Township of Franklin  
Township Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2019

Call to Order:
Time: 7:34 PM
Ms. Vassallo: Present  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Present  
Mrs. Flaim: Present  
Mr. Deegan: Present  
Mr. Bruno: Present

Salute to the Flag:
The Mayor led the Salute to the Flag.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement:
Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was forwarded to the official Township newspapers, posted on the bulletin board and Township Website on January 3, 2019. This meeting is being videotaped and will be on Channel 9.

Finance: No questions on the bill list.

Community Center: Mr. Yusko stated that there has been a lot of activity at the Compost Center. Christmas Trees are being dropped off at the Center. Mrs. Petsch-Wilson asked about the doors at the Community Center. Mr. Yusko said it is being looked at by Bosco building. Mayor Deegan said the librarians couldn’t get the doors locked but Mr. Deegan came up and showed the librarians how to get it shut.

Public Works: Mr. Bosco reported that leaves are being collected. Bulk trash is being picked up this week.

Police Department: Chief Zimmer said that Nancy Romeo lost her husband this weekend and to keep her in their prayers. There will be a K-9 benefit the end of January at Kavanagh’s. Vehicles are due in from Ford shortly. The new hires are on track and doing a good job.

Administrator: Mrs. Brent thanked Ms. Vassallo for thinking of Nutra-serve for the lunch program. She said that the seniors are enjoying the lunch program and that is in part due to Jen Metzger and Leiha Caselli. She reported that Mr. Bruno and Mayor Deegan met with the staff at the Admin building.

First Public Portion:
Motion to Open: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim

No one came forward.

Motion To Close: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim

Motion to Approve Correspondence and Reports
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Approve Bills
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: yes-Abstain Community Oil  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: yes
Mrs. Flaim: yes  
Mr. Deegan: yes
Mr. Bruno: yes

Motion to Approve Minutes December 27, 2018 and January 1, 2019
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
All in Favor: Unanimous except Mr. Bruno abstained

Motion to Approve the License Renewals for the Year 2019
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion R-23-19 Authorizing the Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer to Grant Tax Exemption for a Totally Disabled Veteran
Motion: Petsch-Wilson
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes
Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion R-24-19 Authorizing a Closed Executive Session of the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin-Personnel

Motion: Petsch-Wilson
Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes
Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Public Portion:

Motion to Open: Petsch-Wilson
Second: Flaim

Ms. Jean Thompson, 3678 Harding Hwy, commended the Committee on the senior lunch and how good the food is. She asked about the contract with Nutri-serve. Mrs. Brent said the contract terms are in the works and the program head has taken time off and will be signed soon.

Mr. Brooks, Newfield, congratulated Mr. Bruno. He asked if the $1.25 is a fee or donation. Ms. Vassallo said she understands it is a voluntary donation. Mr. Brooks said the bathroom is not clean and needs work. He discussed the various issues at the Community Center. Mr. Brooks said the food is excellent and the atmosphere has changed for the better. The personnel is excellent and he encouraged the Committee to continue the trend.

Al Smith, 4019 Hancock, said in December he was told that he has to take his trash to the end of the street which was never done in the past. He asked for help with this matter.

Earl Bond, 4017 Hancock, agreed with Mr. Smith and asked that the DPW told to restore the trash service that he always has received. Mr. Smith said that he maintains the road and all that they ask for is pickup of trash. Mr. Deegan asked why the trash service was changed. Mrs. Brent said that Mr. Bosco learned that it was not a dedicated Township road and the land use attorney will look at it without causing the Township liability. Mr. Smith said other lanes and streets are being maintained. Mrs. Brent said she will get back to them before the next meeting. Mr. Smith said he will sign off on the easement.

Mrs. Suzanne McCarthy and Barbara Halpern, Environmental Commission, gave out a handout on the ROSI parcels. They have looked at the parcels which they feel should be retained for environmental purposes. Any parcel that has a stream running through it is a greenway. It is important land area that protects the land and is a corridor for animals. These are sensitive areas that are already owned by the Township and should stay that way. Mrs. Halpern spoke on the ways the air and water quality is important in Franklin Township.

Ms. Rene Pistilli-Leopardi, E. Grant Avenue, asked if Mr. Deegan received his email. He said he responded. She asked about how a committee and board is organized. Mr. Deegan said he wants to include people who are actively involved on the Senior Citizens Commissions. Mrs. Brent said she will look at her letter and her qualifications. Jean Thompson is not going to pick the board and Mayor Deegan only wanted recommendations from Ms. Thompson. Ms. Leopardi asked about Mr. Pluta paying stipend that he received for being on Committee. Mrs. Brent said Ms. Leopardi may investigate it.

Mr. Harry Kennedy, 1578 Fries Mill Road, said even though he is on the Delsea BOE he does not know where everyone lives. It is the job of the board member to notify the board if they move. It should be brought up with the proper authority.

Margaret Duerr, Environmental said she backs Suzanne McCarthy and she feels that she will protect the environment.

Lou Moffa, Morris Avenue, said that when people are elected they are expected to make decisions for people to sit on the boards and commissions in the Township. Requests are submitted and the Committee decides who will be placed on the boards.

Jim Kelly, 2983 Dutch Mill Road, said he was put on Recreation in 2014. This committee is the most non-political group. He submitted a letter in 2015 and was not put on the committee.
Joe Petsch, 2370 Stanton Avenue, said he also was not reappointed at certain times. He does not harbor bad feelings.

Fred Plaska, Little Mill Road, asked about dilapidated properties. Mr. Deegan said he drove Rt. 47 and Rt. 40 with Mr. Trampe. Mr. Trampe is in the process of sending letters to get them cleaned up. Mr. Plaska asked about the Newfield police department lawsuit.

Mr. Kevin Kelton, 286 Nicholas Drive, supported the extensive research that the Environmental Commission did to preserve land in Franklin.

Sara Johnson, 744 Strawberry Avenue, said her background is in Biology. She supports what the Environmental group is promoting.

Motion To Close: Petsch-Wilson Second: Flaim

Committee Reports:
Mrs. Flaim: She is looking forward to January 30 and supporting the K-9 fundraiser. She thanked Mrs. McCarthy for her extensive research and will help her make an informed decision. She would have liked to see the information on the televisions so the public could interact.

Ms. Vassallo: She thanked the entire Environmental Commission for their research and the Committee will look at all the properties to make a good decisions. Once a property goes in to ROSI, it cannot be changed. She thanked Leiha Caselli, Jen Metzger, and Nancy Brent for their work on the lunch program.

Mr. Bruno: Nothing at this time.

Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: She also thanked the Environmental Commission for their research. She stopped at the lunch program and thought it was working out well. She congratulated Alex Fragoso on the birth of his new boy. The railroad station is open Jan. 12 and sign ups are upcoming for recreation.

Mayor Deegan: He apologized for Channel 9 being down for a time this week. He extended condolences to Nancy Romeo on the loss of her husband. He said he identified 12 locations on the Rt. 40 and 47 corridor that needs to be cleaned up. He thanked the Environmental Commission for their recommendations.

Motion for Closed Session: Petsch-Wilson Second: Flaim All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Session:
Motion: Petsch-Wilson Second: Flaim All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Close Closed Session and Reopen Regular Meeting:
Motion: Petsch-Wilson Second: Flaim All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Adjourn:
Motion: Petsch-Wilson Second: Flaim Time: 10:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Freijomil, Municipal Clerk