

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

July 13, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER – was given by Erik Hoeke, Avery United Methodist Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****MOTION to approve the minutes of the June 8, 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. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. 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

Don Foringer of 690 McElree Road was scheduled to speak about the property at 640 McElree Road but he did not attend the meeting.

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were seven (7) building permits in the amount of \$4353.60

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Fire Company Discussion/Decision on use of sirens in Township** -Fire Chief Dave Bane was out on a call so Lisa Quinn reported that the cost of the emergency lights/siren is

\$14,000.00. The price includes all new controllers but does not include updating the sirens.

*****MOTION to direct the Fire Company to purchase new controllers for sirens at a price not to exceed \$14,000.00** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sabot suggested that the new siren information should be included in the Print map that is scheduled to go out this Fall.

ORDINANCES

*****MOTION to adopt Ordinance No.2 of 2021 an Ordinance by the Board of Supervisors of North Franklin Township amending the Township Code, specifically Chapter 390 Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, to provide for regulations for Minor Land Development** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Passalacqua. Unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to approve Erin Dinch and Jackie Kotchman's attendance to the PSATS Regional Forum on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 from 8:30 am -4:30 pm and to adjust office hours that day to 9:00 am -1:00 pm** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

2. *****MOTION to approve Rich Riggle to cut park property field once in July and once in September at \$650.00 per cut for a total of \$1300.00** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

3. **Fireworks Ordinance Update discussion** – Mr. Sweat said the State Law now allows higher end consumer fireworks and displays and any issues with them should be directed to the State Police and the Fire Chief.

4. *****MOTION to adopt the PSATS CDL Drug & Alcohol Testing Personnel Policy effective July 13, 2021** was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

K2 ENGINEER'S REPORT- Sue Sepic from K2 Engineering passed out a preliminary timeline outlining the new building plans. She said the schematic design was completed and they are 30% into the preliminary engineering design phase. She said based on the schedule, bidding should start on October 20th to be opened at the November 2021 meeting. She said the only issues are the delay on steel from building manufacturers and some of the DEP permitting. She said there will be a fee for \$900 for the Erosion & Sedimentation review, a \$1500 fee to the Washington County Conservation District Clean Water Fund, and a \$200 fee for the Commonwealth of PA Clean Water Fund for the Stormwater Permit for the disturbed acreage fee and \$20 for the Low Volume Driveway fee. She explained that the Township can bid the project

without the permits in hand, you just can't start construction. Mr. Sabot said the Township will have a ground breaking event in late October.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Fire Chief Dave Bane reported that for June 2021 the Fire Department had 35 calls including one (1) fire, seven (7) medical assists, six (6) motor vehicle accidents, one (1) dumpster fire, one (1) brush fire, one (1) vehicle fire, three (3) public service, twelve (12) false alarms and one (1) transformer fire, one (1) carbon monoxide, one (1) tree down. He stated that year-to-date they had 164 calls. They averaged 5.1 persons per call and the average response time was 9.4 minutes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – Mr. Sabot read the Code Enforcement report stating that there were fifteen (15) investigated violations; three (3) being trash & junk, two (2) vehicles and six (6) grass and four (4) Ordinance violations.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Sweat reported that Michael and Erin are working on the Crown Mall right-of-way property acquisition. He said the Crown Mall attorney has agreed to convey the 100-foot right-of-way by deed to the Township. He said we are waiting for PAWC to complete a subdivision of the property they will be acquiring from the Township. He said they would discuss Walnut Ridge in Executive Session. He said we are now required to have in-person public meetings.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT – Mr. Sabot advised that they would discuss personnel matters for the Road Department with no action. He reported that the closing was completed on the Sears building. He said he spoke to a business owner who is interested in the Macy's building. Mr. Sabot said the paving of the McElree Road area should begin the end of July.

SUPERVISOR PASSALACQUA'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT – Mr. Quinn advised that with all the projects underway at the Township that the Park should not be a priority. Mr. Sabot said the Park will be done in phases and Erin Dinch was applying for grants for all the projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Aric Carter of 402 Mineola discussed closing of paper alleys. He complained about dirt being dumped in the alley by contractors causing flooding. Mr. Sabot said the Township has no interest in paper alleys. Mr. Sweat said older subdivisions show roads and alleys that were never dedicated to the Township. He said once the subdivision is recorded (and 21 years go by) the assumption is that it is a Township public right-of-way. The Township would have to formally abandon the alley to eliminate the public issue but there is always a private right-of-way issue. He said everyone that owns a house in that recorded plan has a right to use that right-of-way. He explained that if he wanted to claim it as part of his property and keep people off of it, he would need to get every homeowner in the plan to sign a quit-claim deed relinquishing their rights to use the right-of-way or file a quiet-title action which is very expensive and can have no objection. Mr. Sweat said he would need to get something in writing from all lots in the plan saying they want the Township to abandon the right-of-way.


Aric also said he was interested in opening a Firearms store in the Township. He was interested in the Long John Silver's building.

Lisa Quinn of Sylvan Drive asked "whatever happened to the orphaned gas well"? Erin Dinch reported that the Township wrote a grant requesting funds to address it and they are waiting on the DEP to make a determination.

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION to Adjourn at 6:34 pm** and go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters was made by Mr. Passalacqua; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert Sabot, Chairman
Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer