

January 16, 2024

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, Leroy Kemmerer Jr.; and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Cressley. An attendance sheet listing all others present 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 approving the minutes from the December 19, 2023 Township Meeting. Leroy Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fred Kemmerer Jr. made a motion approving the minutes from the January 2, 2024 Reorganization Township Meeting. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report - The Secretary announced the following:

- \* Reminder Christmas Trees can be disposed of at the Phifer's Ice Dam Park (Penn Street Entrance, (for Franklin Township Residents only until January 31, 2024).
- \* Garbage Collection Day Change: Monday, February 19, 2024 (President's Day) will be picked up on Tuesday, February 20, 2024
- \* Interviews were held on January 4, 2024 for a road crew/garbage crew employee
- \* Reminder Township is still selling Hoagie tickets from Cindy's Deli until March 1, 2024
- \* Next Township Meeting – February 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report - Robin Cressley made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. (12/19/23-12/31/23) & (1/2/2024-1/15/2024) Fred Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Report - Zoning Officer Paul Jarrett submitted his report from 12/27/23- 1/15/24 Revenue from Zoning Permits: \$1,824.45. Variance application fees. Copy is on file.

UCC Building Code Official – UCC Building Code Official – Received report from Paul Jarrett, Building Code Officer from 12/27/23/-1/15/24. Total fees turned in: \$218.00. Copy is on file.

Fire Chief's Report - December 2023 Monthly report, and the 2023 Yearly report was submitted. Copies are on file.

Fire Police Report – December 2023 monthly report was submitted. Copy is on file.

Police Reports- Chief of Police, Jason Doll submitted a police report from (12/10/23-1/6/24) Copy is on file.

Road Crew - Report submitted from (12/10/23 -12/23/23) & (12/24/23-1/6/24). Copy is on file.

Reports Cont'd -

Central Carbon Municipal Authority – Fred Kemmerer Jr. submitted the Central Carbon Municipal Authority's minutes from their December 18, 2023 meeting. Fred reported the infiltration that came into the sewer plant recently was at an all-time high due to all of the rain and melting of snow we received in the past few weeks. He said the municipalities will be receiving a letter. They are thinking the extra water is coming from residents using sump pumps that go directly into the sewer line.

Robin Cressley and Leroy Kemmerer Jr. moved to approve and accept all reports submitted.

Communications –

Received the year end December 31, 2023 report from Nationwide included in the report was the Aggregate Report for the period of 10/1/23- 12/31/23 and also received a Contract Transaction History report from Allied Benefits Group, LLC for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023 (10/1/23-12/31/23) for the Franklin Township Police Pension Plan . Copies were given to each Supervisor; Received electronic copies of the Compliance Audit Report for the Franklin Township Police Pension Plan and the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan from 1/1/2019-12/31/22 from the Department of the Auditor General Bureau of Municipal Pensions Audits. These audits reports are available for public inspection; Tax Collector's Sara Keiser's Final Settlement for 2023 and the return of uncollected real estate taxes for the year of 2023; Received a letter from DCNR , they recently conducted a site inspection of the Phifer's Ice Dam Park. This inspection is done every five (5) years in compliance with the federal requirements from a grant the township received. This is to ensure the site is being used for the purposes it was intended for. They found the Phifer's Ice Dam Park to be attractive and properly maintained, they observed no issues that needed to be addressed; **Emails from PSATS, LTAP**

Citizen Participation -

Township Resident, Jason Eidem was present to ask the township for help again with the truck traffic on Long Run Rd. He told the supervisors his home was hit two times recently at the intersection of Long Run Rd. and Fairyland.Rd. He said there has been a cement block/barrier placed on his property to help block his house from being hit and the no truck signs located on Long Run Rd have not stopped truck traffic from driving on Long Run Rd. He, also is concerned that a truck might dump toxic chemicals and that could affect thousands of people. He has pleaded and begged to have something done. Mr. Eidem suggested placing larger signs (like a billboard) on the Maury Rd. stating All Truck traffic must turn left and have the police enforce the signs. He feels if you make the fine hefty enough it will make the truck drivers think twice before turning right, or at least double the fine. He recently stopped three Walmart tractor trailers, he confronted each one of them and the police were able to apprehend them. Mr. Eidem gave a passionate plea for help asking again for someone to step up and take responsibility for this problem.

Citizen Participation Cont'd-

Township resident Ryan Bowman was present and echoed Mr. Eidem concerns. Hazardous trucks are also using other roads in the township such as Indian Hill Road and Main Rd. He suggested the Supervisors have the police officers get trained for the Department of Transportation inspections and set up traffic control points. He also agrees the fines need to be increased.

