

**Kittanning, Pennsylvania
August 25, 2022**

The Board of Supervisors of East Franklin Township met in the Municipal Building at 6:00 p.m. for the August 25, 2022 regular meeting.

Present: Barry Peters, Chairman
Dan Goldinger, Vice Chairman
David Stewart, Supervisor
Debra Cornman, Secretary/Treasurer
Greg McKelvey – Zoning Officer - Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Josh Starr, West Hills Emergency Services – A statement was read and is attached. Requested for financial assistance in a tax increase of 1 mill designated for the voluntary fire company.

Gracie Elosser – Resident of Glade Run Road – Has the township receive any information about the study for the intersection of State Route 422 and Glade Run Road? We talked with the farm bureau and would prefer a traffic light.

Barry Peters, Chairman – I will call Mr. Thomaswick at PENNDOT if he knows of any progress made from Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC).

Donna Scholl & Devin Wolfe, Residents – Has the township set a water tap-in fee for T. Claypool Road?

Barry Peters, Chairman – A \$5,000.00 tap-in fee has been discussed. The water authority will be sending a letter soon with the information.

Chris Evans, Resident – The Township Police Officer painted lines by the church but has never sat there yet. Can we get him to patrol the area? And is it true the township is hiring a part-time police officer.

Barry Peters, Chairman – The township is not hiring a part-time officer at this time.

APPROVALS:

MINUTES:

Motion made by David Stewart and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve minutes for regular meeting held on July 28, 2022. Motion approved unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 25, 2022

APPROVALS (CONTINUED):

APPROVE BILLS AND INVOICES:

Motion made by Barry Peters and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve paying all bills and invoices for July 29 through August 25, 2022. Motion approved unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Total reportable calls – 31.

Motion made by David Stewart and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve the Police Report for July 29 through August 25, 2022. Motion approved unanimously.

ROAD MASTER REPORT:

David Stewart, Supervisor – Spent three weeks working on Briar Hill Road installing drains. Had employees on vacation the last week and finished up with mowing.

Motion made by Barry Peters and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve the Road Master Report for July 29 through August 25, 2022. Motion approved unanimously.

ZONING OFFICER REPORT:

See Attached:

Motion made by Barry Peters and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve Zoning Officer Report for July 29 through August 25, 2022. Motion Approved unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Motion made by David Stewart and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve subdivision for Montebell #3. Motion approved unanimously.

SEWAGE REPORT:

See Attached:

Motion made by Barry Peters and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve the Sewage Report for July 29 through August 25, 2022. Motion approved unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 25, 2022

APPROVALS (CONTINUED):

INSURANCE:

Motion made by David Stewart and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve C.W. Howard Insurance Agency, Inc. as our agent. (Insurer – Selective Insurance Co.) (Policy Term – 9/1/22-9/1/23) for Commercial Property, Inland Marine, General Liability, Police Professional Liability, PA Public Law, Public Officials, Automobile, Umbrella sub-total annual premium \$46,639.00 and Workers Compensation sub-total annual premium \$12,898.00. Motion approved unanimously.

INSURANCE	Selective/ Selective W/C Insurance
General: Property, GL, Police Liab., Police Prof., Public Law, Public Officials, Automobile	\$46,639.00
Workers Comp – Township	\$12,898.00
TOTAL	\$59,537.00

INSURANCE (WORKERS' COMP. INS. – VOL. FIRE COMPANY):

Motion made by David Stewart and seconded by Barry Peters to approve C.W. Howard Insurance Agency, Inc. for the Volunteer Fire Department – Workers Compensation premium \$13,242.00 through the State Workers' Insurance Fund. Total increase of \$1,999.00.00 for the year 2022-23. Motion approved unanimously.

SEWAGE RATE SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Motion made by Barry Peters and seconded by Dan Goldinger to approve Sewage Rate Schedule changes as of August 25, 2022. Motion approved unanimously.

