

Twp. Comm. Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2016

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016
7:30 P.M.

The Franklin Township Committee held a regular meeting at **7:30 P.M., Thursday, December 8, 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.

Roll Call: Joseph Darocha PRESENT James Fania PRESENT Craig Repmann PRESENT

Kathryn Blew PRESENT

Susan Soloway PRESENT

Also present: Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney
Adam Wisniewski, P.E., Maser Consulting

Present in the public: Many members of the Quakertown Fire Company, Open Space Advisory Committee and residents – approximately 50 people

Comments from the public on agenda items: Lora Jones, Open Space Advisory Committee and resident Spring Hill Road, spoke in support of preserving Hope Hill Farm which is currently before the Township Committee in resolution form to cost share with the State and County. The Open Space Advisory Committee provided additional information to the Committee on the farm. She expressed hope that the Committee will see value to preserving this farm and like the CADB will act to preserve it. She also commented on a recent concept for subdividing this property and could possibly bring 9 – 10 lots. John Demarrais also a member of the Open Space Advisory Committee commented on Hope Hill Farm and urged the Township Committee to preserve this parcel. He cited the need to protect the river as a water source. He also said a stream runs thru the property and cited the potential for effluent flowing directly into the river. He also said the Open Space Advisory Committee is in discussion with Leon's Sod Farm for preservation.

At this time Brad Patkochis, Fire Chief QFC, announced we were coming close to exceeding the capacity of the meeting room. No one offered to exit the room.

Diane Burgess, Chair Environmental Commission, commented on a resolution on tonight's agenda which she presented to the Township Committee to re-appoint a green team in order for the Environmental Commission to re-apply for Sustainable New Jersey recertification.

Cindy Bolts, Member Rural Awareness and resident Spring Hill Road, commented in support of preserving Hope Hill Farm.

Brad Patkochis, Fire Chief QFC, addressed the Township Committee on funds needed for a replacement ambulance and asked for financial assistance from the Committee. He also commented on a resolution

on tonight's agenda requiring financial documents from organizations requesting contributions from the municipality. He did not view this as a positive sign. The Committee responded that this is good government and shows due diligence by the Committee in spending public funds. There was also some discussion on pursuing the possibility of merging with other townships. Some towns are only interested in doing something with Quakertown during the daytime. Also, Brad said putting an ambulance in Alexandria Township makes no sense as it would affect Quakertown's response time. At this time the squad is looking for funding from the township in order for them to sustain their services. They are looking to purchase a used ambulance \$75,000.00, fully loaded. Currently the township provides the emergency squad with \$26,000 in addition to paying approximately \$3,500.00 per EMT (EMT only; no fire) for 9 – 12 members. Brad said they have already spent \$37,000 on day to day operations and they have done fund raising to cover the overage.

8:00 P.M. BOARD OF HEALTH

RECESS

Motion to recess the regular meeting in order to convene the Board of Health.

Moved Darocha Second Blew All in favor. Motion carried.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Motion to return to the regular meeting and await arrival of engineer for Board of Health applicant.

Moved Darocha Second Blew All in favor. Motion carried.

Additional comments from the public were taken at this time. Bill Loss, resident Spring Hill Road, commented in support of preserving Hope Hill Farm and urged the Committee to adopt the resolution on tonight's agenda.

The engineer for the Board of Health applicant arrived at this time, approximately 8:07 P.M.

RECESS

Motion to recess the regular meeting in order to convene the Board of Health.

Moved Blew Second Fania All in favor. Motion carried.

The Board of Health adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Motion to return to the Committee's regular meeting.

Moved Fania Second Blew All in favor. Motion carried.

The Mayor announced she would deviate from the agenda in order for the Township Committee to discuss Hope Hill Farm preservation. However, there were still those in the public who wished to comment and the Mayor recognized those wishing to speak.

Tommy Meyer, resident West Sidney Road and farmer, commented on Hope Hill Farm and believed it would be advantageous for the township to preserve it. Chris Vallat, Fire Commissioner, commented on the need for funding the emergency services.