Alison Leaver suggested contacting the GPS companies to inform them the routes the trucks are told to take from the GPS are not safe and they need to be removed from the list of roads.

Mr Eidem also mentioned the township roads are not made to carry these tractor trailers and they are causing the township extra wear and tear on our township roads.

Chairman Kemmerer stated the township has tried to help with this problem but needs the state/pennDOT to do more. He suggested raising the fine fees for violating the No Trucks Traffic Signs. He also mentioned the township has three License Plate Readers that will be in place in the near future. They will be placed on Rt. 209 and Rt. 248. This will give the township police the capability to see the trucks that go through and question them if something was damaged.

Retired Maj. Gen. Marvin Barry was present to announce he received a call from State Sen. David Argall's office that the State Department of Community and Economic Development grant (DCED) they applied for through the Greenways Trails and Recreation Fund was awarded to Franklin Township. The total amount awarded for the Christman Ballfield Project will be \$250,000.00. He presented the draft drawing of the plan for the project and explained how this project will need to be completed in different phases. Mr. Barry stated some of the things this grant will provide will be to improve drainage, new parking area (crushed stone – 100 cars), handicap parking, improved concession stand with a covered patio, 8 picnic tables with two certified handicap seats, grading of infield of the Babe Ruth ballfield, aerate the channels for water, new backstop and bleachers. Mr. Barry stated they also applied for the state LSA Grant to add a new Little League (compliant) field and a walking trail. He said Harrisburg felt this was a worthwhile project and Franklin Township should be very proud to receive this grant, He thanked all who has helped with the process to obtain the grant. The Board of Supervisors commended Mr. Barry for all of his time and effort and finances that he has invested in this grant and deserves most of the credit. He said he has been a lifelong resident of Franklin Township and seeing his idea come to fruition is very heartwarming to him.

Old Business-

Robin Cressley made a motion to reappoint David Thomas as a Zoning Hearing Board Member for a three (3) year term. Leroy Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to include the wages for Road Master, CDL Rate and Laborer Rate for the equipment rental fees (for in kind services used when completing - Dirt & Gravel Road Project & Grants for baseball etc). Interim Roadmaster-\$28.11, CDL Rate- \$18.00 and Laborer-\$16.00 per hour. Leroy KemmererJr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business –

Robin Cressley made a motion to bid on 10,000 Gallons (more or less) Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel and 6,000 gals (more or less) No. 2 Heating Oil; Escalator Clause in effect: bid prices quoted are to be those in effect on February 16, 2024; bids to be opened at the February 20, 2024 Township Meeting. Fred Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to advertise bids for 10,000 Gallons 87 Octane No/Lead Gasoline (more or less); At-the-Pump pick up; Escalator Clause in effect; bid prices quoted are to be at-the-pump prices in effect on February 16, 2024; bids to be opened at the February 20, 2024 Township Meeting. Fred Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to send a letter notifying employee #115 he will be receiving a thirty (30) day suspension without pay. Fred Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The supervisors went into executive session to decide the beginning date will be January 3, 2024. Fred made the motion for the beginning date of the suspension start on January 3, 2024. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to hire a full-time Road Crew/Garbage Crew employee at the rate of \$17.00 per hour. Fred Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Cressley made a motion to release Franklin Heights Complex, LLC's Letter of Credit. Fred Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fred Kemmerer Jr. made a motion to form a Building Committee and appoint the following as Board Members: Stan Graver, Larry Diehl, Kirk Cressley, Daniel Ziegler, Terry Shaner, Leon Kamowski, and Ty Poole. Robin Cressley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Fred stated "We want to have community involvement with the new township building project." He feels the residents that requested to serve on the board will be an asset because of their different skills sets and experiences they have had in their lives.

Public Comments/Questions –

Township resident Thomas Lawler was present to reiterate that Franklin Township needs 24/7 365 days a year police protection. He said he was here to keep pressing the supervisors to find a way to employ more police officers so the township residents get the protection they deserve 24/7. Stating Mr. Eidem should not have to be standing outside his home to protect 24/7. Resident Ryan Bowman agreed with what Lawler stated about 24/7 police protection and if we need to have a tax hike so be it. He understands we have to be competitive with wages in today's market.

Mr. Lawler also said he has to give a thumbs up and kudos to the road crew for a job well done with the last two (2) snow storms. They did a very good job.

Questions from the Press - None

Robin Cressley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Leroy Kemmerer Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Cressley, Secretary