

February 18, 2020

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of Franklin Township was held in the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, was called to order by Dennis Howard at 1905 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Present were Supervisors Dennis Howard, Robert Simonelli, and James Sachar, and Solicitor Gery Nietupski, and Secretary Ramona Junkins.

Visitors present Alan Hauser, Bill Taylor, Tara Miller, Denny Russin, Maryann Mook, Georgia Hudy, Teresa Brown.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

What is on at the training facility that uses electric?

MINUTES:

James Sachar made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 21, 2020. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

REPORTS:

Roadmaster Report – We have continued to plow snow and apply antiskid as needed. In the last couple of weeks, we have had a lot of man hours for plowing. Truck 6 broke down and we had to install an EGR Cooler Kit due to a smoking engine. While Truck 6 was broken down we only had one truck plowing the entire route for the that week. We did take the OSH KOSH out for 1 day to catch up on the snow plowing when it was snowing hard. Preventative Maintenance was completed on the Backhoe with replacing filters, fluids, an engine block heater, and greased it. Reflectors were installed on the sign at the end of New Road and Eureka as a temporary measure until an updated reflective sign is installed. The New Grader has arrived.

FINANCIAL AND TAXES

Bills – Dennis Howard made a motion to approve the February 18, 2020 bill list for a total of \$25,153.14. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

There are no Supervisor bills this month.

Payroll – Dennis Howard made a motion to approve Payroll #'s 3 & 4 of 2020 as presented. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

The monthly recap was given to the Board of Supervisors.

PLANNING COMMISSION: The minutes were reviewed.

ZONING: No report

EACOG: Dennis attended the meeting. Dennis accepted the position of Treasurer for 2020.

ECATO: James attended the meeting in January that was held at McKean Township. The next meeting is February 27 at Summit Township at 9am. A Roadmaster Roundtable will be starting at 9:45am.

WECEMA: No update

TRAINING FACILITY: Some additional interest from Mercyhurst University regards to the facility. We shared concerns about outdoor shooting, they talked about simulations. More discussions to follow. Only 1 light is working out of 4 at the Training facility.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Brian Brocius sent a letter and spoke to the Supervisors about three topics. First topic was that he was requesting \$36,000 from our capital fund that you hold for us at the township for major purchases. We recently made a bid on a 1992 emergency one Engine/ Tanker from

McKean Fire Dept. We have won the bid at a cost of \$31,500 for the apparatus. This piece of equipment has been well-maintained and has low miles placed on it because it was a village engine. It was refurbished in 2012 with updates including an LED light package, a new paint job complete with door seals, and an overhaul of the Detroit diesel motor. It has an impressive tank size of 2,000 gallons of water and 1,500 gallons per minute pump. The balance of the monetary request will be used for fire radios, hose and adapters that we need in order to place the engine/tanker in service. This will be an extremely beneficial addition to our department to aid us in fire suppression and water tanker capabilities.

Dennis Howard made a motion to release \$31,500 from the Fire Department Capital Fund for the purchase of 405 from McKean Hose Company. After updates with receipts the township will release additional Fire Department Capital Fund monies. Robert Simonelli seconded. A question was asked to Brian, where they plan on storing the new truck. Brian stated it will fit in the garage if they rearrange the equipment. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

The second topic was EMS in our district, as we have given our ambulance up to CECPA Medic 2 which provides advanced life support to our area. The goal was to help support their move to be able to provide an added leg of service with a transporting ambulance with staff paramedics. As it stands now many years later, this has not happened. We at station 72 have set up a quick response unit or QRS with the small amount of Basic life support providers to respond to EMS calls in our township with no monetary help nor any way of billing for services or replacement of supplies used on these calls. We need to correct that immediately. My wish is to be able to bill our township a QRS fee to help offset cost for supplies, staffing or stipends to assist us in attracting EMTs to fill our schedule here at 72.

