

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES**

**June 7, 2010  
7:00 P.M.**

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP FIRE HALL**

Chairman Dymond called the regular meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Supervisors to order on Monday, June 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., in the Franklin Township Fire Hall.

Chairman Dymond led the Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisors:	Present:	Ted Dymond, Chairman Michael Prokopchak, Vice-Chairman William Miller, Supervisor
	Absent:	Richard A. Melvin, Secretary/Treasurer
	Others:	Art Owen, Roadmaster Vito DeLuca, Solicitor Seven visitors

Motion was made by Mr. Prokopchak, seconded by Mr. Miller to waive the reading of the minutes of the May 3, 2010 regular meeting and to accept the minutes as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prokopchak gave the Treasurers report reciting the combined balances for all funds as of May 31, 2010 totaled \$205,449.76. Mr. Dymond made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the May 2010 Treasurers report, to approve payment of bills totaling \$17,531.47 and to approve payrolls and payroll taxes in the amount of \$11,452.34. The motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.**

There was no comment on any Agenda items.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Dymond recited the March monthly report for the Franklin & Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association and the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company. A letter was received from the Luzerne County Board of Assessment Appeals authorizing a refund of real estate taxes of \$27.92 to a property owner in the township.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Roadmaster Owen gave his monthly report. Work has continued on roads as grading, rolling and dust control was completed on many of the Township's dirt roads. The rented roller machine was returned. Mowing was commenced on township roads with the Ford tractor purchased last year. A hydraulic pump on the mower broke and had to be replaced.

The Road crew began cleaning up around the cell tower as the tower contractor neglected to finish the cleanup and did not respond to calls from the Township. Township residents commented positively about how the grass cutting on right of ways improved traffic visibility. Mr. Owen spoke to Mr. Morreale from PennDot about mowing along the State road right of ways, especially at the dangerous corner of Eight Street and Sutton Creek Road. Mr. Morreale did not know when he would be able to send a crew to mow along State right of ways in Franklin Township.

2. Franklin Township has placed FEMA flood maps on the Township website and encourages all Township residents to review these maps to determine whether their property is in a potential flood zone.
3. Motion made by Mr. Prokopchak, seconded by Mr. Miller to execute a Request for Payment in the amount of \$9,420.59 to the Luzerne County Office of Community Development regarding approved project costs for the Comprehensive Plan. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Motion made by Mr. Dymond seconded by Mr. Miller to authorize and approve attendance at the Luzerne County Association of Township Officials Convention to be held on August 12, 2010 at the Checkerboard Inn at a cost of \$12.00 per person. The motion passed unanimously.
5. A Public Meeting concerning the Park Master Plan and the ongoing Comprehensive Plan will be held on Thursday June 17, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. at the Franklin Township Fire Hall. Notices have been published in local newspapers and flyers have been printed and distributed to encourage public participation.
6. Motion made by Mr. Prokopchak, seconded by Mr. Miller to refund paid 2009 real estate taxes in the amount of \$17.63 to Laura Eshelman and \$171.84 To Stuart and Carolyn Bell. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Discussion about draft revisions of Franklin Township's Flood Ordinance determined that the Township Engineer was reviewing any necessary revisions and would update the Township on its progress.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

8. A certified letter was sent to the property owner of a nuisance property located on Bodle Road. The letter was accepted and the Township must wait 30 days to access if progress has been made to alleviate the nuisance situation.
9. Mr. Owen gave an update on the purchase of a new dump truck. The truck is finished being built and will be picked up by our Road Department when they drive our other truck to the dealership in Lancaster for a free one year checkup.

### **OPEN THE MEETING TO PUBLIC GENERAL COMMENTS**

Harry Schweppenhiser, Fire Chief addressed the Supervisors concerning controlled burns in the Township. Specifically, provisions of the Burning Ordinance such as when individuals can burn and who should be contacted, whether the fire company should respond to calls of burning and who is responsible to observe that provisions of the burning ordinance as it

relates to a “controlled burn” are being satisfied. Also, since many of these controlled burns are occurring during the day when there is little or no manpower to police these matters, who is going to investigate any complaints of burning and follow up to ensure that any burns are being done in a safe manner.

Solicitor DeLuca emphasized the point he made at an earlier date concerning this same issue. The Township cannot babysit their residents. The residents must act in a reasonable manner, be responsible for their own actions and watch over these burns they initiate.

Eric Williams, 236 Hill Drive thanked those who traveled to his residence after last months meeting to observe and make recommendations concerning storm water runoff in front of his property. The work is completed and Mr. Williams asked if township officials were satisfied with the remediation measures Mr. Williams completed at his own cost.

Mr. Williams had some suggestions regarding any drilling for natural gas in the township. Specifically, since he has observed road damage from truck traffic in other parts of the state, he suggested a mercantile tax be initiated by the township to raise funds for expenses the township will likely incur due to drilling companies operating in the township. He added that any tax should exempt current businesses such as farms and agriculture who struggle now without an additional tax burden. He also suggested a permit on the use of heavy machinery in the township which would again exempt farm machinery used in the township. Funds should be restricted for road rebuilding purposes only on roads used by the drilling companies and not be used on other roads or put into the general fund for normal operating expenditures. Mr. Prokopchak stated that any roads to be used by a drilling company will be bonded prior to use to protect the Township’s interest.

Mr. Williams asked about what qualifications are necessary to be the township engineer. Mr. Prokopchak explained that Trumbower and Associates is the township engineer, that Mr. Doughton works for Trumbower, all work is reviewed by the engineers at Trumbower and that any remuneration from the township is paid to Trumbower and not Mr. Doughton.

Solicitor DeLuca implored township officials to have zoning and planning officials begin to put proper ordinances in place to mitigate any impact to water, air, noise, and infrastructure from drilling companies working in the township. He believes time is of the essence since leases can be signed and drilling could be done on a very short notice.

Mrs. Geskey, 103 Cummings Road asked for an update on the removal of trash, cars and other residue at 113 Cummings Road. She has observed the resident moving items out of the house and is concerned they will leave the trash behind.

John Giambra, 144 Crystal Creek Road, asked about the progress of the dedication of the township road which is partly in Exeter Township and suggested

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:53 P.M.**

Richard A. Melvin, Secretary/Treasurer