

**TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2020**

IN ATTENDANCE – Deputy Mayor Joseph W. Barton, Committeewoman Nancy K. McGinnis, Committeeman Samuel R. Moore, Committeeman Robert C. Sunbury and Mayor Kimberly A. Brown.

PROFESSIONALS IN ATTENDANCE: Solicitor Peter C. Lange, Special Counsel William R. Burns, Township Administrator Douglas Cramer and Municipal Clerk La Shawn R. Barber.

Litigation Matter: Fran Brooks V. Township of Tabernacle (Bur-L-002065-19)

Mr. Lange stated that he has a conflict that happened unexpectedly and appreciates the Township Committee transferring representation to Mr. Burns.

Mr. Lange advised that there have been several postponements and the Plaintiff has filed a motion for discovery. Mr. Lange said that the Township filed an answer that did admit many of the facts; however, he made no admission with respect to the allegations concerning a violation(s) of the OPMA. Mr. Lange and Mr. Burns indicated that they both individually attempted to resolve the litigation without necessitating additional costs and protracted litigation; however, Ms. Brooks insisted on discovery.

Mr. Burns stated that he and Mr. Lange are on the same page; however, the court was on a slightly different page with respect to what the pleadings actually meant and he (Mr. Burns) made it clear to the courts that Mr. Lange did not admit to any violation under the OPMA on behalf of the Township, only facts were admitted.

At this time, Mr. Burns discussed the status of the litigation, his strategy and summarized the pleadings and the facts surrounding the allegations.

Mr. Burns again stated that the Township is interested in resolving the matter without costing taxpayers more money; however, Ms. Brooks wants full discovery including depositions amounting to an open-ended extremely costly fishing expedition.

Mr. Burns said that he will file a motion of Opposition to Discovery and is considering a motion for Summary Judgment. Mr. Burns and the Committee discussed the ongoing litigation, strategy and next steps.

Members of the Township Committee returned to regular session at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

La Shawn R. Barber

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: 6/15/2020

RELEASED: 12/17/2020

RELEASED