

MINUTES OF WORK MEETING OF MAY 13, 2015

The work meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held in the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Christopher Kuhn.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT:

Under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by posting notice on the township bulletin board and by e mailing notice to the New Jersey Herald and The Express-Times.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Mayor Christopher Kuhn, Deputy Mayor Christopher Stracco, Committeeman Frank Desiderio, Committeeman Alan DeCarolis and Deputy Clerk Brenda Kleber. Committeeman David Boynton was absent.

ORDINANCES:

Bond Ordinance #2015-13 was tabled to the May 20, 2015 meeting on motion made by Mr. DeCarolis, seconded by Mr. Stracco. All were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2015-47 was tabled to the May 20, 2015 meeting on motion made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. DeCarolis. All were in favor.

#2015-48 (Support of development easement)

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen has determined that the property known as Shiloh Hill Farm, Block 1803 / Lot 8.01 & B1804 / L5 & L6 in Frelinghuysen Township, consisting of approximately 106.21 acres to be preserved, is available for purchase of a development easement in accordance with the requirements of the farmland preservation programs; and

WHEREAS, preservation of this land would encourage the survivability of agricultural production in Frelinghuysen Township, and said tracts fall within a predetermined Agricultural Development Area; and

WHEREAS, the pressures from development have significantly heightened the degree of imminence of change of land use from productive agriculture to nonagricultural uses; and

WHEREAS, the State Agricultural Development Committee has certified the fair market value of said farm; and

WHEREAS, the property is under contract for \$5,750 per acre with the landowners with an estimated total value of \$609,500, the exact compensation to be determined by a final survey; and

WHEREAS, the Township is authorized to provide funding up to 17.17% of the purchase price (or \$987.50/acre of the easement) to be paid from the Township's Open Space Trust.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen as follows:

The Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen hereby supports the purchase of a development easement on Shiloh Hill Farm under the Township's Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Farmland Preservation program, in partnership with the County of Warren and the State Agriculture Development Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. DeCarolis to adopt said resolution. Roll call vote: Mr. Desiderio-yes, Mr. DeCarolis-yes, Mr. Stracco-yes, Mr. Kuhn-yes.

Executive Session resolution

WHEREAS, it is necessary to discuss items dealing with pending litigation in private or executive session; and

WHEREAS, under the Open Public Meetings Act (number 3 of the permitted exceptions to the requirements that a public body hold its meetings in public) it is permissible that such matters be discussed in executive or private session.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on May 13, 2015 that the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen will adjourn to private or executive session to discuss the above mentioned and results or portions of that discussion will be made known in a reasonable length of time.

Motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. Kuhn to adopt said resolution. Roll call vote: Mr. DeCarolis-yes, Mr. Stracco-yes, Mr. Kuhn-yes, Mr. Desiderio-yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

A proposal for professional planning services to assist the Township in achieving constitutional compliance with its affordable housing mandate was approved for the Mayor's signature on motion made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. DeCarolis. All were in favor.

Jeans for Troops Day was approved on motion made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. DeCarolis. All were in favor. Employees collect a \$5.00 donation; in exchange the employees wear jeans to work on Thursday, May 21, 2015 with the proceeds benefiting The GI Go Fund.

The survey on the DPW property will be discussed at the May 20, 2015 meeting.

An answer was received from the Township Engineer Paul Sterbenz on the request to the County for traffic investigation on the intersection of Route 661/Main Street and Route 519. Their investigation found that the pavement markings and road surface in the area of the intersection were in good condition. Additionally, all required warning signs are present and in good condition. The sight line to the south of the intersection is limited due to the roadway alignment and roadside embankment. There were no obstructions other than the roadside embankment. The County Engineer will recommend to the Warren County Road Department that they cut back the vegetation that may encroach on sight lines to maintain as much sight distance as possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Community Service Award is on hold for the recommendation from the Recreation Committee.

Eric Usinowicz will coordinate with Marty Connor for the Blairstown Fire Dept to organize a drill and test the pipes at the FFP North.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

The Mayor reported that he sent a letter to a convenience store and a gas station corporation advertising the NC zone on Route 94. The Mayor also mentioned that the rock quarry on South Street has been shut down. If anyone sees work being done they are to contact the Zoning Officer.

Animal Control Officer Alan DeCarolis asked how the Committee would like him to proceed with handling the dogs that are on the ball field. There have been several sightings of dogs along with Mr. Desiderio asking that a dog be taken off the field. It was decided to ask the recreation committee for a recommendation.

Committeeman Frank Desiderio stated that there is no accident health insurance coverage. Motion was made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. DeCarolis that this be paid right away as the monies are in the budget. All were in favor. Lastly, Mr. Desiderio would like the parking lot striped before Founders Day.

Mrs. Kleber asked about the John Lotz award. The Recreation Committee will make a recommendation.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion was made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. DeCarolis to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

Loren Greco who asked when the second reading of the ordinance would be if it's introduced on May 20th. He was told it would be June 10th.

Martin Connor gave the Committee a check for \$176.00 for the last load of scrap material. Mr. Connor asked for approval to purchase round up for the evasive plants. Mr. Kuhn offered to purchase it. Mr. Connor brought to the attention of the Committee that water is not flowing over the dam and the pond is becoming stagnant. It was decided not to do anything at this time. Mr. Connor asked that the chipper be taken off the FFP North property and asked if the Committee wanted to purchase a 72 inch mower.

Motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. DeCarolis to close to the public. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. Kuhn to enter into executive session after the above resolution was adopted in the public portion of the meeting. All were in favor. Motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. Desiderio to return to public session. Upon returning, the public was told that the Maser Consulting proposal will be signed by the Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. DeCarolis to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda J. Kleber, Deputy Clerk