

May 7, 2020
Workshop Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Due to Covid-19 crisis, public access prohibited in Municipal Building, therefore the meeting was conducted via teleconference. The public was invited to participate as advertised and noted on Township Web-Site. Members present, Sheppard, Miletta. Participating remotely: Bowman and Solicitor Seeley.

Brief discussion held regarding completion of Redevelopment Plan and Master Plan Re-examination. Dakota- Cedarville Solar, LLC is no longer interested in moving forward with their project. Solicitor Seeley negotiated and Dakota agreed to pay a \$5,000 termination fee. Termination agreement reviewed and approved motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote. Planner Tiffany Morrissey will be instructed to proceed as planned motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Mayor Sheppard stated that any meetings required shall be held off until meetings can be live and not remotely which might deter public participation.

Consideration given as to what roads might be submitted for NJDOT 2021 Municipal Aid Program. Committee members agreed on Thompson and newly created connector Road as priority. Discussion held as to bundling shorter roads in the DeCarlo Tracts. Clerk will contact engineer Stephen Nardelli to determine if shorter roads must be contiguous to qualify.

Discussion held regarding Governors Executive Order 130 that gives Municipalities the option to extend grace period on 2nd quarter tax installment to June 1st. Unfortunately, there was no provision in the order to extend the due date for county and school taxes, therefore for Lawrence and most other towns, granting the extension is not an option. Motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote that no extension be granted.

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

Land sale offers reviewed. Residents at block 6 lot 17 submitted a written offer of \$1,000 each for lots 15 and 16. A review of the tax map indicated the lots were located on an improved roadway. Following discussion, committee determined a minimum bid for same would be \$2,000 per lot. A second offer was received from residents at block 175 lot 5, offer of 1,000 each for lots 10, 11 and 12. A review of tax map determined that the Township also owns lot 9. The committee agreed that they would not be interested in breaking up a buildable lot. Also taken into consideration was the location Monroe Street, which is scheduled to be paved. It was determined that a minimum bid of \$12,000 Would be considered for the one acre buildable lot. The Clerk will correspond with both property owners to determine if they are still interested.

A draft resolution received from Hopewell Township regarding aerial line high speed internet accessibility reviewed. Hopewell is looking for support from all public entities and State officials. Lack of internet service has always been an issue for rural areas but with the current pandemic, it's a real hardship that can prevent children from doing school work and residents performing their jobs remotely. Committee supports, resolution will be prepared for action at the regular monthly meeting.

Mayor Sheppard officially acknowledged that the annual Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled. Clerk will have notice posted on Township Website. Also confirmed by Deputy Mayor Miletta, the Fire Co. Anniversary /Housing parade has been postponed until the fall.

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

May 11, 2020
Regular Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was conducted via teleconference. Public invited to participate as advertised, noted on the Township website and posted on Municipal Building front door. Members present: Sheppard, Miletta. Bowman, Solicitor Seeley and Auditor Fred Caltabiano participated via teleconference.

Following the pledge of allegiance, minutes of the April 9th and 13th meetings approved, unanimous vote as motioned by Bowman, seconded Miletta. Reports for the month of April accepted, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Public hearing opened as advertised, Ordinance No 2020-418, Amending Ordinance No 2011-361 Authorizing Participation in the Joint Municipal Court Known as the Cumberland-Salem Regional Municipal Court, Amending Ordinance No. 2015-387 Authorizing Downe Township to Join CS Regional Municipal Court and Authorizing an Amendment to the Agreement for the Operation of A Joint Municipal Court Between the Township of Deerfield, Township of Downe, Township of Greenwich, Township of Hopewell. Township of Lawrence, Township of Pittsgrove, Borough of Shiloh, Township of Stow Creek and Township of Upper Deerfield. Clerk explained that the amendment is to allow Commercial Township to join. Receiving no public comments or questions, hearing closed and the Ordinance finally adopted motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

A second public hearing was held, Ordinance No. 2020-419. Calendar Year 2020 Model ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank. Hearing opened, no public comments or concerns received. Hearing closed and adopted, motion made by Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-35, Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-36, For Local Examination of the 2020 Municipal Budget approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-37 Read Budget by title only at the time of the public hearing approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Public hearing opened as advertised 2020 Municipal Budget. Auditor Fred Caltabiano provided a detailed presentation. Estimated tax bill breakdown, 18.28% local/Township Committee and 81.72% County /School. Assessments have slightly declined, with the collection rate holding steady. A five year schedule of revenues indicates an increase in State Aid, an additional 34,088.00 for Garden State Preservation Trust Fund. The local rate increases over a period of 10 years amounts to \$376.00, average or \$37.60 per year for the average assessed home of 170,000. Over a nine year period, county and school combined amounted to an increase of \$962.00, average of \$106.89 per year. The 2020 Budget calls for a one cent increase, or 17.00 annually to the average assessed home. Mr. Caltabiano opened for questions and comments. Mr. Bowman stated that the first graph, Tax bill break down needs to be reviewed by resident tax payers. Mr. Miletta agreed and stated that people just don't get it, majority of taxes are collected for school and county. Committee agreed that a flyer will be prepared and mailed with tax bills for tax payers review. Receiving no public questions, comments or concerns, hearing closed and budget adopted motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-38, Directing the Tax Collector to prepare and issue estimated 3rd quarter tax installment , based on 102.50% of the 2019 levy, approved motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-39, Premium Bid surrender to Treasurer, Tax sale certificates foreclosed, block 11 lot 1 and block 119 lot 2.06 approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-40, Requesting support from other public entities and State and County Officials for aerial line high speed internet accessibility approved motioned Bowman seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Lack of service has been an issue for years, but with the current pandemic, lack of service is hindering educational opportunities for students and prohibiting residents from working remotely.

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

Land sale offers reviewed. A offer of \$1000 per lot for block 175 lots 10, 11 and 12 received from owner of lot 5. A review of tax map indicates the Township is also the owner of lot 9. The four lots combined would be buildable and has access to Monroe Street which is scheduled for paving. Committee would consider an offer of 12,000 for the buildable lot. A second offer received from owner of block 6 lot 17, \$1,000 for adjacent lots 15 and 16. These lots are located on Wilson Ave. which is a paved road. Committee agreed to consider \$2,000 per quarter acre lot. Clerk will correspond to determine if either party is interested in pursuing.

Floor opened for public comment. Receiving no public input, meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.