

September 7, 2022
Workshop Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m.

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 Jr., Robin Cressley and Jason Frey, Secretary Brenda Cressley. A list of others in attendance at the meeting 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.

Chairman Kemmerer opened the meeting by stating the Board of Supervisors chose to hold a workshop meeting regarding emergency traffic issues and detours that have recently occurred in our Township. A home at the intersection of Long Run Road, Fairyland Rd. and Canal St. was hit by two-three tractor trailers from Walmart driving on a detour route in the same evening.

The Supervisors feel that we have to back track to where it starts and figure out how to get traffic routed the correct way because Tractor Trailers are not allowed on Township Roadways. Members of the Penn Forest Township and Jim Thorpe Borough. Pa Turnpike Commission, PennDot, Carbon County's Emergency Management Coordinator, Larry Diehl, Franklin Township's EMA Officer, Fire chief Lynn Diehl and Fire Police Members and our Chief of Police, Jason Doll were all invited to attend the workshop meeting in hope that we could all work together on coming up with ideas on how to control the traffic detours.

A discussion ensued with all present in agreement that having the proper and enough signage is the main key to having a successful detour. Todd Leiss, Traffic Incident Manager from the PA Turnpike Commission was present and offered many suggestions that would help our situation. He said he would be able to help get the signs we would need. He said he would talk to his staff directly and to the mapping editors that could change and update the traffic patterns/detours on the programs from apple way and google maps.

Michael Yeastedt from Jim Thorpe Borough suggested posting signs "Emergency Routes"

Christian Bartulovich from Penn Forest suggested to have Fire Police called out and direct traffic.

Franklin Township Resident Jason Eidem said it is only a matter of time that a truck containing hazardous materials flips over on one of our township roads. He commented that once a vehicle/truck is detoured they are only looking for a way out; he thinks signs might help but we need to increase the fines to get them to stop driving on roads they are not allowed to drive on. We have got to have all eight entities and our Local Representatives involved and work together to solve the problem.

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Township Supervisor Robin Cressley stated the sign located currently on Long Run Road (Turn Left onto Long Run Road) needs to be moved to the Maury Road. Mr. Leiss said that he would definitely look into it and have it changed.

Chief Doll stated he feels the preventive way to go is to have very specific signage and will meet with Todd Leiss to discuss the traffic signs and patterns more in depth in the near future. Mr. Leiss suggested through a zoom meeting would work best. They would like to invite all present at the workshop meeting and include the Penn Forest and Kidder Fire Companies and local officials as well.

Franklin Township Fire Police, Walter Achey suggested having a Cone Boss Detours (with arrows) Signs. If they had a signs like this he could have guys able to put the sign outs in no time. He supplied handouts describing what the signs look like and how much they cost. Barry Hoffman also with the Franklin Township Fire Police agreed they would need about 6 of these signs to take care of an emergency.

Fire Chief Lynn Diehl was also in agreement that signage we be a big asset to help with the traffic problems.

Todd Leiss said the problem is when detours are needed the vehicles all play follow the leader, one goes one way and they all follow. He said definitely one of the things that needs to happen is to have better signage etc, He said was very glad he came and was confident he could help us out with the ongoing detours etc. He requested that we email him with the current sign changes we need and start from there.

Chairman Kemmerer thanked everyone for come to the workshop meeting, he made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.



Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda E. Cressley, Secretary