

MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2024

5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER - Present were Mr. Sabot, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Johnson, Solicitor Michael Cruny, Secretary/Treasurer Jackie Kotchman, Director of Planning and Development, Erin Dinch and Road Department Team Leader, Todd Lanch. The meeting was available via teleconference with public attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*****MOTION to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2024, 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

Brittany Ardeno spoke on behalf of Walnut Ridge Community Services which services 75 people, presented the board with their plans to upgrade their playground and equipment, updates to the basketball court and the addition of a dog park. She explained they were seeking financial assistance. After her presentation, the board thanked her and said they would discuss the issue once she obtained estimates for the project.

BUILDING PERMITS

Erin Dinch reported that there were three (3) building permits in the amount of \$1,854.00.

OLD BUSINESS

*****MOTION to table the donation to the NFVFC in the amount of \$250,000.00 towards the purchase of a new engine truck which will be escrowed until the trucks comes in** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS

*****MOTION to approve Resolution No. 10 of 2024 to request the School Board of Trinity Area School District to consider the impact of tax increases on Township residents and to commit to not raise property taxes for the next five (5) years** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Sabot added that a copy of the resolution be sent to all Trinity administrators as well as the School Board members. Mr. Quinn advised the public of the many tax-exempt entities in North Franklin Township, including three (3) Trinity schools, four (4) churches, the Washington Cemetery (500 acres) and the Reserve Armory. In addition, he said approximately 65% of the remaining taxpayers are retired. He said, "enough is enough"!

Mr. Johnson reported that North Franklin Township collected \$488,774.14 in tax revenue in 2023 compared to Trinity School District collecting \$5,514,025.23. He advised that the school taxes are 12.968% higher than the North Franklin Township real estate tax.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *****MOTION to approve the 2025 MMO's (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for Police, Road Crew and Municipal Pensions** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.
2. *****MOTION to advertise and set a date for the 2025 Budget Workshop for Thursday, October 3rd at 10:30 am** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.
3. *****MOTION to advertise and set Fall Leaf Pick-up for Monday through Friday beginning October 30th and ending November 30, 2024** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.
4. *****MOTION to set Trick-or-Treat for Thursday, October 31st from 6-7:30 pm** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.
5. *****MOTION to award the Mechanical Contract for the Waterside Park Event Center (DCNR BRC-PRD-27-35; LSA Project # 22-13) to the vendor offering the lowest quoted price, not to exceed \$125,000** made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

6. *****MOTION to approve the purchase of acoustic panels for the conference center and corridor from Pinnacle Acoustics in the amount of \$5,810.00** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.
7. *****MOTION to advertise a new ordinance adopting an amended version of the International Property Maintenance Code** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.
8. *****MOTION to approve the purchase of a washer and dryer for the municipal building for an amount not to exceed \$2,000** was made by Mr. Quinn; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Unanimously carried.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Dave Bane reported that in August 2024 the Fire Department had 71 calls including four (4) brush fires, fifteen (15) medical assists, five (5) motor vehicle accidents, one (1) trash fire, five (5) public service, one (1) authorized burn, thirty-six (36) gas leaks, four (4) unintentional alarms. He stated that year-to-date they have had 270 calls, averaged 6.63 people per call, and the average response time was 6 minutes and 18 seconds.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Jarrod D'Amico from Harshman read over the monthly report. Please see attached report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Please see attached report.

SUPERVISOR SABOT'S REPORT

SUPERVISOR QUINN'S REPORT - None

SUPERVISOR JOHNSON'S REPORT -None

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

*****MOTION to go into Executive Session with no action to discuss Road Crew applications at 6:15 pm** was made by Mr. Sabot; seconded by Mr. Quinn. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Sabot, Chairman


Jacqueline M. Kotchman, Secretary/Treasurer



NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
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Treasurer's Report
SEPTEMBER 2024

Balance on hand as of SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Washington Financial

