

REGULAR MEETING

The Franklin Township Committee held its regular monthly meeting at approximately 7:02 pm on Monday, July 1, 2019. Mayor Jeff DeAngelis opened the meeting in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act” Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 having been duly advertised and a copy posted in the office of the Township Clerk.

Following the flag salute a roll call of committee members present.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeannene Butler, Mike Ferri, Mike Toretta, Mayor Jeff DeAngelis, (4) Present. **Absent** (1) David Guth.

Present were: Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk, Mike Finelli, Municipal Engineer, Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney, Raymond Read, OEM, Jim Onembo, Zoning/Code Enforcement, Ron Read, DPW Foreman.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(One Roll Call to approve the following agenda items)

APPROVALS

- a. Meeting Minutes
- b. Resolution 2019-54

RE: June 3, 2019
RE: Brush, Noxious Weeds and Grass, etc. regulating the growth of, multiple properties

On motion by Committeeperson Mike Ferri and seconded by Committeeperson Jeannene Butler all items on the Consent Agenda be adopted/approved as listed. .

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Dave Guth			X
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X (*abstained ONLY from Resolution 2019-54)		

(*4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent Motion Carried

Consent Agenda Resolutions - First Reading/Adoption:

Resolution 2019-54

RESOLUTION 2019-54

WHEREAS, the General Code of the Township of Franklin, Chapter 48, Article 1 and Article 2 Regulating the growth of Brush, Noxious Weeds and Grass, Etc. Authorizes the Department of Public Works to remove debris, brush and noxious growth after providing the notice required by the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the required notice was sent to the below properties by certified mail return receipt requested and regular mail; and

WHEREAS, ten days has elapsed since the notices were received; and

WHEREAS, the property owners failed to remove the debris, brush and noxious growth within ten days of their receipt of the notice; and

WHEREAS, the outside contractor, for Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ caused the debris, brush, and noxious growth to be removed; and

WHEREAS, the outside contractor, for Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ has certified to the Mayor and Committee the cost of the removal of the debris, brush and noxious growth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The certification of the costs of removal of the debris, brush and noxious growth has been examined and found to be correct.
2. The tax collector is hereby directed that the following costs shall be charged against the land and shall be added to and become part of the taxes next to be assessed and levied upon such land, to bear interest at the same rate as taxes, and shall be collected and enforced by the tax collector in the same manner as taxes:

Property Address	Block	Lot	Property Owner	Cost
45 Thatcher Avenue (06/05/19 & 06/19/19)	35	5	Sec'try HUD % Info Syst.	\$ 90
6 Montana Rd. (06/05/19 & 06/19/19)	3	1.04	Deutsche Bank	\$160
36 Halfway House Rd. (06/05/19 & 06/19/19)	15	15	Richard & Lisa Standish	\$120
8 Millbrook Road (06/05/19 & 06/19/19)	24	4	Quicken Loans, Inc.	\$140
5 Thatcher Avenue (06/05/19 & 06/19/19)	7	3	Wells Fargo USA	\$210
102 Buttermilk Bridge Rd. (06/24/19 & 06/24/19 2 truck loads -trash clean up & grass)	46	51.04	Robert S. Shields	\$480

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by Jeannene Butler the aforementioned **Resolution 2019-54** be adopted as read.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth			X
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X		

(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent Motion Carried

Dated: July 1, 2019

Certification

I, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and exact copy adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin on July 1, 2019.

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

Report/Update:

New Jersey State Police –Trooper Walker, present this evening, with no formal report and no public comment.

Ordinances:

Ordinance 2019-8 has been tabled until August 5, 2019 meeting.

Discussions/Approvals/Executions:

Pohatcong Creek Solar License and Easement Agreements – Attorney Mark Bellin and Rebekah Donington in attendance this evening for any questions that might arise with the following documents for consideration. Attorney Benbrook informed the committee that various documents are to be presented this evening for consideration and require the mayor and clerk to execute in conjunction with this project.

1.

License Agreement – Across Block 26 Lot 3 and 8 with attached Exhibits A&B description of a 20’ utility easement. Record the license and authorize the mayor and clerk to execute Agreement.

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by Jeannene Butler the above Agreement be adopted as approved

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth			X
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

2.

Grant of Right-of-Way and Utility Easement to the County of Warren across, Block 26 Lot 8, together with Exhibits A plan and B description. Authorize the mayor and clerk to execute.

On motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Mike Ferri the above Agreement be adopted as approved

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth			X
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

3.

SCADA Pole Easement Box to JCP&L Agreement – authorize the mayor and clerk to execute.

On motion by Jeannene Butler and seconded by Mike Toretta the above Agreement be adopted as approved

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth			X
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

4.

Asbury Broadway Guy and Wire Easement and Deed Restriction – authorize the mayor and clerk to execute. Block 17 Lots 36 & 36.01, Block 16 Lot 21, Block 16 Lot 21.01

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by Jeannene Butler the above Agreement be adopted as approved

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth			X
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

5.

Decommissioning Agreement and Deed Restriction – authorize the mayor and clerk to execute.

On motion by Jeannene Butler and seconded by Mike Toretta the above Agreement be adopted as approved

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth			X
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

6.

