

**MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017**

Upon adjournment of the Reorganization Meeting of the Township Committee, the regular meeting was held at **7:49 P.M., Thursday, January 5, 2017** at the Municipal Building. This meeting has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Kathryn Blew called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Diane Burgess PRESENT Craig Repmann PRESENT

Susan Soloway PRESENT Joseph Darocha PRESENT Kathryn Blew PRESENT

Also present: Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney

Some others present: Lora Jones, Maurice Jones, John Demarrais, Lt. Timothy Snyder, Tom Meyer, Chiari Chandoah, and several others

Comments from the public on agenda items only: **Lora Jones**, resident and Open Space Advisory Committee Member, commented on the Sabo property which the Township Committee will be considering for cost-sharing for farmland preservation. Ms. Jones commented on the importance for preserving this property citing prime soils and the proximity of the Sabo property to other municipal preserved properties. She also provided statistics on the Sabo property to the Committee which is included in these minutes. **John Demarrais** also commented and asked for the Township Committee to give direction to the Open Space Advisory Committee on properties they are considering for farmland preservation. Concerned that their reputation is being jeopardized with the County and the State if they present properties the Committee does not support and or commit to pursue. Open Space needs the Township Committee to give them direction and make some commitments. Lora Jones also urged the Committee to vote yes on Hope Hill saying that Open Space works well with the County and the landowners and spend a lot of time to keep these relationships going. **Chiara Chandoah**, Spring Hill Road resident, commented on Hope Hill Farm and supports the preservation of the property.

Department Head/Subcommittee Reports

- **Finance, Administration, Insurance, HR/Benefits: Soloway & Burgess**

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 12** Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO), Ursula Stryker.

Moved Soloway Second Burgess All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to authorize the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor to sign the Municipal Auditor's engagement letter for 2017 services.

Moved Soloway Second Darocha

Roll Call Vote: Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew AYE

Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 14** Employment of Kris Boxwell, General Clerical.

Moved Soloway Second Burgess

Roll Call Vote: Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew AYE

Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 15** Employment of Ella Malecki-Ruta, Tax Collector.

Moved Soloway Second Burgess

Roll Call Vote: Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew AYE

Motion carried.

- **Public Safety (Police, Fire, EMS, OEM, Court, Health): Darocha & Blew**

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 10** authorizing submission of a strategic plan for the North Hunterdon Municipal Alliance and authorizing the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor to sign accompanying forms to acknowledge abiding by the requirements.

Moved Soloway Second Darocha

Roll Call Vote: Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew AYE

Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 11** appointing Nicholas Caponegro serve as a Class II Police Officer at an hourly rate of pay \$19.00 per hour.

Moved Burgess Second Darocha

Roll Call Vote: Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew AYE

Motion carried.

At this time Lt. Timothy Snyder addressed the Township Committee on his monthly report on police activities. He also congratulated new Committee Member Diane Burgess and newly appointed Mayor Blew and Deputy Mayor Darocha.

Motion to [Adopt Resolution 2017 – 16](#) Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Moved Burgess Second Soloway All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Department of Public Works: Repmann & Darocha**

No report

- **Land Use (Land Use Board, Open Space, Planning, Zoning, Construction, Environmental):
Burgess & Soloway**

Sabo property: The Township Committee discussed the Sabo property and the Open Space Advisory Committee's request for support. They do not want to move forward without a "green light" from the Committee. The values won't be known unless appraisals come back for the property. Lora Jones thinks the cost for the township to cost-share would be well under \$100,000.00. Mayor Blew has heard from the CADB that the soils on the Sabo property are very desirable. Also an advantage is that the property connects to other property in farmland preservation and this carries a high value with the State. Wetlands in the corner of the property will be taken into consideration when appraised.

Motion declaring support by the Franklin Township Committee for the Sabo property to be considered for farmland preservation.

Moved Repmann Second Burgess All in favor. Motion carried.

Hope Hill Farm: The Township Committee received a detailed report on the property from Rick Roseberry, Municipal Engineer. According to the information available to Mr. Roseberry, he indicates a yield of 6 building lots on this property for development purposes. The property is currently being farmed. About 3 years ago percs were done on the property by former owner, Robert Lecompte. The Committee felt the Sabo property is a more solid property for preservation. Lora Jones believes Hope Hill will preserve the beauty of Franklin Township.

After considerable discussion, there was no motion offering support for cost-sharing in the Hope Hill Farm.

- **Community, Business, School, Recreation, Seniors: Repmann & Blew**

Motion to [Adopt Resolution 2017 – 13](#) Proclaiming Franklin Township School Choice Week.

This resolution was sent to the Franklin Township School for their input and the Superintendent provided support.

Moved Darocha Second Soloway All in favor. Motion carried.

Comments from the public: No one present in the public.

Comments from the Township Committee, Non-agenda items, and any other business: Committee Member Diane Burgess reported on having attended a Sustainable New Jersey webinar and will have something for the Township Committee to consider regarding possible consulting services to be provided to two towns to improve information technology. Deadline for applying to Sustainable New Jersey is February 5 and Committee Member Burgess will talk to the staff.

Deputy Mayor Darocha suggested a Township Committee Member act as liaison with the Open Space Advisory Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adopt a resolution to enter executive session at 8:32 P.M. for discussion regarding contract negotiations for municipal court services. Action will be taken upon return to open session.

Moved Burgess

Second Darocha

Roll Call Vote: Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew AYE

Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to return to open session for formal action to be taken.

Moved Soloway

Second Burgess

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to Adopt a Resolution to enter into a shared service agreement with the Joint Municipal Court of the Township of Bethlehem and the Borough of Bloomsbury conditioned upon it being pro-rated from date of joining.

Moved Soloway

Second Burgess

Roll Call Vote: Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew AYE

Motion carried.

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Twp. Comm. Reg. Mtg.

Thursday, January 5, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at approximately 9:15 P.M.

Moved Soloway

Second Burgess

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ursula V. Stryker, RMC

Municipal Clerk

DATE OF ADOPTION: _____