

June 20, 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, Secretary-Treasurer 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.

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023 Township Meeting. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report – The Secretary announced the following:

There will be not a change for the July 4, 2023 garbage collection. Monday July 3rd collection will still be picked up on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Chairman Kemmerer said the second movie night went very well. He said from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. “Duo K” entertained the public, then the movie Monster Inc. was played for approximate twenty (20)-thirty (30) people present that watched. Due to the weather the movie was shown inside the Phifer’s Ice Dam Pavilion. Chairman Kemmerer said the next movie night will be “Cars” and will be shown on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> beginning around 8:30 p.m. He said a car show will be held on the same night from 6:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

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 report from 5/3/23 – 6/7/23. Revenue from Zoning Permits - \$312.00. No Variance Applications were submitted. Copy of Report is on file.

UCC Building Code Official – Paul Jarrett submitted his report from 5/3/23-6/7/23. Revenue from Building Permits- \$527.00. Copy is on file.

Fire Chief's Report – Asst. Fire Chief Kevin Lilly submitted the May, 2023 report for the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Co. #1, as well as for the Fire Police. Copies are on file.

Police Reports – OIC Frank Buonaiuto submitted the Police reports to the Board from 4/30/23-5/27/23. Copy of Report is on file.

Road Crew Reports – Reports submitted from: (5/14/23 - 5/27/23) & (5/28/23 – 6/10/23). Copies on file.

Central Carbon Municipal Authority – Ronald Solt submitted the CCMA minutes and reports from the May 15, 2023 meeting.

Presentation- Chairman Kemmerer presented the annual contribution check of \$40,000.00 to Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Lilly representing the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company. Fred stated what a vital part the Fire Company is to our community and they do an excellent job. Supervisors Cressley & Frey both echoed his remarks. The Board of Supervisors thanked Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Lilly and the Volunteer Fire Company for the excellent service they provide to our township and its residents. Kevin said the check received will be deposited directly into their truck fund which will replace a thirty (30) year old truck. Currently they are working on specs and the lead time is two (2) years the cost will be anywhere from \$700,000.00 - \$900,000.00.

Communications-

We received a copy of the Weissport Municipal Authority's 2022 Audit with was completed by Kirk, Summa & Co., LLP; Annual Certified letter from Silberline Mfg. Co. for both the TIDEWOOD & TAMAQUA Facilities regarding the requirements of Act 32 of 1989 which is to send notification of municipalities located within 20 miles of a detailed inventory of the type and quantity of regulated materials in storage at their facilities; EMAILS-Newsletters: COSTARS, DEP, PSATS, LTAP, and NEPA

Citizen Participation-

Longtime resident, Retired Maj. Gen. Jay Barry was present to discuss the recent application submitted to the DCED (Greenway, Trails, and Recreation Program) grant. The Franklin Township Athletic Association along with the Barry family and Franklin Township Supervisors are working on making improvements at the Christman Ballfield. Mr. Barry presented the current plans made up of three (3) phases.

Phase 1- Begin with paving the road entering the Christman Ballfield, add curbing to help with the water runoff, new parking area that would be ADA compliant, and the current Babe Ruth Ballfield will be landscaped to help with the drainage issues. They would also like to purchase three new sets of bleachers, with a handicap accessible section and a back stop. Patio areas will be added on both sides of the current concession stand with picnic tables including a handicap accessible table.

Phase II- Add a "Kids" area to include a T-Ball field which would enable the organization to add a challenge league for kids with disabilities, a playground area, another concession stand with a covered patio with picnic tables for seating including a handicap picnic table. This area will also have a paved parking lot. The softball field will be landscaped to correct the drainage problems in the infield, outfield and viewing areas. New bleachers with a handicap section will also be added to this area.

Phase III – This phase would consist of constructing a standard size Little League Field where the current Coach Pitch field is located including bleachers, fencing etc. This would enable the Franklin Township Athletic Association to use this field to hold tournaments and all-star games. If enough fundraising and grant money is awarded they would also like to install a walking trail around the entire complex and add water & sewer facilities.

Citizen Participation-

Mr. Barry also mentioned the township will need to have an appraisal completed on the property and he will help pay for the appraisal. Mr. Barry continued speaking about the Christman Ballfield Project and how vital fundraising is needed for us to be able to apply for a matching grant from DCNR. Chairman Kemmerer mentioned that the work the township road crew employees perform will be considered in-kind services and can count towards the matching funds. Supervisor Cressley asked Mr. Barry what type of fundraising is planned. He said he has some things in mind such as to begin a GoFundMe page on Facebook, hold a founders recognition dinner to include past & present coaches, presidents, and all-star kids, and ask local businesses for donations. The Franklin Township Athletic Association already had a fundraiser and will continue to come up with more. He thanked the Board of Supervisors for all of their support.

Kevin Zuercher was present to ask for Franklin Township's Fire Police assistance for the "Back the Blue Ride" on August 12, 2023 from 12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. This was not on our agenda, therefore Chairman Kemmerer will make a motion at the end of the meeting to amend the agenda adding Mr. Zuercher's request.