General Fund	\$841,807.54
Payroll Account	\$5,158.73
State Fund.....	\$465,021.50
MMO Escrow Fund.....	\$14.33
Bond Escrow Fund	\$179,514.25
Sewage Escrow Account.....	\$3,368.66
Capital Improvement Fund.....	\$1,656,416.69
Parks & Recreation Account.....	\$579,015.23
DCNR Park Grant Fund.....	\$104,123.84
American Rescue Plan Fund.....	\$522,961.28
Bond Projects Fund 2022.....	\$40,629.90
Local Share Account.....	\$268,673.27
Act 13 Impact Fee Account.....	\$237,048.73



September 10, 2024

North Franklin Township Supervisors
620 Franklin Farms Road
Washington, PA 15301

2455 Park Ave
Washington, PA 15301
T: 724-993-4505
F: 724-993-4388

Subject: Monthly Code Enforcement Report

Dear Supervisors,

The following are Code Enforcement items that have been investigated since the July 2024 Supervisors Meeting:

1500 West Chestnut Street- Washington Crowne Center Mall – Movie Theater.

Received complaint about a broken water line in the Movie Theater resulting in the sprinklers being off-line and mold growing in the space. Emailed Mall Manager Civil Knox for permission to enter – Mrs. Knox said that she would reach out to ownership for permission.

If no response by Friday, July 12, will file for an administrative search warrant from Magistrate Manfredi's office.

710 Moore Rd – Junk

The property was inspected on August 1, 2024. Notice of violation is to be sent to the owner and current resident. The property was inspected on 9/9/24 and appears to be in the process of being remediated. The property resident contacted us stating she is getting a dumpster for the rubbish.

431 Cleveland Rd – High Grass

The property was inspected on August 1, 2024. The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners. Violations remain. Citations are being filed.

211 Cleveland Rd- Rubbish, Grass

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners. Violations remain. Citations are being filed.

430 Cleveland Rd- Noise

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners.

1745 Park Ave- Burning

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners.

130 Fulton St- Rubbish

The property was posted on 9/5/24. The reinspection date is 9/10/24.

76 Fulton St-Rubbish

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners.

1890 West Chestnut St- Rubbish

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners.

Total- 9

On-Going Items:

138 Hamilton St- Structure

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners on June 7, 2024. The property will be reinspected. Citations are being filed.

136 Blaine St- GRASS, Rubbish

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners on June 7, 2024. The property will be reinspected. Citations are being filed.

BON TON 1500 West Chestnut St- Property Maintenance

The notice was sent on January 20, 2023. The citations have been filed on March 16, 2023. The hearing is scheduled for July 11, 2023. The property owners did not show resulting in a guilty verdict. We will reinspect in 30 days. Daily citations are in the process of being filed. The daily citations have been filed, and the second set of daily citations has also been filed. Awaiting plea. The third round of citations is being filed as of December 1, 2023. We are still awaiting the plea. The 3rd round of daily citations was filed with the new magistrate. 204 Citations filed. The hearing is scheduled for May 20, 2024. The property owner didn't show resulting again in a guilty verdict with Judge Manfredi, max fine on all citations. He has 30 days to appeal. We are also in contact with Judge Stewart as half of the citations were filed with her office, to conduct a hearing. **Judge Stewart's office stated that a hearing cannot be scheduled until a plea is entered. Daily citations being filed with Magistrate Manfredi's office.**

63 Cleveland Rd- Structure

The notice was sent certified and noncertified on 10/25/2022. The notice was left on 10/28/2022. The property was posted on 11/16/2022 after the certified notice was unclaimed. The reinspection is scheduled for 12/16/2022. Citations were filed as the property is still in violation. The hearing is scheduled for March 16, 2023. The property owner did not show up to the court hearing resulting in a guilty verdict. The property was posted for junk and the car. Daily citations have been filed. Awaiting plea. Sent over documentation to the solicitor for an injunction request. The injunction request was approved by the Judge. The engineer and code enforcement went to the property to conduct an interior inspection per the Court Order. **Reports submitted to Township and Solicitor.**

Magisterial Hearings:

330 Cleveland Rd- Junk, Rubbish

Notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners on 9/7/23. The notice was delivered on 9/12/23 to the property owners. The inspection is scheduled for 9/26/23. The property owner contacted me stating she would work on the vehicles as well as asked for an extension. Upon re-inspection on 11.2.23, the property is still in violation. The 1st QOL Ticket was sent on 11.2.23. The next re-inspection is scheduled for 11/16/23. The 2nd QOL ticket is being sent on 11/16/23. The re-inspection was scheduled for 11/30/23. The third and final QOL ticket was sent on 11/30/23. The property owner contacted us regarding the QOL tickets stating that no one is living in the camper anymore and it will be moved. The vehicles are also being removed from the property or are to be inspected. The property owner was given until the end of February to remediate all violations. A progress checkup was done on 2/1/24, no improvements were made, the final reinspection will be done on 2/29/24 if violations remain then citations will be filed on 3/1/24. Citations have been filed. The hearing is rescheduled for 4/29/24. Slow progress was made on the property. Continued for 60 days. **PROPERTY OWNER DECEASED. HEARING ON 6/25 WAS CONTINUED FOR 30 DAYS.**

701 Park Ave- Structures, GRASS

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners on 9/22/23. The notice was left on 9/25/23. The property will be posted. The property owner contacted us regarding the NOV and posting asking for an extension of 90 days from 10/26/23. The property owner contacted me on 1/9/24 stating he has a contract with a roofing company to fix both the main house roof and the shed roof. They are waiting for the weather to break to start remediation. The final reinspection is scheduled for 6/11/24, **Hearing is scheduled for September 26, 2024.**

459 Longview Dr-Prop Maint.

The notice was sent certified and noncertified to the property owners on 3/7/24. The resident received the certified Nov on 3/11/24. No contact has been made, will reinspect in 30-days. Upon inspection, all violations remain. The property will be posted as a last attempt to communicate with the resident. The property was posted on 4/12/24. Progress check-up was done on the property on 5/2/24, the posting was taken down. All violations remained. Will follow up after the 30-days on 5/14/24. **CITATIONS FILED.**

Thank you,



Jarrod D'Amico, BCO, CZO
Code Enforcement
permits@harshmanllc.com

SOLICITOR'S REPORT
ATTORNEY-CLIENT CORRESPONDENCE

TO: North Franklin Township Supervisors

FROM: SWEAT LAW OFFICES/GARY L. SWEAT, ESQUIRE – SOLICITOR

RE: Solicitor's Report – September 2024

Dear Supervisors:

The following are the items that needed to be addressed since the last meeting:

1. Comprehensive Re-Zoning

Holdover. Erin is working on this matter, so as soon as there is something needed from our office, please do not hesitate to let us know.

2. Code Enforcement Matters

A. 63 Cleveland Road

Washington County Redevelopment Authority awarded the Township's request to have this torn down by the County. The additional documentation required by the County has been submitted and now we will await word from the County on when this will be torn down.

B. BonTon

My office has requested a certified order with the outstanding fines levied against Washington Crown Center from Magistrate Manfredi's Office. This will be filed as a judgement lien against them property (the amount is in excess of \$38,000.00)

3. Chemical Spill – Vankirk Road – Bull & Bear Co.

My office has finally been able to confirm there was insurance in place at the time of the incident and have been in contact with the attorney representing the trucking company's insurance company. He indicated there are multiple claims and there is only \$1,000,000.00 of coverage, and there are significant damage claims.

4. Resolution – Trinity School District Taxes

Michael has worked with Erin and Bob to draft a Resolution outlining the concerns of the Board with regards to Trinity's tax increased over the past 5 years. You may adopt this.

5. IPMC Ordinance.

Our office has prepared an Ordinance for the Board to consider adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code with some minor amendments based on the review of the Planning Commission. The Board can advertise this Ordinance for consideration at its October meeting.

6. **DCNR – Waterside Park Event Center**

Our office has drafted 2 letters regarding the bid process for this project as requested by the DCNR for its files.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Sweat, Esquire
Michael C. Cruny, Esq.