program regulation as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, under Resolutions.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 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. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

GUESTS

Mr. Sweat introduced **District Justice Jesse Pettit** who is running for Washington County Common Pleas Judge to fill Judge Kathleen Emery's position. Mr. Pettit gave a brief background about himself and ensured North Franklin Township residents that his experience would help him to make a great impact on the community. He asked for the support of North Franklin Township residents.

Mr. Sabot introduced **Richard Haskey** who is running for Township Supervisor in May. Mr. Haskey gave a brief background about himself including his service in the Vietnam War. He has lived in North Franklin Township for 12 years. He explained that he wants to be a Supervisor for the Township to help out and be a team player.

K2 Engineering – Greg Asbee and Sue Sepic of K2 Engineering provided a PowerPoint presentation of the plans for the New Township Building. They explained that in order to provide more parking, a retaining wall was planned around the property to flatten the area. Additional parking would be secured near the Water Company Pavilion. They provided the public with photo renderings of what the building will look like.

*****MOTION to give preliminary approval to the New Township Building plans as prepared by K2 Engineering and to proceed with geotechnical borings of the building site** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were two (2) building permits in the amount of \$239.00.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

*****MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 1 of 2021 confirming the adoption of certain roadways in the Township, including Trich Drive and North Franklin Drive and an extension of North Franklin Drive** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to authorize Sweat Law Firm to file a Declaration of Taking for the Right-of Way through the park property** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
2. *****MOTION to hire Asa Charnik as a part-time Road and Park Maintenance worker at \$15.50 per hour, up to 32 hours a week from April 15th through September 3, 2021** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
3. *****MOTION to approve Township Clean-Up Day for Friday, April 16th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with a Rain Date of May 1st** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
4. *****MOTION to approve Kennywood ticket purchase for Township Residents Community Day Discount with the Township paying \$5 per ticket (Residents pay**

\$20 per ticket) was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS

*****MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 7 of 2021 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** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

*****MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 8 of 2021 Urging Pennsylvania's Independent Regulatory Review Commission to reject the proposed carbon dioxide budget trading program regulation as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Fire Chief Dave Bane reported that for February 2021 the Fire Department had 30 calls including one (1) building fire, ten (10) medical assists, three (3) motor vehicle accidents, one (1) police assist, two (2) public service, two (2) cover assignment, three (3) false alarms, one (1) special incident for a total of 23 calls. He stated that year-to-date they had 41 calls. They averaged 4.6 persons per call and the average response time was 12 minutes and 16 seconds.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – Matt Malik reported that there were nine (9) investigated violations; three (3) being trash & junk, three (3) structural, two (2) vehicles, and one (1) other. He reported that he hasn't heard anything from the owners of the remaining two demolitions. He said no demo permit application has been received for 22 Mill Street and no engineering report has been submitted for 640 McElree Road. He said 171 Fulton was posted last week for garbage.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Sweat reported that 152 Fulton Street was demolished and the lien for the Township was prepared and advertised. He said the law requires that the owners be given 30 days' notice of the intent to file the lien. Once the 30 days expires, his office will file a lien with the Prothonotary's office and send a recorded copy to the Township Secretary.

Michael Cruny indicated that Rich Rush, Harold Ivery and Erin Dinch were still looking at procedures the Township wants to institute for the approval of a minor subdivision. They are working on definitions. Erin Dinch said the Planning Commission did not have a problem with "not reviewing" the smaller subdivisions. She said Harold and Michael were going to figure out the wording for a new Ordinance.

He reported that Michael, Jackie and Erin worked out a procedure to return firearms that are inventoried. The procedure will include a background check, two forms of identity, and a signed agreement releasing the Township of any liability related to the condition of the gun before it's delivered to its rightful owners. He said the District Attorney wants it closed out.

Mr. Sweat reported that he met with Stu Williams of the Wild Things to discuss the validity of the Township's access to the Pavilions and the walking trail. He said the easement to the Passalacqua Pavilion was basically a handshake and there was nothing in writing. He said Mr. Williams wants to work with the Township and will work out an easement arrangement. He wants to discuss it with the Supervisors. Mr. Sabot added that the Township was waiting on a closing date for the Sears building.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT – Mr. Sabot reported that the Township was going to advertise the 2021 Road Project by March 29, 2021. He said bids would be due by noon on Monday, April 12, 2021 with the award to be made at the Supervisor's meeting on April 13th. He reported that McElree Road would be the base bid and Hazlett Lane, Webb Drive, Farabee Drive and West Canyon Drive would be Alternate bids. He said Engineer Rich Rush wants to do 3" of pavement. He also said Todd Lanch, Road Crew, wants to pave around the apron of the catch basins. The Supervisors agreed.

Mr. Sabot stated that he would be doing a Webinar for Hazard Mitigation through the County. He said they would also replace the pipe at McGowan Lane.

SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT - None

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Erin Dinch read an email from Melanie Wolf. It stated: Township Supervisors- I realized that during the meeting in February that the Supervisors are allowing the owner of 22 Mill Street to do the demolition herself. I have the following questions:

1. Will the person doing the demolition be a bonded and insured contractor who will be following all safety procedures?
 2. Are there safeguards in place considering the house is 10 feet, 2 inches away from my property and is a story taller than my home?
 3. Who is responsible if during the demolition my home and/or property becomes damaged?
- Does the homeowner have homeowner's insurance?

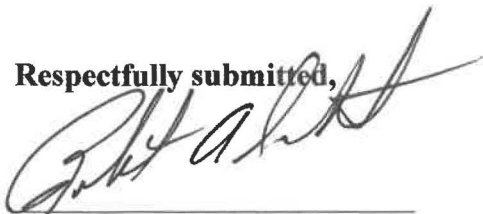
She said when the owner did work on the roof in the past without a permit, debris from the job hit her vehicles and was thrown in her yard. She said she is a homeowner that pays her taxes and she is concerned for the safety of her property.

Matt Malik of Harshman CE Group recommended that Ms. Wolfe get an attorney. He said the Township was not responsible for safeguarding what a builder does. Mr. Sweat advised that the homeowner doing the work must get a demolition permit. He said that the Township could not dictate that only a certified and licensed contractor can do demolition as long as they meet the requirements of the permit. He said any damage done is a private civil matter between property owners.

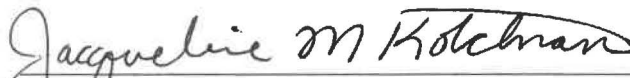
ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION to Adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm and go into Executive Session with no action to be taken** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert Sabot', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Sabot, Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline M. Kotchman', written over a horizontal line.

Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer