

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE/BOARD OF HEALTH
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 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 (present) Deanna Seiple (present) Alexa Tarby (present)

Also present: Igor Bykov, Attorney (Lavery, Selvaggi & Cohen, P.C.)
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Sue Larson, Senior Group
Darlene Green, PP, AICP, Township/Affordable Housing Planner, Colliers Engineering & Design

Mayor Homulak briefly explained the agenda and added a presentation from the Senior Group.

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke on Agenda Items.

Proclamations & Presentations:

1. Senior Group – Sue Larson

Sue Larson, Senior Group, introduced herself and explained the average number of participants in attendance at a Senior Group meeting. She further explained that the meetings include more than meals and that she had come to the Township Committee meeting to explain what the group does with the money they are provided by the township. She explained that the money is used to make the meetings more festive, provide \$5 gift cards for birthdays, provide meals and entertainment which includes speakers at their meetings. She indicated that the meetings are open to the public and that anyone is invited to attend. She explained that the group occasionally goes on trips and that the money is used to assist in paying for transportation. She expressed the importance of assisting seniors in socializing and indicated that two of the seniors had turned 90 years old the previous week.

Committeewoman Seiple expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the Senior Group and indicated that the most important thing seniors can do for their health is socialize.

Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, questioned what happens to any unused funds. Ms. Larson explained that any unused funds are carried over from year to year.

Ms. Larson further explained that the Senior Group meetings occur every second Wednesday at 1:00 pm at the Quakertown Fire Company, except when the Fire Company is holding their picnic, at which point the meeting would occur in the evening.

Frank Tota, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, questioned what constitutes a senior. Ms. Larson explained that various organizations classify a senior at either 60 or 65 years of age.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the May 23, 2024, Township Committee/Board of Health Work-Session/Regular Meeting & Executive Session minutes: Donaruma Second: Seiple

Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Payment of Bills:

Motion to approve the Bills List: Repmann Second: Seiple

Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Ordinances:

1. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2024-06: Ordinance to Amend Chapter 296 of the Code of the Township of Franklin Entitled "Stormwater Control" to Reflect Amendments to the New Jersey Stormwater Management Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8, adopted July 17, 2023.
 - a. Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for July 11, 2024.

Mayor Homulak read the following Summary & Explanation:

The Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, adopted Ordinance 2006-05 on March 23, 2006, and amended said ordinance in its entirety by adopting Ordinance 2021-02 on February 25, 2021, as required whenever the State amends N.J.A.C. 7:8. The State further amended the statute on July 17, 2023, and now requires the ordinance to be amended again to bring the Township's ordinance into alignment with the statute.

Provided by Christine Burke, Township Clerk

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-06: Donaruma Second: Repmann

Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

2. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2024-07: Ordinance to Amend Chapter 298 of the Code of the Township of Franklin Entitled "Stormwater Quality" to add Article XI – Tree Removal and Replacement.
 - a. ~~Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for July 11, 2024.~~

Mayor Homulak read the following Summary & Explanation:

The Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey has a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit from the State of New Jersey. The Township has obtained a new five (5) year Municipal Stormwater Permit from the State of New Jersey in 2023 to cover the five-year period commencing on January 1, 2023, and expiring on December 31, 2027. The Township was classified as a Tier B municipality prior to the renewal of its five (5) year municipal stormwater permit in 2023. However, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Project recently reclassified the Township as Tier A municipality. Following such reclassification, the Township is now subject to the Community-Wide Ordinance requirements of the new Tier A Municipal Stormwater Permit, which prompted the adoption of the Ordinance 2023-08 prior to January 1, 2024. Such requirement is imposed upon the Township by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The State is now requiring that language be placed in the ordinance regarding the removal and replacement of trees in the municipality. This ordinance supplies that language by adding Article XI.

Provided by Christine Burke, Township Clerk

With language from the Summary and Explanation provide by Igor Bykov, Township Attorney regarding Ordinance 2023-08.

Upon recommendation of the Township Attorney, the Township Committee agreed to forward the ordinance to the Land Use Board (LUB) and Environmental Commission (EC) for review and comments. The Township Committee further agreed to postpone the introduction of the ordinance until July.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2024-33: ABC License Renewal – Quakertown Recreation Club.
2. Resolution 2024-34: ABC License Renewal – RIMA ENTERPRISE LLC (Clinton Wine & Spirits Inc).

