

Meeting called to order as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Members present: Sheppard, Miletta, Bowman.

Millicent Davis, KMD Business Consultants met with the Committee to discuss Historical Society/ Agriculture Museum project. Ms. Davis agreed to assist providing Qualified Purchasing Agent services to procure the building which would be constructed in house. The Township will act as contractor to finish the interior, electric, HVAC, etc. Material lists, specs, will be provided to Ms. Davis once completed by Architect. Ms. Davis will forward proposal for committee review.

Nancy Pizzo, Senior Center Activities Director requested (written) permission to open the Senior Center for just a few hours on Monday Afternoons, with seniors wearing masks and all social distancing procedures in place. The Center has been closed since mid-March due to the current pandemic. Nancy meets the seniors in the parking lot on Monday afternoons to distribute lunches for the week supplied by the County nutrition program, and would like to give her seniors an opportunity to socialize. Mr. Bowman suggested that she delay opening until the County provides some guidance for reopening. Mayor Sheppard and Mr. Miletta agreed. It was also agreed that it would be best to delay opening of Municipal Offices at this time.

Correspondence received from Michael Poloff regarding his desire to purchase Township property to incorporate with his recently purchased property at 8 East Ave, to clean up his back -property line reviewed. A subdivision/lot line change would be required. The property in question is part of the old Public Works Garage. Committee estimates cost of subdivision to be approximately \$10,000 which would not be feasible for the small amount of land involved. Deputy Mayor Miletta suggested that the Township offer to sell the entire parcel, garage and all. Mayor Sheppard and Mr. Bowman agreed to offer same at public auction for the right price. Clerk will reach out to Mr. Poloff to see if he would be interested.

Revised proposal received from Barreiro Architecture for services for Historical Society / Agriculture Museum project reviewed. Increase of \$500.00 to convert all plans/drawings from steel to wood pole structure. Proposal accepted, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

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

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

September 14, 2020
Regular Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Members present: Sheppard, Miletta, Bowman.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, minutes of the August 6, 10 and 21 meetings approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Reports for the month August accepted motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Lease agreement between the Bridgeton Onized Federal Credit Union and the Township for 339 Main Street, five year term September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2025 approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Change Order #1 for Lummistown Road Section III – reduction of 4,417.01 due to as built quantities known, approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-50, Authorize refund of tax overpayment, block 194 lot 1 to US Bank National Assoc., due to overbill authorized, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-51, Certification the Governing Body has reviewed the 2019 Annual Audit, specifically the section entitled “ Findings and Recommendations” approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote. Mayor Sheppard announced that the audit was good, no findings or recommendations.

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

Mr. Bowman questioned when the Monroe Street paving project would begin. Clerk advised that bid opening was scheduled for the following week. He also questioned status of abandoned house on Maple Ave. Final judgement has been received. Mr. Bowman suggested that CCIA be contacted to see if funds are available for free tipping fees through the Derelict Housing Program. Neighbors are concerned about rats. Mayor Sheppard stated that the Public Works employees should be instructed to mow, clean up then treat the property for rats. Quotes may be received for demolition pending availability of funds closer to year end.

