

Monthly workshop meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee called to order at 7:30 pm as advertised, and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Members present, Sheppard, Miletta, Bowman.

Brief discussion held regarding lease agreement renewal, bank property, 339 Main Street. The current agreement expires end of August. A slight increase may be necessary to cover cost of insurance and taxes. Further consideration will be given once it's determined what the actual cost of insurance is.

Quote received for cost of lot line change on firehouse property at \$6,500 and deed preparation another \$500.00. Mr. Bowman provided cost to adjacent property owner who was interested in acquiring the property and removing the bamboo. When adding the cost of the subdivision to the cost of bamboo removal he determined it was not feasible. Township Public Works employees will begin working on the bamboo issue which will most likely take months to resolve.

Quotes for the purchase and delivery of I-5 Gravel (for Historical Society Project) were requested from Arbrisco Enterprises, Inc., South State Materials and Sorantino Express Inc. Only Sorantino Express Submitted a proposal at 10.50 per ton. Motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote that award be made to Sorantino Express Inc.

Land sale offer received from adjacent property owner for purchase of block 75 lots 5, 6 and 7 at 2,000.00 per lot. As there is no development, utilities or open roadways in the tract, Committee expressed no interest in offering the lots for sale.

Reports received from both Ronald Sutton ACO and Trooper Jeffries, NJ State Police regarding animal control call/incident that occurred on June 8, 2020 reviewed. Committee members agreed that they had no jurisdiction over the State Police, but also upon reading both reports felt that both Mr. Sutton and trooper Jeffries acted accordingly.

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

Mayor Sheppard presented committee members with copies of Architects completed design/ drawings for Historical Society Agriculture Museum project. Committee satisfied that all was in order. Bid documents will be prepared for further consideration.

Proposal from Barreiro Architecture for schematic design for construction of new entry way and canopy addition to existing Senior Center for access to Historical Society Museum reviewed. Motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote that Ruth Barreiro be authorized to proceed at a cost of \$2,000.00.

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

Meeting called to order 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 June 4th and 8th meetings were approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Reports for the month of June accepted, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-42, Authorizing land sale, public auction to take place at the regular meeting of August 10, 2020 approved, Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Chapter 159, Insertion of additional revenue in the 2020 adopted budget, \$12,350.43 NJ Clean Communities Grant, approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote, Resolution 2020-43.

Resolution 2020-44, Authorization to submit an application for NJDOT Grant for the reconstruction of Harris Avenue, Ruby Avenue, June Avenue and Lee Avenue, and Resolution 2020-45, Authorization to Submit an application for Thompson Road /Connector Street (Priority) authorized, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2020-46, Action to cancel General Capital Improvement Authorization, Bay Point Improvements in the amount of 121,524.79 approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

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

Mayor Sheppard provided Solicitor Seeley with a complete bid document for the purchase and construction of Historical Society Building/Museum. Mr. Seeley will review to determine that all required legal documents are included. Mayor Sheppard also advised that the Architect provided him with some information regarding the purchase of the building through a State approved Cooperative purchasing program. Facts will be gathered for further consideration at a special meeting to be held on July 22 at 5:00 pm, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman unanimous vote. Mayor Sheppard advised residence in attendance that the Township is looking to construct a metal building to house the Historical Society's artifacts. The current historical society building has deteriorated considerably and is falling down. Mr. Bowman advised that when the building was moved to its current location many years ago, it was placed directly on the ground, no footings. Mayor Sheppard advised that the new building would be a safe place to house the township's historical artifacts, showroom only. Historical Society members would use facilities and hold their meetings in the Senior Center.

Clerk provided the Committee members with copy of Ordinance for Local Improvements along with statutes regarding same. It was the committee's opinion that the cost to open a roadway was the property owners responsibility, which is the case, but according to statute regarding Local Improvements, the Township would be the lead authority who would then assess the property owners of the properties that benefit from the improvement. Committee will review process for same.

Brief discussion held regarding increase of \$100 per month on lease agreement for Bank property, 339 Main Street to the Bridgeton Onized Federal Credit Union. Increase approved motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Mayor Sheppard explained to members of the public in attendance that the bank property was donated to the Township by Cedarville Co-op. The Township negotiated with a few banks but only the Credit Union was interested. Local deposits were not sufficient enough for the big- name banks. Mayor Sheppard stated that the Township set the rent low, at an amount to cover expenses only, as we need a bank in town. Public agreed.