Accept the additional donation of \$10,000 for additional easements accordingly.

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by Jeannene Butler the above Agreement be adopted as approved

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth			X
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

Asbury Willows Pocketed Liquor License -

Attorney Benbrook briefed the committee, and has followed up with Roger Skoog who represents John Mazarino. There is nothing additional as to renewing or selling of this license. The township is in jeopardy of losing a liquor license and we will not be able to get this back.

MRNA-Vacant Property Registration Fees –

Attorney Benbrook informed the committee as to the use of the fees collected from registration of vacant/abandoned properties in the township. Money can be turned over to our General Account and utilized in complete discretion of the mayor and committee affording more flexibility. The attorney will email our CFO informing same.

Dynamic Protection Systems 24-Hour Central Agreement Station Monitoring and Service –

This Agreement is good for 5 years and the monitoring rates have not increased.

On motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Mike Ferri the above Agreement be adopted as approved

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth			X
Jeannene Butler	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS - none

REPORTS/UPDATES:

Engineer Report – No formal Report submitted:

Engineer Finelli briefed the committee as to a few projects this month. The 2018 NJDOT Grant for Stewartsville Road is on hold. The 2019 NJDOT Grant for Montana Road is going through and some of the work being completed by our DPW. The 2020 NJDOT Grant, applications are to be submitted by July 19th and will be for the balance of Montana Road. The Walking Path project waiting on a response of a few administrative items by the county engineer’s office. Lastly, the portion of Montana Road that failed, the first part of the repair is complete and another section still needs to be done.

Attorney Report – Report on file

Attorney Benbrook mailed a letter to the Mayor of Washington Township addressing the closure of Mountain View Road East by their police department. Another letter was sent to Tractor Supply Corporate Office in reference to the freezing of our township account. It appears that the pending unpaid charges on the account are from another municipality in Vineland, NJ, hoping to rectify the situation soon. The township and our Land Use Board are being sued with the Redevelopment Designation. Now that we are in litigation no further public discussion.

Open Space Commission – No one present

Jim Onembo – Code Enforcement/Zoning

Mr. Onembo informed the committee as to active zoning and code enforcement this past month. Our township contractor is managing our vacant/abandoned properties for high grass and removal of debris, a continuous problem. Candy's has a major septic issue. 8 Wolverton Road dealt with an issue of recreational flying vehicles. An interest in the previous Broadway Bank building. The Sign and Bamboo Ordinances need to be addressed.

Recycling – no report

DPW REPORT – Ron Read – Report Submitted and on file

Foreman Read handed out his monthly report to the committee. Issues with the new mower with the bearing spanner, may need attorney assistance. Issues when it rains with Second Street washing out, need to find a way to rectify the problem. Engineer will discuss further with Foreman.

Fire Department/OEM – Raymond Read

Chief Read informed that fire and ems attended the Active Shooter Drill at Phillipsburg High School. Mr. Read also attended the quarterly County OEM Meeting. The 2002 Fire Engine is out of service, claim submitted to the township insurance carrier, axel damage.

Franklin Township Youth Association – No representation present this evening

Township Committee Reports:

David Guth – absent

Jeannene Butler - nothing further to report

Mike Ferri - nothing further to report

Jeff DeAngelis, Mayor – nothing further to report

Mike Toretta – nothing further to report

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – Opened at approximately 8:05 pm. Unanimous Vote.

Mayor DeAngelis fielded numerous questions and comments from our public this evening. Due to Litigation you are welcome to speak, however, if you are here about the redevelopment or the property of the potential warehouse, the committee and/or professionals will not respond. Various comments heard this evening as follows:

1. Where to find current meeting minutes on our website?
2. Email blasts any update to that – mayor informed working with our IT as to hardwire requirements.
3. Budget/Revenue what opportunities have been investigated that are successful. – mayor informed to name a few, keeping municipal taxes down, decreasing our Open Space tax, C1 zone change along Rt. 57 an opportunity for a business to run out of a home
4. Over development is an issue, listen to the public and hear both sides.
5. Sustainable Development Committee

Sarah Pyskaty, representing the FTY, asked for additional monies for the Community Center to repair the ramp and railing. Not certain if the water fountain works and the floors are dirty. Possible vending machines, as there is always a need for drinks/snacks. Mayor DeAngelis will speak with Eddy Patient, our Community Center Coordinator.

Fundraiser at the Oxford Lake this Saturday, July 6th. All proceeds to benefit the Asbury United Methodist Church and the Oxford Lake Youth Organization.

CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION - At this time Deputy Mayor Toretta closed public session at approximately 8:46 pm. Unanimous Vote.

MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILL LIST:

On motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Mike Ferri, hearing no objection, to pay the bills from the bill list provided by the Chief Financial Officer.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained	
Michael Toretta	X			
Jeannene Butler	X			
David Guth			X	
Mike Ferri	X			
Mayor, Jeff DeAngelis	X			

(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent Motion carried

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by Jeannene Butler, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Michael Toretta	X				
Jeannene Butler	X				
David Guth				X	
Mike Ferri	X				
Mayor, Jeff DeAngelis	X				

(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton
Municipal Clerk

