

LOWER FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP
September 18, 2023
Special 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 – Present (Chairman Planning Commission)
Hubert Gilroy – Not Present (Solicitor)
Marcus McKnight – Present (Special Solicitor)
Greg Alleman – Present (Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer)
Donna Yarlett – Not Present (Chairman Board of Auditors)
Debbie Starner – Not Present (Secretary Board of Auditors)

Appointment of Special Council: Marcus McKnight introduced himself to the BOS. He mentioned his education and experience in representing local townships. Jim made a motion to appoint Marcus McKnight special council in regards to the animal mulch being produced on the farm operated by Jones Harvesting LLC as well as the spreading Food Processing Residual by Jones Transportation LLC, second by James and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Executive Session: 7:11 start time 7:53 end time.

New Business: Marcus Knight mentioned that the BOS discussed four ways to move forward. Marcus said that the BOS, the zoning officer, the pc chairman, and himself should contact the Jones and ask to schedule a visit to the site. Jim made a motion to schedule a visit, second by James and the passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Marcus recommended that he be allowed to contact Cumberland County Conservation District and the Penn State Agriculture Extension to request that he as well as the Township be given all of the information, inspections, and spillage reports in related to Jones animal mulching business. James made a motion to give Marcus this authority, second by Jim and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Marcus suggested that he be allowed to explore an adopting ordinance restricting the application of Food Processing Residuals, with the assistance of Barb Gleim's office and neighboring townships. This must be done carefully and be complaint with the Right to Farm Act. Jim made a motion to allow Marcus to explore adopting an ordinance, second by James and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Marcus proposed that the BOS authorize him to contact District 8 of PennDOT concerning the entrance the Jones animal mulching business. He would like the highway occupancy permit to include the widening of the entrance to allow large trucks to be able to turn both left and right into the property. Jim made a motion to approve Marcus writing a letter to District 8 of PennDOT, second by James and passed with an all-in-favor vote.

Marcus asked the attendees of the meeting how many of them have written letter to the State Representatives with their concerns about the animal mulching business or food processing residual. Both Ed Franco and Jay Rauscher indicated that they had written letters.

Persons to be Heard: Jay Raushcer, 192 Run Road, mentioned that it was very disturbing to read the Cumberland County Conservation District report from March 2023. It described the Jones property as containing five windrows of decomposing dead animals that are eight to ten feet high and 350 feet long. He presented a chart with the pros and cons of having an animal composting business in the Township. There were no pros and many cons including by not limited to air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, and vermin. He also said that he and several other neighbors received a cease and desist order from the Jones Harvesting LLC.

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