

**MINUTES**  
**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017**  
**7:30 P.M.**

The Franklin Township Committee held a regular meeting at **7:30 P.M., Thursday, July 27, 2017** at the Municipal Building. This meeting has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Deputy Mayor Joseph Darocha 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 ABSENT

Also present:   Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney

Some others present:   George Reichert, Township OEM Coordinator; Lt. Timothy Snyder; Rob Walton, County Freeholder; Drew Stevens High Bridge Fire Department, Matt Papenfuhs; Rob Vollers; Louis Reiner Raritan Township Committee Member

**Presentation:** Rob Walton, County Freeholder, made the presentation on the proposed County Wide Daytime fire service. The Fire Chief's Association formed a Committee to study day time staffing at fire companies in the county. These would be paid firefighters and salaries and benefits were discussed. Mr. Walton commented on many programs initiated by the Chief's Association: Hunterdon County Emergency Training Center, Fire Academy, County wide 911 system, and numerous task forces. He commented on the 220 training hours needed to become a firefighter which he said puts a strain on the number of volunteers. This proposal would establish three crews in three regions in the county and would supplement coverage to assist volunteer fire departments during the daytime hours when most companies have difficulty manning the stations. He discussed response times and the Organization of Fire Suppression Standards for responding and the difficulty most rural areas are having in meeting these standards. Response is based on time and number of fire personnel who show up for the call. Fire Chiefs would still have control over who would respond to calls. He commented on various levels of calls which fire companies respond to –level one would be smoke alarm, level two would be gas smells, level three would be a structure fire. Call out of companies depends on the level. Proposal would cost \$1.4 million and the County has already included the funds in this year's budget. Hunterdon County Polytech offers a program for 17 year old high school students who can take their program and can get right to work at age 18. Mr. Walton made his presentation with the visuals he provided to all Township Committee members and is being made a part of these official minutes. The Township Committee had some questions on costs, response times, long range plan, coverage, equipment and facilities. The Municipal Attorney commented on some towns requiring paid fire fighters to put in a number of volunteer hours in their township. A requirement of this type would also show they aren't trying to force out volunteers. Mr. Walton thought it was an excellent idea and also said they're assuming most of the volunteers work in some other full time job. This proposal can also be modified and changed.

When asked if EMS is having a staffing problem, Mr. Walton said that EMS began billing for their calls and the monies paid by insurance companies are used to pay daytime staff.

Louis Reiner, Committee Member Raritan Township, addressed the Township Committee on this matter. Mr. Reiner is liaison to the fire chief in Raritan Township's and he voted no on the proposal. Mr. Reiner reported on the Chief's behalf and said Raritan's response time is second to none, they have no problem getting volunteers, and he believes the paid fire officials may clash with volunteers and he believes volunteers are being pushed out. Mr. Reiner feels unionizing has the potential of exploding.

The presentation concluded at 9:00 p.m.

**Comments from the public on agenda items:** None

### Consent Agenda

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Motion to Adopt all items listed under the Consent Agenda.

Moved Repmann

Second Soloway

a. Approval of bills for Payment

Current Fund Expenditures Fund 6-01	\$ 245.00
Current Fund Expenditures Fund 7-01	\$1,628,143.15
Fair Housing	\$ 105.00
Bond & Escrow Account	\$ 2,000.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 117,390.92
Driveway Trust	\$ 995.00
Grant Fund	\$ 1,090.85
Recreation Commission	\$ 4,481.60

**TOTAL** **\$1,754,451.52**

b. Adoption of minutes – June 8, 2017 Work Session & Executive Session, June 22, 2017 Regular meeting & Executive Session

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

Motion carried.

### Department Head/Subcommittee Reports

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

Committee Member Susan Soloway reported on attending a DOT meeting regarding Rt. 173/78 exit ramp. Only a small portion, 700 feet, of the roadway is in Franklin Township and there was nothing for the township to add to the project since the County is in working with the State on the project.

