

Meeting called to order as advertised and held in accordance with the open public meetings act.
Members present: Sheppard, Miletta, Bowman.

Preliminary plan prepared by Engineer Stephen Nardelli for proposed Thompson – Monroe connector street reviewed (block 157 lot 68 & 69). George Ripper, Supervisor of Public Works was present and disagreed with the location of existing roadway on the plot. Mr. Ripper will inspect the site to determine if pins were set. Committee agreed that if a sliver of lot 70 could be combined with lots 68 and 69, the turn could be made gradual as opposed to engineer's sharp turns. Solicitor Seeley authorized to contact the owner and negotiate for acquisition motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Correspondence received from Josh Finnical, Cumberland County 2A Advocate/NJ2A Sanctuary reviewed. Mr. Finnical is requesting that the Township Committee consider adopting a resolution declaring Lawrence Township a sanctuary for 2nd amendment rights. Clerk provided numerous letters received from residents in support of the resolution, which will be prepared for further consideration of adoption at the regular meeting.

Correspondence from Luke Villani, Citizens United for the Maurice River reviewed. Mr. Villani is looking for volunteers to assist with their new Ghost Crab Trap Retrieval Program, removal of abandoned crab traps from waters in an effort to reduce the mortality rate of animals native to the Delaware Bayshore waters. Mayor Sheppard suggested that notice be posted on municipal bulletin board.

Draft Ordinance received from NJ Environmental Commissions, an Ordinance reducing single use plastics reviewed, committee agreed matter would be best dealt with by legislators. A request to participate in Fairfield Township study to implement a e-government system reviewed with no interest by committee to participate.

Resolution prepared by Planning/Zoning Board Solicitor limiting and managing public comment at meetings, previously adopted by the planning board reviewed and will be further considered for adoption by the Township Committee at the regular meeting on February 10th.

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

Regular meeting closed for executive session to discuss matters of personnel with no action to follow at 8:40 pm, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Executive session

Executive session closed and the regular meeting reopened at 9:20 pm, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta unanimous vote. With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

February 10, 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

Continued

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, January 9th, 13th and 23 minutes approved motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Reports for the month of December accepted, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Sheriff's Officer Craig Johnson was present and advised that the annual "get hooked on fishing, not drugs" fishing derby for children 12 years of age and under will be held on May 16th beginning at 9:00 to noon with Community Day event to follow. There will be no rain date for derby as Officer Johnson explained that all supplies are donated and perishable. Any food items left over are donated to recreation. He advised that each child participating will get a free hot dog and drink. Last year 130 kids participated. The Sheriff's Department will also participate in Community Day events sponsoring various stations and activities. Mr. Johnson will return to provide update at March 9th meeting. Officer Johnson's request to conduct derby at lake approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-18 Authorizing Inter-Local Services Agreement with Deerfield Township for Zoning/Code Enforcement Services approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

The Lawrence Township Parade and Events Committee authorized to conduct a Memorial Day Parade approved pending County approval motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Grace period for dog licensing extended to March 30, 2020, licensing fees remain \$10.00/Spayed, Neutered and 13.00, Resolution 2020-20 approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-21, Authorizing Tax Collector to issue check in the amount of \$4,300.00, premium bis, tax sale certificate 14-00058 not redeemed within five years approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-22, Cancel unexpended dedicated balance, General Capital Improvement Authorization, Ordinance # 2019-414 Agriculture Museum/Addition to Senior Center, \$12,500 approved motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-23, Constitute 2020 Capital Budget by Inserting the Construction of a Historical Society Building, estimated cost \$250,000, \$12,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund and Debt Authorized in the amount of \$237,500, approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Cedarville Vol. Fire Dept authorized to conduct a parade on May 9, 2020 in celebration of their 100th anniversary and housing of new pumper truck, Resolution 2019-24, approved motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Ordinance 2020-416, Bond Ordinance Providing for the Construction of a Historical Society Building, Appropriation \$250,000 Therefor and Authorizing \$237,500 in Bonds or Notes approved on first reading, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Further consideration of final adoption will take place following a public hearing to be held at the regular meeting of March 9.

An Ordinance Establishing the Salaries and Wages for the Employees and Officers of the Township of Lawrence, Ordinance No. 2019-417, approved on first reading motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote. Again, further consideration will be given following a public hearing to be held at the March 9th meeting.

