

MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2023

5:30 pm

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

Mr. Sabot acknowledged the passing of Supervisor Josh Polan and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER – was given by Pastor Steve Ramey, Mt. Hermon Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

1. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from Teamsters 585 which would change the Pension contribution language in the Teamsters 585 contract to reflect the option to keep the current pension contribution. Please see attached MOU.
2. Approval of the August 8, 2023 Public Hearing minutes to re-zone certain property owned by North Franklin Township, located at 620 Franklin Farms Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*****MOTION to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Supervisor’s meeting** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

*****MOTION to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Public Hearing** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

****MOTION to file the Treasurer’s Report for future audit** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

BILL APPROVAL AND CHECK SIGNING

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

GUESTS

Tony Pol, 51 Ramsey Road spoke about the activity at a suspected drug house at 1689 Ramsmere. He complained about the problem getting worse and nothing being done about it. He questioned Mr. Sabot who had observed the activity and asked what he saw. Mr. Sabot reported he saw about 10 cars in 45 minutes visiting the property. Mr. Pol said they had called the State Police and Vice, but he has rarely heard back from anyone. He voiced his frustration with the lack of any resolution to the problem. He and his neighbors said the car activity is a daily problem that is getting worse. He said trying to raise a young family there is very difficult and he feels nothing will be done until someone gets shot and killed. Mr. Pol said there is also drug foot traffic along the street to the house. He concluded that he wants a solution and some action as it has gone on for over 2 ½ years.

Ed Wyland, 68 Ramsey Road acknowledged he was a lifelong resident of North Franklin Township and he has witnessed this drug activity for the last 20 years. He said he had spoken to the North Franklin Police Department years ago and they said they did not have the resources or a vice unit and referred him to the County Task Force. He reiterated the fact that the County Drug Force phone number does not work. He acknowledged that something must be done after 20 years and thanked Mr. Sabot for his efforts to date.

Mr. Sabot discussed the efforts the Township has made so far to help with the situation, including signs, etc.

Rick Bell of 60 Ramsey Road asked if the Township can go after the drug house for operating a business without a license or variance. Mr. Sabot said he spoke to Jarrod from Code Enforcement and Gary Sweat about the issue. Mr. Sweat said they can serve zoning violations and that he would look into it more, including declaring the business activity a nuisance. He used the shutdown of nuisance bars as an example. Mr. Sweat said he would meet with Jarrod and Michael Cruny again on the options. Mr. Bell addressed the Supervisors and told them it is their responsibility for Public Safety and this issue is an imminent danger to the residents. He asked the Supervisors to “step up, organize it between the different entities and find a solution”. He said the Supervisors are ultimately responsible if something bad happens.

Mr. Sabot disagreed with Mr. Bell and said, “although they are responsible for the safety and welfare of every resident, he has personally gone there 3 times in the last month, putting himself at risk”. Mr. Sabot said he called the State Police and told them exactly what was going on. He said they would continue to press the State Police for answers and that they were not “skirting” the issue.

Mr. Bell said he had some suggestions he would share with Mr. Sabot privately.

Cpl. Tanner Barnhart of the Pennsylvania State Police advised he was a Parole Shift Supervisor for the PSP, Washington. He said he had been to Ramsmere on Saturday after a call and he sat up there for about an hour. He acknowledged he has made two drug arrests in North Franklin in the last month, which included guns, 75 stamp bags of crack cocaine and a DUI. He

said it is difficult to get a warrant to enter someone's house. He said they are doing as much as they can with traffic stops and patrols. He said you need all the right scenarios to make an arrest. Erin Dinch said the State Police is welcome to use her driveway to scope out the house. After continued discussion, Mr. Pol asked what else they could do. Cpl. Tanner said to continue to keep notes and share them with him and the PSP. Mr. Sabot advised that the Supervisors would continue to work on the problem until it is solved.

