

**MINUTES**  
**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE/BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023**  
**7:30 PM**

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Philip Koury at 7:30 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 (absent) Craig Repmann (present) Deanna Seiple (present)

Also present: Igor Bykov, Attorney (Lavery, Selvaggi, Ambromitis & Cohen)  
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk  
Frederick Roll, Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor

Mayor Koury wished those present a "Happy National French Fry Day".

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 June 8, 2023, minutes Township Committee Work-Session/Regular Meeting:  
Repmann Second: Homulak  
Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Koury (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye)

Payment of Bills:

Motion to approve the Bills List: Seiple Second: Repmann  
Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Koury (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye)

Upon questioning by Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, Mayor Koury clarified the listed payments for the purchase of a Ford pickup truck for the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Morton salt.

Ordinances:

1. Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2023-03: Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, Creating Chapter 192 entitled "Fire Police" to establish a mechanism by which a fire department may provide for the appointment of certain members of the department for limited police duties at fires and fire drills.

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

Deputy Mayor Homulak explained that the ordinance would allow fire safety personnel to assist in traffic control until the arrival of a regular Police Officer. Upon questioning by Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, Deputy Mayor Homulak clarified that Fire Police would receive training in traffic control.

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-03: Homulak      Second: Seiple

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

**Resolutions:**

1. Resolution 2023-41: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Lower Kingstown Road Improvement project.

Mayor Koury advised that the resolution allows the Township to apply for a grant but does not guarantee the receipt of a grant. He indicated that such grant applications help prepare for anticipated road projects and can be used for paving, stormwater management and drainage projects.

Motion to adopt: Repmann      Second: Seiple

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

2. Resolution 2023-42: Appointment – Land Use Board – Class IV – Unexpired Term – Richard “Rick” Ramalho.

Mayor Koury advised that he had met with Dave Dallas, Chairman of the Land Use Board (LUB), to discuss the appointment with Mr. Ramalho, who is a long-standing resident of the Township.

Committeeman Repmann reminded those present that Board member Appointments are made by the mayor and that no vote is needed. Resolution has been kept on file to record the appointment.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

1. Proposal for Professional Services: River Road Drainage Improvement Project.

Frederick Roll, Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor, explained that a drainage pipe is falling into the river due to road erosion, and that no grants were available for the project. Upon questioning by Committeewoman Seiple, Mr. Roll explained that the pre-application process listed in the proposal allows the Township’s Engineer to start making applications to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and drawing the project plans.



as the other municipal offices but were still trying to prioritize meeting space so that the Township could utilize its own facility for meetings.

Rick Conley, 17 Landsdown Road, questioned the status of the repairs to the emergency exit stairs at the current Municipal Building. Mayor Koury confirmed that the repairs had been completed. Mayor Koury explained that the Land Use Board (LUB) were conducting their meetings on the online Zoom Application due to an Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance request. He further explained that the Fire House had expressed concerns regarding permanent usage of their facility for meetings and that the LUB Attorney had advised the board that they should honor the ADA compliance request. Mayor Koury thanked the Department of Public Works (DPW) for their efforts to repair the emergency stairs.

Scott Turek, 50 Lower Kingtown Road, questioned what would happen if the Township did not receive the grant for the repairs needed on Lower Kingtown Road. Mayor Koury explained the road repair schedule and that the grant application may get higher priority due to the road's connection between two County roads. Upon further questioning, the Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor explained that the repairs would cost the Township's Budget approximate \$300,000.00 without grant assistance. Mayor Koury explained that road repairs get prioritized with grants to get additional funds to complete the projects. Upon further questioning by Mr. Turek, Mayor Koury and Committeeman Repmann explained that previous Committees had not funded the Township's Road Repairs Budget to reduce taxes, and that the current Township Committee was making efforts to catch up on funding needed repairs. The DPW Supervisor explained the limitations of the grant, citing that the grant can only cover a certain amount of road at a time. He further explained that the grant applications would be separated into phases. Mayor Koury provided an additional explanation of the Township's strategy for prioritizing and funding needed road repairs. Mr. Conley expressed his appreciation of the Township's efforts to prioritize road repairs.

Bruce DeRites, 119 Locust Grove Road, expressed interest in revisiting the Capoolong Trail Maintenance discussion and questioned if the Township had received any updates from the State Division of Fish and Wildlife. He provided an update on the County's efforts to maintain the portion of the trail owned by the County. Mayor Koury indicated that the State has done nothing and provided a brief explanation of the Township's prior efforts to address the poorly maintained portion of the trail. Committeeman Repmann recommended that residents contact their State and County officials. Discussion followed regarding the Township's prior efforts to address the trail's disrepair, the State's unwillingness to maintain the trail or Peach Exchange historic site along the trail, and the State's unwillingness to allow maintenance agreements or sale of the property to other organizations. Committeewoman Seiple recommended addressing the concern with Senator Corey Booker who is anticipated to be attending the "Hunger Games" event.

Upon questioning by Committeeman Repmann, Bruce DeRites provided a brief explanation of the status of the Economic Development Initiative Team (EDIT). Committeeman Repmann expressed his preference for focusing the Township's efforts on repairing Township roads over the State-owned trail.

Executive Session: None.

Action by the Committee: None.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion to adjourn: Repmann Second: None Recorded**

**All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

**Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk**

  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Tabled: 08/10/2023**

**Adopted: 09/14/2023**