

January 7, 2021
Annual Reorganization Meeting

Clerk called the annual reorganization meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee to order at 7:30 pm as advertised, meeting was held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Meeting conducted telephonically due to current health crisis. Teleconference information provided to public via advertised legal notice, on municipal website and posted on entrance doors of municipal building.

Members participating via teleconference: Bowman, Miletta, Sheppard and Solicitor Seeley. Following roll call, pledge of allegiance conducted.

Solicitor Seeley congratulated Mr. Bowman on his re-election and questioned the number of years served. Mr. Bowman replied 41. Mr. Seeley stated what a tribute to be chosen to serve for so many years. Solicitor Seeley administered the oath of office to Committeeman re-elect Elmer "Skip" Bowman for a three-year term. Solicitor Seeley then opened the floor for nomination for the position of Mayor. Mr. Sheppard was chosen to fill the position as motioned Mr. Bowman, seconded Mr. Miletta, approved unanimous vote. Mr. Miletta will serve as Deputy Mayor as motioned by Mr. Bowman, seconded Mayor Sheppard, again, approved by a unanimous vote.

Resolutions 2021-1 through 2021-7 being routine in nature, non-controversial matters were presented on a consent agenda which could be approved in one action:

2021-1 Establish Meeting Dates and Times

2021-2 Establish Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes

2021-3 Designate Official Newspapers

2021-4 Designate Official Depositories

2021-5 Establish Purchasing Procedures

2021-6 Authorize the Tax Collector to Conduct a Tax Lien Sale

2021-7 Authorization for the Tax Collector to Cancel any Delinquency or Overpayment Under \$10.00

Resolutions 1-7 were approved, motioned Bowman. Seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-8. Adopt Temporary Budget, 26.25% of 2020 Appropriations, amount of \$380,038.75 approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Professional Services Contract, one year, for Municipal Auditing Services awarded to Bowman and Company, cost not to exceed \$30,500 motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote, Resolution 2021-9.

Resolution 2021-10, Authorizing Award of Professional Services Contract for Legal Services to Thomas Seeley, Seely Law office, one year period, based on fee schedule, approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Professional Service Contract for Insurance Carrier Services Awarded to Colson & Gosweiler, for a one year period, Service Fee \$6,200 plus premium, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Resolution 2021-11

Fralinger Engineering PA will provide Municipal Engineering Services for a three-year period, Cost as per fee schedule, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Statutory Appointments made, Resolution 2021-13, approved motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Annual Agreement with the Cumberland Development Corporation for Economic Development and Business Retention Consulting Services, annual fee \$6,283.00 approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote. Committeeman Bowman will remain the regular voting member as he has since the CDC began, and Mayor Sheppard will be designated the alternate voting member, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

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Committee Comments:

Mayor Sheppard congratulated Committeeman Bowman on his re-election. Solicitor Seeley stated that he hoped all were doing well and staying healthy. Mr. Miletta wished everyone a Happy new Year. Solicitor Seeley stated that it will be good to see each other when meetings can be held live as opposed to remote. All agreed.

Floor opened for public comment- no public participation. With no further business to discuss meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

January 11, 2021
Regular Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Meeting held telephonically, information for public participation advertised, posted on website and entrance doors to Municipal Building.

Members participating via teleconference: Bowman, Miletta, Sheppard, and Solicitor Seeley.

Following the pledge of allegiance, minutes of the December 10th, 14th and 30th meetings approved motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Reports for the month of December accepted, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-14, Authorization for the Township of Lawrence to enter into an inter-local Services Agreement with Upper Deerfield Township for Zoning/Code Enforcement Services approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote, cost 8,772.00.

Resolution 2021-15, 2020 necessary Budget Transfers approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-16, Confirming August Land Sales and authorizing Mayor Sheppard to execute necessary deeds approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

2020 Tax Overpayment applied to 2021, block 240 lot 9 as motioned by Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote, Resolution 2021-17.

Resignation received from Mary Jane Lake, CFO received with regrets motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Mayor Sheppard and Committee members thanked her for her years of service. Ms. Lake is willing to stay on through the first quarter. Ad will be placed to fill the position.

Payment of approved vouchers authorized, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Committee Comments: Mayor Sheppard advised that he was notified by a resident that two of her family members received notice from the Board of Elections that their ballots for the general election in November were rejected. Clerk contacted Board of Elections and was advised that the voters completed their name and address on return envelope (transported by)as opposed to the person, bearer, delivering the ballot. Mayor Sheppard was troubled that the ballots would be rejected as they were hand delivered to the board of elections, and he felt the voters should have been given the opportunity to correct them. As per Mayor Sheppard's request the clerk gathered the following information : there were 2960 ballots mailed to registered voters (as per County Clerks Office) 1505 Ballots were returned,

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23 rejected and 1482 were accepted (as per Board of Elections). Mayor Sheppard questioned that 2960 mailed is a high number based on total population as per 2010 census of only 3,300. Need to look at population based on new census. Mr. Bowman questioned how many ballots may have been returned if addressed to a PO box, as was the issue with Census forms. Mr. Miletta questioned why ballots were rejected. Clerk was told either due to error in completing the ballot or signature not matching. Mr. Miletta questioned who could determine if signature was good? Committee questioned if voter registration lists are maintained up to date with deceased residents and people moving in and out of the Township. Clerk advised that List of deceased residents is filed with the Board of Election on a regular basis. Mayor Sheppard stated that residents want to vote in person on a machine and then they are confident that their vote counts.

Committeeman Bowman advised that the demolition is completed on 135 Maple Ave., all debris removed and the property is ready to be sold. Mayor Sheppard stated that committee had talked about selling old Public Works Garage and questioned if it could be listed with a realtor. Deputy Mayor Miletta suggested that a big sign be placed in front, notice of March land sale and also on Gov Deals. Further consideration regarding land sale will be given at the February workshop meeting.

Floor opened for public comment. Receiving none, meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk