

**FINAL**

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS)  
WORKSHOP & 2023 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
February 22, 2023, 6:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call: (x) Wenrich (x) Buckwash (x) Decker (x) Anthony (x) Cummings  
(x) Williams**

Chairman Mark Wenrich called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM first recognizing Mr. Wayne Kober who wanted to speak on the proposed warehouse development by Crossroads Commercial Development, LLC.

Chairman Wenrich stated the Franklin Township BOS was “on the same page” as Mr. Kober concerning the proposed warehouses. Vice-Chair David Buckwash said that the BOS had read the email Mr. Kober had submitted and said there were three Supervisors from Franklin Township at the Carroll Township meeting. He stated our BOS is very aware of the happenings of the proposal, but our supervisors couldn’t be party to any action at the Carroll Township meeting since the developers are going to have to come before Franklin Township and make their presentation to our BOS.

Discussion ensued on various issues such as traffic concerns, zoning, stormwater, etc. Supervisor Kevin Cummings stated we can only address what comes before Franklin Township. Mr. Kober asked if Franklin and Carroll townships could meet but it was noted that this would be a question to be addressed to our Solicitor.

Vice-Chairman Buckwash stated his concern is for the health, safety, and welfare for the residents of the township.

Resident Fred DeLuca also asked if our position could be made known to Carroll Township.

Keith Kuykendall (sp) from NYCFR spoke first and discussed a handout that was provided. The handout consisted of a Capital Projects plan that the NYCFR has been working on that lists the future needs of the NYCFR.

Keith stated one of things that has been discussed in the past is the Joint Steering Committee. and that previously this BOS had stated that is something they weren’t interested in pursuing. He said the NYCFR agrees it’s a good idea for the municipalities to discuss and decide/vote on issues together and this would give the municipalities more control of the funds vs. NYCFR making all the decisions on how the funds are spent.

Keith discussed the equipment needs, i.e., equipment rebuilds/refurbs, the pros and cons and how it affects the 15-year projections. A second expense that was discussed was the roof options for the Franklintown Station which was stated will be in range of \$120,000 to replace.

The new engine is scheduled to arrive in 2025 but payments will begin in October 2023. This payment is a chassis payment and will save them approximately \$20,000 during the term (loan or truck?-Sent email to Mark Snyder & Hector Morales to clarify on 3/14/23; no response as of 4/7/23).

Supervisor Naomi Decker inquired about making extra payments to reduce the amount of the loan. Chief Hector Morales said they met with a grant representative who recommended they move quickly to lock in the interest rate so that they weren't affected by a future rate increase from the state.

Chairman Wenrich stated he thought the purpose of this meeting was to determine how Franklin Township was going to fund NYCFR in the future. Vice-Chairman Buckwash said he thought the information that the fire company was presenting was helpful to justify the funds that NYCFR are requesting now and for the long-term future. Chairman Wenrich said he'd like to review the information further to figure out how to implement the future funding.

Supervisor Cummings stated that our Solicitor has said we cannot implement the South Carolina law which was a study from the University of Vermont that SC adopted. He said the tax was based on square footage and there were no exemptions.

Carroll Township implemented a .059 fire tax on assessed value in 2022 to begin in 2023. Discussion ensued on how the .059 was applied as far as relating to a dollar amount. Supervisor Cummings stated he was ready to make a motion and discussion continued with input from audience attendees. Supervisor Cummings explained some of the history of funding the fire company and explained if and when the fire company would ever go bankrupt, the township is ultimately responsible for providing fire service which could end up being much more expensive than what is being currently proposed. His opinion was that our township as well as Carroll Township and Dillsburg Borough should follow suit as a united community with a fire tax, so the money is directed to the fire company. Chairman Wenrich reinforced to the audience that public comment is not entertained until the Public Comment section on the agenda.

**A motion was made** by Supervisor Kevin Cummings to adopt Resolution# 2023-02 to establish a fire tax levied and assessed upon real property located in Franklin Township beginning in 2024 at the rate of .59.

