
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Grey Godshall called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Franconia Township to order on Monday, January 19, 2015 at 7:01 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Franconia, Pennsylvania 18969.

Present were 1st Vice-chairman David B. Fazio, 2nd Vice-chairman Robert H. Nice, Supervisors Curtis N. Kratz and Steven P. Barndt; Township Manager Jon A. Hammer; Assistant Township Manager Jamie P. Worman; Chief Joseph S. Kozeniewski; Township Solicitor Frank R. Bartle, Esquire; Township Engineer Cindy VanHise, P.E.; Public Works Director Paul R. Nice, Building and Code Inspector Jerry Rittenhouse and Roger M. Koffel, and interested residents of Franconia Township.

OPENING MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Godshall opened the meeting to public comment. Mr. Gerald Thiel of 811 Allentown Road wanted to express his concerns over the approved 2015 budget. He submitted written comments to the Chairman and the Assistant Manager. The notes he provided are available for review and will be kept on file at the Township Building. Following Mr. Thiel's comments, Mr. Godshall responded by explaining that the BOS discovered the issues when they were formulating the 2015 budget. He added that the issue with the Open Space transfer has not been corrected yet and the repayment of that will be part of a long range plan. Mr. Thiel continued that he understands the 5-year plan and the fact that the BOS felt layoffs were necessary, but the budget was not formulated with the residents' comments and suggestions in mind. Mr. Godshall pointed out that the 19% tax increase does not cover the past. He also mentioned that the BOS also questioned why this information was not found in previous audits and are investigating that with the previous auditor. Mr. Godshall then commented that Mr. Thiel's comments were duly noted. Mr. Thiel added that he is putting the issue to bed.

Ms. Terry Hettel of 327 Elmwood Lane questioned why she has not been contacted to help with the finance committee. She added that she has offered to help with the budget and outreach efforts but no one has responded to her. She requested a status update on this item. Mr. Godshall replied that they cannot move forward with anything until the police litigation is over. Once that has ended they will begin looking into a committee. Ms. Hettel replied that she felt they should start reaching out to people now and at least start bringing people together.

Ms. Mary Scalfani of 360 High Street commented that she appreciated that the BOS was working on this but the budget was passed and there are still issues. She commented that the BOS work for the people and she cannot reiterate enough that the people are not going away.

Mr. Tom Scalfani of 360 High Street mentioned that he is not the most financially inclined individual but even he knows you cannot move money from a restricted fund. He wanted to know how the BOS could sit up there and say that they don't need

help with the budget and finances of the Township when clearly help is needed. He questioned why Public Works employees were getting raises and police officers are having panic attacks from working 12-hour shifts. He added that if the board members are not competent they should step down.

No further comments were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 8TH, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Fazio and seconded by Mr. Kratz to approve the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – FRANK R. BARTLE, ESQUIRE

No items.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF JOSEPH KOZENIEWSKI

Chief Joseph Kozeniewski submitted the Police report for December 2014. On a somber note he mentioned the Stone killings that occurred on December 15th, 2014 in Souderton Borough. Franconia Township Police Department provided assistance to the Borough through their mutual aid arrangement. The Chief also reported that there have been a number of cars entered into and valuables have been stolen. Residents have been encouraged to lock their car doors. He also noted that there was a burglary at Fasageio's.

ZONING REPORT – JAMIE P. WORMAN

Ms. Worman submitted her report for December 2014.

HIGHWAY REPORT – PAUL R. NICE

Mr. Nice submitted the Highway report for December 2014. He noted that they have had 6 snow events but only minor accumulations. Mr. Godshall commented that he has received calls that the Township roads are always the best during these conditions.

ENGINEERING REPORT – CINDY VANHISE, P.E.

Ms. VanHise submitted her report for December 2014.

TREASURER'S REPORT – JON A. HAMMER

A motion was made by Mr. Fazio and seconded by Mr. Kratz to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, and to provide authorization for the Treasurer to pay all bills for the respective funds as presented on Voucher No. 15-19-01 dated January 19, 2015 in the amount of \$194,970.47. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

A motion was made by Mr. Fazio and seconded by Mr. Kratz for the Treasurer to be authorized to pay all employees during the pay period of January 1, 2015 through

February 14, 2015 according to the hours worked as listed on the Payroll Journal for the aforesaid period. The motion carried unanimously.

LAND DEVELOPMENT

No action

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Barndt made a motion to authorize attendance at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Annual State Convention that will be held from April 19th through April 22nd at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania. The Secretary must provide a certificate with registration forms that delegates have been authorized to attend by the Board of Supervisors and must provide the name of the Voting Delegate. Mr. Fazio seconded the motion. Ms. Tara Gray of 453 Mininger Road questioned what this convention was for, if it involved lodging, and how much it costs. Mr. Godshall replied that it is a series of workshops and classes on pressing issues facing municipalities. He added that usually a few Supervisors attend along with a few staff members. He estimated the cost to be a few hundred dollars. The motion passed.

The Franconia Township Planning Commission will hold its Regular Meeting on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

The next Regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Franconia, Pennsylvania 18969. The Board of Supervisors Work Session(s) will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. and at the same location.

Mr. Godshall announced a few corrections and an additional meeting date to the meeting announcements that were listed on the January 5th, 2015 Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting Agenda:

- a) Zoning Hearing Board – Will meet as needed on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless advertised differently, not the first Wednesday as previously noted.
- b) Park and Recreation Board – Will meet on the fourth Monday at 6:00 p.m. January through November (with the exception of July where there will be no meeting), unless advertised differently.

Mr. Barndt made a motion to appoint Mr. Rodney Kratz to the Franconia Sewer Authority Board for a five (5) year term to expire December 31, 2019. Mr. Kratz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Kratz and seconded by Mr. Fazio to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon A. Hammer, Secretary