

August 20, 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 7:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Present were Supervisors Dennis Howard and Ernest Robinson, Solicitor Gery Nietupski, and Ramona Junkins.

Visitors present: Brian Tinko, Calvin Lydic, Dee Engel, Ken Bawol, Jo Bawol, James Sachar, Alan Hauser, Raymond Junkins, Steve Weston, Harry Farmer, Tim Buren, Matt Bailey, Tara Miller, Matt Brown, and Andy Bucho.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS & Broadband Expansion –

Dee Engel – Why is there an orange cone in the middle of the road on Silverthorn Road, it is a safety hazard and there is no bike race or any reason for it. Who has the authority to put such things in the roadway?

James Sachar – The surface treatment for Fry Road is not a good use of our money as it should wait a year.

Steve Weston – Was the overage amount received from DCNR regarding the grant on Fry Road?

Jo Bawol – There is a missing road sign on our road.

MINUTES:

Ernie Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 16, 2024. Dennis Howard seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

REPORTS:

Roadmaster Report – Completed some ditching on Mohawk and New Roads. The shoulders were cut on New Road and Mohawk Road from Crane to Francis Road.

FINANCIAL AND TAXES

Bills – Dennis Howard made a motion to approve the August 20, 2024, bill list for a total of \$34,660.66. Ernest Robinson seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried.

Payroll – Ernest Robinson made a motion to approve Payrolls # 16 & 17 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: Michelle Jaggi has given her two-week notice

ECATO: Last meeting was cancelled due to no agenda.

WECEMA: No report

TRAINING FACILITY: No report

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No Report

SOLICITOR: PSATS invited the Solicitor to speak at the Regional Forum that was held in Erie.

OLD BUSINESS:

Falls Road intersection – No update.

Township Building – Michael Grabb is working with David Laird & Associates for the CADD drawing to put the new building on that survey they completed.

Dry Hydrants discussion – No Report

EMS/Fire Concerns – The EMS focus group for Edinboro, McKean and Franklin Fire Departments next meeting is Sunday August 25, 2024, at 5 pm. The next county EMS focus group is scheduled for Wednesday August 28, 2024, at 7 pm with Councilman Bayle.

Blinking light at Old State and Route 98. Ernie did call a contractor to come and look at the light but his truck is in the garage and will be getting it back soon so he will be in contact to come and look. We will need to provide fire police when it does happen.

Ramona presented the Board of Supervisors options for various health insurance coverages and options from PSATS and Vicary Insurance broker in Erie. Dennis Howard made a motion to offer Health, Vision and Dental coverage through Vicary Insurance with the policy being through Highmark Western PPO Blue \$0 100/80 Gold policy and non-voluntary for Dental and Vision for all eligible employees and families. The Township will be responsible for the total cost at this time. Ernest Robinson seconded. The Solicitor stated that as per section 606 (c) In addition to the compensation authorized under this section, supervisors while in office or while in the employ of the township may be eligible for inclusion in township-paid insurance plans, as follows:

(1) Supervisors, whether they are employed by the township, and their dependents are eligible for inclusion in group life, health, hospitalization, medical service and accident insurance plans paid in whole or in part by the township. Supervisors and their dependents who are over sixty-five years of age are eligible for inclusion in supplemental Medicare insurance coverage paid, in whole or in part, by the township. Their inclusion in those plans does not require auditor approval but does require submission of a letter requesting participation at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board of supervisors before commencing participation. The insurance shall be uniformly applicable to those covered and shall not give eligibility preference to or improperly discriminate in favor of supervisors. "Supervisor/Roadmaster Robinson asked to be included within the plan consistent with Section 606 of the Second-Class Township Code." Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Ramona presented the board with Pension options; this is tabled until next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

No Bids were received by Fry Road Surface treatment, yet we were able to go back and use the numbers we got in the spring when we went out for bid for Seal Coating, Mark Corey would need to do a change order. Suit- Kote was the lowest bidder and was awarded the bid. Using those numbers, it would be Surface treatment at 19,360 SY @ \$5.63/ SY equals \$108,996.08. Erie County Conservation said they feel it should be done and they could come up with another \$29,666.56 towards the cost which brings it down to \$79,329.52. Washington Township should be responsible for some of it as most of Fry Road is shared with them. They had a meeting tonight and said they do not have any funds left available, so they are not able to assist in giving us any money towards this. Dennis Howard made the motion to award and approve the Surface treatment for Fry Road to Suit-Kote who was the lowest bidder when we opened the Seal Coat bids in the Spring of this year. A change order will be completed by Mark Corey. A letter will be sent to Washington township explaining that Franklin felt it would be cheaper if we completed the project this year and we understand they did not have the money at this time, in hopes we can work something out next year. Ernie Robinson seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Resolution 10 of 2024 Authorizing Franklin Township to be a Broadband Ready Community. Dennis Howard made a motion to approve Resolution 10 of 2024 approving Franklin Township to be a Broadband Ready Community. Ernest Robinson seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Resolution 11 of 2024 Designating the purchase of Aggregates as the County Liquid Fuels project for 2024. Dennis Howard made a motion to approve Resolution 11 of 2024 designating the purchase of aggregates as the County Liquid Fuels project for 2024. Ernest Robinson seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Resolution 12 of 2024 Establishing policies for Anonymous Right-to-Know Requests. Dennis Howard made a motion to approve Resolution 12 of 2024 establishing a policy for Anonymous Right-to-know Requests. Ernest Robinson seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: Dennis met with Washington Township and Edinboro Borough about possibly updating our Comprehensive Plan, at this time Washington Township is very interested in working together. Jason from Edinboro Borough did send out a letter saying there is grant opportunities through DCED for Municipalities working together.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tara Miller – thank you for fixing the potholes that were in the road.

Dee Engel – thank you for moving forward with the health insurance and pension for the employees, it is a good step in the right direction.

Steve Weston – As far as ditching why are we not keeping it all in house? Gravel replenishment has not been completed on the roads in years. There was a truck in the parking township garage that did not belong there, a resident did call the Solicitor also to complain about this and it is illegal. There is no 2RC on the stockpile and if it is needed for the road there is none available currently. Ernie should be watching his language and negativity about residents; he can go in the garage and yell at the wall as he did in the past.

Tim Buren – Has called and talked to Ramona about speed limit signs for Clairwright road and she said that it would need a road study to be completed if it is to be enforced by the State Police. People are driving excessively too fast on that road. Also, there is a resident on Clairwright that has small children, and they are going to get hit as people are driving so fast and there is no sign stating watch children. The ditches are so full the water cannot go anywhere, and I have called the office and Ramona stated that the guys are most likely not going to be able to get to that section this year before the equipment gets ready for snow. Tim said that his neighbor Matt Bailey was going to do his ditch and Ramona said maybe he can help do yours, where is his tax money going as nothing has been done on Clairwright.

Matt Bailey – The speed is bad on Clairwright road especially with kids that have a basketball hoop in the driveway by the road, he does not want to see a kid get hit by a car.

Calvin Lydic – The big holes that were gone on Clairwright road are now gone thanks to a neighbor.

James Sachar – The holes are still there that were stated from the last meeting on Francis & Gudgeonville road. There seems to be a lot of strange after-hours activity at the township building and how secure is the township information?

Dennis Howard made a motion to adjourn at 8:01pm. Ernest Robinson seconded. Passed by unanimous roll call vote. Carried

Ramona Junkins, Secretary