

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Grey Godshall, called the Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Franconia Township to order on Monday, January 18, 2021 at 7:16 p.m. via ZOOM as advertised in The Reporter and posted on the Township website.

Participating were Grey R. Godshall, David B. Fazio, Dr. Charles Amuso, Robert Nice, Jill Halteman, Township Manager Jon A. Hammer, Township Solicitor Eric Wert, Township Engineer Douglas C. Rossino, Director of Planning and Zoning Beth Gooch, Chief of Police Michael Martin, Public Works Director Paul Nice, and Building Code Official Jerry Rittenhouse.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Godshall opened the meeting to the public. No comments were made.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 21, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Nice made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2020 Regular Meeting. Supervisor Amuso seconded the motion. The motion passed, 5-0.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 4, 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Amuso made the motion to approve the minutes. Supervisor Halteman seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING UPGRADES

Mr. Phil Lederach joined the ZOOM meeting to present the updated plan for the municipal building. He noted the changes that were made since the first presentation. The lobby plans have not really changed. The stairs will be removed, new doors and an electronic monitor has been added. The restrooms will be redone entirely. The tax collector area and administration counters will have new privacy glass. The meeting room will have a facelift of the entire room itself. The projection screen in the last plan has been replaced with a more modernized plan with two large screen monitors. The dais now has curvature so the Supervisors can have a good view of the presentations. The next step is to prepare working drawings and put together a final bid package and then advertise for bids. Mr. Lederach reported that a rough estimate would be around \$350,000 to \$400,000. Manager Hammer

stated that in options to fund the renovations will be between Capital Reserve and or borrowing since interest rates are so low. The Board directed Mr. Lederach to move forward.

SOLICITOR 'S REPORT – ERIC WERT, ESQUIRE

Mr. Wert asked for a motion for Resolution 21-01-18-01 a resolution authorizing the commitment of funds for an agricultural conservation easement on a township farm. The township contribution is \$50,520. Chairman Godshall made a motion to approve, it was seconded by Supervisor Amuso and all voted in favor.

Solicitor Wert asked for a motion to offer Mr. Ryan Geist a conditional offer of employment as a probationary police officer. Chief Martin reported that Ryan has passed all of the test, thus far and comes highly recommended from his current and previous employers. It is a one year probationary period. Chairman Godshall confirmed that the hire does not add any officers but replaces one retiring and made the motion. Supervisor Halteman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT- CHIEF MICHAEL MARTIN

Chief Martin submitted his written statistical report and added that the department is in is promotional process. All of the officers are testing to be promoted as necessitated by the retirement of Sergeant Moyer.

HIGHWAY REPORT-PAUL R. NICE

Mr. Nice submitted his report prior to the meeting and added that work is being done at the Longacre farm and typical winter chores.

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

Mr. Rossino submitted his report prior to the meeting and noted that the Vistas at Highland Ridge is complete, the Amplifier Research Building addition has been reviewed, and a grading permit for 931 Landis Road. Supervisor Nice asked about a few projects. Mr. Rossino replied that the Allebach Tract is working on outside agency permitting. The Bergey's Truck lot has not submitted any formal plans and neither has the Myers Tract. Chairman Godshall requested that Mr. Hammer put together an email updating the Board on the Myers proposal. He added that he wants the Board to review the most recent plan. Mr.

Hammer reported that Pulte had a call in which about 80 residents from Banbury participated. Mr. Hammer is concerned about having the project on the next agenda and how many residents will want to participate via ZOOM and that it may be difficult.

TREASURER’S REPORT –

A motion was made by Supervisor Nice 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. 21-18-01 dated January 18, 2021 in the amount of \$168,345.26. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

A motion was made by Supervisor Nice and seconded by Supervisor Halteman for the Treasurer to be authorized to pay all employees during the pay period of January 1, 2021 through February 15, 2021 according to the hours worked as listed on the Payroll Journal for the aforesaid period. The motion carried unanimously.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 21-02-18-01 A resolution granting conditional preliminary/final approval to the “Amplifier Research – Building Addition Wavier of Preliminary/Final Land Development” plans on the property located at 160 Schoolhouse Road, Franconia Township as amended by Solicitor Wert’s recommended changes to paragraph 3d for sidewalk requirements. Sidewalks are deferred until the time at which sidewalks and or bike trails are available on adjacent properties or as otherwise directed by the Township. The draft will also remove the waiver of Section 122-69. Chairman Godshall made the motion for approval. It was seconded by Supervisor Nice and all voted in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Franconia Township Planning Commission will hold its regular meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 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 Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969 and the Board of Supervisors Work Session will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the same location.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Supervisor Nice and seconded by Supervisor Halteman to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Respectfully submitted,

Beth T. Gooch

Director of Planning and Zoning