

MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2023

5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER - Present were Mr. Sabot, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Johnson, Solicitor Michael Cruny, 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 Pastor Dr. Scott Shetter, Laboratory Presbyterian Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*****MOTION to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Supervisor's meeting** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

BILL APPROVAL AND CHECK SIGNING

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

GUESTS

Lt. Steven C. Dowlin, Pennsylvania State Police gave a Power Point presentation on the Township (see report attached to the minutes). He reported that the State Police are much more proactive now with domestic security checks and school visits. He said each public school is checked on a regular basis to familiarize officers with each school and a walk through is done once a week by one of the troopers. Overall, he said North Franklin is a safe community to live in with low crime.

Lt. Dowlin addressed the drug activity at Ramsmere Avenue. He said the State Police Vice Unit and undercover assets have spent many hours monitoring the issue. He said at this point they are doing everything they can within the parameters of the Constitution. He hopes that there will be some break in the situation in the near future.

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were two (2) building permits in the amount of \$150.00

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss/Update on Ramsey Road – Lt. Dowlin addressed this issue in his report.

ORDINANCES - None

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Motion to approve Resolution No. 13 of 2023 a Resolution of North Franklin Township, County of Washington, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approving the transfer of restaurant Liquor License R-6322, LID90146 into North Franklin Township from Independence Township** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to set a date and authorize Sweat Law Offices to advertise for a Public Hearing on an Amendment to the Township Code of Ordinances, Section 460 Zoning, to authorize Private Schools as a permitted use in the Medium Density Residential District (R-3) and the Highway Commercial District (C-3) based on the recommendation of the North Franklin Township Planning Commission** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Sabot. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Cruny explained that there is a proposed text amendment provided by the applicants with a sales agreement to purchase the Ramada Inn property. The buyers were at the Planning Commission meeting and gave a thorough explanation of their plans for the Private school and activities. Mr. Cruny said their proposal was for a Permitted Use and the Planning Commission was had approved it. Mr. Cruny asked the Board if they wanted to make a slight amendment to have these be Conditional Uses. He said right now the Ordinance is silent as to the difference between public and private schools. Mr. Cruny advised the Ramada property would be held by a land trust which would be a tax paying property owner.

2. *****MOTION to authorize Sweat Law Offices to advertise a pending solar facility ordinance based on the recommendation of the North Franklin Township Planning Commission** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.
3. *****MOTION to adopt the Proposed 2024 budget for advertising** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried

4. *****MOTION to advertise the Notice of Intent for an Independent CPA firm to complete the 2023 Financial Audit** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

5. *****MOTION to approve a donation/sponsorship to the 2024 Washington Wild Things Baseball for Friday Fireworks and game tickets for residents for \$5000.00** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER'S REPORT

Alex Cowden of Harshman Engineering reported that they were working on the fireplace changes. He said the HVAC contractors are about 90% done with ductwork. He said the electric main power has been installed and we are waiting for the Columbia Gas hookup. He added that the building is sealed and insulation should be installed after Thanksgiving.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Dave Bane was not present for the meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Jarrold D'Amico reported that there has been some progress on Cleveland Road properties getting cleaned up. He said that numerous citations about the Bon-Ton have been filed against the mall ownership, but they are not entering a plea. He said John Brunner will be the new Magistrate in January 2024 and that will help move things along with Township citations and code issues. He said the camper on Fulton is being addressed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Mr. Cruny reported that the West Chestnut Street lawsuit has been settled and the Township's insurance company would cover the Township's portion of the settlement. He also reported that PA American would be vacating the property by the new Township building. He added that the 63 Cleveland Road property could not be served by the Magistrate, so a writ was filed in the Court of Common Pleas to serve them by the Sheriff, which was also unsuccessful. He said the next step, if they don't respond, is an advertisement to serve a public notice.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT – Mr. Sabot congratulated Mr. Ben Johnson on his newly elected 4-year term. He also congratulated his wife on running a great Prothonotary campaign. He said there would be an informational workshop session on Tuesday, November 28th at 5:30 to discuss zoning and engineering issues. He reported that the Jeep dealership has been clearing the hillside by Sunoco. He said the backside of the dealership will be leased to a furniture retailer.

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR JOHNSON'S REPORT – None

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Quinn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm; seconded by Mr. Johnson.
Unanimously carried.**

Respectfully submitted,


Robert Sabot, Chairman


Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer