

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE/BOARD OF HEALTH
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023
7:30 PM

(Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88118350010>)

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

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

Also present: Igor Bykov, Attorney (Lavery, Selvaggi, Ambromitis & Cohen)
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Cameron Keng, Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Chief Timothy Snyder, Police
Frederick Roll, Supervisor, Department of Public Works (DPW)

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, questioned the changes to the Land Use Board appointments being made via Resolution 2023-15. Deputy Mayor Michael Homulak indicated that the changes would be explained once the meeting reaches the Resolutions portion of the agenda.

Proclamations & Presentations: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the January 5, 2023, minutes Township Committee/Board of Health Re-Organization & Work-Session/Regular Meeting: Donaruma

Second: Repmann

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

Payment of Bills:

Motion to approve the Bills List: Repmann Second: Donaruma

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

Ordinances: None.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2023-15: Amend Resolution 2023-06: Resolution Appointing Various Municipal Positions – Boards and Commissions (Amend Land Use Board Class 1 and Class 3 Appointments)

The Township Clerk explained that the Land Use Board Attorney had advised of an error regarding the Class 1 (mayor) and Class 3 (Township Committee member) appointments and that the two appointees should be reversed. She indicated that the resolution corrects the error.

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Seiple

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

2. Resolution 2023-16: A Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Snow Fence No Longer Needed for Public Use to Somerset County Road Department.

Frederick Roll, Supervisor, Department of Public Works (DPW) experienced technical difficulties while attempting to explain the need for the resolution. Deputy Mayor Michael Homulak explained that the Somerset County Road Department requires a purchasing resolution to be able to take the surplus snow fencing.

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Donaruma

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

3. Resolution 2023-17: A Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Personal Property No Longer Needed for Public Use on an Online Auction Website.

Frederick Roll, Supervisor, Department of Public Works (DPW) explained that his department is preparing to clean up the shop and will utilize this method to recoup some costs from discarding extra parts no longer needed for public use. Cameron Keng, Chief Finance Officer (CFO) explained that the resolution is a standard resolution that is done every year the Township wishes to sell off surplus property.

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Donaruma

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

Staff Administrative Reports:

Deputy Mayor Homulak indicated that the staff submits written reports to the Township Committee prior to the meetings and that the reports are available upon request during municipal business hours.

POLICE: Chief Timothy Snyder indicated that he did not have anything additional to report.

CFO: The CFO indicated that the did not have anything to report.

ADMINISTRATIVE: The Township Clerk indicated that she did not have anything additional to report.

OEM: Deputy Mayor Homulak explained that the OEM coordinator had submitted a written report at the close of last year and a new report should be available for the next meeting.

Old Business:

1. New Municipal Building (43 Lower Landsdown Road) – Status Update

Committeeman Repmann explained that the architectural plans had been finalized and that the bidding process should be ready to begin at the next meeting. Committeeman Donaruma requested that a copy of the plans be posted on the Township website. Deputy Mayor Homulak and Committeeman Repmann expressed their approval of the request, explained that the Police Department information would need to be redacted, and further requested that a copy of the plans be made available to view in the Municipal Building.

New Business: None.

Committee Member Reports:

Committeeman Donaruma, citing the cooperation efforts made between DPW and Somerset County, recommended that Chief Snyder contact Somerset County to request borrowing a radar trailer.

Committeewoman Seiple reported on the efforts of the Franklin Township School to hire a new math teacher, provide intervention support for children who are struggling in school, provide increased school security, and provide additional extracurricular activities outside of sports.

Deputy Mayor Homulak reported on the efforts of the Finance Subcommittee and the CFO to create the 2023 Budget, indicating that efforts are being focused on the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Township's Capital Budget. He further reported that he and Mayor Koury had attended the lasted Economic Development Implementation Team (EDIT) meeting, headed by Bruce DeRites, and explained that the group had discussed opportunities to open up development around the Walmart plaza. He indicated that the meeting had been attended by Assemblyman Peterson who explained additional opportunities to open up the water and sewer limitations the Township faces in the area. He further indicated that there was additional discussion regarding the requirements that needed to be met to be incorporated into the Municipal Code as an official government group. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. DeRites' and the team's efforts.

Comments from the Public:

Bruce DeRites, 119 Locust Grove Road, questioned the status of borrowing a radar sign from the County and the availability of the New Municipal Building for in-person meetings. He thanked Deputy Mayor Homulak for attending the Economic Development Implementation Team's (EDIT) meeting and indicated that he would provide the necessary documentation to move forward the following week. Committeeman Donaruma replied that Chief Snyder had reached out to the County and the Township had been placed on the County's schedule. Deputy Mayor Homulak replied that the New Municipal Building is winterized and can't be occupied now. He further explained that as the Township goes out to bid for next steps, additional updates will be become available. He indicated that the Township's priorities had not changed and that the building would be updated enough to open the building for meetings even if the Police and Administrative departments could not be moved into the building for some time yet.

Ingrid Taff, 41 Upper Kingtown Road, commented that she had attended the Economic Development Implementation Team (EDIT) meeting and indicated that she thought it was productive. She questioned who had the authority to implement some of the suggestions made at the meeting and what the next steps would be. Deputy Mayor Homulak indicated that the next steps were in the hands of the EDIT team in formalizing their strategy and to come to the Township Committee to receive authorization to move forward. He further explained that the EDIT group would have to formalize their charter and submit it to the Township for Attorney review. Upon Ms. Taff's request to speculate on what the Township Committee would have done had the EDIT group not made their own efforts, Deputy Mayor Homulak explained that he would not be entertaining a Question and Answers session on speculation of what other Committee members might have done. Upon confirming that Ms. Taff had no further questions or comments, Deputy Mayor Homulak thanked Ms. Taff for her participation in the meeting.

Executive Session:

Deputy Mayor Homulak and the Township Attorney explained the need to enter Executive Session, that action was not expected to be taken, and that all attendees of the meeting could wait in the Zoom Application Waiting Room except for the Committee, the CFO/Human Resources Officer, the Public Works Supervisor, the Police Chief, the Township Clerk, and the Township Attorney.

Upon confirmation of the absence of all but the required attendees, the Township Clerk stopped audio recording of the meeting.

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

Committee entered Executive Session at 7:50 pm.

Topics discussed:

1. Attorney/Client Privilege – Zoning Legislation & State Legislation Updates

Committee exited Executive Session at 8:46 pm.

Motion to exit executive session and resume regular meeting: Repmann Second: Donaruma
All in favor. Motion carried.

All attendees still waiting in the Zoom Application Waiting Room were readmitted to the meeting session.

The Township Attorney explained the topics discussed in Executive Session and that minutes would become available once the need for confidentiality was no longer required.

Action by the Committee: None.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Repmann Second: Unrecorded

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 02/09/2023