

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE/BOARD OF HEALTH
RE-ORGANIZATION & REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023
7:30 PM

(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81431720602>)

The meeting was called to order by the Township Clerk at 7:30 pm. The Township Clerk read the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Statement and led the flag salute.

Oath of Office: Newly Elected and Re-Elected Committee Members:

County Commissioner Susan Soloway administered the oath of office to newly elected Committee Member, Deanna Seiple, in the presence of family, friends, staff and other members of the Township Committee.

Public Attendee, "mANU chopra", was moved to the Zoom application's waiting room at 7:32 pm for continual interruption of the meeting while participating in an additional, unrelated online meeting.

The Township Attorney administered the oath of office to re-elected Committee Member, Sebastian Donaruma.

Roll Call: Sebastian Donaruma (present) Mike Homulak (present) Philip Koury (present)
Craig Repmann (present) Deanna Seiple (present)

Also present: Igor Bykov, Attorney (Lavery, Selvaggi, Ambromitis & Cohen)
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Chief Timothy Snyder, Police

Nominations and Appointment of Mayor for Year 2023:

The Municipal Clerk called for nominations for the office of Mayor.

Motion to nominate Phil Koury as Mayor for Year 2023: Homulak Second: Repmann

No additional nominations were made.

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

Mayor Koury now presides.

Nominations and Appointment of Deputy Mayor for Year 2023:

Mayor Koury called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor.

Motion to nominate Mike Homulak as Deputy Mayor for Year 2023: Koury Second: Repmann

No additional nominations were made.

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

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke regarding Agenda Items.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2023-01: Resolution to Designate Official Newspapers for Legal Notices

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Repmann

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

2. Resolution 2023-02: Resolution to Designate the Depositories for Municipal Funds

Motion to adopt: Homulak Second: Donaruma

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

3. Resolution 2023-03: Resolution to Designate Signatures on Municipal Checks

Motion to adopt: Homulak Second: Donaruma

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

4. Resolution 2023-04: Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract for Various Professional Services

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Homulak

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

5. Resolution 2023-05: Resolution Appointing Various Municipal Positions

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Homulak

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

6. Resolution 2023-06: Resolution Appointing Various Municipal Positions – Boards and Commissions

Motion to adopt: Homulak Second: Seiple

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

7. Resolution 2023-07: Resolution to Fix the Interest Rate Charged for Non-Payment of Taxes or Assessments Subject to Any Abatement or Discount for the Late Payment of Taxes

Motion to adopt: Homulak Second: Repmann

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

8. Resolution 2023-08: Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Refunds and/or Delinquencies of Less Than \$10.00

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Homulak

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

9. Resolution 2023-09: Resolution Authorizing the Municipal Attorney, Tax Attorney and/or the Tax Assessor to File Tax Appeals with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation Concerning Those Properties Wherein Errors were Made

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Homulak

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

10. Resolution 2023-10: Resolution Requiring Claimant Certifications on Certain Types of Transactions

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Seiple

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

11. Resolution 2023-11: Resolution Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO)

Motion to adopt: Homulak Second: Repmann

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

12. Resolution 2023-12: Resolution Adopting CY2023 Temporary Budget

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Repmann

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

Comments from Mayor and Committee:

Mayor Koury welcomed Committee member, Deanna Seiple, to the Township Committee, expressed his hope for a high functioning Committee, and thanked the Committee for their continued confidence in him.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:46 pm to convene the Re-Organization Meeting of the Board of Health: Donaruma Second: Homulak All in favor. Motion carried.

Board of Health:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Koury at 7:46 pm. Chairman Koury read the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Statement.

Roll Call: Chairman Philip Koury (present) Sebastian Donaruma (present)
Mike Homulak (present) Craig Repmann (present) Deanna Seiple (present)

Also present: Igor Bykov, Attorney (Lavery, Selvaggi, Ambromitis & Cohen)
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Chief Timothy Snyder, Police

Resolutions:

1. BOH Resolution 2023-01: Annual Meeting Notice

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Donaruma

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Koury provided advice to newly elected Board of Health member, Deanna Seiple, on how to address minutes for meetings she had not attended.

