

MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2023

5:30 pm

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER – was given by Rev. Richard Wilson

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

1. Mr. Sabot added the re-approval of the Cholok, Plants and Southerly Subdivision to #2 under Old Business.
2. Mr. Sabot added Lt. Eric Earhart, State Police Troop B to give a report under Guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*****MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 Supervisor's meeting** was made by Mr. Polan; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

*****MOTION to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 Reorganization meeting** was made by Mr. Polan; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

****MOTION to file the Treasurer's Report for future audit** was made by Mr. Polan; 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

Lieutenant Eric Erhart from State Police Troop B gave a brief report on police activity in the Township.

He reported on statistics between January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022:

13	Act 64 Offenses (Drug related)
64	Criminal Incidents
9	Death Investigations
278	Domestic Security checks
85	Vehicle Collisions
247	Other Investigations
90	Property Crimes
<u>324</u>	<u>Request for service</u>
1110	Total Incidents

Mr. Sabot asked if there is any substantial increase in crime in North Franklin Township compared to anywhere else. Lt. Earhart answered no.

Mr. Sabot explained the drug activities and complaints associated with 1689 Ramsmere Avenue.

Mr. Polan advised that the following steps would be put in place to help deter some of the activity:

1. Send out a letter claiming they are running an illegal business. (cease & desist)
2. Install signs marking it as a "Neighborhood Watch Area".
3. Have residents continue to take pictures, use video surveillance, etc.... but do not go onto the property.

Matt Malik with Harshman Code Enforcement said a notice to cease and desist was sent both certified and non-certified mail. They will file citations next which has a 30-day turnaround.

Tony Poll of 51 Ramsey Road said he lived across the street from the house. He asked when they see the activity, what is the most efficient way to get the information to the State Police? He said he is currently emailing an officer with the information.

Lt. Earhart said that was the fastest way to communicate the issues.

Tony Poll also asked what else they can do as residents?

Lt. Earhart advised to continue taking photos and sending in plate numbers.

Steve Beard of 1623 Grimm Drive asked if they could make a formal request to have a trooper in the neighborhood? (Sit in a driveway)

Lt. Earhart said they are probably spread too thin to concentrate on specific neighborhoods.

Mike Verno of 1617 Edwards Drive asked that if the people from this house park in the neighbor's grass, or block a driveway what could be done? Lt. Earhart said they were not really breaking any laws and to call and have it towed.

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were one (1) building permits in the amount of \$193.00

OLD BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to re-approve the Cholok, Plants & Southerly Subdivision** was made by Mr. Polan; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

ORDINANCES

Mr. Sweat advised that a draft of the Fireworks Ordinance based on recently adopted legislation will give the Township more power to regulate fireworks. He said after reviewing with Chief Bane it can be placed on the January agenda to be advertised.

RESOLUTIONS

1. *****MOTION to advertise an Ordinance Amending the Township Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 197 regarding the use of Fireworks, by repealing said chapter in its entirety and replacing it with the Regulations set forth hereinafter** was made by Mr. Polan; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to enter into Negotiations for Road Crew Collective Bargaining Agreement** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Polan. Unanimously carried.
2. *****MOTION to approve the Washington-East Washington Joint Authority Agreement (pending approval by the Solicitor)** was made by Mr. Polan; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

K2 ENGINEER'S REPORT

Doug Hill reported they are reviewing submittals sent in by the contractors and supporting Harshman.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER'S REPORT

Alex Cowden reported that they should have the hole filled by tomorrow. He said the crane company was moving in on Monday. He said there was some remediation to do with the old pump house. He said they should be able to put footers in soon. He said it would take 4 weeks for the retaining wall. He also advised the new French drain was approved by the DEP. He said the extra construction costs are around \$477,000.00 to date.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Dave Bane reported that for December 2022 the Fire Department had 33 calls including one (1) building fire, six (6) medical assists, five (5) motor vehicle accidents, one (1) cooking fire, one (1) chimney fire, one (1) water problem, one (1) sprinkler activation, one (1) extrication, three (3) public service and nine (9) unintentional alarms. Average response was 9 minutes and 14 seconds and they averaged 5.5 persons per call. Year to date they have had 382 calls. Average response time for the year was 8 minutes and 52 seconds and 5.1 persons per call.

Mr. Sabot advised that the Supervisors signed documents to proceed on the installation of the new preemption devices for Park Avenue and Franklin Farms Road.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Matt Malik reported that for the month of December they had a total of 10 investigated properties including (2) other, five (5) property maintenance, three (3) trash and junk. He reported that they were inspecting the Mall in two days. He also reported that they were issuing warnings to people parking on Zelt Street waiting for students.

Mike Verno thanked the Road Crew for putting up Neighborhood Watch signs on Ramsey Road.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sweat reported about the West Chestnut Street litigation. He said oral argument was held last Friday in front of Judge Lucas. The argument was based upon the preliminary objections that our side had filed. He said the Judge drilled the Rite Aid attorney. He said they are awaiting his decision on the issues of the damages and the fact that they want to force the Township to take ownership and management and control of the stormwater system.

Mr. Sweat also mentioned Land Use issues including an Ordinance on crematories and Solar Farms. He said PSATS was recommending electric charging station ordinances. He also added that Judge Gilman is hearing many of the code violation cases and he is much stricter about finding homeowners in person (make service). He said the Township along with Code Enforcement will need to provide more evidence showing that we exhausted every avenue to find people.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT -Mr. Sabot advised there would be an Executive Session to discuss the Road Crew Collective Bargaining proposals.

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR POLAN'S REPORT – None

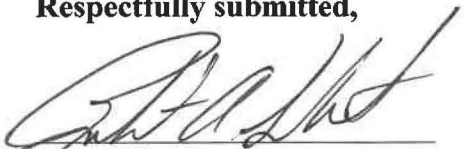
PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA

Mike Verno thanked the Road Crew for putting up Neighborhood Watch and speed limit signs on Ramsey Road. He also asked to move the existing "No Outlet" sign and get an additional sign. Todd Lanch said they would take care of it. He also asked if they could reach out to the officer in charge of the Ramsey Road issue and meet with him. Mr. Sabot said he would reach out to him.

ADJOURNMENT

***** MOTION to go into Executive Session to discuss Road Crew negotiations was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Polan. Unanimously carried. The Supervisors went into Executive Session at 6:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,


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