### 2016 Audit

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 48** Acceptance of 2016 Audit and Authorize Signing the Group Affidavit Form.

Moved Burgess

Second Soloway

Roll Call Vote; Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew ABSENT

Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 48.1** Accept and Approve 2016 Audit Corrective Action Plan as submitted by the Temporary Chief Finance Officer.

Moved Soloway

Second Burgess

Committee Member Susan Soloway commented on some of the issues pointed out in the audit were related to personnel in that we did not have a CFO or a Tax Collector and we encountered some difficulties. The Temporary CFO has made a lot of good recommendations for putting policies and processes in place.

Roll Call Vote; Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew ABSENT

Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 50** Offer of Employment, Amanda Shafiei, effective July 13, 2017, temporary part-time general clerical at \$10.00 per hour for no more than 20 hours per week.

Moved Burgess

Second Soloway

Roll Call Vote; Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew ABSENT

Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 53** Authorization to Unity Bank for signatures on municipal checks.

Moved Burgess

Second Soloway

Roll Call Vote; Burgess AYE Repmann AYE Soloway AYE Darocha AYE Blew ABSENT

Motion carried.

**Discussion:** Tax Bills are ready to be mailed. Due to the delay in mailing, the grace period will be extended to August 28, 2017 without penalty and interest. Committee Members Burgess and Soloway are preparing an informational letter for insertion with the tax bills.

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

Matt Papenfuhs, Deputy Chief of EMS, provided all Committee Members with a Report of Activity for June, 2017, which is being made a part of these official minutes.

Lt. Timothy Snyder gave his monthly report which including but not limited to investigations, background checks, motor vehicle incidents and accidents.

Deputy Mayor Darocha commended all police and emergency responders at the scene of the fatal accident at the Race Street/Pittstown Road intersection.

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

Committee Member Craig Repmann reported on Alan Dilley's monthly report on activities including but not limited to road and vehicle maintenance. Road maintenance will begin next week on Old Franklin School Road. The DPW recently acquired a new seven ton equipment trailer. DPW replaced lighting in a restroom at the Municipal Building and installed a new air conditioner in the finance office.

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

The Township closed on the Faith Chapel Wesleyan Church property. The Municipal Attorney said the DPW should be advised of the portion to be mowed and notified of the restricted portion.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 49** Acknowledge Receipt of Site Improvement Performance Bond, in the name of Susan Blew, Block 42 Lot 4.

Moved Burgess

Second Soloway

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

Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017 – 51** Acknowledge Receipt of Performance Guarantee in the form of cash (Check #12151 drawn on Unity Bank), St. Catherine of Siena Church, Block 26 Lot 17.02, \$56,663.64

Moved Burgess

Second Soloway

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

Motion carried.

Motion to authorize the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor to sign the Foster Grant Agreement for the Farmland Preservation Program Acquisition of Development Easements.

Moved Burgess

Second Repmann

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

Motion carried.

**Dirt Capital:** No action is required by the Township Committee at this time since the property owner has to notify the County regarding acceptance or rejection of the appraised property values.

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

Committee Member Repmann reported on plans underway for a Clean Community Day to be held on September 23, 2017 at the Elks. Further details will follow. Insurance certificates will be requested for the event since participants will have an opportunity to purchase alcohol.

Motion to **Adopt Resolution 2017- 52** Authorize expenditure Clean Community Fund \$5,000.00.

Moved Darocha

Second Repmann

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

Motion carried.

**BOARD OF HEALTH –** No applications at this time.

**Comments from the public:** Matt Papenfuhs asked if the Committee found their financial statement acceptable. The Township Committee asked if the EMS received their annual contribution from the township. Need to check on whether or not a voucher was submitted. There was a brief discussion regarding tonight's presentation on county wide fire assistance. Matt's said the QFC Fire Chief voted yes. His personal opinion was he would welcome additional help from the county. As far as EMS goes, a paid fire company will not assist them.

