

MINUTES  
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
WORK-SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021  
7:30 PM

(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84640588808>)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Koury at 7:32 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  
Captain Timothy Snyder, Police Department  
Virginia Evans, Board of Education  
George Reichert, Office of Emergency Management  
Lora Jones, Township Historian  
Marty Campenelli, Quakertown Friends Meeting

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke regarding Agenda Items.

Proclamations & Presentations: None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 28, 2021 minutes Work-Session/Regular Meeting and Executive Session:

Burgess Second: Donaruma

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

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the Bills List: Repmann Second: Homulak

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

Ordinances: None.

Resolutions: None.

Staff Administrative Reports:

**BOE:** Virginia Evans, Board of Education, reported on general school activities and explained the Board's focus on the Budget, Shared Services with Union Township for the utilization of a snow plow, and how

the Governor's budgetary plans affect the school. She further reported on the school's efforts to replace the windows in various sections of the building and thanked the Township and the Department of Public Works for their assistance with previous projects. Mayor Koury and Deputy Mayor Burgess expressed their appreciation for her report and the Board of Education's efforts to reduce costs via shared services.

**Police:** Captain Snyder reported on the January monthly activities of the Police Department, specifying background investigations, arrests, motor vehicle warnings, tickets, accidents, radio calls, animal complaints, property checks, and others.

**Administrative:** The Township Clerk reported that the printed and framed versions of the Commendation Resolutions that were adopted on December 29<sup>th</sup> were available for pick up at the Municipal Building and expressed her reluctance to mail the display frames to the recipients. She further reported on her efforts to schedule a New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign Day for the distribution of saplings to Township residents. Deputy Mayor Burgess indicated that the Environmental Commission and Department of Public Works would assist with the project. Upon questioning by the Mayor, the CFO explained the benefit of a variety of trees to be distributed. The Township Attorney recommended to reach out to the Kingwood Environmental Commission due to their experience with such projects.

**CFO:** The CFO reported on the progress of the Annual Financial Statement and the CY2020 Audit. He indicated that the Auditors had made an office visit but were capable of working remotely due to the Township's efforts to go paperless.

**Board of Health:** None.

**Old Business:**

The Township Attorney indicated that she had reached out to the Township Engineer in response to the questions posed at the last meeting by Suzanne Figler, 214 Sidney Road, regarding drainage issues that affected her property. She further indicated that the Township Engineer would be submitting a report to the Township Committee that should be available by the next meeting. Ms. Figler thanked the Township Attorney.

**New Business:**

1. Historic Marker Request submitted by Quakertown Friends Meeting – Nixon Cemetery and Slave Cemetery across Croton Road

The Township Clerk confirmed that the Town Committee had received a text document and map describing the location of the Nixon Cemetery and Slave Cemetery across Croton Road. Marty Campenelli, Quakertown Friends Meeting, explained the history of the Nixon Cemetery and the Slave Cemetery and described where both were located. Lora Jones, Township Historian, described the requested signage. The Committee briefly discussed the content of the sign and what permissions

would be required to place the sign at the location. The Township Attorney confirmed that the sign was not located in the Right of Way and County approval was not required.

Motion to authorize the placement of a historic marker for Nixon Cemetery and the Slave Cemetery across Croton Road: Homulak                      Second: Burgess

Motion to Amend the Motion to include authorization for the Department of Public Works to have said sign created: Homulak                      Second: Burgess

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

Committee Member Reports:

Committeemen Sebastian Donarum and Mike Homulak reported that they had not had an opportunity to meet with the Fire Department regarding the Ordinance they requested.

Committeeman Craig Repmann reported on the results of the 7/8/22 Coalition Meeting and indicated that he had requested Mark Saluk, Hunterdon County Economic Development Director, come to speak with the Town Committee at the last Town Committee meeting in March.

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess updated the Committee regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating that Franklin Township had over 100 cases but remained one of the lowest of all the municipalities. She explained vaccine registration options and indicated that she would provide additional information for the Township Clerk to place on the Township website.

Mayor Philip Koury reported on a meeting with the Governor regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the status of the State Vaccine Registration website. Deputy Mayor Burgess confirmed that the State website was working and responded to Committeeman Repmann's questions regarding groups eligible to receive the vaccine. George Reichert, Office of Emergency Management, confirmed that Public Works employees were classified as essential workers. Mayor Koury indicated that he would provide Personal Protective Equipment discount information to the Township Clerk to place on the Township website. Mayor Koury further reported that the Township Engineer had been at the Land Use Board Meeting to explain changes to the Stormwater Ordinance required by the State Department of Environmental Protection and that the Township Engineer would be at the next meeting to explain the changes to the Committee.

Upon questioning by Mayor Koury, George Reichert indicated that he had provided a report of monthly activities to the Town Committee and that a Code Blue status had been issued daily by the County.

Comments from the Public:

No members from the public came forward to speak.

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, Captain Timothy Snyder, 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: Burgess Second: Donaruma  
All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee entered Executive Session at 8:17 pm.

Topics discussed:

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

Committee exited Executive Session at 9:15 pm.

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

Action by the Committee: None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Reppmann Second: Donaruma All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk

  
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Adopted: 2/25/2021