Certificate of Determination and award presented in accordance with the local bond law, \$699,000 Principal, interest rate 2% maturing 2/5/2021, accepted, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

There were a number of residents in attendance in support of Resolution 2020-25, A Resolution Declaring Lawrence Township a Second Amendment Township. Mayor Sheppard opened the floor for public comment on the resolution. John Tisa appeared as spokesman for the group. Mr. Tisa advised that the group present were gun owners, collectors, patriots and good citizens in support of the resolution. He asked that the committee also support the resolution and send a message to Trenton that we will not stand for oppression of gun rights in this township. He thanked the committee for what they do and was seated. Receiving no additional comments, the floor was closed and Mayor Sheppard read the resolution. The resolution was approved motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution 2020-26, Managing public comment at public meetings, permitting all parties an opportunity to participate a limiting the duration to five minutes per speaker approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

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

Ordinance No. 2020-418, Property Tax Abatement Ordinance approved on first reading motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Public hearing prior to further consideration for final adoption will take place at the regular meeting of March 9th. Mayor Sheppard explained that the ordinance was adopted some years ago, but it has to be renewed periodically. This ordinance provides that taxes on new construction of commercial building be phased in over a five- year period to encourage people to reinvest in the community.

Committee comments: Committeeman Bowman stated that it was good to see so many residents in attendance.

Floor opened for public comment: Mr. Lester Woody thanked the committee for purchasing heater to be installed at Commodities Building. Mayor Sheppard thanked him and his group of volunteers for running the program.

Resident Tina Miller stood and requested a unredacted copy of her tax bill that shows how much she pays towards the Convenience Center which she stated she is not allowed to use, and questioned why stickers are not mailed with tax bills. Mr. Miletta advised that a motor vehicle registration is required to get the sticker. She stated that her son came in with two bags of trash in a new pick up without a sticker and was refused to dump. She stated that the attendant gave him a hard time and shouted at him, does a terrible job. Resident Leonard Willis was in the audience and stated that the employees there do a great job. Mr. Miletta stated that all he had to do was present his registration and request a new sticker. Mr. Bowman stated that prior to enforcing stickers/hang tags, people from Bridgeton and other towns were coming in, especially on Thursday evenings due to the late hour of operation. Mr. Miletta stated that by no means is it free to dispose of trash. Residents must have tag to enter the Convenience Center, and all you have to do is produce auto registration to get tag. Mr. Bowman stated that some years ago the committee looked in to curb side trash pick up and the cost was over \$300,000. Right now the budget to operate the Convenience Center is a little over \$100,000. Attendants are doing a great job prohibiting out of towners. Resident Tara Kunkle stated that she has a company logo on her SUV and was denied access. Her daughter has farmer tags and was also turned away. She questioned what her options are. Mr. Bowman advised that the County Health Dept. and DEP regulations prohibit commercial and farm use vehicles access, but the Township did negotiate with the Health Dept to allow farm use vehicles access if attendant confirms disposal is residential household trash. Mayor Sheppard stated that each residence is entitled to get the sticker/tag to dispose of residential house hold trash during normal business hours at the Convenience Center.

Receiving no additional comments, floor was closed and meeting adjourned 8:05 pm motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

February 13, 2020
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee was called to order at 5:00 PM as advertised, and held in accordance with the open Public Meetings Act. Purpose of the meeting was to prepare 2020 municipal budget and any other matters as necessary. Members present: Sheppard, Miletta, Bowman.

Resolution 2020-27, A Resolution to Amend Resolution No. 2019-56, Authorizing the Township of Lawrence Planning Board to Conduct a preliminary Investigation to Establish a Condemnation Redevelopment Area Within the Township was approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. The amendment was correcting the actual block and lot numbers within the area.

The committee along with Auditor and CFO reviewed proposed 2020 budget line for line. Salaries increased 3%. Capital projects will include Engineering for Monroe Ave. paving project, maintenance and repairs to Bank property, 339 Main Street and purchase of radios (and antenna) for Public Works. Proposed increase of 1.7 cent, which would reflect an annual increase of \$30.00 to average assessed home of 170,000.

Proposed budget will be introduced at the regular meeting on April 13th, with public hearing and final adoption at the May 11th meeting .

Meeting adjourned AT 7:40 PM, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk