

LOWER FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP
September 5, 2023
Monthly Meeting

Rollcall

Jim Burkholder – Present (Chairman Board of Supervisors)
James Heishman – Present (Vice Chairman Board of Supervisors)
David Bachman – Present (Supervisor - Roadmaster)
Karen Heishman – Present (Secretary/Treasurer/Manager)
Pam Burkholder – Not Present (Tax Collector)
Ed Franco – Not Present (Chairman Planning Commission)
Keith Senecal – Present (Vice Chairman Planning Commission)
Hubert Gilroy – Not Present (Solicitor)
Marcus McKnight – Present (Solicitor)
Greg Alleman – Present (Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer)
Donna Yarlett – Not Present (Chairman Board of Auditors)
Debbie Starner – Not Present (Secretary Board of Auditors)

Previous Minutes: Jim made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes, second by James and passed with an all-in-favor vote. Jim made a motion to approve the Flood Plain Ordinance meeting minutes, second by James and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Treasurers Report: The attached treasurer’s report for August was approved with a motion by Jim, second by David and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Motion to Pay Current Bills: A list of outstanding bills was presented to the BOS. Jim made a motion to pay the current bills, second by David and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Planning Commission Report: Report attached.

Code Enforcement Report: Greg Alleman reported that he issued one permit to Mr. Mellinger for a sunroom and one permit to Mr. Bear for a pool shed.

Roadmaster Report: Cleaned up downed tree on Burgners Road. Mowed along the roads, did deep boom mowing, and mowed at the Lake. Russell Standard swept the loose stone left behind from the tar and chip on Campground, Meadowbrook, and Bobcat Road. Performed routine sign maintenance.

Building & Grounds Report: No report.

Equipment Report: Stephenson’s Equipment is scheduled to tighten the spindle on the Cheetah boom mower.

C. O. G. Report: No meeting in August.

Correspondence: Karen distributed a packet of email complaints to the BOS that the Township received from residents concerning the unbearable orders from the farming practices in the Township.

Unfinished Business: The Conditional Use Hearing for RB Furniture is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30.

New Business: Barbara Gleim, PA House of Representative 199th District, gave a presentation to the approximately fifty concerned residents that attended the meeting. She began by saying that there were two different farming issues occurring in our Township.

There is a hog composting operation on a 25 acre farm (Tax Parcel #14-06-0027-010B) owned Keith Jones located in the 300 block of Old Mill Road. The operation is run by Nick Jones. According to The Department of Agricultural there was a problem a few months ago when there was one week of no rain. All other bi-weekly inspections have resulted in no findings. The Dept of Ag plans to continue to work with Nick and tweak the operation. Solicitor McKnight reached out to a person from Penn State University and requested that he visit the hog composting operation to offer guidance as well.

There is Food Processing Residual being spread by Jones Environmental Transportation LLC. The operation is run by Jesse Jones. The FPR has an extremely toxic smell. The FPR were recently spread on a 100 acre farm (Tax Parcel #14-06-0027-137) owned by John Dyarman located in the 200 block of Old Mill Road. Barb has been working with DEP for over two years to update the bio-solids guidelines. The farmers should be required to remove the smell before spreading the FPRs. One option would be to use a digester. Jones Environmental Transportation LLC will begin construction of a digester this fall.

Barb Gleim encouraged the Township BOS to consider adopting an ordinance requiring the farmers to treat the FPRs before applying it to their fields. She has a sample ordinance that she will be sharing with Solicitor McKnight.

Solicitor McKnight mentioned that he has explored drafting an ordinance concerning FPRs in the past and it is a real challenge. Farming organizations can file a lawsuit and challenge the ordinance saying that it violates the Federal Right to Farm Act.

Several residents requested a traffic study be performed by PennDOT on Old Mill Road. Because Old Mill Road is a state highway, the BOS must be the one to request the study. Barb Gleim indicated that she could facilitate this request. Jim made a motion to request a traffic study on Old Mill Road if Barb can't handle the request, second by James and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

David Bachman presented an estimate from Chemung Supply to install guide rail on Opossum Lake Road where the people bridge on the lake trail was constructed totals \$3014.45. David requested a second estimate to install guide rail further up Opossum Lake Road totals \$2805.25. The BOS discussed the advantages of doing both installations at the same time. Jim made a motion to approve both installations, second by James and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Persons to be Heard:

Wilmer Baker, 430 Run Road, request that the Township to install an alarm system for the pipeline.

Several residents living on Waterloo and Old Mill Roads expressed concern over buzzards being on their property. They also mentioned that they have been hearing coyotes.

Danny Foster, 853 Opossum Lake Road, said that he isn't very happy with smelling FPRs. He is also concerned about what the FPRs and the chemical additives to eliminate the odors are doing to us.

Motion to Adjourn: Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by James and passed with an all-in-favor vote.