Mayor Homulak explained that Resolutions 2024-33 and 2024-34 are standard business and recommended approving them together.

Motion to adopt Resolutions 2024-33 and 2024-34: Repmann Second: Seiple

Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

3. Resolution 2024-35: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Grandin Road Improvement project.

Mayor Homulak explained the status of Grandin Road and that the Department of Public Works (DPW), along with the Township Engineer, annually evaluates the township's roads for necessary repairs or improvements.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-35: Repmann Second: Tarby

Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Board of Health: None.

Old Business:

1. **New Municipal Building (43 Lower Landsdown Road) – Status Update**
 - a. **Resolution 2024-36: Resolution of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Approving the Plans and Specifications and Authorizing the Solicitation of Competitive Bids for the Site Improvements on the Exterior of the Township’s New Municipal Building, Located at 43 Lower Landsdown Road.**

Mayor Homulak explained that the New Municipal Building exterior site improvements would include Americans with Disabilities (ADA) parking and sidewalks as well as a Police Department sally port. He further explained that the Township had a grant application under way to assist in paying for these improvements.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-36: Repmann

Second: Seiple

Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

New Business:

1. **Discussion Item: Summer Meeting Schedule.**

Mayor Homulak explained that the Township Committee traditionally discusses a summer meeting schedule. The Township Committee briefly discussed their availability during the summer months. They agreed not to officially cancel the June 27th meeting until the Hunterdon County infrastructure grant application process had been completed in case any further action would be needed by the governing body by the grant’s deadline. They agreed to hold the July 11th meeting but cancel the July 25th meeting. They agreed to keep the August meetings until it could be determined which meeting would allow for a quorum, tentatively expressing that they would meet on August 22nd.

Committee Member Reports:

Deputy Mayor Donaruma reported he would be attending a meeting with a state representative the following day regarding the Capoolong Trail.

Committeewoman Seiple reported that she would be attending the meeting regarding the Capoolong Trail along with Deputy Mayor Donaruma. She further reported that Community Day would be held in August at the Elks, and that the Hunterdon Games would also take place in August. She indicated that there had been lots of participation in the newsletter and that the newsletter includes an online Zoom application link for a public hearing on proposed changes to Route 78, Exit 15. She requested that the Township Committee send their reviews and approvals of the newsletter to the Township Clerk so that it can be posted on the Township website.

Committeeman Repmann reported on the 78/22 Coalition Meeting explaining that the speaker was a township resident who made a presentation on challenges in commercial space and how they can be used. He further reported that he would be attending a meeting the following week to discuss sewer allocation options for the Township’s affordable housing project with another municipality. Darlene Green, Township/Affordable Housing Planner, indicated that she would not be attending the meeting.

Comments from the Public:

Sue Larson, 230 Quakertown Road, requested that the Township include a municipal directory with the tax bill.

Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, commented that another resident had texted her that senior housing would be coming soon and that the text had included a picture of the Ingerman project. Committeeman Repmann explained that the presentation for the project was public record but could not speak for "coming soon".

Executive Session:

The Township Attorney explained the need to enter Executive Session, that action was not anticipated to be taken, and that all attendees of the meeting could wait outside of the meeting room except for the Committee, the Township/Affordable Housing Planner, 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: Donaruma
All in favor. Motion carried.

Second: Repmann

Committee entered Executive Session at 8:01 pm.

Topics discussed:

1. Attorney-Client Privilege – New Affordable Housing Legislation.
2. Attorney-Client Privilege/Litigation/Contractual – Lease of Township Owned Property – Quakertown Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (QVEMS).

Darlene Green, Township/Affordable Housing Planner left at 9:11 pm.

Committee exited Executive Session at 9:22 pm.

Motion to exit executive session and resume regular meeting: Repmann
All in favor. Motion carried.

Second: Donaruma

The Township Attorney explained the topics discussed in Executive Session, that action would not be taken, and that minutes would become available once the need for confidentiality was no longer required.

Action by the Committee: None.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Repmann Second: Seiple

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 07/11/2024