

**MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019
7:30 P.M.**

The Franklin Township Committee held their regular meeting at **7:30 P.M., Thursday, February 14, 2019** at the Municipal Building. This meeting has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Craig Repmann called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Michael Homulak PRESENT Philip Koury PRESENT Sebastian Donaruma PRESENT
Diane Burgess ABSENT Craig Repmann PRESENT

Also present: Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney who was taking the minutes in the absence of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

Some others present: Lt. Timothy Snyder, Cameron Keng

Swearing in of new Committeeman Sebastian Donaruma

Comments from the public on agenda items only: None

Approval of Minutes

Motion to adopt minutes of January 24, 2019 Regular Meeting and Executive Session.

Moved Homulak Second Koury

AYES: Homulak, Koury, Repmann
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Donaruma
ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Motion to authorize payment of bills as presented.

Moved Homulak Second Koury

Roll Call Vote: Homulak AYE Donaruma AYE Koury AYE Repmann AYE

Motion carried.

Public Hearings – None

Resolutions- None

Ordinances

Ordinance 2019- __ An Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 56, "Officers and Employees," Article VI "Registrar of Vital Statistics," Section 18 "Creation; Duties; Compensation," of the Code of the Township of Franklin, to Amend the Salary for the Registrar.

Moved Koury

Second Homulak

Roll Call Vote: Homulak AYE Koury AYE Donaruma AYE Repmann AYE

Motion carried. Second Reading and Public Hearing to be held on March 14, 2019 at 7:30pm

Staff Administrative Reports

Police- Lt. Snyder gave his monthly report for January. Phil Koury asked if he could provide a comparison of the monthly reports.

CFO- Auditors are working on the Audit, spoke about the cyber issues and he is interviewing vendors for IT.

Administrative- none

Board of Health – no need for a meeting this evening.

Old Business None

New Business

Building Use for Saturday morning group – Discussion tabled for Diane Burgess because T/C believes she placed this item in the agenda. There was a discussion about the need for a facility use form and insurance. Attorney was asked to draft something for next meeting.

Registrar- previously discussed under Ordinances.

Committee Reports:

Homulak: Met with Police about PBA contract and will discuss in Executive Session; Spoke with Brad P, the Chief of the Fire Department, about his request for breaks on fees for volunteers. Brad to do some research of what other towns do. Committee was supportive of the idea because volunteers are hard to come by and the Committee wants to incentivize them. M. Homulak to coordinate with Chief.

Koury: Report from Land Use Board Subcommittee for Master Plan and they had some questions for the T/C. Last night was the LUB meeting and they discussed the goals of the Master Plan. Phil was pleasantly surprised that the entire committee seems to be in sync with the T/C related to building vs. preservation and the balance. T/C and LUB has shared concerns of keeping the rural character of the Township and future growth to be able to maintain services without an exorbitant cost to the tax payers. Phil shared the CFO's chart for the tax bills with the LUB and that asked if it can be done every year and if it can include the contact information for the other taxing entities.

LUB Subcommittee asked for clarification on a few items:

1. What is the T/C expecting on Master Plan? Craig Repmann said he received an email from David Dallas with similar questions. Phil said he wants the LUB and T/C to "walk together down the same path". The T/C doesn't want the LUB to write a master plan that the T/C won't enforce. The last Master Plan was anti-development; keeping Ag. LUB would like comments in writing from T/C.
2. Darlene Green gave them questions about cannabis and Air BnB's. Craig asked if we need Air BnB in Master Plan. Attorney to provide samples of Air BnB ordinances.
Cannabis: Attorney recommended waiting until NJ legislation is finalized so you know what the law is. Craig said he was contacted by an attorney who is knowledgeable about cannabis laws and would like to come and give a presentation. The attorney mentioned interest in hemp farming in the municipality, possibility on Municipal property. Discussed status of cannabis legislation. Phil asked Attorney to speak to Planner.
3. COAH: LUB asked the status of the litigation. Attorney explained that the Township has a conditional judgment and we are waiting for the special master to finalize but all the ordinances are in place.
4. School: Phil said the LUB had questions about the build out of the school- who determines when/if the school should close or merge? Craig said that is up to the School Board and school budget. Discussion about what will happen when the school bond is paid off. CFO suggested that it is not likely that the taxes will go down because new debt will replace the old debt. It was suggested that a discussion of all taxing authority be had to discuss the future.
5. Master Plan expense: Are there funds available. Craig said \$8,000 was up aside in 2018's budget. Phil said the LUB asked if there was any other money from prior years. The answer is no because the T/C didn't know there was a need to update the Master Plan until last year when they learned it was overdue. Phil said one land use board member thinks that the Township needs \$50,000 to properly review the Master Plan. Phil said he explained to the LUB that the T/C trusts its professionals and if the Planner says that \$8,000 is what is needed to properly update the Master Plan that is what they budgeted. Craig asked what would be the advantage of spending \$50,000 on the Master Plan. The CFO explained what a \$50,000 review would accomplish but stated it wouldn't necessarily bring any revenue into the Township.
6. Phil said a LUB member asked him if last years budget was available. CFO stated that it is always available on the website and that particular LUB member was provided a copies directly for the last 10 years.

Craig commented on the Pie Chart and stated that he was at a Board of Education meeting shortly after it went out to the residents and the Board of Education was not happy that it went out as it seemed to blame them for the taxes. The T/C said they meant no ill will by sending it out they only wanted to educate the residents who often get confused because they pay their entire tax bill to the municipality and assume all that money goes to the municipal budget.

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7. Phil said the LUB asked about the land behind the cracker barrel. Attorney Campbell explained that the property was zoned for multifamily residential with inclusionary zoning as part of the Township's affordable housing litigation. There was a discussion about sewer and water capacity. Attorney Campbell to discuss with Darlene sending out an RFP for a developer for the Cracker Barrel property.

Phil gave an Administration report and just asked if everyone got a copy of Diane's email about the Clerk's position. To be discussed further in executive session.

Repmann: Craig made a mayoral appointment of Cameron Keng as HR/Benefits coordinator. A position previously held by Ursula Stryker. T/C was in agreement.

Craig gave an update on Rec Basketball.

Craig gave an update on the DPW: the women's bathroom looks great. The total cost of the women's bathroom and kitchen renovation was \$2,700. The men's room renovation will start next week.

Comments from the public: None

Executive Session

Motion to adopt a resolution to enter executive session for discussion of matters pertaining to:

Security- IT

Personnel- Tax Collector

Personnel- Clerk

Contractual- Police Contract

Contractual – Verizon

Action may be taken upon return to open session.

Moved Koury

Second Donaruma

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

Motion carried.

Return to open session

The Committee returned to open session.

Motion to come out of executive session

Motion Koury Second Donaruma

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Action taken: Motion to make an offer for Tax Collector position as discussed in Executive Session.

Moved: Koury Second: Homulak

All in Favor

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Motion Carried.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved Donaruma Second Homulak
All in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina L. Campbell, Esq.
Township Attorney

ADOPTION: C Inella
 2-28-19