Floor opened for public comment. Chelsea Aron, Main Street appeared before the committee to address animal control incident of June 8th. Ms. Aron was at the June meeting and was distraught at that time by the way the ACO and State Police handled the situation that ended with a dog being shot. She asked if the Township investigated the incident. Mayor Sheppard advised that reports were provided by both ACO Ronald Sutton and Trooper Jeffries and it appeared to him that Ron did what he had to do and the trooper had a decision to make which the Township had no jurisdiction over. Ms. Aron advised that she had a video of the trooper's body cam which she provided for committee's review on her phone. In the video Ron told the trooper that the dog almost caused three accidents. Ron suggested that the trooper put the dog down as the dog had an open wound from embedded collar and would most likely be put to sleep by Veterinarian if he could catch him. The trooper then encouraged Ms. Aaron to leave the scene, which she did. Brief discussion between Ron and the trooper and again Ron stated that the Vet would put the dog down. You could hear the dog growl then a shot then the camera was turned off. Ms. Aron stated that the dog was never found. She also stated that Ron broke several laws and does not follow proper protocol in his job performance. He failed to respond to the emergency (after hours) call from the police. She stated that she collected over 1,000 negative responses from residents regarding their personal experiences with Ron. She questioned why the contract was not awarded to Shore Animal Control who's proposal was less money. Mayor Sheppard advised that Shore is servicing 15 or 16 towns with only 2 vehicles and committee was concerned that they would be able to provide service. Mayor Sheppard stated that Ron has provided good services, but the State Police should be able to reach him after hours. Committeeman Bowman advised that Shores contract read the same regarding after hour calls through the State Police. Deputy Mayor Miletta advised that he had an experience with Shore Animal Control whereas they also neglected to respond after hours, and he ended up keeping the dog. Ms. Aron requested that the committee give Shore a try for one year as the people have lost their trust in Ron. Resident Gail Ward stated that she would not call Ron as he has no compassion for animals. Carol Bernhardt stated that she was walking her dog when this incident occurred and the stray started to come toward her and Ron yelled for her to move away from it. She stated that Ron told her the troopers were coming to shoot it due to the neck wound. It was her opinion that the dog appeared to be very docile and the wound could be cured. Mayor Sheppard urged the public to put their complaints in writing and submit to clerk. John Wilson stood and stated that Ron is "ignorant, nasty and don't care". Mr. Wilson had a stray confined on a weekend and left numerous messages but Ron never responded till the following Monday. Ms. Aron stated that she has a petition whereas residents want Ron removed. She does not want this issue swept under the rug. Robin Bundy stated that Ron is very arrogant, Shore Animal Control Officers have compassion and can be counted on. Dawn Adams stood and said she would put her complaint in writing, but told the committee she did not want to hear that he was halfway through contract and nothing be done. Committee agreed that Ron needs to do his job. They will arrange a meeting with him to review complaints.

Carol Bernhardt questioned if committee was aware of flooding issue on her property, on Cedarville Road, due to farm fields. Deputy Mayor Miletta advised that it was discussed at a recent planning board meeting. County Engineer John Knoop who is a member advised that it is being addressed with farmers.

With no other comments or concerns received, floor closed. With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

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July 29, 2020
Special Meeting

Special meeting originally scheduled for July 22, postponed to July 29th called to order as advertised and held in accordance with the open Public Meetings Act. Members present: Sheppard, Miletta, Bowman. Purpose of the meeting was to review proposal for purchase and construction of Historical Society Agriculture Museum.

Committee met with Leigh Marcello, Trimark, Prime Subcontractor for BlueScope Construction who presented a detailed proposed scope of work and materials for construction of a 36' x 75' metal Butler building. BlueScope Construction is an approved participating contractor through Sourcewell which is a National Cooperative Purchasing Agency. The proposed cost excluding alternate items, \$623,087 which is way over anticipated budget (\$250,000). Mr. Miletta questioned the cost of the same building, wood frame as opposed to metal. Mayor Sheppard preferred the metal to wood, to insure the safety of the historical items to be housed. Mr. Marcello stated that fire rated insulation and drywall could be used. Mr. Bowman questioned if the current architects work could still be used, answer yes, guts would be the same, only the shell would change. Mr. Marcella suggested that the committee look at a local project, a church currently under construction. Mr. Miletta will schedule to inspect same. Further consideration will be given to possibly move forward with project, wood frame building.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25. Motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk