

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE/BOARD OF HEALTH
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023
7:30 PM

Franklin Township School, 226 Quakertown Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Philip Koury at 7:32 pm. Mayor Philip Koury read the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Statement and lead the flag salute.

Roll Call: Mayor Philip Koury (present) 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/Human Resources (CFO/HR) (arrived at 8:02 pm.)
Frederick Roll, Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, questioned the procedures taken to create Ordinance 2023-01. Mayor Koury indicated that the ordinance was not included on the current agenda. The Township Clerk confirmed that the public hearing for Ordinance 2023-01 would take place at the following meeting.

Proclamations & Presentations: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the February 23, 2023, minutes Township Committee Work-Session/Regular Meeting & Executive Session: Donaruma Second: Repmann

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

Payment of Bills:

Motion to approve the Bills List: Homulak Second: Seiple

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

Ordinances: None.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2023-25: Approve Electronics Recycling Services Contract.

Frederick Roll, Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor, explained that the Township would allow the collection of electronic waste items and that the company, Reverse Logistics Group Americas, Inc.,

would retrieve the items from the Township. He further explained that any items collected would be counted towards the Township's recycling credits.

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Repmann

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

2. Resolution 2023-26: Resolution Authorizing Kingwood Township to Coordinate and Administer a Joint Bid for Road Maintenance & Repair Materials for Kingwood, Delaware & Franklin Townships.

Frederick Roll, Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor, explained that the Township had been participating in the joint bidding process with Kingwood and Delaware Townships for years, with the exception of the previous year, and that the joint bid had resulted in savings for road maintenance and repair materials.

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Repmann

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

Staff Administrative Reports:

ADMINISTRATIVE: The Township Clerk reported that the Clerk's Office had been conducting standard Clerk's Office activities for the past month.

DPW: Frederick Roll, Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor, reported that he had emailed a report to the Township Committee, highlighting that demolition work had begun at the New Municipal Building, street sweeping efforts had begun with the Township's curved roads being completed for the first quarter of the year, one catch basin had been repaired, staff had attended required training, the department had received a salt delivery and that the Oak Grove Road Improvements Project – Phases I and II were ahead of schedule with an anticipated completion date in mid-April.

BOE: Mayor Koury advised those present that a Special Meeting of the Board of Education would take place on the online Zoom application on Monday, March 13th, 2023, to discuss the increase in the annual school budget.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Committee Member Reports:

Committeeman Homulak reported on the status of the Budget, indicating that the Finance Subcommittee would be meeting the following week and that they hoped to introduce the Budget at the following Township Committee meeting.

Committeeman Repmann reported that he would be meeting with a representative of the Township Attorney's office the following day regarding the Development of Affordable Housing proposal

submitted by Ingerman Development Company, LLC, which was accepted at the previous Township Committee meeting.

Committeeman Donaruma reported on the efforts to address speeding concerns on Locust Grove Road. He explained that the sign had been moved per request, that the average speed recorded by the sign by 32 miles per hour (mph), that there were approximately 300 vehicles traveling on the road per day, and that further information could be obtained from Chief Snyder of the Police Department.

Committeewoman Seiple reported on the efforts of the Franklin Township School, citing a focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL), particularly regarding social media platforms and text messaging. She explained that students are being taught about their online digital fingerprints and that the school has a SEL Guidance Counselor available for further assistance. She further reported that she had spoken with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) regarding a Township newsletter and that she had begun planning cost-effective ways for the Township to publish its own newsletter.

Mayor Koury reported on the Land Use Board (LUB) meeting that had taken place the previous night and updated those present on the status of the Quakertown Solar Farm Application Hearing. He explained that the hearing would continue at the following LUB meeting. He further reported that he had been in contact with Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) and that the Township had experienced approximately 240 residential power outages during the recent icy and windy weather conditions. He reminded those present to report outages when they experience them.

Mayor Koury went on to report that he had attended a meeting the previous day regarding the New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) interest in addressing traffic concerns at the Route 78, Exit 15 intersection with Pittstown Road. He indicated that he had seen a preliminary conceptual plan to ease congestion by realigning the exit and removing a duplicate traffic light. He went on to advise those present that a winter weather advisory had been issued for the following afternoon into Saturday. He indicated that he and Chief Snyder would be attending a meeting with the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) regarding the county's response plan for train derailments.

Comments from the Public:

Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, upon offer by Mayor Koury, continued her questions regarding the procedures taken to create Ordinance 2023-01. She indicated that she had researched similar Garage and Yard Sale ordinances from other municipalities and questioned how the ordinance was drafted and who determined the specifics of the ordinance. Mayor Koury explained that the Township Zoning Officer was asked to perform research on implementing an ordinance to address property maintenance complaints in response to properties that were conducting long-term yard sales. The Township Attorney further explained how the Zoning Officer's research had been utilized to create a draft ordinance and how the draft ordinance had been further amended before being submitted for introduction. The Township Attorney indicated that the ordinance provided a definition and limitations on the time and frequency of sales. Upon further questioning by Ms. Basile, Mayor Koury indicated that the ordinance would allow the Zoning Officer to give out citations. Committeeman Donaruma and the Township Attorney further clarified general citations and the fines that could be imposed by the Zoning Officer for better enforcement. Upon further questioning by Ms. Basile, Mayor Koury indicated that

should further enforcement be needed, the Township Committee could amend the ordinance in the future, but that it was not the intention of the Township Committee to make the ordinance over restrictive for residents. He further indicated that the ordinance did not place any fees on conducting garage and yard sales in the Township.

Bruce DeRites, 119 Locust Grove Road, commented on the efforts to address speeding concerns on Locust Grove Road. He expressed his opinion that the location of the speed detection sign was incorrect and did not accurately reflect speeding traffic on the road due to its proximity to an intersection. He questioned if any summonses had been issued. Committeeman Donaruma explained that he would have to check with Chief Snyder for enforcement statistics. Mayor Koury explained that the Committee had left the placement of the sign for the professionals to decide. Mr. DeRites recommended moving the sign to a straightaway rather than in the intersection. Frederick Roll, Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor, expressed his opinion that the sign was not very close to the intersection, described the location of the sign, and offered to meet with Mr. DeRites to adjust the location of the sign at 7:00 am the following morning. Mayor Koury advised that any adjustments be made quickly as the Township only had the sign for a limited amount of time. Mr. DeRites questioned if there would be more radar coverage for Locust Grove Road once the sign was removed. Mr. DeRites further questioned if it was appropriate for the Township Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator to be invited to the county meeting regarding railroad derailments. Mayor Koury advised that the Township's OEM Coordinator had been invited.

Executive Session:

Mayor Koury explained the need to enter Executive Session, that action may be taken, and that all attendees of the meeting could wait outside of the meeting room except for the Committee, the DPW Supervisor, the CFO/Human Resources Officer, 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: Homulak Second: Repmann
All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee entered Executive Session at 8:01 pm. (The CFO/Human Resources Officer arrived at 8:02 pm.)

Topics discussed:

1. Personnel – Department of Public Works (DPW)
2. Personnel – Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator
3. Contractual – Special Officer for School

Committee exited Executive Session at 8:37 pm.

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

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

Action by the Committee:

Committeeman Homulak stated that the Township Committee would now formally accept the resignation of George Reichert, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator, and appoint Daniel Snyder as the Acting Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Repmann Second: Homulak

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 03/23/2023