

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK-SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021
7:30 PM

(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86224401334>)

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
Captain Timothy Snyder, Police Department
Virginia Evans, Board of Education
Elizabeth Shaw, Rural Awareness
Jose Ortiz, JCP&L-First Energy Corp.
Bob Hornby, Hunterdon County Agricultural Development Board Administrator

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke regarding Agenda Items. Mayor Koury welcomed two boy scouts in the process of earning their "Citizenship in the Community" Merit Badge.

Proclamations & Presentations:

1. Rural Awareness – Country Schools Re-visited: Exploring Centuries of a Nation Built on Education

Elizabeth Shaw, Rural Awareness, thanked the Town Committee for the Proclamation honoring Rural Awareness' contribution to the Franklin Township Dodransbicentennial Road Rallye and explained that Rural Awareness had been selected to participate in a national conference as a presenter in June. She further explained that Rural Awareness intended on holding a workshop regarding the preservation of one-room historic schoolhouses and would be producing a video depicting the history of Franklin Township's historic schoolhouse. Ms. Shaw indicated that Rural Awareness did not have any specific requests regarding the project at this time but was looking for the Township's support and involvement and may request financial assistance as the project progresses. The Town Committee briefly discussed options for support, provided suggestions on where to acquire additional volunteers and resources, and thanked Rural Awareness for their efforts in the Township. Deputy Mayor Burgess expressed concerns over the preservation of the schoolhouse. Upon speaking with Virginia Evans, Franklin Township Board of Education, the Town Committee briefly discussed options to assist the Board of Education with their preservation efforts.

Motion to approve the Bills List: Homulak Second: Repmann

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

Ordinances:

1. Public Hearing & Final Adoption 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.

The Township Attorney explained the absence of the Township Engineer, that the Ordinance was required by law, and that it did not contain any additional changes beyond those required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion to open Public Hearing: Repmann Second: Donaruma All in favor. Motion carried.

No one from the Public came forward to speak.

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

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Donaruma

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

2. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Lease for Hunting Purposes of Certain Property Owned by the Township and Not Required for Public Purposes.
 - a. Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for March 25, 2021.

Motion to Introduce: Donaruma Second: Homulak

The Township Clerk explained that the Ordinance was in connection to the response for the Request for Bids for Lease of the Township owned land behind the Cracker Barrel Restaurant for Hunting Purposes and would only require introduction if the Town Committee accepted the only bid that had been submitted and did not reject all bids. She further explained that the bid had been submitted by Applemountain Sportsmen for a cash rent in the total amount of \$3,063.00, payable in three installments of \$1,021.00 each.

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

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2021-11: Refund Tax Overpayment – 83 Pittstown Road – Block 4, Lot 11

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Homulak

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

2. Resolution 2021-12: Refund Tax Overpayment – 45 Spring Hill Road – Block 23, Lot 6

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Burgess

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

3. Resolution 2021-13: Refund Tax Overpayment – 26 Pine Hill Road – Block 23, Lot 5.09

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Homulak

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

Staff Administrative Reports:

Police: Captain Snyder indicated that he had nothing to report. Mayor Koury thanked the Police Department for their efforts during the recent snowstorms.

Administrative: The Township Clerk reported on her efforts to schedule a New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign Day for the distribution of saplings to Township residents on April 23rd. She indicated that an application for 1000 saplings had been submitted the previous day and that the State had provided a confirmation of receipt of the application.

CFO: The CFO reported on the status of the CARES Grant report and that the tax collection rate for the first quarter was lower than anticipated at 91%. He acknowledged that postal delays may have had an impact on tax collection and indicated that the rate was not a problem at this time. He provided a status update to the Requests for Proposals for COAH Housing behind the Cracker Barrel Restaurant and indicated that the Township Planner had recommended that the Town Committee officially reject all proposals and do another Request for Proposals at the end of the year.

BOE: Virginia Evans, Board of Education, indicated that she had nothing to report.

Board of Health: None.

Old Business:

1. Farmland Preservation – Furlong Farm – Bob Hornby, Hunterdon County Agricultural Development Board

The Town Committee addressed this matter earlier in the meeting.

New Business: None.

Committee Member Reports:

Committeemen Sebastian Donaruma reported that he had met with Committeeman Homulak and George Reichert, Emergency Management Coordinator, regarding the Ordinance requested by the Fire Department and explained the requested changes. He indicated that he would forward the results of the meeting to the Township Attorney.

Comments from the Public:

No members from the public came forward to speak. Mayor Koury acknowledged new resident, James Kontopodias, and confirmed the continued attendance of two boy scouts in the process of earning their "Citizenship in the Community" Merit Badge.

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: Donaruma Second: Burgess
All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee entered Executive Session at 8:55 pm.

Topics discussed:

1. Attorney/Client Privilege – Possible Land Acquisition
2. Attorney/Client Privilege – Doe Run Drainage
3. Contractual – Professional Service Agreement – Township Planner
4. Contractual/Real Property – Municipal Lots Next to Municipal Building on Sidney Road

Committee exited Executive Session at 9:29 pm.

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

Action by the Committee:

Motion to authorize the Township Engineer to create a Proposal regarding the drainage issue on Doe

Run Court: Donaruma Second: Repmann

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

Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 03/11/2021