Floor opened for public comment. Linda Gentile representing Shore Animal Control introduced herself and wanted to make committee aware of services provided by Shore. They have 4 vehicles approved by 2 health departments. 10 animal control officers, 3 located in Cumberland County- they have the personnel and equipment to respond in a timely manner and are fully insured. Through their non- profit, Shore Animal Aid, they raise funds to assist municipalities with cost of cruelty holds and medical care for injured animals which costs would be the responsibility of the Township. Any leftover donations are provided to TNR programs. This is done through their Face Book page, where they have over 17,000 followers. Mayor Sheppard advised that contract was awarded for ACO services. Ronald Sutton was given 30 day notice of termination and as an interlocal services agreement could not be entered into, Animal Control of South Jersey will be providing services beginning Oct 1st. Ms. Gentile stated that new contract does not follow state regulations as it makes no reference to stray cats. Clerk confirmed that cats would be serviced, contract to be reviewed and amended for any error. Ms. Gentile questioned if Mr. Serwatka, Animal Control of SJ had provided proof of worker comp insurance. Mayor Sheppard replied that it has to be provided by Oct. 1st. Ms. Gentile stated that he is a one -man band and does not have the personnel or proper vehicles to provide good service. She stated that one of his vehicles has never been inspected and therefore can not be put in service. Mayor Sheppard stated that the references checked had only favorable responses regarding services provided. Animal Control of SJ was the low bidder, with services being provided 24/7, which is what the residents wanted. His proposal was the only one that did not charge for after hour calls. Ms. Gentile still requested committee reconsider due to her concerns regarding response time. Mayor Sheppard replied that the decision was made and will stand at least until the end of the year. Committee may in its discretion extend the contract for one year if they are satisfied with services. If not, proposals will be received end of year.

Mr. Lester Woody approached the committee with request that heater for commodities building be hooked up. Ball dropped with warm weather. Job previously awarded to Sieri Mechanical, clerk will call to get work scheduled. Mayor Sheppard thanked Mr. Woody and his team for their dedication and work with commodities program. Mr. Bowman stated that the number of people participating has really increased.

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Resident Robin Bundy spoke regarding animal control. She stated that the public should have had more input on proposals prior to committee taking action. She advised that Serwatka had an animal wild life refuge which was taken away from him. Residents want Shore Animal Control, why won't committee give them a chance? Mayor Sheppard replied that Shore submitted proposal which was higher. Ms. Bundy replied that the animals will be getting short changed as this guy (Serwatka) runs a shelter during the day and cannot respond promptly. She stated that Shore assisted Fairfield and Commercial Townships with their TNR programs. They have weeded out the breeders and fighters which she is concerned will move into Lawrence Township without good animal control. Mr. Miletta stated that no matter who the Township awarded to, they (group supporting Shore) would not be happy. He stated that she wanted Ron gone and now that he is she is not happy with the new guy. Mr. Miletta again read for the record that the police officer that shot the dog (June 8 incident) and Ron Sutton did not violate any operating procedures or rules as determined by the Office of the Attorney General. Mr. Lester Woody stated that he had good service from Ron through out the years. Again, Mayor Sheppard stated that the position was filled for the next 3 months. If it works out, the Township will have the option to extend for the next year. If not, proposals will be accepted. He also stated that the County (Cumberland) is getting a program together to inspect ACO vehicles. Ms. Bundy stated that she will be retiring soon and plans to become more involved. The Township need a good TNR program.

Ms. Bundy also advised that there is a huge pot hole on Shaws Mill Rd. Clerk will forward to public works. Clerk questioned Ms. Bundy if motorcycle issue reported prior month, had calmed down. Patrols had been requested by both the State Police and the Sheriff's Dept. She stated that it had. Committeeman Bowman agreed and said that the Sheriff's Dept. has provided a heavy presence in town. Motorcycle activity on his road has also stopped.

Lori Pace, resident of Fairfield Twp appeared before the committee. Ms. Pace advised that she has been running with Fairfield Ambulance for 21 years, which provides mutual aid to/with Lawrence Twp. She was present to attest to the quality of service provided by Shore Animal Control. Everybody has animal problems, she stated. Shore provides Fairfield with excellent service. They always answer their calls, and respond promptly. Shore also has many regular citizens like herself that help.

With no additional public comments, floor closed motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Mayor Sheppard provided committee members with architect drawings/specifications for Historical Society Building, which were reviewed page by page. Minor revisions will again be made. Proposal received from Millicent Davis, KMD Business Consultants to provide QPA services for this project at \$75.00 per hour approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman unanimous vote. Mr. Miletta suggested moving forward as quickly as possible as the cost of construction materials is escalating rapidly due to anticipated new construction out west due to fires.

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk