

July 16, 2024

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 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Present were Supervisors Dennis Howard, Robert Simonelli and Ernest Robinson, Solicitor Gery Nietupski, and Ramona Junkins.

Visitors present: Bian Tinko, Calvin Lydic, Gary Gebhardt, Dee Engel, Ken Bawol, Jo Bawol, James Sachar, Mike Zimmerman, Alan Hauser, Anne Robinson, Raymond Junkins.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – None

MINUTES:

Robert Simonelli made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 18, 2024. Ernie Robinson seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

REPORTS:

Roadmaster Report – Has been working on Fry Road, raised the road depth 16” inches. Cut berms, ditched. Started berming on New road, still mowing on sides of the road. Still doing equipment maintenance as both tractors have needed a lot of work. We have picked up garbage along side of the road (mattresses, and box springs.)

FINANCIAL AND TAXES

Bills – Robert Simonelli a motion to approve the July 16, 2024, bill list for a total of \$238,389.40. Dennis Howard seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

Payroll – Robert Simonelli made a motion to approve Payrolls # 14 & 15 of 2024 as presented. Dennis Howard seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

The monthly financial recap was given to the Board of Supervisors.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No meeting this month.

ZONING: No report

EACOG: Continued working on Broadband expansion project.

ECATO: No report

WECEMA: No report

TRAINING FACILITY: Station 38 came and used the training facility along with our fire department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No Report

SOLICITOR: Created an agreement for sharing equipment with Washington Township. Dennis Howard made a motion to adopt the equipment sharing agreement. Robert Simonelli seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Falls Road intersection – No update.

Township Building – David Laird & Associates did come out and completed the land survey.

Dry Hydrants discussion – Have tested a few, even the one on the training grounds. A tanker is down at the fire department which is concerning as that is even less water that is available in our area.

EMS/Fire Concerns – EMS focus group took place at our local fire department, a discussion took place regarding CECPA which is the ALS provider for Edinboro, Washington township, McKean township, McKean Borough, and Franklin and their current role.

A quote for ditching was received from Whitetail Land Services to provide an experienced operator as well as a mini excavator to clean ditches and load into township trucks for removal at an hourly rate of \$130 / hour which includes one operator and one machine. Additional fees: No additional fees including drop off and pick up of equipment, if a minimum of 6 hours a day is worked. Any day less than 6 hours would include \$150 to haul equipment to and from the job site. Robert Simonelli made a motion to do a test run for ditching up to 4 miles of road at a rate of \$130/hour for completion using our trucks to assist in the dirt removal process. Dennis Howard seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Stephenson Equipment did send over the new quote for a Massey 5711D 4X4 with Dyna 16X16 transmission with a mid-mount boom mower (1700 lb wheel weight), 50" Rotary Swivel head, disk/brush knives & hydraulic door, joystick, electro-hydraulic and valve kit, installation of complete boom mower system, hydraulic actuator in lieu of standard swivel, electronic boom positioning system, pump/grille guard, backup alarm, radio, beacon, installation of completed front mount attachment, push frame to attach front mounted attachments to existing tiger mid mount frames, including the trade in of Massey 4345 wit tiger boom mower (5,500 and Massey 5455 with tiger boom mower 20,000) for a total of \$178,400.67 Ramona did get some quotes for financing in which Stephenson's current financing rate would be 6.2%, First National Bank offered financing at 5.62% and we could get up to \$50,000 through the DCED at a rate of 2%. Mike Zimmerman spoke to the current condition of the two tractors and what all work it is going to take to get them all fixed and up to par. The newer tractor has lost second gear and is going to need transmission work which could be around \$6,000 alone not including the other work that is going to need to be done. The one tractor is 2003 Massey and when we must order parts it is taking a while to get the parts as they are harder to come by, the new tractor is a 2004 Massey Ferguson in which it is going to take approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000 to fix both tractor but they are still 20 and 21 years old. How much money do we want to continue putting into them so they will run. Dennis Howard made a motion to purchase a new Massy Ferguson 5711C 4X4 with Dyna 16 X 16 Transmission with a mid-mount boom mower with a 1700lb wheel weight, 50" rotary swivel head, disk/brush knives and hydraulic door, joystick, electro-hydraulic and valve kit, installation of complete boom mower system, hydraulic actuator, electric boom positioning system, pump/grille guard, and back up alarm through Stephenson Equipment with trading in our two tractors to be taken off the final price. The price of the tractor with the mower is \$178,400.67 including the two tractors being traded in. Robert Simonelli seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

A discussion on the heavy plows on Truck 5 & 6 and them being very heavy on the front end of the trucks, Ernie was instructed to investigate a more economical plow for Truck 5 & 6.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion on Fry Road and the completion of the dirt and gravel road grant. The total cost was \$210,692.59, in which the original grant was for \$175,000. On the dirt and gravel road grants Bethany comes out and watches the process and makes changes as needed. Bethany said some of the other townships that received grant money did not use it all and with the amount of work that is being completed on Fry Road they have another \$30,000 - \$40,000 available to Franklin Township for Fry Road. Once the road is completed, the township can submit all the invoices that were paid, and the Erie County Conservation will give a reimbursement check to the township once they know the amount that was paid. The total overage from the original grant was \$35,692.59 in which Erie County Conservation said they are reimbursing the entire amount. A discussion was held regarding the way the road looks and how nice it turned out, but the fear is when snow plowing some of the road will be pushed into the ditches losing some of the road. If we could seal the road, that would make that road last so much longer. Dennis Howard made a motion to advertise putting out a bid for a surface treatment on Fry Road to be awarded on August 20, 2024, with Ramona talking to Washington Township to see if they would share the costs of the bid for Fry Road. Robert Simonelli seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Blinking light at Old State and Route 98. Ernie did speak to Penndot and they informed Ernie that a light was placed there due to a bar being on the corner. The bar is no longer there so it is up to the township what they would like to do with it. The township has an option to put garbage bags over it and wait 90 days then, the township is responsible for removing the light, wires and poles. The other option is to hire someone to replace the bulb and do maintenance on the light. The light currently costs about \$55/month.

Dennis Howard made a motion to get a quote on someone to change the light bulbs at Old State and Route 98 on the blinking light. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

A discussion on Broadband expansion. Ramona will work with Michelle from the COG to be considered an internet ready community to be able to receive any grant money for broadband expansion. Dennis Howard made a motion to continue moving forward with the Broadband expansion paperwork. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: Fairview Township Comprehensive Plan update.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Calvin Lydic – Whoever graded Francis pushed the berm into the ditches. Clairwright Road on the west end has potholes that have gotten bad.

Dee Engel – When it rained hard her property flooded due to the work that was done by the previous road crew not employed by the township any longer and it was not Jimmy. This has been an issue for a long time and it has never been corrected, people are complaining about the current road crew but they are doing a good job and trying, our township has a lot of issues from many years of not getting enough work completed.

Dennis Howard made a motion to adjourn at 8:16pm. Robert Simonelli seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Ramona Junkins, Secretary