

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

February 8, 2022

5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER - Present were Mr. Sabot, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Polan, 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 available on the Township website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

*****MOTION to amend Ordinance No. 1-2022 to authorize the incurrence of nonelectoral debt in the amount of \$8,900,000** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Polan. Unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*****MOTION to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022 Supervisor's meeting** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Polan. 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. Polan; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

GUESTS

Richard and Sonja Blaha discussed the proposed Gnagey Jean Gas Well in Buffalo Township. The Blahas of 1195 Mounts Road in North Franklin Township read a statement from both North Franklin and Buffalo Township residents highlighting their concerns with the well being built in a residential area. Key concerns included the fact that it will be built on top of the abandoned room and pillar Lincoln 1 Mine, a fault line exists through the property, and the location is known to be contaminated by the release of regulated substances. They explained that all of these

factors will pose risks to the tributaries, homes, and the watershed. They raised concerns about the stability of the pillars and mine subsidence, property values, noise, traffic, and wear and tear on roads. After open discussion with the Supervisors, Mr. Sweat advised that Buffalo Township would be scheduling a Conditional Use Hearing and that the Blahas, and anyone else with concerns, should attend the hearing. He recommended they get expert opinions to back their claims to the DEP, if possible, and that they prepare a list of conditions to be met to satisfy the residents, if the Conditional Use Permit is approved.

Jody Borello of Buffalo Township expressed additional concerns about the abandoned Lincoln 1 mine pillars and the existing fault line. She said there were 358 homes above the mine including North Franklin homes. Mr. Sweat explained that Harshman was doing an investigation, the DEP has total jurisdiction over any permits, and that none of the residents could say anything a court would listen to. He recommended the group get an independent mining engineer to give an opinion. Discussion ensued.

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were two (2) building permits in the amount of \$235.00.

OLD BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to advertise and set a public hearing for March 8, 2022 at 5:15 pm to amend the Zoning Ordinance to permit schools in all Zoning Districts** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Polan. Unanimously carried.

Erin Dinch reported that schools are not listed as a Permitted Use in any district in the Zoning Ordinance. She said it was referred to the Planning Commission and they recommended the Supervisors amend the Zoning Ordinance “to permit schools in all districts and require them to meet the requirements for the districts in which they are located”.

ORDINANCES

*****MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 1-2022 authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt in the maximum amount of \$8,900,000 in order to refinance existing indebtedness and to finance Township projects including a new municipal building and a sanitary sewer system** was made by Mr. Polan; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Sean Garin of Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP and Joe Muscatello of Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. explained details of the new Bond and new borrowed monies and their proposed uses. They advised that even though there is new debt, the debt service payments will remain level.

RESOLUTIONS

*****MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 6 of 2022 - Authorizing Erin Dinch, Director of Planning and Development and Jacqueline Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer to complete and execute all documents and agreements between North Franklin Township and the**

Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Orphaned or Abandoned Well Plugging Program (OAWP) to obtain a grant to be used for plugging an orphaned well on the property located at 298 Franklin Farms Road, Washington, PA was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Polan. Unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to authorize Harshman CE Group to prepare and advertise bid documents for the new Municipal Building Construction upon receipt of PennDOT Highway Occupancy and NPDES Permits was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
2. *****MOTION to approve the North Franklin Township Subdivision Plan was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
3. *****MOTION for the Board of Supervisors to have Sweat Law Offices send a letter to Range Resources requesting their attendance at a Township Meeting to explain drilling practices and address residents' concerns in regard to the proposed Gnagey Jean Gas Well was made by Mr. Polan; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried. Mr. Sabot asked Mr. Sweat to contact Range about the meeting.**
4. *****MOTION to advertise an amendment to Township Ordinance Section 425-58 to increase the penalty for throwing snow into street from \$15.00 to \$200.00 was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**
5. *****MOTION to authorize Sweat Law Offices to enter into a Developers Agreement with the Washington-East Washington Joint Authority was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.**

K2 ENGINEER'S REPORT

Sue Sepic from K2 Engineering reported that she received comments from PennDOT requesting that the Township provide security in the form of an acceptable letter of credit for 115% of the Engineers cost estimate for work involved with the HOP Permit (the first 50 foot of the driveway and the guide rail). She said that the contractor normally takes care of it.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER'S REPORT

Dave Leasure from Harshman Engineering reported that they would be going out for bid on the new building sometime in March to open up bids in April.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Dave Bane reported that for January 2022 the Fire Department had 25 calls including one (1) cooking fire, two (2) building fires, nine (9) medical assists, four (4) motor vehicle

accidents, one (1) chimney fire, one (1) other fire, one (1) public service, one (1) dumpster fire, one (1) unauthorized burning, one (1) standby, and one (1) sprinkler activation, two (2) malfunctions and two (2) alarm system activations. He stated that year-to-date they had 25 calls. They averaged 6 persons per call and the average response time was 9 minutes and 21 seconds.

Chief Bane thanked the Road Crew for a great job during the snow & ice storm to remove trees and keeping the streets salted.

Siren Update- Mr. Sabot reported that the sirens are in and they are waiting for an install date.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Dalton McCuen reported that there were eleven (11) cases being investigated; seven (7) being trash & junk, three (3) junk vehicles, and one (1) other. He said four (4) have come back in compliance and there are eight (8) magisterial cases/hearings.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sweat reported that that we were ready to proceed with the demolition of 22 Mill Street. He said the Redevelopment Authority requires a Certification of Release for Code Enforcement demolition. He said Long John Silvers owners agreed to sign a nuisance and abatement agreement so there would be no court involvement. He said he was working with Harshman to get the information needed for the execution of the agreement. He advised he was preparing a petition to file with the court for permission to advertise service on someone you cannot find for the property at 640 McElree Road.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT

Mr. Sabot advised there would be an executive session for legal matters involving the Township and the water company with no action to be taken.

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR POLAN'S REPORT – None

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jake Ward from Buffalo Township said one thing not mentioned about the Gnagey Jean Gas Well was that a Mark West pipeline was put in the property about 100 yards from the proposed well site. He said a shift in the land would cause major problems.

Jody Borello of Buffalo Township advised that the abandoned Lincoln 1 mine also goes under the Washington County Airport.

A resident from the Bellvue neighborhood asked if there was an Ordinance pertaining to parked vehicles during snow storms. Discussion ensued. Erin Dinch advised that there is a Township Ordinance addressing vehicles parked on streets in snow storms. They are to be moved off the street.

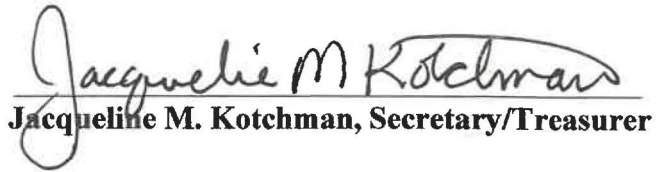
ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION to Adjourn at 6:18 pm and go into Executive Session to discuss New Township Building and personnel issues with no action to be taken** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Sabot, Chairman



Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer