

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES**

**September 6, 2011  
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, September 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., in the Franklin Township Fire Hall.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Prokopchak, seconded by Mr. Miller to waive the reading of the minutes of the August 1, 2011 regular meeting and to accept the minutes as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Melvin gave the Treasurers report reciting the combined balances for all funds as of August 31, 2011 totaled \$225,567.20. Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prokopchak to approve the August 2011 Treasurers report, to approve payment of bills totaling \$23,657.52 and to approve payrolls and payroll taxes in the amount of \$ 11,552.60. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There was no comment on agenda items.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Melvin recited the August 2011 monthly report for the Franklin & Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association. Mr. Melvin summarized an article about the federal government scrapping the previous deadlines requiring local governments to begin replacing street name and road warning signs with more reflective versions. Instead of being required to replace signs as early as 2015, local governments will be allowed to switch them as they wear out. A certified letter was received from DEP informing the township of a yard waste composting facility application for the property at 907 Lewis Road. A memorandum was sent to the township regarding the dates of the 2011 free used tire recycling event that Franklin Township has participated in over the years.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Art Owen Sr. reported on the repair of damage from Hurricane Irene. Many ditches and drains had to be unblocked. Numerous road washouts were repaired with modified stone to make them passable. Many trees had to be removed from road right of ways throughout the township. Mr. Owen thanked the fire department for their help in cleaning and traffic control during the emergency.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Dymond, seconded by Mr. Propkopchak to execute a Request for Payment in the amount of \$4,573.08 to the Luzerne County Office of Community Development regarding approved project costs for the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning ordinance update. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Melvin spoke about the 2012 Luzerne County Community Development Program. Franklin Township can receive up to an estimated \$100,000.00 for projects that must principally benefit low to moderate income people. Community Development surveys may be undertaken to qualify areas for approved projects.
4. A motion was made by Mr. Propkopchak, seconded by Mr. Dymond to approve Resolution #08-2011, Declaration of Disaster Emergency. This resolution is regarding the damage in Franklin Township caused by Hurricane Irene on or about August 27 through August 31, 2011. The motion passed unanimously. Preliminary estimated storm damage costs were sent to the county EMA.
5. The initial draft of the proposed zoning ordinance has been reviewed by the township engineer. His comments have been forwarded to the township supervisors, the zoning officer and the planning commission for discussion.
6. A motion was made by Mr. Propkopchak, seconded by Mr. Dymond to send a letter to Berkheimer Associates giving a 90 day notice of discontinuing using their service to collect earned income tax, local services tax and delinquent per capita taxes. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

7. Nuisance properties – Cummings Road property owners had an appeal hearing. The hearing resulted in a dismissal. The property owners were found guilty and ordered to pay a fine. The Melody subdivision violation property owners will be sent a notice of violation giving ten days to bring their property into compliance.

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

Kenneth Edwards, 229 Hill Drive asked about a previous drawing submitted to the board regarding digging a ditch to alleviate the ponding of storm water on his property. The township engineer could not approve the drawings as submitted and requires a more professional drawing of the area in order to assess what needs to be done.

Paul Kunkle, 2292 West Eighth St., inquired about the proposed change in the zoning ordinance for lot size in an Agricultural Zone from two and one half acres to two acres.

Harry Schweppenheiser, Fire Chief, asked about the townships preparedness plan for a breach of the dam on Flatrock Road. He was informed that it was the responsibility of the dam owner to have a plan set up.

Bruce Kunkle asked if the supervisors had any information regarding the proposed UGI gas pipeline. Township officials have been contacted by UGI and will be meeting with them at some point during the next several weeks. He also asked about the possibility of getting a Verizon antenna on the cell tower, located at the municipal building to improve Verizon cell phone service throughout the township. The supervisors explained that they tried in the recent past to get Verizon to consider it by sending them a list of approximately 70 names and cell phone numbers of township residents currently having poor service in the township. Verizon has never responded to our letters of inquiry.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:37 P.M.**

Richard A. Melvin, Secretary/Treasurer