

October 20, 2020

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 Jason Frey, Robin Cressley, and Barbara Beltz; and Secretary Brenda Cressley. A list of others in attendance is attached to the Minute Book. Chairman, Jason Frey 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 –

Barbara Beltz made a motion approving the minutes from the September 15, 2020 Township Meeting included were the minutes from the Public Hearing regarding the Volunteer Fire Tax Credit Ordinance as submitted. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report-

Announced:

- 1). Change in Garbage Collection for Veteran's Day – Wednesday, November 11, 2020 pick-up will be changed to Thursday, November 12, 2020.
- 2). Reminder- Electronic Recycling Day will be held on October 24, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This Event is for Franklin Township Residents Only! (when truck is full they will leave)
- 3). On September 21, 2020 – Loyalty Oaths were taken by Derrek Koch, (Part-time Patrolman) & Edward Oblas, (Fire Police) and sworn in by Chairman Frey.
- 4). Jason Frey, Robin Cressley, Rose Chapello from Carbon Engineering and Paul Grella from DEP met on September 30, 2020 regarding the MS4 Permit.
- 5). The Carbon County Planning & Development Office held their 2nd Public Hearing (Zoom Meeting) on October 14, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. for the CDBG FY2020. Jennifer Hunsicker announced the CDBG FY 2020 money will be used for the drainage improvements to Red Hill Road Phase 2 in the amount of \$77,824.00.

Treasurer's Report – Robin Cressley moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Barbara Beltz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Zoning Report - Zoning Officer Tracy Herman submitted her report from 8/19/20- 9/16/20. Revenue from Zoning Permits: \$789.30; Variance application fees - \$0.00. Also received the Zoning Report from 9/1/20- 10/13/20. Revenue from Zoning Permits: \$560.70; Variance application fees: \$0.00. Copies are on file.

UCC Building Code Official - Received report from Paul Jarrett, Building Code Officer from 8/19/20- 9/16/20. Administrative fees turned in with report: \$450.00. Received report from Paul Jarrett, from 9/1/20-10/13/20. Administrative fees turned in with report: \$450.00. Copies are on file.

Fire Chief's Report - Received the September 2020 report for the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company, as well as for the Fire Police. Copies are on file.

Police Report- Received the police report from 9/6/20-10/3/20

Road Foreman Report- Time sheets were provided

Reports Cont'd –

Central Carbon Municipal Authority – Meeting minutes from August 17, 2020 & September 21, 2020.

Franklin Township Lions Club Report - October 2020 Newsletter

SEO Report- Sewer Enforcement Officer submitted his report from 8/18/20-10/10/2020

Solicitor Report - Noted he will address any matters that are on the agenda.

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

Communications –

Received the allocated State Aid Money in the amount of \$78,781.33 (2019- \$65,000.00, \$13,781.33 more) which helps to defray the costs of the Police Pension and Non-Uniformed pension Plan. Portion of the State Aid used to help pay \$40,315.00 for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan (8 members) and \$42,362.00 for the Police Pension Plan (4 members) for the year of 2020. Received the Commonwealth's 2020 state aid check in the amount of \$23,543.27 (2019- \$23,411.28); difference of \$131.99 more to aid in supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company; We received the 2020's 3rd Quarter Aggregate Report for the period of 7/1/20 thru 9/30/20 from Nationwide/Girard Pension Services; the annual PURTA (Public Utility Realty Tax) check for the year 2020- (\$1,405.75); Received Township Engineer Greg Haas's inspection report regarding his site inspection for St. Luke's Blue Mountain Hospital; Received letter from Resident David C. thor Straten-Mohr regarding use of electronic timing devices (radar); Received notice that the Carbon County Commissioners awarded the contract for street improvements on Red Hill Road to Lehigh Asphalt Paving & Construction Co. Inc. for \$42,627.85; Received a check from the Carbon County Commissioners awarding Franklin Township \$5,924.19 from the Cares Act Coronavirus Grant Fund; The Carbon County Assessment Recap Report as of 10/2/20; Emails from the NEPA, PSATS- News Bulletin, Week in Review, & LTAP

Chairman Jason Frey added he spoke to a representative of St. Luke's regarding the waterline hookup fees for residents located along Fairyland Road. The Lehigh Water Authority charges a tapping fee of \$4,300.00 per hook up. St. Luke's and Lehigh Water Authority have an agreement that states because St. Luke's is paying to extend the waterline they will be given a \$1,200.00 credit for each resident that chooses to connect. He said St. Luke's would be willing to eat the cost of \$1,200.00 for each tapping fee so the customer would only have to pay \$3,100.00 to connect to the Lehigh Water Authority's waterline.

Citizen Participation:

Resident Paul Hunter was present to voice his concerns regarding a water runoff issue he is having from his neighbor Jason Frey. He believes that ever since Mr. Frey put up his pole building it has been causing water to run onto his property. Mr. Hunter said Mr. Frey keeps bringing dirt to fill in which contains the water to one area, he said this is not how the previous owner took care of the water issues. Mr. Hunter is afraid his pipe cannot continue to take the amount of water runoff that is coming from Frey's property. He suggested if Frey would just put the property back to the way it was before by grading/leveling his yard this would fix the issue of water runoff. Supervisor Frey disputed Mr. Hunter's accusations. He obtained all the proper permits required to install the pole building he put up three years ago. He feels the water runoff issues the Hunter's are experiencing is not coming from his pole building. He also has a problem with water runoff on his property and feels it comes from another neighboring property (Motola's). All of their yards butt up against one another. Frey said if he has to fix his property then Motola's should be made to correct his property this is the only way to rectify the water issues on the Hunter property. Supervisor Frey said he already purchased a storm box and a pipe with holes with the intention of installing it on his property with the hope it will help to take care of the water runoff problem.