Motion to approve the January 6, 2022 minutes Re-Organization Meeting: Repmann

Second: Homulak

Roll call: Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Koury (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Abstain)

Chairman Koury and the Township Clerk explained that the Board of Health had not required additional meetings in 2022 due to the streamlining of the process for small waivers. The Township Clerk further explained that the new process was created to reduce the cost of small waivers to applicants.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting to convene the Township Committee Work-Session/Regular Meeting: Repmann Second: Seiple All in Favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm to convene the Township Committee Work-Session/Regular Meeting.

Work-Session/Regular:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Koury at 7:49 pm. Mayor Koury read the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Statement.

Roll Call: Mayor Philip Koury (present) Deputy Mayor Mike Homulak (present)
Sebastian Donaruma (present) Craig Repmann (present) Deanna Seiple (present)

Also present: Igor Bykov, Attorney (Lavery, Selvaggi, Ambromitis & Cohen)
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Chief Timothy Snyder, Police

Proclamations & Presentations: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the December 22, 2022, minutes Year End Meeting & Executive Session: Homulak

Second: Donaruma

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

Payment of Bills:

The Township Clerk explained that the Township had not received any invoices for the creation of a Bills List.

Ordinances: None.

Resolutions:

13. Resolution 2023-13: Refund Tax Overpayment – Disabled Veteran – 15 Landsdown Road – Block 19, Lot 4

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Homulak

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

14. Resolution 2023-14: Refund Tax Overpayment – Disabled Veteran – <Redacted per P.L.2021, c.371 “Daniel’s Law”>

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Donaruma

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

Staff Administrative Reports:

POLICE: Chief Timothy Snyder experienced connectivity difficulties. Mayor Koury explained that the difficulties were likely a result of too many participants utilizing the Township’s Wi-Fi bandwidth.

ADMINISTRATIVE: The Township Clerk reported that the Clerk’s Office had been working diligently preparing for the current meeting.

Old Business:

1. Authorize Police Contract

Motion to authorize Police Contract as discussed in the December 22nd Executive Session: Homulak

Second: Donaruma

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

New Business: None.

Committee Member Reports:

Committeeman Repmann reminded those present that the Township's Department of Public Works would be picking up Christmas Trees through January 31st and indicated that an e-mail blast had been forwarded to subscribers.

Administrative Staff Reports (cont.):

POLICE: Chief Timothy Snyder reported on the December monthly activities of the Police Department, specifying background investigations, other investigations, arrests, motor vehicle warnings, tickets, accidents, radio calls, alarm calls, assist calls, animal complaints, service calls, property checks, and others. Chief Timothy Snyder further reported on the 2022 activities of the Police Department, specifying background investigations, other investigations, arrests, motor vehicle warnings, tickets, accidents, radio calls, alarm calls, assist calls, animal complaints, service calls, property checks, and others. He provided a brief comparison to the previous year. Upon questioning by Mayor Koury, Chief Snyder indicated that he had increased the presence of officers on Township roads to address complaints received by residents regarding speeding on local roads. Chief Snyder explained his goals regarding addressing the speeding complaints and indicated that he could not disclose an exact plan. He further explained that the Police Department's resources had been spread even thinner with the resignation of an officer at the end of the previous month. Deputy Mayor Homulak thanked Chief Snyder for his efforts and commented on the increase in the number of arrests cited in the annual report. Chief Snyder explained that the increase in arrests were associated with domestic complaints.

Comments from the Public:

Bruce DeRites, 119 Locust Grove Road, questioned Chief Snyder on the results of his efforts to address speeding on Township roads over the past three weeks. Chief Snyder provided a brief explanation of the number of tickets issued for speeding and indicated that he could not confirm an accurate number of warnings issued. Upon Mr. DeRites' further commentary regarding speeding on local roads and his request to target repeat offenders, Mayor Koury recommended that Mr. DeRites speak to Chief Snyder in his office. Chief Snyder provided a brief explanation of the complexities of setting up an effective radar enforcement operation on local roads. He indicated that he could not provide a detailed explanation of the Police Department's plans as it would compromise the safety of the officers. Mayor Koury reiterated that Mr. DeRites should visit Chief Snyder to further discuss the matter.

Executive Session: None.

Action by the Committee: None.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Seiple Second: Repmann

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 01/26/2023