

**Township of Franklin  
Township Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2021**

**Call to Order:**

Time: 7:30 PM

Mr. Doyle: Present

Mrs. Flaim: Present

Mr. Deegan: Present

Mayor Bruno: Present

Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Present

**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 8, 2021. This meeting is being videotaped and will be on Channel 9.

**First Public Portion:**

Motion to Open: Deegan

Second: Petsch-Wilson

Harry Kennedy, 1578 Fries Mill Road, discussed the resolution foreclosing on the tax sale certificates for the Greenways property. He mentioned that the property is around 300 acres. The EDC said it is a possible area for redevelopment. Mayor Bruno said the owner owes about \$400,000 in back taxes.

Motion to Close: Deegan

Second: Petsch-Wilson

All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Approve Correspondence and Reports

Motion: Deegan

Second: Petsch-Wilson

All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Approve Minutes January 26, 2021

Motion: Deegan

Second: Petsch-Wilson

Roll Call:

All In Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Approve Food Handling Licenses

Motion: Deegan

Second: Petsch-Wilson

Roll Call:

All In Favor: Unanimous

**Motion R-31-21 Authorizing the Execution of Change Order No. 1 to A.E. Stone for NJDOT FY 2019 Dutch Mill Road Resurfacing Phase IV**

Motion: Deegan

Second: Petsch-Wilson

Roll Call:

Mr. Doyle: Yes

Mrs. Flaim: Yes

Mr. Deegan: Yes

Mayor Bruno: Yes

Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes

**Motion R-32-21 Authorizing the Execution of Change Order No. 1 to A.E. Stone for NJDOT FY 2020 Pennsylvania Avenue Resurfacing Phase 1**

Motion: Deegan

Second: Petsch-Wilson

Roll Call:

Mr. Doyle: Yes

Mrs. Flaim: Yes

Mr. Deegan: Yes

Mayor Bruno: Yes

Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes

**Motion R-33-21 Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland Counties Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Safety Contract**

Motion: Deegan

Second: Petsch-Wilson

Roll Call:

Mr. Doyle: Yes

Mrs. Flaim: Yes

Mr. Deegan: Yes

Mayor Bruno: Yes

Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes

**Motion R-34-21 Determining and Directing the Foreclosure of tax Sale Certificates**

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

**Motion to Introduce O-3-21 Establishing an Insurance Fund**

Motion: Deegan                                      Second: Petsch-Wilson  
All In Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Open Second Public Portion: Petsch-Wilson                      Second: Deegan  
All in favor: Unanimous

Leah Vassallo, 578 Delsea Drive, asked Mr. Deegan about being on the finance committee. Mr. Deegan said that after speaking to a person who works in the Department of Community Affairs, that as long as he resigns from being a Fire Commissioner, he could serve on the Finance Committee. Once it was brought to his attention, he resigned the position. He was told to recuse himself from any discussions from regarding the fire marshal's office.

Renee Pistilli Leopardi, asked about the permits that she has been questioning. Mr. Lyons said the information has been received for comparisons. She also asked about department heads giving reports. She stated that the Unity Commission is the best group that the Township has formed and the group is working hard to promote unity within the Township.

Harry Kennedy, 1578 Fries Mill Road, asked if Mr. Doyle's farm was in a redevelopment area. Mr. Doyle said he didn't think so. Mr. Doyle asked if Mr. Kennedy has an underlying motive and Mr. Doyle asked if Mr. Kennedy is against farming or just Mr. Doyle's farm. Mr. Kennedy said he thinks farms are great, tax assessment is great and that Mr. Doyle does a wonderful job but he said yes he does have an underlying motivation and he hates to see people steal taxpayers money. Mr. Lyons said this isn't a cross examination and he said that Mr. Kennedy is implying that a crime was committed when he implied that Mr. Doyle stole taxpayer's money. Mr. Kennedy said he used the wrong wording.

Renee Pistilli Leopardi asked about the bill list. She discussed Mr. Doyle's business and tax abatement. Mr. Doyle said the commercial building was abated.

Mr. Fred Plaskett, Little Mill Road, said he would like to see department head reports.

Ms. Leah Vassallo again discussed the tax abatement. She thinks she was given incorrect direction at the time she was on Township Committee and approved the tax abatements. She would like the application looked at and to see if the information is correct on the application. She said that the building was already built.

Ms. Flaim said there is discussion about Main Road and Rt. 40 intersection.

Mrs. Petsch-Wilson thanked the DPW for a great job plowing the snow and keeping the roads clear. Mr. Doyle said he attended the Unity Commission meeting. They are planning a lot of events for the spring. M. Doyle said that Mr. Salvatore and Lt. DeCesari rode the Rt. 40 and Rt. 47 corridor and identified a lot of properties that needed to be addressed. Violations have been completed on 9 of them. Mr. Deegan said he is liaison to many committees and although they just reorganized, the Planning Board did take action on a lot line adjustment.

Mayor Bruno touched on the tax abatement. He said there is case law and they are relying on the information that is given to them by the Solicitor. They will make an informed decision based on the information. He thanked the DPW for clearing the snow and keeping the roads clear. The police were working to clear accidents due to the snow.

Motion To Close Second Public Portion: Petsch-Wilson                      Second: Deegan

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Motion: Deegan                                      Second: Petsch-Wilson  
Time: 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Freijomil, Municipal Clerk