Township of Franklin  
Township Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2019

Call to Order:
Time: 7:30 PM
Ms. Vassallo: Absent  
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.

Healthcare presentation on self-insurance. Ms. Vassallo said estimates were received from our insurance broker for a full year. The savings would not be as substantial since it would not be for a full year. Mr. D’Orazio said the exit from HIF could not begin until July 2019. Claims experience figures were not received until recently. Paperwork was distributed to the Committee with the costs and savings. Mr. D’Orazio said it is a viable option but that maybe it should be monitored and a recommendation could be made in September for next year. A dividend check of $86,000 was not taken into account when the original figures were given. Mr. Deegan asked about the surplus. Mr. D’Orazio said the surplus is $140,000 and it is to offset a rate increase. Mrs. Flaim asked if this surplus could be used to reduce the employees’ contribution. Mr. D’Orazio said it could be. Ms. Vassallo asked after three years, what do you think the refund amount would be? Mr. D’Orazio said it is hard to say because there could be an unexpected early birth for instance. Assured Partners will monitor this fund and recommend in September 2019. Mrs. Brent reiterated that the Committee is interested in saving premiums to the taxpayer but also helping the employees to have lower premiums per pay. Ms. Maxwell said there was a large gap in coverage reports from December 2018 to now but going forward the Township will be tracked closely for claims experience. The Township should budget at the maximum projected rate and if it comes in lower, the Township will get that premium.

K-9 Officers were introduced and along with their dogs. A video was shown of each officer during K-9 school.

Finance: No questions on the bill list.

Engineers Report: The Piney Hollow application was resubmitted with the changes that were recommended. Dutch Mill Road?

Community Center: Mr. Yusko made note of some changes to the electronics program. Mr. Deegan said he saw that Mr. Yusko got in touch with the oil vendor. The vendor will be coming monthly.

Public Works: Mr. Bosco said a drain on Dutch Mill Road will be installed which will alleviate the flooding. There is an issue on North Blue Bell Road that will be taken care of shortly that just came to light. East Avenue has another drainage issue. Sunnyhill Avenue will be repaved in sections once the paving plants are open again. Mr. Deegan asked for Williamstown Road by Behl Road to have potholes repaired.

Police Department: Chief Zimmer thanked the businesses and residents for their donations to the K-9’s and Unity Tour.

Administrator: Mrs. Brent thanked Chief Zimmer for his work on getting the three K-9’s here. She also thanked Mike Marsh for getting the K-9 building. She thanked Tiffany Schenezley for getting the treats for the new K-9’s. Mrs Brent read a text from a resident on hiring Leiha Caselli and Jen Metzger and their excellent work on the senior lunch program. The County Engineer reported to Mrs. Brent that the overlay program will begin shortly near Malaga Road.

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  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: yes
Mrs. Flaim: yes  
Mayor Deegan: yes
Mr. Bruno: yes

Motion to Approve Minutes February 26, 2019
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
All in Favor:

Motion R-47-19 Authorizing the Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer to Refund Tax Sale Certificate Foreclosure Fees
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  
Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion R-48-19 Appointing Evan Duerr and Margaret Duerr to the Environmental Commission in Accordance with The Township Code
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  
Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion R-49-19 Amending Municipal Alliance ByLaws
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  
Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion R-50-19 Authorizing a Closed Executive Meeting for the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo:  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  
Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion to Introduce Ordiance O-4-19 Amending Chapter 253, Land Development, of the Code of the Township of Franklin
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  
Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion to Introduce Ordiance O-5-19 Authorizing the Sale of Certain Property Owned by the Township and Not Required for Public Purposes
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  
Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes  
Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  
Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes
Motion to Open Public Hearing on O-1-19 Stormwater Control
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
All in Favors: Unanimous

