

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK-SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
7:30 PM

(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83920037987>)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Koury at 7:30 pm. Mayor Koury read the OPMA Statement and led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Mayor Philip Koury (present) Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess (present)
Sebastian Donaruma (absent) 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
Adam T. Wisniewski, P.E., representing the Township Engineer (Maser Consulting P.A.)
Gary M. Kummer Jr., Board of Health Septic Waiver Applicant
Jeff Careaga, Board of Health Septic Waiver Applicant's Engineer (Careaga Engineering)

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 August 13, 2020 minutes Work Session/Regular Meeting and Executive Session:
Homulak Second: Burgess

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

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the Bills List with final addition: Burgess Second: Repmann

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

Ordinances:

1. Public Hearing & Final Adoption of Ordinance 2020-07: An Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, Providing for Various Capital Improvements and Related Expenses in and for the Township of Franklin and Appropriating \$465,000.

Motion to open Public Hearing: Burgess Second: Homulak All in favor. Motion carried.

No one from the Public came forward to speak.

Motion to close Public Hearing: Burgess Second: Repmann All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt: Burgess Second: Homulak

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

2. Public Hearing & Final Adoption of Ordinance 2020-08: Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Accepting a Roadway Known as Quaker Ridge Court in the Wellington Ridge Subdivision.

Motion to open Public Hearing: Burgess Second: Homulak All in favor. Motion carried.

No one from the Public came forward to speak.

Motion to close Public Hearing: Burgess Second: Repmann All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt: Burgess Second: Homulak

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

3. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2020-09: Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Amending Various Chapters of the Code of the Township of Franklin to Revise the Requirements for Escrows and Fees.
 - a. Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for October 8, 2020.

Motion to Introduce: Burgess Second: Homulak

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

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2020-45: Farmland Preservation – Final Cost Share Approval – Jason and Ashley Onuschak Farm – 452 Cherryville Road – Block 30, Lot 13

The Township Committee briefly discussed the location of the farm and the cost to Franklin Township and questioned if a presentation had been made to the Committee. Committeemen Homulak and Repmann clarified that a presentation was made regarding the subject farm in 2019. The Township Attorney clarified that the Township contributes up to 20% in a Planning Incentive Grant (PIG). Deputy Mayor Burgess explained that the Township is only contributing 13% to this project.

Motion to adopt: Burgess Second: Homulak

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

Staff Administrative Reports:

Police: Captain Snyder reported on the recent activities of the Police Department, specifying arrests, motor vehicle warnings, tickets, accidents, and others. He updated the Committee on efforts to obtain speed signs and briefly discussed the various types and costs. He further indicated that he would submit a report on his findings. Upon questioning by Committeeman Repmann, the CFO indicated that he would investigate the appropriate use of grant money for the purchase of speed signs.

CFO: The CFO reported that the annual Tax Sale would occur at the end of October or beginning of November. He also reported that the Department of Public Works (DPW) had selected a candidate for the open DPW Crewman position and that Arbitration was scheduled to begin on September 21st for Police Department related matters. Deputy Mayor Burgess briefly questioned the selection process for the DPW Crewman and the requested date of hire. The CFO responded and indicated that the Department of Public Works would like the employee to begin in October.

Motion to extend offer of employment to Trevor Wene for the position of DPW Crewman at \$25.00 per hour, contingent upon the successful passing of a background check: Burgess Second: Homulak

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

Administrative: The Township Clerk reported on the reopening of the Municipal Building to walk-in visitors and an increased number of Marriage License and Certified Copy applications received in the office. She indicated that all Town Committee meeting agendas and minutes from 2016 to present had been restored to the Township website. The Township Clerk further reported on the efforts of the Deputy Clerk to assist Lora Jones, the Township Historian, in the coordination of the Dodransbicentennial (175th Anniversary) Car Rally and Scavenger Hunt. Committeeman Repmann corrected that the event would take place on October 24th.

The Clerk explained that the Clerk's Office had received multiple inquiries regarding the wild turkey that lingers in the road along Sidney Road and informed the Committee that there is little that the Township can do about the bird as wild turkeys are federally protected and only the NJDEP and USDA can legally relocate them. She also reported on the efforts of the Deputy Clerk to create a more efficient filing system for small resident escrow files and that a Vote-By-Mail Drop Box is scheduled for installation at the Municipal Building in advance of the November General Election.

Upon questioning by Deputy Mayor Burgess, the Clerk and CFO explained the employees' options for maintaining social distancing within the office. Deputy Mayor Burgess thanked the Clerk and CFO for working out the logistics of reopening the building to the public.

Old Business:

Mayor Koury reported that Stan Prater, JCP&L, had been invited to attend the meeting but was unable to do so and had to reschedule to an October meeting date.

New Business:

Mayor Koury reported on the bi-weekly meeting of the Hunterdon, Sussex and Warren County Mayors with Rebecca Schwartz, the governor's senior aide. He explained that the meeting had been changed to a monthly schedule and indicated that he had expressed concerns for school aged children that need remote learning and the lack of access to the internet for some parts of the Township. He explained that he was informed that schools had been providing Verizon Jet Packs for cellular signal boost and would make residents aware of that option. He expressed additional concerns that the Jet Pack option would not work in a "dead zone" where no signal could be located.

Committee Member Reports:

Committeeman Mike Homulak reported that the Quakertown Fire Company had chosen to have their annual Oktoberfest event, but it would only consist of a fundraiser and would not include entertainment. Said event was scheduled for October 3rd at 2:00pm. Mayor Koury requested that information be sent to the Clerk so that a link could be placed upon the Township's website.

Committeeman Craig Repmann reported that "Goosebumps" had been chosen as the drive-in movie scheduled for the evening of October 24th, after the Dodransbicentennial (175th Anniversary) Car Rally and Scavenger Hunt. The movie would be located at the Elks and begin around 6:30pm.

Mayor Philip Koury reported that the September 9th Land Use Board meeting had returned to the online Zoom application and went well. He indicated that the Land Use Board would hold in-person meetings as necessary, especially in the event of a controversial hearing.

The Township Attorney questioned if the Town Committee intended on continuing online Zoom meetings as the information would be necessary for advertising the introduced ordinances. The Committee briefly discussed options for holding meetings. The Committee agreed to continue online Zoom meetings through the month of October.

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess reported that both of Franklin Township's schools had adopted hybrid online and in-person models for the current school year.

Committeeman Craig Repmann reminded those present that the Township's Dump Day was scheduled for Saturday.

Upon questioning by Committeeman Homulak, the Township Clerk explained the social distancing limitations of the Township meeting room in the Municipal Building. She explained that the largest concern would be accommodating the public in the event of public hearings or controversial social concerns. Mayor Koury offered the option of utilizing the school in the event of larger controversial issues. The Township Attorney explained that the situation is constantly changing, and that the Committee could make additional changes to their meeting schedule if there is enough time to advertise the change. Mayor Koury reiterated that the Committee would continue to host their meetings through the online Zoom application at least through October.

Comments from the Public:

No one from the public came forward to speak.

Executive Session: None.

Action by the Committee: None.

Board of Health:

Motion to recess the Work-Session/Regular Meeting of the Township Committee in order to convene a Board of Health Meeting: Repmann Second: Burgess All in favor. Motion carried.

The Work-Session/Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was called to recess at 8:06 pm to convene a Board of Health Meeting.

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was reconvened at 8:25 pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Homulak Second: Repmann All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 09/24/2020