**Second by** Chairman Mark Wenrich

**Discussion** was held on the motion.

**An amendment to the motion** was made by Supervisor Kevin Cummings to amend the rate to .059.

**A second to the amendment to the motion** was made by Chairman Mark Wenrich.

Chairman Wenrich gave the example that a \$250,000 home would pay approximately \$147.50 in fire tax annually. He stated the goal is to move forward and into the future in funding NYCFR without bankrupting the fire company or the township. Supervisor Cummings stated that any proposed increase above three mills need to go to the voters.

Vice-Chairman Buckwash discussed the needs for the township regarding more space and/or a larger building. His thought was to increase the millage and, in the resolution, designate .059 of

the millage increase towards funding the NYCFR. He stated taxes have not been increased since the 1960-1970's???? Supervisor Cummings stated what we've been donating to the NYCFR and the \$100,000 budgeted for 2023 from the General Fund would go back into the General Fund with a specific .059 fire tax vs. a property tax millage increase.

Supervisor Decker discussed the recent tax bill with the county rate of six mills and the township rate being .6 mills. She stated from this, the township is getting \$16.00. She said the township tax is not the problem but the county and school taxes. Her opinion was that a millage increase would insure funds for both the fire company and for current and future township expenses. Chairman Buckwash asked what our total payment now is to the NYCFR including our donation, worker's compensation insurance, the truck payments and Fireman's Relief. It was noted that the Fireman's Relief comes from the state and is not from the township. Discussion ensued.

Calculations were done on our total assessed value using .059 and it was noted that amount wasn't enough to support the amount we're budgeting to NYCFR for 2023 which Treasurer Pam Williams confirmed is \$100,000 for 2023. The BOS decided to continue the amounts being paid on the two loans for the truck to NYCFR once the loan payments stop in June and November of 2023. The difference between these amounts vs. what NYCFR is budgeting for 2023 is approximately \$76,263.91 The BOS made a motion at the February 8, 2023 meeting to pay the remaining balance of our obligated to NYCFR.

Supervisor Decker stated her concern with this plan was that we were doing exactly what the NYCFR Strategic Funding Plan? proposed and we're following suit with every other township at the same rate. She also stated that the township didn't have any vote in the strategic plan or in any agreement to partner with other municipalities. Her opinion was to go with the millage increase and not the fire tax.

Supervisor Cummings stated he would withdraw the motion and another public meeting/hearing could be held and advertised as needed to make the process transparent. The motion was withdrawn, and discussion ensued.

NYCFR started they were going through the grant process for the breathing apparatus. Numbers for prospective personnel and salaries were presented for future needs as potential development growth in the township increases the responsibilities for NYCFR. Discussion ensued on developers providing funds for some of these costs and if that issue could be part of a conditional use.

Keith Kuykendall said the AC is not functioning well at the Franklinton Station and it is projected near \$20,000 to be repaired/replaced. He reviewed the document with the population numbers, call volumes and percentages and noted that currently, Washington Township is only giving NYCFR \$5,000. Discussion ensued on how square footage entered into these calculations. Vice-Chairman Buckwash asked if the NYCFR is overfunded through a millage increase or fire tax, what happens with the surplus funds since they are a non-profit entity. Chairman Wenrich discussed the assessed property value vs. the percentages and stated assessed value would encompass commercial, square footage, etc.

A BOS Special Meeting will be held on March 13, 2023, at 6:00 PM and will be advertised twice prior to the meeting. The BOS said the advertisement should state the meeting is being held to discuss fire company funding and a possible millage increase. Supervisor Anthony asked the BOS if they were all comfortable with the wording for the advertisement and all agreed.

Chairman Wenrich asked Pam if she could get the assessments for Carroll Township and Dillsburg Borough to calculate the totals along with Franklin Township. Lengthy discussion was held on a fire tax vs. a millage increase as well as using percentages vs. assessed values and making various calculations. Discussion was also held on if millage was increased to cover the fire tax, could the increase be minimally raised above that for needs of the township. Much of the discussion was inaudible.

Vice-Chairman Dave Buckwash noted he has a meeting with Senator Regan on March 15<sup>th</sup> regarding support for the RAC-P Grant for township building renovation and/or expansion.

**A motion was made by** Chairman Wenrich to adjourn at 8:07 PM

**Second by** Supervisor Cummings.

**Discussion-**None

**Motion Passed**

Pamela Williams

Treasurer/Asst. Secretary