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were nine (9) building permits in the amount of \$14,908.35

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

1. *****MOTION to approve Resolution No. 8 of 2023 authorizing Erin Dinch, Director of Planning and Development to apply for funding from the DEP Driving PA Forward-Level 2 EV Charging Rebate Program to obtain a rebate voucher for the purchase of EV charging stations to be installed at the new municipal building at 345 Franklin Farms Road was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to approve a contract in the amount of \$89,700.00 with Harshman CE Group, LLC to serve as the Design Consultant for the Waterside Park Greenway – Phase 1 was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.**
2. ***** MOTION to approve a contract in the amount of \$2,450.00 with Verdanterra to perform wetland delineation for the Waterside Park Greenway – Phase 1 was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.**
3. *****MOTION to approve the purchase of used office furniture from Tri-State Office Furniture, Inc. in the amount of \$8,820.00 was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.**
4. *****MOTION to approve the purchase in the amount of \$12,266.91 of an access control system for the new municipal building from David Davis Communications through COSTARS Contract 040-E23-221 was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.**
5. *****MOTION to approve the purchase in the amount of \$13,872.31 of a surveillance camera/security system for the new municipal building from David Davis**

Communications through COSTARS Contract 040-E23-221 was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

6. *****MOTION to approve the installation of a fiber-optic cable between the new municipal building and the old water company building by David Davis Communications for the amount of \$2,422.00** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
7. *****MOTION to approve the 2024 MMO's (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for Police, Road Crew and Municipal Pensions** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
8. *****MOTION to advertise and set date for the 2023 Budget Workshop for Thursday, October 12th at 1:00 pm** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
9. *****MOTION to advertise and set Fall Leaf Pick-up for Monday through Friday beginning October 30th and ending November 30, 2023** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
10. *****MOTION to set Trick-or-Treat for Tuesday, October 31st from 6-7:30 pm** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.
11. *****MOTION to acknowledge the vacant seat on the board that was left after the untimely passing of Supervisor Josh Polan on September 6, 2023; to advertise that the Township will accept Letters of Interest for the position until 4:00 pm on September 19th 2023; and to advertise a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 5:30 pm (within 30 days of today) to appoint an interim Supervisor who will serve until January 1, 2024** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sabot advised that there will be a Special Election on the November ballot which will elect a supervisor to serve the remaining 4-year term left vacant by the passing of Mr. Josh Polan.

12. *****MOTION to approve the closing and transfer of 152 Fulton Avenue to Andrew Moore (successful bidder)** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

K2 ENGINEER'S REPORT – No one was present from K2 Engineering

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER'S REPORT

Alex Cowden of Harshman Engineering reported that one issue with the project right now is the delay in getting the metal for the roof. He advised that the other contractors are ready to get started on the inside. He said the electrical contractor was going to get started on everything but the wire. The plumber is waiting on word that all of the structural metal is up so they can start hanging their copper pipes. He said he received a schedule from Masco anticipating the competition of the building project as March 1, 2024. He also advised the masonry workers would start curbing this week. They were hoping to meet the pavement deadline for the end of October. He said fencing above the wall should also start this week.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Dave Bane reported that for August 2023 the Fire Department had 28 calls including one (1) fire other, six (6) medical assists, one (1) motor vehicle accidents, two (2) gas leaks, three (3) building fires, six (6) public service, two (2) lock-ins, one (1) lock-out, one (1) covered assignment and five (5) unintentional alarms. Average response was 9 minutes and 1 seconds and they averaged 5.5 persons per call. Year to date 220 calls.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Brandy Simonelli reported that there are 25 ongoing complaints. She reported that 6 have been fully remediated. She said she is working with property owners to get things cleaned up. She said there are no hearings currently, but that she has filed citations and is waiting for the Magistrate to move forward. She reported that the USA Steak Buffet was demolished and she filed paperwork on the Bon-Ton violations. She also said she sent everything on 63 Cleveland to Mr. Cruny and he is working on a possible injunction.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Mr. Sweat advised he had the deed for 152 Fulton Street to be signed. He also reported that they were close to finalizing the property exchange. In addition, he reported that Harold Close, from Teamsters 585 advised him that there is some wording in the pension plan which differs from the collective bargaining agreement in regards to pension contributions. He said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needed to be prepared and signed. He also said that Crown Center Mall was on the sale list for unpaid taxes.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT – Mr. Sabot had no report.

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT – Mr. Quinn advised that Josh Polan's family and friends were very thankful for the volunteerism and support from Township employees and the Fire department for the luncheon after the funeral service.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sabot made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal issues with no action to be taken at 7:03 pm.

Mr. Sabot advised that the next meeting would be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 26th at 5:30 pm to name a new Supervisor.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Sabot, Chairman



Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer