

September 19, 2023

The Franklin Township Supervisors met on the above date at the Franklin Township Administration Building located at 889 Fairyland Road. Township Officials present were Supervisors Fred Kemmerer, Robin Cressley, Jason Frey and Secretary Brenda Cressley. A list of others in attendance is attached to the Minute Book. Chairman Kemmerer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Approval of Minutes –

Having received no additions or corrections from the August 15, 2023 Township Meeting minutes, Robin Cressley made a motion approving the minutes as submitted. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2023 workshop meeting. (Central Sewage Workshop Meeting). Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report-

Announced change in Garbage Collection for the Columbus Day Holiday:
Monday, October 9th pick-up is changed to Tuesday, October 10th

Electronic Recycling Event will be held Saturday, October 21, 2023 (from 9:00 am -11:00 a.m.)
(THIS EVENT IS FOR FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY)

Franklin Township Office is selling 6" cold hoagie tickets @ \$5.50 each to help raise money for the revitalization of Phifer's Ice Dam Playground. Hoagies are from Cindy's Deli Tickets can only be purchased from the Franklin Township Administration Office during business hours. The ticket expires March 1, 2024

The Board of Supervisors held job interviews for a part-time seasonal grass mower and full-time garbage/road crew positions on August 16, 2023 and September 12, 2023.

A public workshop meeting was held on August 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the number of Edu's and possibility of expansion of the central sewer line.

A Public Hearing will be held on October 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin Township Administrative Office regarding the proposed amendments to the Franklin Township Zoning Ordinance including zoning map changes and also the SALDO Ordinance

Treasurer's Report – Robin Cressley moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Report – Zoning Officer Paul Jarrett submitted his reports for September 2023. Revenue from Zoning Permits: \$1,408.50. Variance Exception Request: \$0.00 Copies on file.

Reports Cont'd:

UCC Building Code Official – Building Code Official, Paul Jarrett submitted his reports for September 2023. Revenue from Building Permits: \$536.00 Copies on file.

Fire Chief's Report - Received the August 2023 report for the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company, and the Fire Police (July & August 2023 Reports). Copies are on file.

Police Reports - Received the police report from Chief Jason Doll from July 23, 2023 – August 19, 2023. Copies are on file.

Road Crew Report: - Report received from (8/6/23-8/19/23) & (8/20/23-9/2/23) & (9/3/23-9/16/23).

Central Carbon Municipal Authority- Received minutes from the July 17, 2023 & August 21, 2023 meetings from Ronald Solt.

SEO Report – SEO Scott Bieber submitted his report from 7/11/23-9/11/23.

Jason Frey moved to approve all reports as submitted. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications:

Received notice of the ESTIMATED Liquid Fuels allocation for 2024 is \$222,756.31 (2023- \$226,049.58: difference is \$3,293.27 less from last year)

We received the examination report of the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for Franklin Township from 1/1/21-12/31/22; Received emails from LTAP, PSATS, NEPA, PSATS News Bulletin

Unfinished Business-

Motion tabled regarding a feasibility study at the August 15, 2023 Township Meeting. A motion was made at the August 29, 2023 Franklin Township Workshop Meeting to have Doug Kopp and Mike Takerer work together on a Capital Revenue report in place of a feasibility study. Discussion was held regarding a loan that will be paid off in October (2023) and then splitting that loan amount in half with 50% going to savings and 50% going back to the residents who are in good standing. This amount would be between \$5.00 and \$7.00. Supervisor Cressley, mentioned that we still have another loan to pay for ten more years and also reminded at the workshop meeting they were advised that we need at least \$900,000.00 - \$1,000,000.00 in our savings before we should even think of expanding the sewer line or lowering the sewer user fees. The Township Solicitor also remarked that he was not sure that this is something the board would be allowed to do. Supervisor Cressley made a motion to have a feasibility study completed. Both motions failed due to the lack of a second.

Citizen Participation:

Township Resident, Rod Green was present to ask questions regarding a letter he received in the mail about a zoning change to his property. He asked what is the reason for the change? Who is benefiting from the change? “Why are you changing the Canal Street up to Fairyland Road and East Second Street to commercial?” Mr. Green stated this area is residential it doesn’t make sense why you would want to put this residential area into a commercial zone when the Township has the highway for commercial use. He also asked why change an agricultural zone area to residential when it is already developed? Mr. Green also asked if this will change his taxes?