Changes	January 28, 2021	August 25, 2022
Reconnect Water Fee	\$55.00	\$60.00
Shut-off Water Letter	\$10.00	\$20.00
Tap-In Fee	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00

REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 25, 2022

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Dan Goldinger and seconded by Barry Peters to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Debra L. Cornman, Secretary/Treasurer

Good evening, everyone. My name is Joshua Starr. I'm the treasurer for West Hills Emergency Services. I'm here with our president Steve Arblaster and Fire Chief Matt Kutch. We're here to discuss the condition of the fire station we've called home since 1952. The building is in overall poor condition. The dirt crawlspace holds standing water, there are multiple roof leaks, and a number of other items that have been limped along over the years. Because of its condition, we are unable to rent the hall as we have done in the past or hold fundraisers in our own building. Our insurance company has suggested that only members be allowed inside the building because they are covered by the township's workers comp insurance. The building was described by a contractor to be beyond its useful life. We've also outgrown this building in a sense with respect to the size of modern day emergency vehicles. The location of the building itself presents a unique hazard. Operators of the fire apparatus have to back across two lanes of traffic on Route 268 while aligning a 8-9 foot wide truck through a 10 foot wide door.

Since 2018, we have had off and on discussions with the township supervisors regarding the condition of our building and the request for financial assistance towards the construction of a new building. These meetings over the past 5 years have been off the record so to speak. That is the reason we are here this evening. To formally make a request, have it reflected in their meeting minutes, and make the public aware of our intentions.

When we first approached the supervisors looking for financial assistance we were told once the new township building was paid for, they could possibly channel some of those funds towards a new building for us. We have fulfilled all request by the supervisors such as having a rough plan of the building drafted and meeting with a builder to get an idea of the cost associated with the project.

We are not looking for these funds to come out of the general fund of the township. From the beginning, we've requested that a particular millage be added to the real estate tax on the

residents of East Franklin Township. These additional funds once collected would be passed on to the fire department. This millage figure could be reevaluated once the building was paid for.

According to township and borough code, elected municipal officials are responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within a municipality by the means and to the extent determined by the municipality, including the appropriate financial and administrative assistance for these services. Our fire department averages \$95,000 a year in expenses. The township's contribution to our fire department from 1998-2018 was \$21,000, annually. This was increased to \$23,500 in 2019. Other local fire departments are receiving 1-2 mills from their municipality. By comparison, we are receiving a little over a ¼ of a mill. We've been informed by older members of our department that \$21,000, at one time, was one mill of tax in the township. As assessment values have increased over the years, the figure we receive has remained stagnant.

Kittanning Borough now distributes \$75,000 split equally between the three borough fire departments according to a recent article in the Leader Times. After speaking to members of other fire departments, Manor Township VFD receives 1 mill equaling \$58,000, Ford City VFD receives 1.5-2 mills equating to \$25,000 - \$30,000 and Kiski Township contributes \$35,000 annually to their fire department. 1 mill from East Franklin Township would generate a little over \$84,000 for our fire department and cost a parcel owner approximately \$35 more a year on average.

Our fire department has remained self-sufficient since it was chartered 70 years ago. We have never had a mortgage and everything we've acquired has been through fundraising and saving. The construction of a new fire station is simply out of reach while we continuing to upgrade and maintain our trucks and the equipment they carry.

East Franklin Township Supervisors Meeting
Zoning Report / August 2022
August 25, 2022

Township permits issued since the July meeting:

- Anastasia Dombroski, 121 Brice Road, Kittanning, above ground swimming pool.
- Roger Freehling, 2156 Bowser Drive, New modular home construction on family farm.
- Bradley Myers, 749 Butler Road, Kittanning, 24' X 40' garage accessory structure.

The Planning Commission met August 22 and reviewed the above permits. Additionally, the Commission reviewed a subdivision plan for Donald V. & Monica Montebell conveying three separate lots totaling 2.24A. Upon review the Commission recommends the Supervisors approve the subdivision as presented.

At the August 17 Zoning Hearing Board, the Board ruling denied the variance request of Robert A. Shaffer, 177 Pleasant View Drive, Kittanning.

Greg McKelvey
Zoning Officer

East Franklin Township
Sewage Report
August 2022
Report by David Stewart

There was a one call at Fox Hollow.

Lab samples were collected for the month of August and transported to CWM. Two additional lab samples were done at each plant, per DEP yearly requirements. DMR reports for the month of July 2022 were submitted to DEP.