

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK-SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020
7:30 PM

(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411031548>)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Koury at 7:31 pm. Mayor Koury read the OPMA Statement and led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Mayor Philip Koury (present) Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess (absent)
Sebastian Donaruma (present) Mike Homulak (present)
Craig Repmann (present)

Also present: Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Cameron Keng, Chief Finance Officer
Captain Timothy Snyder, Police Department

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke regarding Agenda Items.

Presentation: None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the June 25, 2020 minutes Work Session/Regular Meeting: Donaruma

Second: Homulak

Roll call: Burgess (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Koury (Aye) Repmann (Abstain)

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the Bills List: Homulak Second: Donaruma

Roll call: Burgess (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Koury (Aye) Repmann (Aye)

Ordinances: None.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2020-40: Authorize ABC License Renewal – Quakertown Recreation Club, Inc. – License No. 1010-31-003-002.

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Homulak

Roll call: Burgess (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Koury (Aye) Repmann (Aye)

Staff Administrative Reports:

Administrative: The Township Clerk reported on the results of the Primary Election held on Tuesday, July 7th, explaining the efforts of the County Clerk to process the Vote-By-Mail Ballots and that official results of the election would have to come from the County Clerk. She went on to update the Committee on the status of the new website, explaining current analytical data and further efforts to continue placing information on the site. She reported that the State of New Jersey had granted permission to destroy outdated financial records that had exceeded their retention schedules and that the Archival records that had been sent out to be remediated for mold damage are anticipated to be returned in a couple of weeks. She further reported that the notices to be included with the Estimated Tax Bills had been printed and were being prepared for mailing.

A resident utilizing a phone to call into the meeting was muted by the Clerk to reduce noise interference.

Police: Captain Snyder reported on the recent activities of the Police Department, specifying arrests, motor vehicle incidents, alarms, property checks and others. He explained the efforts of the Police Department to address speeding complaints on Pittstown Road near Sky Manor Road and cited that 42% of the motor vehicle tickets came from that effort. Committeeman Homulak expressed his gratitude for the Police Department's efforts.

CFO: The CFO reported that the Audit had been completed and that Estimated Tax Bills were being prepared for mailing. He further explained that there would be two mailings for Tax Bills this year as the Final Quarter Tax Bill was also being prepared. Upon questioning by Mayor Koury, the CFO indicated that there was money in the Budget for both mailings.

Board of Health: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Committee Member Reports:

Committeeman Sebastian Donaruma indicated that he had nothing to report as Captain Snyder had already spoken regarding the speeding complaints on Pittstown Road.

Committeeman Mike Homulak indicated that he had nothing to report. Upon questioning by Mayor Koury, he indicated that the Fire Company had participated in the Independence Day Parade.

Committeeman Craig Repmann reported on the preparation of the Pop-up Drive-in Movie and indicated that all approvals were in place and that efforts were being made to ensure the safety of the event. Mayor Koury pointed out that the County Freeholders had begun their own efforts to host pop-up drive-in movies and concerts and expressed his belief that Committeeman Repmann's efforts sparked the efforts of the County.

Mayor Philip Koury reported that the Land Use Board had held their meeting on Wednesday, July 8th and that the meeting originally scheduled to be held on Wednesday, July 22nd had been cancelled. The next meeting was now scheduled to be held in August. He further reported that he had questioned what statistics the Governor was using for the re-opening process on a conference call meeting between the Mayors of Hunterdon and Warren Counties.

Comments from the Public:

Robyn Ramalho, 18 Spring Hill Road, questioned the status of the Tennis Courts on Locust Grove Road. Mayor Koury and the CFO explained the need to repair the Tennis Courts and that the cost to repair the Tennis Courts outweighed their usage and would result in a tax increase of over 4%. Committeeman Homulak explained that the Committee was still seeking alternative options for use of the property. Mayor Koury explained that the Township was going to send out an article about it in the Newsletter. Upon questioning by the Mayor, the Township Clerk explained how the COVID-19 Pandemic had caused a delay in the publication of the Newsletter.

A resident utilizing a phone to call into the meeting was unmuted by the Clerk to grant an opportunity to speak. The resident indicated that they had no comments.

Executive Session: None.

Action by the Committee: None.

Mayor Koury spoke regarding the efforts of the Hunterdon County Land Trust. He further spoke regarding Hunterdon County's statistical data regarding farmland preservation. The Township Attorney further explained that some farms had been preserved through Federal and State funds and that the municipalities had not had to pay into those preservation efforts.

Committeeman Repmann explained that residents could start entering the Pop-up Drive-in Movie at 6:30pm, refreshments were available for sale and that the movie would start at Dark. He further indicated that vehicles would not be able to run during the event and that the theater company had jumper cables in supply should anyone have difficulties starting their vehicle after the movie was over. The Township Attorney explained that she had posted a notice of the event on Facebook at the request of the Committee and that the posting had been shared by the Franklin PTA. The Attorney further explained the social distancing rules required to attend the event. Committeeman Repmann explained that the Recreation Committee and volunteers would help to run the event.

Mayor Koury indicated that the next Town Committee meeting was scheduled to be held on July 23, 2020 and questioned if the Committee would like to cancel that meeting as the staff had indicated that it did not appear that it would be needed. Brief discussion followed.

Motion to cancel July 23, 2020 Town Committee Work-Session/Regular Meeting: Donaruma
Second: Homulak All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Homulak Second: Repmann

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 08/13/2020