Chairman Kemmerer’s response was that the current zoning ordinance is from 1972 and needed to be updated. They have been working on this update for Zoning and SALDO since 2016, with a group effort that includes Franklin & Mahoning Townships and Lehighon Borough we were able to receive grant money to update the ordinances. Bruce Steigerwalt was present and was on the Mahoning Township Board of Supervisors back in 2016 and explained in 2011 we all did a Joint Comprehensive Plan which enabled us to start the process of updating the Zoning and SALDO Ordinances. In 2016 the townships and boroughs met to begin the process of updating the Zoning & SALDO Ordinances by proposing the definitions would all be same, however, each municipality would update their own Zoning and Saldo.

Chairman Kemmerer also said subjects like short-term rentals have become an issue that now needs to be addressed. Kemmerer confirmed with the tax assessment office that property taxes will not change unless you actually voluntarily change the use. (i.e.; open up a business on your property).

Resident Larry Williams was present to ask what the hearing scheduled for October 25th is about. Chairman Kemmerer explained that the public hearing is for the Zoning map changes. He said anyone who will be affected by zoning changes would have received a letter informing them of the change and the date and time of the hearing. Also a hearing for the Saldo Ordinance will also be held the same date. This is one of the last things needed to be completed before the new ordinances can be approved.

A discussion was held regarding the status of the new township building. Secretary Cressley told the board that to date the office received two letters of interest to serve on the building committee. Township business owner and resident Ty Poole offered to be on the committee too. He said he would submit a letter of interest. Supervisor Cressley suggested that we visit township buildings in other municipalities. The board was asked if the township plans included keeping the police department. Chairman Kemmerer said that is their plan.

Larry Williams and Ty Poole both asked what is going on with the police department. There is still a lot of speeding on Long Run Rd. and Mr. Poole said the police are not getting back to him. The board said they will set up a meeting with the Chief to discuss matters.

New Business –

Supervisor Fred Kemmerer Jr., Chief Administrative Officer of the Franklin Township Police Pension Plan, presented the Plan's Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the year of 2024 as \$63,426.00. Jason Frey made a motion to accept the 2024 MMO for the Franklin Township Police Pension Plan as presented. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Fred Kemmerer Jr., Chief Administrative Officer of the Franklin Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan, presented the Plan's Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the year 2024 as \$69,991.00. Robin Cressley made a motion to accept the 2024 MMO for the Franklin Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan as presented. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion to hire Randolph Brunson as a full-time Road Crew employee retroactive start date- 8/28/23. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (Noted - needs to get his CDL within six (6) months unless supervisors extend time).

Robin Cressley made a motion to hire Donald McGowan as a part-time seasonal grass mower employee- retroactive start Date- 8/21/23. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion to hire Brian Sebring as a part-time Road/Garbage Crew employee - Start Date-10/2/23. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fred Kemmerer made a motion to hire Aiden Koch as a part-time Garbage/Road Crew employee. - Start Date- 10/2/23 Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the Final Plan for the Minor Subdivision of Cora Ann Carpenter pending the DEP request for a planning waiver & non-building declaration is submitted and also the Recreation Fee is paid of \$500.00. Fred Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fred Kemmerer made a motion to appoint the Log Cabin Fence Company, Inc. to install a Salt Shed at the price of \$63,503.50 under Source Well; Note: this price does not include prevailing wages. If the quote comes in with prevailing wages and does not exceed the amount of \$75,000.00 that was budgeted for the 2023 ARPA fund they will be appointed. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NOTE: 10 week lead time.

New Business Cont'd -

Robin Cressley made a motion to adopt the Resolution 2023- 12 per Ordinance 2022-02 Section 7 the "Supervisors of Franklin Township can from time to time establish by resolution the rate, including discounts and penalties. This Resolution will set an additional charge of \$5.00 per bag in excess of four bags for each family or housekeeping unit. Fred Kemmerer seconded the motion, Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion to adopt the Resolution 2023-13 Requesting a Local Share Account (LSA) Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$332,614.57 on behalf of the Franklin Township Athletic Association to be used for the Christman Field Renovation Plan Phase 2 and also approving the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Secretary to execute all documents and agreements. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company to participate in the Leighton's Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 21, 2023. Rain date, will be Sunday, October 22, 2023. Jason Frey seconded the motion, Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to schedule Trick or Treat night for Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens Questions/Comments

Questions from the Press - None

Robin Cressley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:50 p.m. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Cressley- Secretary

