

October 17, 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, and Jason Frey; and Secretary Brenda Cressley. A list of others in attendance is attached to the Minute Book. Chairman, Fred 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 September 19, 2023 Township Meeting minutes, Robin Cressley made a motion approving the minutes as submitted. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report-

Electronic Recycling Event will be held Sat., October 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.  
**(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 at the Franklin Township Administration Office during business hours. The ticket expires March 1, 2024

Second Public Virtual Hearing 2023 RE: Use of Community Development Block Grant Funds for the Funding Year 2023 (Conducted by Jennifer Hunsicker, Carbon County Office of Planning & Development) was held on September 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Change in Garbage Collection Pick-Up for Veteran's Day:  
Friday, November 10th Pick-Up is changed to Thursday, November 9th

Reminder Trick or Treat night is on October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

There will be a public hearing held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the updated Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map and SALDO Ordinance.

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

Zoning Report - Zoning Officer Paul Jarrett submitted his report from 9/13/23- 10/10/23. Revenue from Zoning Permits: \$250.10; Variance application fees - \$0.00. Copies are on file.

UCC Building Code Official - Received report from Paul Jarrett, Building Code Officer from 9/13/23-10/10/23. Administrative fees turned in with report: \$377.00. Copies are on file.

Fire Chief's Report - Received the September 2023 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 8/20/23-9/16/23

Road Foreman Report- Time sheets were provided - (9/17/23-9/30/23), (10/1/23-10/14/23)

Central Carbon Municipal Authority – Meeting minutes from September 18, 2023. Also submitted – 2021- 2022 Financial Statements

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

Communications –

Received the allocated State Aid Money in the amount of \$93,246.21 (2022- \$82,887.22- \$10,358.99 more this year) which helps to defray the costs of the Police Pension and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan. Portion of the State Aid used to help pay was \$73,741.00 for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan (6 members) and \$54,842.00 for the Police Pension Plan (5 members) for the year of 2023; Received the Commonwealth's 2023 state aid check from the Volunteer Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$26,026.87 (2022- \$25,875.44): difference of \$151.43 more to aid the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company; The annual PURTA (Public Utility Realty Tax) check for the year 2023- (\$1,389.57); We received the 2023 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Aggregate Report for the period of 7/1/23 thru 9/30/23 from Nationwide/Girard Pension Service; 2023 -Signed Act 44 Disclosure form from Nationwide/Girard Pension Services regarding the police pension from Ronald Bittner; 2023 - Signed Act 44 Disclosure form from Foster & Foster regarding the police pension from Laura Prego

Citizen Participation: - None at this time

Unfinished Business- None

New Business-

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the Medical Loss Rebate that Franklin Township received in the amount of \$20,539.70 to be applied towards the 2023 Highmark Monthly Premiums. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Noted 2022's rebate was in the amount of \$17,427.98.

Jason Frey made a motion to approve the request from Palmerton Borough to have the Franklin Township Fire Police assist with traffic control on Sunday, October, 15, 2023, (Monday, October 16, 2023 rain date) for the Palmerton's Halloween Parade. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion to approve the request from Palmerton Borough to have the Franklin Township Fire Police assist with traffic control on Thursday, November 23, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. for the Turkey Trot 5K Race. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business-

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the request from the Borough of Lehighon to have the Franklin Township Fire Police assist with traffic control for the annual Snowflake 5K walk/run to be held on December 9, 2023 with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. and a start time of 9:00 a.m. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company to participate in the Carbon County Veteran's Day parade in Nesquehoning on November 5, 2023. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the motion to eliminate the Capital Building Tax Fund. The Supervisors were all in agreement that it was premature to terminate the tax at this time when the township does not know what a new Township building will cost to be built. They were also in agreement that eventually they would all like to see the tax eliminated.

Motion to eliminate the Capital Reserve Building Tax Fund (.537 mills) did not pass due to a lack of a motion.

Fred Kemmerer made a motion to use the funds (from the paid off loan) to lower the monthly sewer user fees to \$53.00 per EDU by Resolution and also to review the original Pennvest Loan contract to make sure we would not be in breach of the contract for this loan. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Robin Cressley opposed. Motion carried.

Public Comments/Questions:

Resident Ty Poole was present and asked where the Township stands with a new Township Building. Last month it was mentioned about starting a building committee and he said he was interested on being on the committee. Supervisor Cressley responded by stating they held a public workshop a few months ago along with the police department and office staff to discuss the square footage and what might be needed for a new building. At that workshop our engineer presented a tentative sketch of a 7500 square foot building that would house the office staff, police department, zoning office and a meeting room. Resident Jason Eidem said that was an extremely large building. Resident Dom Cutry said what if a building is never built. Chairman Kemmerer assured him that a building will be built.

Todd Weaver was present representing the Lehighon Heritage Alliance Group. He wanted to introduce himself and explain what his group is about. He said the name of Lehighon used in their group doesn't just mean the Borough of Lehighon but all of the Township's within the Lehighon Area School District. He would like to see the residents from all of these areas join his group's efforts to keep the history of this area alive. The Lehighon Heritage Group currently has a tour map with eleven (11) stops within the Lehighon Borough. He invited anyone interested in becoming a member to contact him or attend a meeting. Their meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and the Lehighon Rec Center.

Questions from the Press - None

Robin Cressley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully,



Brenda Cressley, Secretary