

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Grey Godshall called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

Present were Chairman Godshall, Vice Chairman David B. Fazio, Supervisor Curtis Kratz and Supervisor Dr. Charles Amuso. Also, in attendance were Township Manager Jon A. Hammer, Township Solicitor Frank Bartle, Esquire, Township Engineer Douglass C. Rossino, P.E., Chief of Police Michael Martin and interested residents of Franconia Township.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Godshall opened the meeting to the public. Mr. Don Venema, 355 Oak Drive, was present to question the ban on leaf burning in the township. He stated that about ten years ago an exception was granted to allow burning. He expressed concern over the amount of leaves and the inability to bag them and a lack of places to blow them from the neighboring properties. He requested the Board to grant an exception, like the farmers owning over ten acres, to be able to burn during specific times or schedule a pick up like Souderton Borough. Chairman Godshall replied that a leaf vacuum pick-up is more suitable for areas that are more heavily curbed than much of Franconia. Mr. Hammer stated that the direction does not come from the Township but from the EPA. Most of the south eastern Pennsylvania area has been designated as an ozone non-attainment area. It starts at the federal level, then goes to the state level, and then enforcing the regulations is put onto the township. The township will need to look into legally what it is permitted and not permitted to do. Mr. Richard Freese, 227 West Reliance Road, stated that with 29 large trees on his property anything the Board could do to help would be appreciated. Chairman Godshall asked what the enforcement action for burning was. The Fire Marshal has stopped out at a few properties. Mr. Gerald Rittenhouse added that the fine if any would come from the fire companies that dispatch

trucks for calls relating to yard waste burning. Mr. Rich Hoffner, 415 Moyer Road, stood to ask the Board to come up with a plan. He owns almost five acres and asked what the township is going to do for them. Mr. Robert Landes, 235 West Reliance Road, added that when his neighbors are burning, they are taking care of their properties and closely watch the fires. His concern is regarding lawn clippings being left on the roadways. He suggested that it be treated like littering. Mr. Norm Hartzel, 921 Landis Road, asked the Board about the expected date the sewer installation will start for stage I. The Board directed him to the Franconia Sewer Authority for answers. Mr. Jeff Gabel, 231 West Reliance Road, questioned how much grant money the township receives that is spent on the leaf bags. He added that for the past 5 years this has been an issue and nothing has been done. He then questioned the legality of fire pits and what could or could not be burned in them. Chairman Godshall announced that the burning regulations will be researched further and an update will be posted to the website in a couple of months.

Mr. Hoffner requested information for how the stormwater maintenance fee will be assessed. Chairman Godshall responded that that is still a work in progress.

Mr. Nick Bobeck, 363 Oak Drive, asked if the burn ban has been around for a while, why is this just now being put out. Mr. Hammer explained that this is an attempt at re- education of the existing policies.

Mr. Jonathan Moyer, 522 Schoolhouse Road, questioned the Board regarding a meeting held in Hatfield Township in March, to discuss the turnpike expansion project and why no one from Franconia attended. Chairman Godshall assured the public that the township staff and the Chief of Police have been in direct contact with the Turnpike representatives and contractors. Chief Martin added that the trucks and the general areas are being monitored and the mud issues have been actively followed up on.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Kratz made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2019 Regular Meeting. Supervisor Fazio seconded the motion. The motion passed, 4-0.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Chief Michael Martin presented certificates of achievement to 15 residents that completed the citizens police academy. These residents gave up eight of their Wednesday nights to complete the program. During the eight weeks, they made car stops, processed a crime scene, received information on internet crimes, human trafficking, fire bomb squads, K-9 squads, and a representative from the District Attorney's office came. Officer Tim Boyle lead and coordinated the program along with assistance from Corporal Cronin, Officer Kochersperger, and Sergeant Moyer. The residents were also certified in CPR and for use of the AE defibrillator.

SOLICITOR 'S REPORT – FRANK BARTLE., ESQUIRE

Mr. Bartle announced that the Board of Supervisors will now open the public hearing to review the past performance of Verizon and to identify the future cable related community needs of the township. Following Section 626 of the Federal Cable Act, the hearing will follow the process for franchise renewal. The current agreement will expire soon. Part of the preliminary renewal process is to hold this public hearing and invite any comments from the public. The agreement allows the cable company use of the legal right of ways in the township. There are nine things it focuses to provide.

- 1) A state of art cable system now and into the future
- 2) Strong customer service standards
- 3) Free services within Community facilities
- 4) Better reporting requirements from the cable operator
- 5) Maximized franchise fees
- 6) An educational and governmental channel
- 7) Capital support for active EG Channels
- 8) Legal protections of the rights-of-way
- 9) Better mechanisms to enforce the franchise agreement.

The hearing was legally advertised in The Reporter on May 13, 2019 and the notice shall be exhibit B-1. Mr. Bartle then asked for public comment. Mr. Rich Hoffner, 415 Moyer Road, asked how the Township chose Verizon as the acceptable provider over Comcast. Supervisor Fazio replied that the Township actually receives a fee from both. Mr. Bartle explained that

it is done through a consortium throughout Montgomery County and Cohen Law Firm is the legal representative that handles the negotiations. Mr. Hammer informed the public that the Township receives a 5% fee of total sales. Chairman Godshall asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, Mr. Bartle closed the hearing.

POLICE REPORT- CHIEF MICHAEL MARTIN

Chief Martin submitted his report. He announced that the department had just completed its reaccreditation on May 9, 2019 and passed 133 standards. Franconia Township Police Department is now one of 116 departments to be currently accredited for the next three years.

HIGHWAY REPORT-PAUL R. NICE

Mr. Nice submitted his report and stated that wet conditions are always a challenge. Godshall Road will be Nova paved later this week and any chipping will start in July.

ENGINEERING REPORT- DOUGLAS C. ROSSINO, P.E.

Mr. Rossino submitted his report and added that the permits approvals continue for Lincoln Woods. The Maplewood Estates of Peter Becker Community, 9 cottages, have all been completed.

TREASURER'S REPORT –

A motion was made by Supervisor Fazio and seconded by Dr. Amuso 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. 19-20-05 dated May 20, 2019 in the amount of \$398,466.68. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

A motion was made by Supervisor Fazio and seconded by Dr. Amuso for the Treasurer to be authorized to pay all employees during the pay period of May 20, 2019 through June 16, 2019 according to the hours worked as listed on the Payroll Journal for the aforesaid period. The motion carried unanimously.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 19-10-20-05 A resolution granting amended conditional final approval to the "Amended Final Land Development Plan Prepared for Schoolhouse Industrial Property,

LLC” on the property located on Schoolhouse Road, Souderton, Franconia Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The motion was made by Supervisor Fazio and Seconded by Supervisor Amuso and all voted in favor.

Resolution 19-12-20-05 A resolution granting preliminary/final approval to the “Amended Record Plan” prepared for J.I. Landis Welding and Mechanical on the property located at 905 Hagey Road, Souderton, Franconia Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Franconia Township Planning Commission will hold its regular meeting on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

The next Board of Supervisors Work Session will be held on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 5:00 pm followed by the next regular Board of Supervisors Meeting at 7 p.m. located at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford Pennsylvania 18969.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Kratz and seconded by Mr. Fazio to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth T. Gooch

Director of Planning and Zoning