

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK-SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021
7:30 PM

(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87557172575>)

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 (present)
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
Chris Vallat, Quakertown Fire Company
Bradley Patkochis, Quakertown Fire Company
George Reichert, Office of Emergency Management

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke regarding Agenda Items.

Proclamations & Presentations:

1. Quakertown Fire Company – Report of Activities

Mayor Koury thanked Chris Vallat and Bradley Patkochis, members of the Quakertown Fire Company, for their attendance at the meeting and explained the Committee's request for regular updates on the activities of the Fire Company. Mr. Vallat explained the Emergency Medical Services report of activities for the previous year. Mr. Patkochis explained the Fire Services report of activities for the previous year. They further explained the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on EMS and Fire activities. Mayor Koury briefly addressed concerns over how EMS is budgeted separately from the Fire Budget and requested that further discussion continue at a later date. Mr. Vallat expressed his appreciation for the working relationship with the Township's Office of Emergency Management and thanked the Township for their assistance in acquiring new stretchers and personal protective equipment with the Cares Act grant money. Mayor Koury expressed the Township's appreciation for the efforts of the Quakertown Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 7, 2021 minutes Re-Organization and Work-Session/Regular Meetings and Executive Session: Donaruma

Second: Burgess

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

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the Bills List: Burgess Second: Homulak

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

Ordinances:

1. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2021-01: Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey to Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 182, "Fees," and Chapter 193, "Fire Prevention," of the Code of the Township of Franklin to Revise Fees and Requirements for Fire Prevention.

The Attorney explained that details regarding the requested ordinance had been provided to the Committee via a memo. Committeemen Donaruma and Homulak offered to speak with the Fire Department as a subcommittee before introducing the ordinance. The Committee agreed to Table the ordinance.

2. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2021-02: Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Amend Chapter 296 of the Code of the Township of Franklin Entitled "Stormwater Control" to Reflect Amendments to the New Jersey Stormwater Management Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8, Adopted March 2, 2020.
 - a. Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for February 25, 2021.

The Attorney explained that the ordinance was a replacement required by the State.

Motion to Introduce: Donaruma Second: Homulak

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

Resolutions: None.

Staff Administrative Reports:

OEM: George Reichert, Office of Emergency Management, reported that he had submitted a monthly report of activities to the Committee and did not have anything significant to add. Upon questioning by Mayor Koury, Mr. Reichert indicated that the coming snowstorm did not appear to be an unusual event and that standard procedures were in place.

Police: Committeeman Donaruma explained that Captain Snyder did not have anything to report.

CFO: The CFO reported on the system turn-over for the new year and explained the timing of the Audit upon questioning by the Mayor. The Mayor further questioned the status of first quarter tax payments. The CFO responded that there had been an increase in early payments and that he did not foresee any issues.

Administrative: The Township Clerk reported on the status of dog license applications and reminded those present that dog license renewals were due January 31st.

Board of Health: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. Lease of Township Property – Hunting – Block 5, Lots 2 & 3

The Attorney explained the lease process, the location of the property and the amount of the previous lease. Upon discussion by the Committee, a description or map of the property would be included in the Notice to Bidders and a minimum bid would be set at \$500.00.

Motion to authorize Request for Bids for Lease of Township Property behind Cracker Barrel Restaurant, Block 5, Lots 2 & 3, for Hunting Purposes, with \$500.00 minimum bid: Homulak Second: Donaruma

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

Committee Member Reports:

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess updated the Committee regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating that Franklin Township had 96 case but no deaths. She compared current statistics to previous months, explained testing locations and explained how residents could register for the vaccine on the state website.

Mayor Philip Koury reported that the January 27th Land Use Board meeting had been cancelled, that the Township Engineer could not attend and that the board's only current activities were to correct the stormwater ordinance. He also reported on the efforts of Mayor Janice Kovacs to coordinate Zoom meetings with the mayors and his receipt of a cannabis implementation survey from the New Jersey League of Municipalities. He explained his desire to issue a Township newsletter more often than once per year and questioned if the Township had use of a social media account. The Attorney briefly explained the difficulties of maintaining an official municipal social media account. Committeeman Repmann indicated that he would forward COVID-19 vaccine information to the Clerk to post on the Township website. Mayor Koury briefly explained executive orders issued by Governor Murphy regarding an extension of the CARES Act and healthcare affordability efforts. The Mayor further explained the denial of adding a Letter of Support to the Agenda for a solar company that had submitted their request the previous day. The Municipal Clerk further explained the timeline of the solar company's request.

Comments from the Public:

Suzanne Figler, 214 Sidney Road, requested an update from the Committee regarding the Township Engineer's investigation into drainage issues on Sidney Road that affects her property. The Committee indicated that they had not received any information on the investigation. The Township Attorney explained how the difference between public and private property would affect the investigation and

the Township's ability to assist. She further explained that she would seek an update from the Township Engineer.

Virginia Evans, 188 Whitebridge Road, introduced herself and explained that she would be sitting in on Township Committee meetings as a representative of the Board of Education. Mayor Koury offered to add her to the Agenda if the Board of Education wanted to provide updates.

Executive Session:

The Township Attorney explained the need to enter Executive Session, that action could potentially be taken upon return to open session, and that all attendees of the meeting could wait in the Zoom application's Waiting Room except for the Committee, the CFO, the Township Clerk, and the Township Attorney. Upon confirmation of the absence of all but the required attendees, the Township Clerk stopped audio-visual recording of the meeting.

Motion to enter executive session: Repmann Second: Burgess
All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee entered Executive Session at 8:36 pm.

Topics discussed:

1. Attorney/Client Privilege – Possible Land Acquisition
2. Attorney/Client Privilege & Contractual – Lease of Township Property – Quakertown Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (QVEMS)
3. Attorney/Client Privilege, Contractual & Personnel – Request for Increase of Compensation

Committee exited Executive Session at 9:57 pm.

The Township Clerk resumed audio-visual recording of the meeting.

Action by the Committee:

Motion to authorize Township Attorney to send Rice Notice as discussed in executive session: Burgess
Second: Donaruma

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

Motion to authorize Township Attorney to send contract, with the changes discussed, to the other party as discussed in executive session: Donaruma Second: Burgess

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Repmann Second: Unrecorded

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 2/11/2021