

**NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES**

April 9, 2024

5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER - Present were Mr. Sabot, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Johnson, 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 Dr. Fred McCloskey, Calvary Baptist Church

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*****MOTION to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Supervisors 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

Range Resources – Van Kirk Road & Well Site Update

Kylie Fuller, Local Government Representative for Range Resources addressed the audience to give an update on the Van Kirk Well Site. She advised that the air-rig, which is the first phase of drilling, was on the well site since the end of March. She said they should be finished with the air-rig by the end of the month. She said the big-rig would be moving on-site the first week of August. She said the completion stage would be starting around the end of October. She also apologized for the trucks that were using other routes to get to the well site and assured it has been addressed. She also said the noise from the air-rig would only last another few weeks or so.

Richard Blaha asked the direction of the truck traffic and Kylie Fuller explained they get off 70 West at the Taylorstown Exit, making the left onto State Route 221, left on Vaneal Road, left onto Old Scales Rd., left on Rt 18, then left onto Van Kirk Road.

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were five (5) building permits in the amount of \$4,635.00

OLD BUSINESS

1. *MOTION to approve an amendment to Resolution 13 of 2023, which approved the Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License from Independence Township into North Franklin Township** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried. (This was previously passed, but was voted on again due to a clerical error.)

RESOLUTIONS

1. *****MOTION to approve Resolution No. 9 of 2024 relinquishing the Township's rights to Pleasant Avenue, a paper alley appearing in the Ramsey Farm Plan No. 7** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to approve David Davis Communications to purchase and install a weatherproof Data Enclosure, Smart Switch and Cat 6 wiring in the new Event Center to provide data connection for the electronic display board in the amount of \$2,114.00** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

2. *****MOTION to approve the Sycamore Reserve Plan No. 4 (2nd Amendment) which consolidates Lots 407R and 408R** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

K2 ENGINEER'S REPORT

None

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER'S REPORT

Alex Cowden was absent but reported earlier that he spoke with Dan Ford and everything seems to be on schedule for the building.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Dave Bane was not at the meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Brandy from Harshman reported that there were 7 new complaints and 4 had been remediated. She said there are 3 hearings scheduled for April 18th, one of them being the Bon-Ton at 11:00 am. She also reported she posted a couple notices for 63 Cleveland Road.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sweat reported the sales agreement for the purchase of the old Township building has been finalized and it's been circulated for signatures. Mr. Sweat also acknowledged that the Supervisors had a workshop with WEWJA and representatives of the Redevelopment Authority. He said that WEWJA is hampering development in North Franklin Township as well as other watershed areas. He also reported that a 10-day notice of default judgement was sent to 63 Cleveland Road. If no response is filed with the court by April 18th, 2024, then the Township will have the right to clean the outside up. The next step would be to enter the building with an engineer to determine structural safety. If deemed unsafe, the Township can obtain an order from the court to demolish the building.

Mr. Sweat advised that Jackie Kotchman and Michael Cruny have been working on the steps to get a court order to destroy guns from the evidence cage left after the Police Department was disbanded.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT

Mr. Sabot announced that the June Township Meeting has been moved to June 25th, 2024 and the Grand Opening of the new Township Building will be held on June 22, 2024.

Mr. Sabot expressed his disappointment in WEWJA, including the lack of representation from neighboring Townships, including North Franklin.

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT – None

SUPERVISOR JOHNSON'S REPORT – None

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS

An unidentified resident asked if the bridge on Park Avenue was being replaced. Erin Dinch said PennDot would be replacing it. He resides at 1620 Park Avenue

Gary Young of 1294 Overlook Drive asked if there were laws in regard to ATV's and mini-bikes on the streets. He said there are kids riding in his neighborhood. After some discussion on the subject, Mr. Sabot said he did think there were Ordinances prohibiting it. He also asked if North Franklin could go in with another Township to get a police presence. Mr. Sabot advised there wasn't any support for going in with the city and that the Township was very happy with the service of the PA State Police. After further discussion, the Supervisors said they would make the State Police aware of the issue.

Lee Williams, owner of Haven Cheer & Gymnastics located at Washington Crown Center advised the board that the water has been turned off and the mall has been closed for 2 days due to a broken water valve. She said the landlord of the mall did not respond to calls to get it repaired. She also said she was concerned that her last rent check had to be made out to a law firm. She even offered to pay toward the repairs.

Mr. Sabot expressed his concern about the mall owner and his lack of initiative to have the Mall issues repaired, including the Bon-Ton roof. He said they were doing everything they could to improve the issues at the mall. After extended discussions, Mr. Sabot said the Supervisors would address the issue in Executive Session. Mr. Sweat also advised that Washington County was also very concerned about the ownership of the mall and the lack of proper management. He said the mall is up for judicial tax sale in June.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sabot advised that the board would go into Executive Session at 6:30 pm to discuss Washington Crown Center.

Upon returning from Executive Session the following action was taken:

*****MOTION to authorize** emergency repairs to the Washington Crown Center Mall main water break was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

*****MOTION to adjourn the Supervisor's meeting at 6:55 pm** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Sabot, Chairman



Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer