

**MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE/BOARD OF HEALTH
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 09, 2024
7:30 PM**

Franklin Township Municipal Building, 202 Sidney Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Homulak at 7:30 pm. Mayor Homulak read the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Statement and led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Sebastian Donaruma (present) Michael Homulak (present)
Craig Repmann (absent) Deanna Seiple (present) Alexa Tarby (present)

Also present: Igor Bykov, Attorney (Lavery, Selvaggi & Cohen, P.C.)
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Chief Timothy Snyder, Police Department

Mayor Homulak briefly explained the agenda.

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke regarding Agenda Items.

Proclamations & Presentations:

1. Resolution 2024-26: Appointment – Police Officer – Alan Hill.
 - a. Oath of Office.

Mayor Homulak read the full contents of Resolution 2024-26.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-26: Donaruma Second: Tarby
Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Absence) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

The Township Attorney administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Alan Hill in the presence of Officer Hill's family, friends, and fellow members of the Police Department.

Deputy Mayor Donaruma explained that Officer Hill was replacing an officer that had recently left the department.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Homulak recommended that both the Work-Session/Regular Meeting and Executive Session minutes be approved together due to the absence of Committeeman Repmann. He explained that all other members of the Township Committee were present at both sessions.

Motion to approve the April 25, 2024, Township Committee/Board of Health Work-Session/Regular Meeting & Executive Session minutes: Seiple Second: Tarby
Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Absent) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Payment of Bills:

Motion to approve the Bills List: Donaruma Second: Tarby
Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Absent) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Ordinances: None.

Resolutions: None.

Board of Health: None.

Old Business:

1. River Road Drainage Improvement Project.
 - a. Proposal for Professional Services: River Road Drainage Improvements - Colliers Engineering & Design Proposal No.: FKT0134P.

Mayor Homulak explained that the Department of Public Works (DPW) supervisor, Frederick Roll, had advised of the need to repair River Road the previous summer. He indicated that Mr. Roll had explained that the alternative to repairing the road would be the closure of the road. Mayor Homulak further indicated that the cost of the repairs was already included in the Capital Budget. Mayor Homulak, noting that Colliers Engineering & Design had not sent a representative to field questions, recommended tabling the proposal if the Township Committee had any questions. No questions were raised by the Township Committee regarding the proposal. The Township Attorney explained that the repairs were a necessity for the Township. Mayor Homulak further explained the costs of the project and expressed his appreciation for the DPW's efforts to keep the road open.

Motion to approve the Proposal for Professional Services: River Road Drainage Improvements – Colliers Engineering & Design Proposal No.: FKT0134P: Donaruma Second: Tarby
Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Absent) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

New Business: None.

Committee Member Reports:

Mayor Homulak reported that the County had released a grant earlier in the day for municipalities to participate in. He explained that the grant could be utilized on multiple municipal infrastructure items. Upon questioning by Deputy Mayor Donaruma, the Township Attorney explained that the grant was available for any and all infrastructure needs in the Township.

Mayor Homulak provided a brief update on behalf of Committeeman Repmann regarding the Affordable Housing project behind the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. He indicated that an email from the Mayor of

High Bridge expressed interest in assisting with the project. Mayor Homulak thanked Committeeman Repmann for his efforts on the project.

Committeewoman Seiple reported that she had spoken with Sue Larson, Senior Group, regarding the group's budget. She explained that the budget is used to fund day trips, refreshments, and other items for their members. She indicated that Ms. Larson had recommended that anyone with questions regarding the senior budget should attend a Senior Group meeting and speak with her.

Committeewoman Tarby reported that the Township's Fishing Derby, which took place the prior weekend, had a low turn-out and speculated that the low turn-out may be due to Clinton's fishing derby being held on the same day. She explained that the scouts had been in attendance and that the Recreation Committee had done a great job in putting the event together. Committeewoman Tarby further reported that she had spoken with Chief Snyder and the new police officer.

Deputy Mayor Donaruma reported he had contacted the State representative regarding the Capoolong Creek Trail inquiring about the results of the meeting with the State's Engineer. He explained that the representative had indicated that the meeting had been postponed until the upcoming Tuesday. He indicated that he would remain in contact with the State representative.

Comments from the Public:

Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, in the form of comments, questioned why the previous officer left, the details of the County grant, and the specifics of the senior budget. She explained that Clinton provides a senior budget of \$500, and that Franklin Township provides a budget of \$6,500. Committeewoman Seiple recommended that Ms. Basile speak with Ms. Larson regarding the senior budget. Mayor Homulak explained that the County grant had only just been released and forwarded to the Township late that afternoon. Mayor Homulak and the Township Attorney further explained that employee details could not be disclosed. Mayor Homulak reiterated that the newly hired officer was a replacement for the officer that had left.

Executive Session:

Mayor Homulak explained the need to enter Executive Session, that action may be taken, and that all attendees of the meeting could wait outside of the meeting room except for the Committee, Police Chief Timothy Snyder, the Township Clerk, and the Township Attorney.

Upon confirmation of the absence of all but the required attendees, the Township Clerk stopped audio recording of the meeting.

Motion to enter executive session: Seiple
All in favor. Motion carried.

Second: Tarby

Committee entered Executive Session at 7:50 pm.