Brandon Fogel representing the "Save Carbon County" group asked for the Board of Supervisors to adopt the Resolution regarding the land application of sewage sludge within Carbon County. He explained how local municipalities do not have any say in what is allowed. NOTE: He believes DEP does testing two times a year, but Pennsylvania does not currently test for everything and thinks the Federal government is starting to require better testing be completed. He also noted the state of Maine has come to the conclusion their farm fields that used this application are now not able to be used. Supervisor Kemmerer said he recently attended the PSATS Conference and Northampton County wanted PSATS to go to Harrisburg to help fight the land application of sewer sludge and the motion failed to pass. Chairman Kemmerer suggested they attend the PSATS Conference next year as a group.

Darren Thomas attended the meeting to ask for assistance to help with his relative's estate located on State Road. The property is under one deed but has two different parcel numbers and no record was found of a subdivision that was ever recorded. He wanted to know what his next step is. He was advised to meet with our Zoning Officer and then attend our next Planning Commission Meeting on July 13, 2023.

Kristin Ellis from Time 2 Talk Therapy attended the township meeting to request to have a communication board be installed at the Phifer's Ice Dams Playground. She explained to the Board of Supervisors that this board would enable children that are limited or have no form of communicating with their peers. Having communication boards will help the kids to be able to communicate. She brought pictures of what they look like and their sizes. There is no cost to the Township and this also would help to raise awareness for early intervention. The Communication Boards allows all kids to be included by giving all of the children the ability to socialize with each other. The Supervisors all agreed to give Kristin permission to look at the entire Phifer's Ice Dam Park to see where the best place(s) would be to install the Communication Board (s) and inform the Supervisors what she decided for final approval of placement.

Citizen Participation-

Resident Thomas Beltz was present to ask the Supervisors for help with the access of his driveway. His vehicle is “grinding on the bottom when exiting his driveway.” He said after the road was paved, the road was raised about one & half inches (1.5) causing his car to scrape. He said he called the Township Office and was told his issue would be passed along to the Road Foreman. The Road Foreman inspected the area and advised Mr. Beltz to fill in his driveway. After discussing the situation they were all in agreement that filling his driveway would end up making the access of the driveway worse. The board decided to ask the Road Foreman, Mr. Beltz and Supervisor Cressley to meet and come up with a solution to appease everyone.

Woody Frey was present to inquire about the recent invoice he received regarding his Land Development Plan on Bunker Hill. He wanted to know if the Township had a standard Land Development Agreement. He is disputing his invoice because the Developers Agreement his engineer presented was used before and did not require any changes, but this time changes were made that he did not ask for but was billed. He said he is also disputing the invoice sent to him from the Township’s Engineer. He was advised to discuss his questions directly with the Attorney and Engineer.

Old Business- None

New Business-

Fred Kemmerer Jr. made a motion to approve the request from Time 2 Talk Therapy Services LLC to place communication boards at the playground located at Phifer’s Ice Dam Park at the discretion of the proprietor, Kristin Ellis. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-10: Request for the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) for the Christman Field Renovation Project. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion to hire Shawn Hutchinson as a full-time Road Crew & Garbage Crew employee beginning May 26, 2023. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Kemmerer commended Shawn for moving his start date a week earlier than initially planned from June 5<sup>th</sup> to May 26<sup>th</sup>. Fred thanked Shawn for starting earlier than anticipated he said it helped the Township enormously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to hire Andre’ LaGamma as a full-time Road Crew & Garbage Crew employee beginning, June 12, 2023. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Frey made a motion to retroactively approve the request from the Lehigh Area School District for Franklin Township’s Fire Police assistance for traffic control for the High School Commencement retroactive to Friday, June 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Rain dates – June 10, 2023 and June 11, 2023 time to be announced. Fred Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business Cont'd-

Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the request from the Borough of Lehighton for Franklin Township's Fire Police assistance for traffic control for the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fred Kemmerer Jr. made a motion to approve Pipe Data View Services to provide labor and equipment to televise approximately 1900' of 8" sanitary lines as directed regarding the shared sewers in Weissport. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Robin Cressley noted the approved estimate was just for our sewer line to the Weissport Pump Station and there is a secondary estimate needed from pump station to the flow meter or the Weissport sewer line to the Weissport's pump station. Secretary Cressley was asked to contact Doug Kopp from Arro Consulting for that estimate.

Fred Kemmerer Jr. made a motion to amend the agenda to add two requests for Franklin Township's Fire Police assistance for two separate events. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kemmerer made a motion to approve the request from the Borough of Lehighton to have Franklin Township's Fire Police assist with traffic control for the Go Joe 26 charity bike ride that benefits St. Joseph's Center between the hours of 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26, 2023. Jason Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

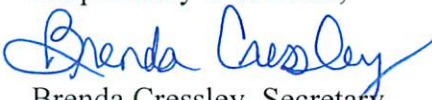
Jason Frey made a motion to approve the request from Kevin Zuercher the organizer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Back the Blue Ride" to benefit the Fraternal Order of Police to be held on August 12<sup>th</sup> at approximately 12:00 p.m. noting it will be contingent upon Franklin Township's Fire Police availability. Robin Cressley seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Copies of the details of the Bike Ride are on file.

Comments/Questions from Citizens- None

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