Discussion by the Township Committee on Hope Hill Farm: The Mayor thanked everyone who works very hard on preservation. Going forward she believes there is the need to work as a team to identify properties that should be preserved. Deputy Mayor Blew commented on 300 foot buffers on the property and the configuration of the 6 acre severable lot. This flag lot was added after it was presented to the CADB. The Committee discussed consulting with the Municipal Engineer to review this property and determine how many lots could be created if subdivided for development. In discussing the severable lot, it was pointed out that this lot could go before the Land Use Board and get approval to subdivide it off as if it never existed. Both non-severable and severable mean it's not preserved. Also the severable lot is on the rocky part of the property and not on prime soils.

Motion to authorize the Municipal Engineer to review the Hope Hill Farm property regarding the number of lots that could be created and get back to the Township Committee with his findings.

Moved Fania

Second Repmann

All in favor. Motion carried.

Presentation: Diane Blaszka – possible change to township name.

Ms. Blaszka is a 16 year resident of the township and presented on the possibility of changing the township's name. She believed this would address the township's identity crisis since there are six (6) Franklin Townships in the State of New Jersey. The numerous Franklins cause much confusion. She is proposing "*Franklin Hills*" since topographically our township has many hilly and elevation changes. Also there are only two other *Franklin Hills* in the country: California and Montana. The next step toward change would be getting public opinion or putting a question on the ballot as a non-binding referendum.

Consent Agenda

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Motion to Adopt All items listed under the Consent Agenda.

Moved Blew

Second Darocha

- a. Approval of Bills for Payment

Twp. Comm. Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Current Fund Expenditures	\$286,495.83
Fair Housing	\$ 203.00
Driveway Trust	\$ 1,140.00
Grant Fund	\$ 659.50
Recreation Commission	\$ 377.90
General Trust	\$ 650.00
Dog Regulation Account	\$ 600.00
TOTAL	\$290,126.23

- b. Approval of minutes – November 10, 2016 Regular & Executive Session
- c. Adoption of **Resolution 2016 – 77** Cancel Outstanding Check
- d. Approval of Raffle Application #106 Franklin Township School/PTA

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

Motion carried.

Department Head/Subcommittee Reports

- **Finance, Administration, Insurance, HR/Benefits: Blew & Soloway**

The Municipal Clerk reported that one (1) formal bid was received for the Avaya Telephones. The bid was opened at this time and the result was \$160.00 bid for the sixteen (16) Avaya Messaging Telephones from James Cicalese.

Motion to award the bid to James Cicalese for \$160.00 for the sixteen (16) 2003 Avaya Messaging Telephones.

Moved Darocha

Second Fania

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

Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2016 – 79** Resolution of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Requiring Financial Documents from Organizations Requesting Contributions from the Municipality.

Moved Repmann

Second Darocha

Committee Member Repmann said this indicates good government and shows the Committee's responsibility to the taxpayers to do our due diligence.

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

Twp. Comm. Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2016

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

Motion to accept with regret the letter of resignation submitted by Stewart Doddy, Plumbing Subcode Inspector, effective December 31, 2016.

Moved Fania Second Blew All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2016 – 80** Resolution of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Waiving the Interest Due on Block 31 Lot 27.

Moved Repmann Second Fania

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

Motion carried.

The Environmental Commission needs to re-establish the Green Team as part of their re-certification for Sustainable New Jersey.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2016 – 81** Green Team Advisory Committee.

Moved Blew Second Repmann All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Committee Member Repmann reported that the food drive for the Flemington Food Pantry is underway with a box located at the Municipal Building for donations. The municipal professionals have also been contacted requesting a donation, either food or monetary. Deadline for collecting items is December 20th.

Comments from the public: Brad Patkochis asked why there was no additional public comment after the Committee had their discussion on Hope Hill Farm. The Committee believed the public made all their comments earlier in the meeting. The Municipal Attorney announced that the Committee is now taking public comments from anyone wishing to speak.

Chip Milcarek, Quakertown Road, resident since 1984 and volunteer on the Quakertown Fire Company since 1985. He served twice as Fire Chief and also as a Fire District Member. He wanted to clarify that as per the DCA the fire company cannot do anything to support the rescue squad since it was not established at the time the fire company had their election to go to a Fire District as a taxing authority. He felt the request being made by the emergency services is a miniscule request for an ambulance. He believes they spent a lot of time finding a used vehicle.

