

The regular monthly workshop meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee called to order as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mr. Jeff Bishop who is currently under contract to purchase Lummis Lake appeared before the committee hoping to persuade them to agree to accept responsibility for Lummis Lake Dam. Mr. Bishop had previously provided a copy of a deed dated 9/27/82, where the Township had purchased an easement on the property in question, block 155 lot 29, to complete a road project. The easement included a paragraph that stated the Township would be responsible for any damage or interference with the water control device owned by Margaret C. Mathes. Solicitor Seeley previously reviewed the easement and determined that the easement in question is not a perpetual easement which runs with the land. The Townships responsibility would end upon Mrs. Mathes death, or transfer of the property. Mr. Bishop's desire is to purchase the property and build a new home, but has concerns regarding the dam. He questioned if the Township would assist in having an inspection report done and bringing it up to code. Mr. Sheppard stated that under the Dam Safety Act any owner is responsible. The Township will maintain the road but not the dam. Mr. Miletta stated that the Stewart Estate gave the Township Cedarville lake, but the agreement states that if the Township does not maintain it properly, it goes back to the estate. Mayor Bowman stated that other towns and dam owners have had issues and drained the lakes, such as Bostwick and Seeley Lakes. Mr. Sheppard stated that before they can be drained, fish have to be relocated. Mr. Sheppard suggested that Mr. Bishop subdivide the property and donate the lake to the Nature Conservancy. Discussion ended, all wished Mr. Bishop well.

Public Works Supervisor, George Ripper was present and provided update on his department's activities. They have an issue with a collapsed drainage pipe on Franklin Street, at Main Street intersection, between 6 Franklin and 310 Main. Clerk instructed to look for easement. Discussion held regarding tree debris in DeCarlo Tracts due to March storm. Clerk advised that other towns are picking up debris residents collect and pile near the roadway. Mr. Ripper suggested we do the same, Committee approved. Public Works employees are installing air lines and painting interior at new building. Quotes will be gathered for installation of a septic system.

Quotes for installation of street light at gravel drive at Senior Center reviewed. Mayor instructed clerk to contact Atlantic Electric to determine wattage of other fixtures in that area.

Copy of Cedar Lake Dam inspection report prepared by ARH Associates and provided by County Engineer John Knoop presented for committee review. Detail review will be given and a meeting set with Mr. Knoop to determine what assistance the County may provide in regard to maintenance issues.

Shelby Sheppard, 441 Lummistown Road contacted clerk with request for installation of no passing zone signs in her neighborhood. Request granted, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

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

Solicitor Seeley advised that he was able to make contact with owners of block 157 lots 68 and 69 which the Township has interest in acquiring as it has been used as a roadway for many years. He has negotiated and they have agreed to sell, purchase price of \$2,500.00, which pleased the committee. Mr. Seeley will prepare ordinance to be introduced at the regular monthly meeting and contract of sale for same.

Tony Stanzione, executive Director of the Cumberland Development Corp., submitted a request for a list of properties to be included on the new Cumberland Grows website which will include a section highlighting developable properties for economic and community development. Information on two locations will be provided: Block 199 lot 24 and 34, 393 Main Street (Former Plastics Manufacturing) and Block 195 Lot 17, 345 Main Street (vacant former hardware store).

Mayor Bowman advised that he was approached by members of the Fire Co., who requested the Township provide employee for cleaning services at Fire House a twice a month. Mr. Miletta stated that they have no payroll. With no money budgeted for additional salary, no additional consideration given. It was suggested that they could possibly use a cleaning service which would not require a payroll check.

Mr. Miletta advised that due to collapsed irrigation pipe on North Ave. the road will be closed for a brief period of time on Friday (May 11th) morning. The work will be done by David Gates Excavation for Filemon Carrasco. Mr. Miletta had inquired about the need for a road opening permit and determined it was not required. He also instructed Mr. Gates to wait for the last morning school bus before he begins. Job should be completed within a couple of hours.

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

Monday May 14, 2018
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: Bowman, Sheppard, Miletta.

Following the flag salute, minutes of the April 5th and 9th meetings were approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Reports for the month of April accepted, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Public hearing, Ordinance No. 2018-407, Calendar Year 2018 Model Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank, opened motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta. Receiving no public input, hearing closed motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, and finally adopted motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Self-Examination Budget Resolution, No. 2018-31, Certification that the Township of Lawrence is eligible for self- examination, and all statutory requirements have been fulfilled, approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2018-32, Provides that the budget may be read by title only at the time of the public hearing approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Public hearing opened as advertised for 2018 municipal budget. Auditor Fred Caltabiano provided a detailed presentation. A multi-year schedule of revenues, major appropriations, local tax rate, etc. was provided. The 2018 budget calls for a 0.021 tax rate increase which amounts to 36.00 increase in the average house, assessed value of 169,898. Discussed was the decline in outside liens sold at tax sale on residential properties, which reduces percentage of collection and delinquent tax revenue. Consideration will be given for on line tax sales. Hearing closed and budget adopted, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Committee thanked Mr. Caltabiano for his presentation.

Resolution 2018-33, Authorizing refund of duplicate second quarter tax installments to Corelogic Tax Service approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Lawrence Township EMS granted permission to conduct a coin drop at the intersection of Main (553) and Maple (610) August 19th, 6am-2pm, Resolution 2018-34, approved motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta. Approval contingent upon County Freeholder and State Police approval.

Continued

Resolution 2018-35, Authorization to purchase property, block 157 lots 68 and 69 approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

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

Proposal received from Fralinger Engineering for Survey, Design and preparation of bidding documents in the amount of \$38,000 for the Reconstruction of North Avenue accepted, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Mr. Miletta stated that Gates Excavating did a great job replacing irrigation pipe on North Avenue, and the road was not closed for long.

Mr. Sheppard questioned when new fire truck would be delivered. Mr. Miletta stated anticipated date June 16th. Mr. Sheppard questioned date of BAN sale for same. Clerk advised that CFO has started the process and any required action would take place at the June meeting.

Mr. Bowman stated that he is getting quotes from Crop Protection Services for herbicides for Public Works. Also, storage shed will be relocated to new building site and dedicated to storage of chemicals.

Brief discussion held regarding preparation of specs for addition to Public Works Facility, Phase 2.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:25, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk