

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

www.ftwp.com

March 3, 2008

7:00 P.M.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP FIRE HALL

MINUTES

Chairman Michael Prokopchak called the regular meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Supervisors to order on Monday, March 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., in the Franklin Township Fire Hall.

Chairman Prokopchak led the Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisors:	Present:	Michael Prokopchak, Chair Ted Dymond, Vice-Chairman Lance Baseski, Supervisor
	Others:	Richard A. Melvin, Secretary/Treasurer Art Owens, Roadmaster Vito DeLuca, Solicitor Twelve visitors

Motion was made by Mr. Baseski, seconded by Mr. Dymond to waive the reading of the minutes of the February 4, 2008 Regular Meeting and to accept the minutes as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Melvin gave the Treasurers report for the township. All balances were as of February 29, 2008. Mr. Dymond, seconded by Mr. Baseski, made a motion to accept the Treasurers report. The motion carried unanimously.

MEETING OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

There was no public comment on any agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Melvin read the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company report for February 2008 and the Franklin & Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association report for February 2008.

Luzerne County letter sent asking the township to participate in the Luzerne/Lackawanna Counties Comprehensive Plan. A meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2008 to discuss local perspectives including natural resource protection, land development, transportation and utilities.

Received an email from Holly Fishel regarding PEMA and the National Weather Service sponsoring a Weather Emergency Preparedness Week. A Weather Exercise will be conducted statewide on March 13, 2008.

Received a memo from a political action committee asking the township to write a letter in support of a resolution introduced in the state House to enact a Homeowners and Banks Protection Act.

Received a letter from PA Department of Environmental Protection concerning misunderstanding of the commonwealth's Chesapeake Bay water quality improvement obligations. A meeting has been set up in Harrisburg to invite local officials clarifying what is required of Pennsylvania under the Clean Water Act.

Received a letter of solicitation from Mid Penn Engineering Corporation highlighting their qualifications and experience in matters of consulting municipalities throughout the commonwealth.

Solicitor DeLuca gave an update on a letter sent to Mr. & Mrs. Faulls, 28 Melody Lane concerning blocking the right of way on an approved subdivision that could prevent passage by an emergency vehicle.

Solicitor DeLuca gave an update on negotiation of the contract provisions for the recreation grant. DeLuca was assured that the grant money was still available.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Planning Commission 2007 annual Report was submitted for review by the township supervisors. The supervisors made no comment.
2. Discussion of equipment purchase finances was initiated by Mr. Melvin informing the supervisors that the township would have to borrow money to complete the purchase of the Kodiak 7500 dump truck that is expected to be built and delivered to the township sometime in June at which time the township would make payment in full.
3. Motion was made by Mr. Prokopchak, seconded by Mr. Baseski obtain quotes for \$25,000 in borrowed fund with the results to be announced at the next regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Mr. Prokopchak, seconded by Mr. Baseski, to obtain an additional quote for \$50,000, amended the prior motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mr. Prokopchak inquired about the status of the Municipal Building bid package being ready for advertising and bidding. Secretary Melvin received the advertising format from Ryan Doughton and will submit the bid advertisement for publication following Township Code regulations, expecting the bids to be opened at the April 7, 2008 regular meeting. Mr. Prokopchak reminded residents that \$25,000.00 was obtained from a grant to apply toward the roof replacement.
2. Annual audit is complete from Carver & Associates and Secretary Melvin will be reviewing the audit results and have them available for the April regular meeting and will duly advertise the results when they are ready.
3. Mr. Prokopchak inquired about the disposition of the Gradall machine. Secretary Melvin reported that Medico's would still take it as a trade in on purchased equipment but not outright purchase from the municipality. Prices were received on skid steer machines. Mr. Baseski questioned the need for such a machine and inquired how often the road department would use such a machine.
4. Road Report- Art Owen, Roadmaster discussed a section of Race Road that needs to be opened 1600 feet, including approximately 150 feet that lies in Northmoreland Township, due to impending development. Work will include brush cutting, applying a shale base for the present and contacting Penn Dot to have the road evaluated for Liquid Fuels eligibility. Ryan Doughton from Trumbower & Associates reviewed the topographic map of Municipal Road and determined it to be sufficient for any work planned for the road rather than spending money to have the road resurveyed. Ryan will also be attending the next meeting. Mr. Owen determined the Alles property to be sufficiently secured until conditions for heavy equipment improve to fill in the void left by burning and demolishing the property.
5. Secretary Melvin gave an update on the OCD survey that was sent out to residents of Lewis Road. Melvin reported that the response was good but that several surveys were outstanding. A second request was mailed to motivate the remaining residents to respond. The results will be sent to the county OCD office for their recommendation.
6. Zoning Officer Art Owen gave the annual report for building and zoning which included \$1,590,425 in new construction and improvements in the township.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lorraine Alles wanted to know why she wasn't contacted about her property prior to it being mentioned at a public meeting that it was a hazard. She would have appreciated being contacted to avoid public embarrassment to rectify the situation. Solicitor DeLuca responded by telling her there was no intent to embarrass anyone but that an inquiry was made about securing the property and the township responded by directing the Zoning Officer to oversee the property was secured. DeLuca also mentioned that the property was secured before he sent any enforcement letter and that all parties were satisfied with the security measures taken.
2. Mrs. Alles also inquired about other dilapidated structures and open foundations with the township, provided photos, and whether the property owners were going to be cited. She said she would be filing a public complaint.
3. Solicitor DeLuca recommended the township have a better plan in place for securing a property after a structure burn.
4. Joe Yonchik from Coon Road was concerned about other structures in the township that could be dangerous if not remedied
5. Chief Harry Schweepenheiser was concerned about the situation on Melody Lane in that emergency vehicles would not be able to negotiate into the cul-de-sac because of a wire across the road and a dirt barrier that has been placed on the road.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED @ 7:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted.
Richard A. Melvin, Secretary/Treasurer