Another matter Hunter wanted to discuss was the fence that Frey recently installed. Frey installed the fence on his property line. (zoning allows) They both had copies of surveys in hand of their property lines. Hunter is concerned because the fence is only inches away from his stove pipe located on his garage. He is worried because of how close Frey's fence is to his property he will catch the fence on fire when he lights his stove up in his garage. Frey commented the fence is on his property line he doesn't need to move it.

Paul Hunter's final issue that he wanted to discuss was the Township needs to clean the drain on East Second Street. Supervisor Cressley said he would talk to Penn Dot first to clarify that it is the Township's responsibility, if so he will then contact the Carbon Conservation District on getting the proper permits needed to be able to do the work Mr. Hunter would like fixed.

Township resident David Mohr was present to address the speeding issues in Franklin Township. He was happy to see that other residents were complaining about the speeding and the Chief of Police would be attending the October Township meeting. He stated the police are not the problem the State Legislators need to pass the use of radar in the state of Pennsylvania. He feels this a very important tool our local police need. Chief Doll agreed the use of radar would be an asset. Currently they use Vascar. Mr. Mohr said we need to keep pushing our legislators to pass the use of radar.

Larry Williams was present and said he is not sure what happened but the speeding has slowed down a lot especially in the afternoon and weekends. Chief Doll said he gave his officers a directive to spend more time in the areas where the complaints are coming from. He said one of the problems is manpower, they only have one officer per shift and he may be working on a criminal case or tied up at an accident and just doesn't get the time to run speed. He said residents should contact the police office directly if they observe speeding or any other issue.

Citizen Participation:

Resident Rod Mann remarked he was very pleased the Township placed the mobile speed sign along Canal Street, he said it helped slow down the speeders. He said he hopes the Township continues to use this device. Supervisor Robin Cressley said they are trying to move the sign to different locations. He is in the process of receiving quotes to possibly purchase additional electronic speed control signs for next year's budget.

Jason and Lisa Eidem had several concerns. The first concern was the speeding at the intersection of Fairyland Road., Canal St., and Long Run Road. They also complained about a kid who is throwing pizza boxes out with pizza still in the box by their home. Mr. Eidem voiced his concern regarding the neighboring property and the burning being done. He feels something needs to be done about the property owner giving the caretaker permission to burn on this property. He explained the caretaker is burning items such as household trash, siding, and tires. He suggested the caretaker should clear the area where he is burning. Mr. Eidem said that the last fire he had was very close to his home and he uses accelerants to start the fire and he is very concerned for his family and home. He went on to explain the owner purchased this property through a repository sale and they had an agreement with the Township to keep the property cleaned up. Mr. and Mrs. Eidem feel if the property owner cannot keep up with the property they should give it to the D & L Trails.

Chief Doll's response was the department will handle the fire issue, but the items being burned the Zoning Officer will have to look into. If they see anyone dumping tires etc. they should call the police department immediately and the matter will be looked into.

Secretary Cressley said she will search through the prior minutes to see if she can locate the agreement, if it exists that Mr. & Mrs. Eidem mentioned.

Joseph Bennett came to the Township Meeting to express his dissatisfaction that the Intermunicipal Agreement will not be approved at October's meeting. He thanked Atty. Nanovic for putting the agreement together. Mr. Bennett feels while it will be a great benefit to have the Davita's Dialysis Center located on this property he is ready to end his agreement to have the dialysis center move onto this property. He said he was willing to take over as property owner in the agreement to get the Intermunicipal Agreement passed with Parryville and Franklin Township, and he will do whatever it takes to get the agreement approved. He suggested another meeting just between all attorneys involved.

Attorney Nanovic said he would contact Attorney Frycklund about setting up another meeting.

New Business-

Robin Cressley made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-02 establishing a Volunteer Service Credit Program; Enacting Tax Credits for Volunteer Members of Volunteer Fire Companies. Barbara Beltz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Beltz made a motion to hire Attorney Steve Hoffman to represent Franklin Township with the Opioid Subpoena, retroactive from September 21, 2020. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Doll was present and explained they received a subpoena requesting any and all interaction with opioids such as arrests, overdoses, ambulance etc. He as keeper of the records has to gather the information. Atty. Nanovic suggested the Township hire an attorney to help alleviate some of the burden.

Agenda item number three regarding the Parryville Intermunicipal Agreement. Tabled, no action was taken.

Barbara Beltz made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-14; approving the Coronavirus relief fund recipient agreement between Franklin Township and the County of Carbon for the application of grant funding through the Cares Act (Coronavirus Aid Relief Economic Security Act). Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to schedule Trick or Treat night to be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Barbara Beltz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Beltz made a motion to appoint Guy Barry as the Central Sewer Connection Inspector, he will replace Herman Snyder. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the request for the use of Phifer's Ice Dam (lower parking lot) to hold a free No Contact Drive Thru Rabies Clinic on Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Barbara Beltz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens Comments/Questions – None

Questions from the Press - None

Barbara Beltz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Brenda Cressley
Secretary-Treasurer