MINUTES FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORK SESSION THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016 7:30 P.M.

The Franklin Township Committee held a work session at 7:30 P.M., Thursday, May 12, 2016 at the Municipal Building. This meeting has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Susan Soloway called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

The Oath of Office was administered to newly seated Township Committee Member James Fania.

Roll Call:

Joseph Darocha PRESENT

James Fania PRESENT

Craig Repmann PRESENT

Kathryn Blew PRESENT

Susan Soloway PRESENT

Also present:

Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney

Some others present: John Nieliwodski, Dominick Zeveney, Mike Daley, Jason Vartikar, Tim Snyder, John Oliveira, George Reichert

Comments from the public on agenda items only: None

Consent Agenda – no action required this evening. Items for May 26 regular meeting will include:

- Bill list
- Any minutes for approval

Department Head/Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance, Administration, Insurance, HR/Benefits: Blew & Soloway

There was some discussion about the bill payment procedure. There have been problems with timely payments to Comcast due to our inability to get someone from Corporate to sign as the vendor. The CFO will now pay the voucher upon receipt with or without a vendor signature. The Committee also suggested pre-paying to keep up with payments so they will not terminate service as they have been doing for delinquent payments.

The Committee also discussed the information from the county on a shared service for records storage. We need to get additional information regarding retrieval of records. The Committee would like to continue to discuss this matter next month's meeting.

2. Public Safety (PD, Fire, Ems, OEM, Court, Health): Darocha & Fania

Lt. Tim Snyder reported on the department's monthly activities. All Committee members have been provided with his report.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2016 – 33 Click it or Ticket.

Moved Fania

Second Repmann

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2016 – 34 Detain at Hunterdon County Jail.

Moved Blew

Second Fania

All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Department of Public Works: Repmann & Fania

Alan Dilley, DPW Supervisor, provided the Committee with a proposal for dealing with potentially hazardous trees. Residents have been requesting trees be taken down in the right of way because they consider them to be a hazard. Just because a tree is in the right of way does not mean the township is obligated to cut it down. Alan is recommending that a certified expert would be asked to do an assessment of a tree reported as potentially hazardous and he outlined steps to be taken for any removal. The Committee would like to look into this issue further from a liability standpoint.

4. Land Use (Land Use Board, Open Space, Planning, Zoning, Construction, Environmental): Soloway & Darocha

The Committee discussed COAH matters. The township has hired an expert and the matter is in litigation.

The County Freeholders plan to make a presentation before the Township Committee at the June 9^{th} meeting for the Plan for the Future.

Hope Hill Farm, Block 23, Lots 8.01, 8.20, 8.21, 8.22: The municipal attorney has received the quotes from the list of approved appraisers. The Committee needs to authorize two appraisals for the subject property. Jason Vartikar, landowner, addressed the Committee on this matter. He said he has had the property appraised in the past and the appraisers spent a lot of time on the property since it's unique. They did thorough site visits. He hopes the township will not choose the cheapest appraiser but someone who stands behind the number; someone the township has worked with in the past and is happy with. He thought one of the appraisers comes in with radically lower quotes and potential landowners have then backed off from preserving their property. He commented on the two years he has spent with SADC and the CADB in negotiations. He has spent a lot of money in the process and his agreement with his shareholders won't allow acceptance of the lower value appraisals should that be the case. Mr. Vartikar said he did hear a rumor that there is an appraiser on the list who always comes in with a low quote. The Mayor suggested tabling this matter and investigating the appraisers.

Motion to award appraisal contracts to Thomas Rodriguez Associates and Landmark I Appraisal, LLC.

Moved Fania

Second Blew

Roll Call Vote: Darocha AYE Fania AYE

Repmann AYE Blew AYE Soloway NAY

Motion carried.

Fracking Ordinance: Mayor Soloway respectfully asked that the introduction of this ordinance be tabled until further discussion at the next meeting. She just asked for this only from a timing standpoint and extra time to review.

Motion to table the discussion of the Fracking Ordinance until the next meeting.

Moved Soloway

Second Fania

Roll Call Vote: Darocha AYE Fania AYE

Repmann NAY Blew AYE Soloway AYE

Motion carried.

Community, Business, School, Recreation, Seniors: Repmann & Blew

The Fishing Derby had to be rescheduled due to being rained out as scheduled.

BOARD OF HEALTH – No need for a meeting this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adopt a resolution to enter executive session R 8:26 p.m. for discussion of matters pertaining to personnel, litigation associated with COAH and the DPW contract negotiations. Formal action is anticipated to be taken upon return to open session.

Moved Repmann

Second Blew

Roll Call Vote: Darocha AYE

Fania AYE

Repmann AYE Blew AYE Soloway AYE

Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to return to open session.

Moved Darocha

Second Fania

All in favor. Motion carried.

In executive session matters of personnel, DPW contract negotiations and COAH litigation were discussed. Minutes of executive session will be made available at such time when the confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to authorize the Municipal Attorney to do what was discussed in executive session.

Moved Fania

Second Blew

Roll Call Vote: Darocha AYE Fania AYE Repmann AYE Blew AYE Soloway AYE

Motion carried.

Motion to authorize the Municipal Attorney to make the changes to the DPW contract as discussed.

Moved Repmann

Second Fania

Roll Call Vote: Darocha AYE Fania AYE Repmann AYE Blew AYE Soloway AYE

Motion carried.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the legislature regarding the gap period and COAH.

Moved Darocha

Second Blew

Roll Call Vote: Darocha AYE Fania AYE Repmann AYE Blew AYE Soloway AYE

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:32 P.M.

Moved Repmann

Second Fania

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ursulav. Stryker, RMC

DATE OF ADOPTION: 6-23-16