A discussion on QRS was held, before any more discussion the township would like to see some numbers associated with the fee, the costs and how you arrive at those numbers.

The last topic was regarding our underfunded fire department, I do understand we have a fire tax in place, and it has improved funds available to us annually to help maintain operations here at 72. This amount needs to be standardized. It takes roughly \$100,000 annually to run our operation and in talking with a few township officials and the treasurer, it is clear that our request of at least \$50,000 per year from fire tax will be unobtainable with current mills collected from said tax. Currently (2019) we have asked for \$35,000 per year for cash injection into our budget. I'd like to also ask the township to absorb our fuel cost annually that we use to operate our apparatus. I would be willing to help create a check and balance system so you're assured that the fuel is being used as it should be in the emergency apparatus that serves and protects the township. I have suggested an updated key fob system with each member of our fire dept. having an individual pin code with traceable and measurable access township pumps. This is all being suggested as a means to stabilize our annual budget and relieve some pressure of our many labor-intensive fundraisers we currently have to do in order to cover our expenses. Every little bit helps.

The Supervisors would like to see some dialog regarding to how many gallons are used, where it was used. A description for the last year on how many gallons was used, and where the equipment was taken.

A discussion on CECPA and why all three departments that make up CECPA are not working together. It was encouraged to our department to reach out and set up a meeting to discuss the future of CECPA.

SOLICITOR:

A Consent, License and General Release Agreement between Franklin Township and the Landowner was presented to the Supervisors. Dennis Howard made a motion to approve the Consent, License and General Release Between Franklin Township and the Landowner. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

A General Release Agreement for the Training Grounds was created by the Solicitor. Dennis Howard made a motion to approve the Franklin Township/Training Grounds General Release form. Robert Simonelli seconded. A concern on whether we should allow residents to even use the facility for anything as it could become a liability was voiced. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

An Ordinance for Slot Machine Nuisances was reviewed that was sent by the Law Firm of Eckert Seamans Attorneys At law. No motions were made to continue with this Ordinance.

Dennis Howard made a motion to appoint Georgia Hudy as an elected Auditor to fill the remaining term for Karl Ebert. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

Dennis Howard made a motion to approve the Agreement Between The County of Erie and Elk Creek Township and Franklin Township for Ivarea Road Bridge No. 1 Replacement. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Taylor from the West County Recycling Committee came to see about using the property for Recycle Day on Saturday September 12th.

Dennis Howard made a motion to approve Franklin Township to participate in Recycle Day for 2020 and for the group to see the Training Facility grounds on Saturday September 12, 2020. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

A discussion on the purchase of some road signs was held.

Dennis Howard made a motion to approve the purchase of 8 road signs at the cost of \$802.00 from Lake Erie Traffic Control LLC. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

A discussion on adding an Administrative Assistant with regards to the road crew. Examples of what they would do is creating a maintenance schedule, seeking grants, develop a yearly project plan, a 5-year plan. The hours would be around 4-5 hours a week with a starting salary at \$15/hour.

Dennis Howard made a motion to seek to create and staff the Administrative Assistant who will answer to the Roadmaster which is currently vacant, would also like to extend this offer to Daniel Netzler to see if he is interested in this position. Robert Simonelli seconded. A question on what do we pay the Roadmaster and the Road Foreman for if you are creating this position? I feel this is another layer of bureaucracy. Yea: Dennis Howard, Robert Simonelli. Nay: James Sachar. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from Washington Township was received requesting that you contact your local fire department and strongly encourage them to meet with their respective counterparts and work at formulating a plan that will address the long term needs of all our municipalities in the GM School District.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Thank you for the work with the signs at Eureka and New Road. Please still consider a guardrail. Just to keep you informed I (Tara Miller) am still working on trying to seek funding for a Disaster Siren. She has spent 2 weeks on the phone with FEMA trying to look for a grant.

Dennis Howard made a motion to adjourn at 2035. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Ramona Junkins, Secretary