

December 20, 2022

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, and Jason Frey; and 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.

Approval of Minutes –

Robin Cressley made a motion approving the minutes from the November 15, 2022 Township Meeting. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion approving the minutes from the November 21, 2022 Budget Workshop Meeting. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report –

There will be changes in Garbage Collection Pick-up for Christmas & New Year's Day, the changes are as follows:

Monday, December 26th collection will be Tuesday, December 27, 2022

Monday, January 2nd collection will be Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Announced that Christmas Trees can be disposed of at the Phifer's Ice Dams Park using the Penn St. entrance beginning Monday, December 26, 2022 until January 31, 2023.

Announced: the Organization Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The January (regular) Monthly Township Board of Supervisors Meeting will be held on January 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Zoning Report - Zoning Officer Paul Jarrett submitted his report from 11/14/22- 12/6/22 Revenue from Zoning Permits: \$3,876.95. Variance application fees - \$0.00. A detailed monthly report showing the hours spent on zoning matters was also submitted.

UCC Building Code Official – Received report from Paul Jarrett, Building Code Officer from 11/14/22/-12/6/22. Total fees turned in: \$681.50.

Fire Chief's Report - Received the November, 2022 reports for the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company and the Franklin Township Fire Police. Copies are on file.

Police Reports- Officer Buonaiuto, submitted the police criminal activity report from 11/13/22-12/10/22. (Minus Jason Doll's time due to illness) Copy is on file

Central Carbon Municipal Authority – Ronald Solt submitted the Central Carbon Municipal Authority’s minutes from their October 17, 2022 & November 21, 2022 meeting, along with the CCMA’s Financial Statements (December 31, 2021 and 2020).

SEO Report- Franklin Township’s Sewer Enforcement Officer (SEO), Scott Bieber submitted his report from 9/21/22 – 11/30/22. Total fees received: \$1,842.80

All reports were approved as submitted.

Communications –

Received an email from PMRS notifying the township that the 2023 MMO worksheet had an incorrect Normal Cost Rate (Item B did not include the disability cost rate), that was originally provided causing the PMRS MMO lower than it should have been by \$86.00. A new worksheet had to be signed by Chairman Fred Kemmerer. (was \$73,655.00 to \$73,741.00 (\$86.00 more); Letter from DEP regarding a 60 day extension letter for Parryville Davita Dialysis Facility; 2023 Worker’s Compensation Policy & Employer’s Liability Insurance Policy; Emails: NEPA, PSATS News Bulletin, DEP, PSATS Grassroots, and LTAP

Citizen Participation-

David Bradley was present to ask the board to veto the line item in the budget to add a Code Enforcement Officer he feels there is already a person in that position to enforce the codes. He also requested that the Supervisors remove the Building Tax of .537 mills from the 2023 budget. Mr. Bradley also asked if the Board of Supervisors would bring back recycling.

Resident Roger Crum agreed that he feels we already have a zoning officer that should take care of the code problems, and the Supervisors need to tell him to do his job. Matt Dorward agreed and suggested going a different route and look to improving our police department.

Supervisor Frey mentioned in the past they tried to have 24-7 coverage by hiring more part-time police officers but they did not receive any applicants. After many discussionS it was determined we needed a fifth full-time police officer whether the hospital was here or not. Frey said we found it to be better to negotiate with St. Luke’s instead of having an Impact Fee requirement.

Ty Poole, Kevin Hoffman, Bruce Smith and other residents were present to ask why the Supervisors were going to raise the taxes 1.5 mills. They were upset that the taxes might be increased. Some have recently retired and were worried they would not be able to keep their homes.

Tim Wagner stated there is no reason to increase the taxes if we will be bringing in a surplus, there is no reason to raise the taxes. He wanted to know how they came up with the proposed 1.5 mill increase.

Mr. Wagner was not aware of any budget workshops meetings held. David Bradley suggested that next time we need to send a mailer/flyer to residents notifying them of the meetings.

Ty Poole asked, "What happened to using the ARPA money to post live meetings?"

Township Resident Pat Beltz asked what happens next with the comments presented to the board this evening; do you all ignore the comments or take them into consideration?

In response Chairman Kemmerer commended the residents that took the time to attend tonight's Township Board of Supervisors meeting and express their concerns regarding increasing the taxes. He stated they held three (advertised) workshop meetings, and cutback on expenses as much as possible. They were ready to agree on increasing taxes by 1.5 mills after taking another look they decided they could hold the line and not increase the taxes. The residents present were pleased to hear their decision not to increase taxes and applauded the board.

Supervisor Robin Cressley suggested to table the \$37,000.00 line item to not add a code enforcement officer to the budget. The Board agreed to strike that from the budget.

Supervisor Jason Frey then asked that the board also strike the .537 mills - approximate \$80,374.00 (\$56,374.00 taxes- \$1,000.00 & \$23,000.00 in interest) for the Building Fund. He feels it needs to end. Supervisor Cressley agreed it does need to end in the near future, but not until we know what a new building will cost in the future.

Final citizen comments were heard regarding the Secretarial/Clerical Contract. Resident Ty Poole questioned the secretary-treasurer position being included in said contract, which led to an executive session to discuss the topic. Chairman Kemmerer stated the position is addressed in the new contract and will end when the current secretary-treasurer retires.

Unfinished Business- None

New Business -

Robin Cressley made a motion giving final approval to the 2023 budget for all funds (General Fund, State Fund, (Liquid Fuels), Sewer Operating Fund, Recreation Fund, Fire Hydrant Fund, Road Equipment Fund, Capital Project Garbage Collection Equipment, Capital Reserve Police Vehicle & Equipment Fund; Capital Reserve Building Fund; and Capital Reserve Employee Benefits Fund with the exception of deleting the line item #413.110 in the amount of \$37,000.00 for a new Code Enforcement Officer wages. Fred Kemmerer seconded the motion. Jason Frey opposed. Supervisor Frey stated the Capital Project Building Fund needs to come to an end. On a 2-1 vote the motion carried on adopting the budget as is. Chairman Kemmerer noted there will be no tax increase, as the Township stayed within its budget and said there has been no tax increase since 2010.

New Business Cont'd-

Robin Cressley made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-20 setting the Tax Rates for the fiscal year 2023. Fred Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-21 setting the Garbage Collection rates for 2023, with a \$20.00 (twenty dollar) increase in the garbage collection fees for regular and business customers only. Senior Citizen rates will remain the same. Seasonal Rates will be discontinued beginning March 1, 2023. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-22 use of Township Equipment. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the bid and purchase of a 2001 Massey Ferguson Mower from Municibid retroactive from December 9, 2022. Purchase amount was \$13,105.00 with a buyer's fee of 9% total cost- \$14,284.45. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fred Kemmerer made a motion to ratify the Agreement between Franklin Township and the Teamsters Local 773 representing the Secretaries/Clerical Employees for the time period of 1/1/2023- 12/31/2027. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Jason Frey stated he will sign the contract but disagrees with the duration/time frame of the contract. Motion carried unanimously. Please note an executive session was held before the motion was made.

Jason Frey made a motion to table awarding the bid to the lowest responsible bidder for the demolition of the Hobby Shop Building from Penn Bid until the January 17, 2023 Township Supervisors Meeting upon the recommendation from the Township Engineer. (noting we have 30 days to award the bid. Fred Kemmerer the seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Janelle Farkas representing Carbon Engineering was present to open the bids received through the Penn Bidding process. Three bids were received as follows;

A R Popple TKG & Exc LLC -	\$27,500.00
Brdaric Excavating -	\$38,600.00
Brightfields, Inc.-	\$61,700.00

Robin Cressley made a motion not to extend the Declaration of Disaster regarding Covid-19 as of December 31, 2022. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the estimate from Pipe Date View as the company to televise the sewer lines in Phase 1 as written at no additional cost for a 12 inch pipe. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business Cont'd-

Fred Kemmerer made a motion to look into a Cable Franchise Agreement. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Jason Frey opposed. Motion Carried. Supervisor Frey stated he feels this would be another type of tax increase that would burden the township residents at this time.

Public – Questions/Comments –

David Bradley requested a list of purchases made from the Capital Reserve Building Fund, a copy of the Ordinance (what was the purpose of starting it), and if there is a time limit to use the tax money received for this fund.

Norm Greene was present to ask for something to be done about the water runoff problem he is having regarding his driveway. Fred said either Robby or himself will speak to the Rd. Foreman, Kim Hunsicker to see when they can meet at the site in the near future.

Business owner and township resident Ty Poole thanked the Supervisors for listening to the residents this evening.

Resident Bruce Smith was present to thank Kim Hunsicker and the Road Crew for the excellent repair job done at his property along Wagner Street.

Questions from the Press - None

Jason Frey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Cressley, Secretary