

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Grey R. Godshall called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order on Monday, September 21st, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

Present were 1st Vice-chairman David B. Fazio, 2nd Vice-chairman Robert H. Nice, Supervisor Curtis N. Kratz, and Supervisor Steven P. Barndt. Also in attendance were Township Manager Jon A. Hammer, Detective George Moyer, Township Solicitor Frank R. Bartle, Esquire, Township Building Inspectors Jerry Rittenhouse and interested residents of Franconia Township.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Godshall opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. John McDonough, 318 Melbourne Way, asked about 291 Leidy Road. It is his understanding that Mr. Hart is going to pay the township \$100,000.00 for the property. He asked the board if they could explain the resolution they passed at the previous meeting.

Frank Bartle explained that the purpose of the \$100,000 is to compensate the township for giving up its first right of refusal on the property. Mr. Hart had previously tried to sell the house, at which time, the Board of Supervisors gave the solicitor the authorization to make this agreement with Mr. Hart. As the current agreement is written, Mr. Hart has 60 days from the time the agreement was signed to pay the township the \$100,000.00

Mr. McDonough said the current asking price is \$324,900. Will he be able to sell the home for that price?

Frank Bartle responded he had no idea what the final selling price will be.

Mr. McDonough asked how this can be part of the 55 and older community.

Mr. Bartle responded that this is a private issue between the land owner and the HOA

Tom Gardner 86 E. Cherry Lane had a safety concern and was hoping the township would be proactive and paint shoulder lines on E. Cherry Lane.

Grey Godshall explained this is an issue that the township will need to investigate further and will be in contact with him.

Bruce Ellis asked why the Leidy home is being sold to an individual, and he understands there is an agreement to sell the home for \$20.

Frank Bartle explained the township has agreed to give up its first right of refusal is the only role the township is playing in this matter.

Mr. Ellis stated that illegal businesses have been run out of that house. The house is a disgrace and an eyesore. This was supposed to be an historic house, and now Mr. Hart is trying to sell it for \$300,000.00. Mr. Ellis proceeded to hand Mr. Bartle several documents pertaining to the home.

Mr. Bartle reviewed the documents and noted that the document was not signed. Bartle says he does not know if this document was ever recorded.

Allen Wilkerson stated the township is involved in this matter one way or another in order to convey property to Mr. Hart.

Mr. Bartle indicated that the township is not in the title line for this property. The township is simply giving up its first right of refusal.

Tom Hughes, Harrington Village, stated there was a money transaction to demolish the building. A transfer of \$20,000.00 was made, and somehow this became an historic home.

This transaction was between Mike Hart and WB Homes. Mr. Hughes believes this transaction is a rumor but believes it was some kind of payoff.

Mr. Bartle state the transfer of title of property is not a township issue, and people can buy and sell homes without township approval.

Mary Sclafani, 360 High Street, stated they held a residents meeting to have a 'Franconia Night Out'. This event will take much planning, but wanted to let the Supervisors know they are working on it.

Gerry Thiel asked what a first right of refusal?

Frank Bartle explained is recorded at the recorder of deeds and is a 'cloud' on the title that must be satisfied in order to clear the title.

Gerry Thiel asked how the township received the first right of refusal in the first place?

Bartle explained that it was his assumption it was done because the developer want to develop the property through the land development process.

Grey Godshall explained the developer had a plan and the historic non-profit group came to save the home.

Tara Gray asked who dies the \$100,000.00 benefit and where does the money go?

Mr. Bartle explained the township can use the money in its General Fund.

Ms. Gray ask if Mr. Hart doesn't pay, and the township becomes owner of the property, what will it do with the property.

Mr. Bartle explained no decision has been made.

Barbara Bottone, 333 Melbourne, asked if they would have to follow through with what was presented?

Mr. Bartle responded he would need to look at what was presented.

Bonnie Miller asked if Mr. Nice or Mr. Fazio had an update on the appointments to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hammer responded that they had interviewed numerous people, and at some point a recommendation will be made to the Board of Supervisors as a whole. Appointments can be made at any time, however, typically the Board makes appointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions at the first meeting of the year.

Approval of August 17th, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kratz made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17th, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Fazio seconded the motion. The motion passed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – FRANK BARTLE, ESQUIRE

Resolution 15-23-21-09: A resolution accepting the dedication of Right of Way located at 345 Cowpath Road, Souderton, Pennsylvania. Mr. Bartle requested a motion to approve Resolution 15-23-21-09. Mr. Kratz made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Barndt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resolution 15-25-21-09: A resolution to direct the Board of Supervisors to submit an application for a traffic signal approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. accepting the dedication of Right of Way located at 345 Cowpath Road, Souderton, Pennsylvania. Mr. Bartle requested a motion to approve Resolution 15-25-21-09. Mr. Kratz made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Barndt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

POLICE REPORT- DET. SGT. GEORGE MOYER

Sgt. Moyer stated that Chief Kozeniewski submitted his report. The Police Department started Coffee with a Cop at the Franconia Café, and the program is off to a good start. They plan to advertise future Coffee with a Cop meetings. The police department continues to investigate cyber offenses, frauds.

ZONING OFFICER REPORT

Frank Bartle read the following needed a motion that the Board of Supervisors of Franconia Township appoint the firm of Gilmore & Associates, Inc. as Township Engineer, effective Wednesday, September 23, 2015. All engineering services shall be provided thereafter by the Gilmore firm unless in the opinion of the Township Manager, Jon Hammer, it would be more efficient to allow the prior Township Engineer, Cindy VanHise of Herbert H. Metz, Inc. (or any other engineering firm by which she is subsequently employed) to complete certain engineering assignments already in progress, in which case, she may do so.

Russell Dunleavy, of the Gilmore firm, is hereby appointed as Assistant Zoning Officer for Franconia Township, effective immediately.

Supervisor Godshall moved to approve the motion, Supervisor Fazio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Gerald Thiel asked why replace Metz, and what is the reason for this? He was unaware that this was happening, and it speaks to the transparency in the township. There was nothing listed on the agenda that this was going to happen.

Supervisor Godshall responded that one of the principals of the firm, Barry Wert, is retiring from the firm. Barry has served the township well for many years, and we thank him for his service. With Barry's retirement, we thought now would be the right time for the township to make this move. We feel that we can be very well served with Gilmore, and look forward to having a good working relationship with Gilmore. We've made many positive changes this year, including a new Solicitor, Mr. Bartle, who has done a very good job. We brought in a new Township Manager, Jon Hammer, who has also done an outstanding job.

HIGHWAY REPORT-PAUL NICE

Mr. Nice submitted the Highway Report. He noted that the report lists the normal routine maintenance items for the month including mowing and a water main repair.

TREASURER'S REPORT – JON A. HAMMER

A motion was made by Mr. Nice and seconded by Mr. Fazio to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, and to provide authorization for the Treasurer to pay all bills for the respective funds as presented on Voucher No. 15-21-09 dated September 21st, 2015 in the amount of \$143,044.23. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

A motion was made by Mr. Barndt and seconded by Mr. Fazio for the Treasurer to be authorized to pay all employees during the pay period of September 22nd, 2015 through October 19th, 2015 according to the hours worked as listed on the Payroll Journal for the aforesaid period. The motion carried unanimously.

Subdivision and Land Developments

A motion by Mr. Barndt to approve Resolution 14-24-21-09 granting conditional/final approval for the "Gary R. & Betty Jane Schuler Minor Subdivision Plan" Church Road (#08-15). Seconded by Mr. Nice. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Franconia Township Planning Commission will hold its Regular Meeting on Monday, October 5th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

The next Regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19th, 2015 at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969. The Board of Supervisors Work Sessions will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the same location.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Kratz and seconded by Mr. Fazio to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Hammer