Motion to Close Public Hearing on O-1-19
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Adopt O-1-19 Stormwater Control
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes  Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion to Open Public Hearing on O-2-19 Amending Ordinance Authorizing the Enforcement of Animal Related Ordinances and Initial Investigation of Animal Cruelty by Designated Township and County Officials
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Close Public Hearing on O-2-19
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Adopt O-2-19 Amending Ordinance Authorizing the Enforcement of Animal Related Ordinances and Initial Investigation of Animal Cruelty by Designated Township and County Officials
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Introduce O-3-19 Amending Chapter 143-6 Alcoholic Beverage of the Township of Franklin Code
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes  Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion to Open Public Hearing on O-3-19 Amending Chapter 143-6 Alcoholic Beverage of the Township of Franklin Code
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
Roll Call:
Ms. Vassallo: Yes  Mrs. Petsch-Wilson: Yes
Mrs. Flaim: Yes  Mayor Deegan: Yes
Mr. Bruno: Yes

Motion to Close Public Hearing on O-3-19
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Adopt O-3-19 Amending Chapter 143-6 Alcoholic Beverage of the Township of Franklin Code
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

Mr. Bill Morris, Oak Avenue, asked if a contract for the NutriServe company has been signed. Mrs. Brent said not yet but they did send a bill which was consistent with the terms
Mrs. Rene Pistilli-Leopardi, asked about Platt & Riso resolution and not being used anymore without prior approval. Mr. Deegan said a larger pool will be used to get more expertise. She questioned their large bill. Ms. Vassallo said Newfield’s bill is lower because Mr. Ryback from Newfield wasn’t named and Ms. Brent was name in the suit for Franklin. Mayor Deegan said that on annual basis, the legal bills have come down dramatically. Platt and Riso are also handling COAH. Mrs. Pistilli-Leopardi said she has heard good things about the senior program. She has heard great things about Leiha Caselli and she would never get rid of her. Mrs. Leopardi asked why a check is being sent to Delsea. It was explained that they pay Nutri-Serve. Mrs. Brent explained that Platt & Riso asked for the extension for the redaction of bills. Mrs. Leopardi asked why Platt & Riso was redacting their own bills. Mayor Deegan said that he didn’t know the bills were sent there but he leaves the day to day operations to Mrs. Brent.

Mr. Harry Kennedy, 1578 Fries Mill Road, said that when he was the Administrator the Township had Doug Long and John Eastlack as Solicitor. Mr. Kennedy said Eastlacks’ bills were over $400,000 and Longs’ bills were over $200,000. The Township legal bills should be looked over the last few years compared to those years. He suggested asking the CFO for those figures.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Flaim said she worked on negotiations recently. She attended the leadership summit. Mrs. Flaim said she is thrilled the senior lunch program is going so well.

Mr. Bruno: No report.

Ms. Vassallo thanked the Chief for his work on getting good K-9 dogs for Franklin Township. She also thanked Leiha Caselli for her work on the lunch program. Ms. Vassallo said the budget is being looked at closely along with more services for the Township. She credited DPW with doing more work inhouse. Ms. Vassallo said she agrees with having an inhouse solicitor but will look at the numbers.

Mrs. Petsch-Wilson thanked the Chief and officers. She attended the play last week and it was very good.

Mayor Deegan said he attended Environmental and Recreation meetings last week. The Easter Egg hunt is upcoming and there are a lot of good events coming up. He suggested the public go to Youtube and look up school dog. The dogs name is Meadow and it was to honor a girl who was shot in Florida. They believe the dog would have reduced the number of fatalities. Mrs. Flaim and Mrs. Petsch-Wilson will look into the dog park.

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 R-51-19 Emergency Temporary Resolution

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

Motion R-51-19 Authorizing A Feasibility Study for Solar Power

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

Motion R-52-19 Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Wilshire Woods Improvements

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

Motion to Adjourn:
Motion: Petsch-Wilson  Second: Flaim
Time: 10:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Freijomil, Municipal Clerk