

The annual Reorganization meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee called to order at noon as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Solicitor Seeley was present and administered the oath of office to G. Erwin Sheppard, Committeeman re-elect. The floor was then opened to receive nominations for the position of Mayor, which was filled by Mr. Miletta, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard unanimous vote. Mr. Bowman was selected to hold the position of Deputy Mayor, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta unanimous vote.

The following resolutions, 2017-1 through 2017-7 were routine in nature, non-controversial matters presented on a consent agenda, and were approved in one action, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote:

2017-1 Establish Meeting Dates and Times

2017-2 Establish Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes

2017-3 Designate Official Newspapers

2017-4 Designate Official Depositories

2017-5 Establish Purchasing Procedures

2017-6 Authorization for the Tax Collector to Conduct a Tax Lien Sale

2017-7 Authorize the Tax Collector to Cancel any Delinquency or Overpayment Under \$10.00

Resolution 2017-8, Adopt Temporary Budget, 26.25% of 2016 Appropriations, \$353,863.90 approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-9, Authorizing the Award of professional Services Contract for Auditing Services to Bowman and Co. approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-10, Authorizing the Award of professional Services Contract for legal Services to Thomas Seeley, Seeley Law Office LLC approved motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-11 Authorizing the Award of professional Services Contract for Insurance Carrier Services to Colson & Gosweiler approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-12 Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Engineering Services to Fralinger Engineering approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-13 Award of Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services/Professional Services Contracts approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Statutory Appoints approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman unanimous vote, Resolution 2017-14.

The following contracts were awarded for animal control services: Ron's Animal Shelter, 675.00 per month, and Ronald Sutton, Animal Control Services 1,050.00 per month. Award authorized motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Committee Comments:

Mr. Bowman congratulated Mr. Sheppard on his re-election and welcomed him back. Mr. Miletta stated that Mr. Sheppard's expertise in finance and government are an asset to committee. Solicitor Seeley stated that he has never worked with a more agreeable committee and that it pleasure working with each of them.

Floor opened for public comments. Receiving none, meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

January 5, 2017
Workshop Meeting

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

Solicitor Seeley advised that he spoke to Pastor Daniel Vasquez regarding use of soccer fields for Fairton Christian Center's girl's soccer team. The Pastor will attend the regular meeting on January 9th to provide additional information for committee's consideration.

Solicitor Seeley provided a draft form /template lease agreement for non- Township owned equipment that is used by Public Works employees. Clerk will complete equipment description and identification numbers for further consideration of the Township Committee.

Discussion held regarding 2017 NJDOT Trust Fund Grant application. Engineer Stephen Nardelli had advised Clerk that New Road which is in deplorable condition meets the criteria in the program guidelines. Mayor Miletta questioned if NJDOT would approve oil and stone projects? Both Mayor Miletta and Mr. Bowman are in favor of submitting application for New Road. Mayor Miletta would also like Lummistown Road (section III) to be considered. Further consideration will be given at the regular meeting on January 9th.

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

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

January 9, 2017
Regular Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee called to order as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Members present: Sheppard, Bowman, Miletta.

Following the flag salute, minutes of the December 8th and 12th meetings were approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote. Reports for the month of December accepted, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Authorization to enter into an agreement with the Cumberland Development Corp. for Economic Development Consulting Services for the year 2017 granted, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote. The regular voting member will be Deputy Mayor Bowman, with Mayor Miletta selected for alternate voting member, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-15, A Resolution of Support for Motorcycle Events in Maurice River Township on NJ Fish and Game Property approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-16, Authorizing Submission of a 2017 Municipal Alliance Strategic Plan Grant: 13,598.00 DEDR 4,000.00 Cash match 10,198.50 In-Kind for a total of 27,796.50, approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-17, Authorization to enter into a Local-Services Agreement with Deerfield Township for Zoning/Code Enforcement Official services approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2017-18, authorizing 2016 budget transfers: 1,360.05 from Streets and Roads OE to 1,215.88 Street Lights, 99.37 to Telephones, 44.80 to Buildings and Grounds OE, approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Mark Kulik of Tilson Tech was present to discuss Verizon Wireless desire to obtain Municipal consent to operate in the right-of-way on roads located within the Township to upgrade and enhance Verizon's Network. Mr. Kulik stated that Verizon is being proactive in meeting with municipal officials all across NJ In hopes to establish process for approvals in advance of moving forward with installation of small network nodes, which are smaller in size than existing transformers, on existing poles in the public right-of-way. Mr. Kulik explained that the network nodes would be used in areas that have some existing Verizon Wireless service, but where coverage needs to be increased to prevent dropped calls, assist availability of providing 911 services and access of email, internet and GPS. Mayor Miletta questioned if the hardware would be placed on every pole. Mr. Kulik replied that they would be used only in challenged areas or black zones. Mr. Bowman question what would be the affect on existing cell towers? Mr. Kulik replied none. Mr. Kulik stated that many homes have discontinued use of "land lines" and depend solely on wireless service. Also, majority of 911 calls originate from cell phones, hence a strong reliable wireless network is necessary for public safety. Mayor Miletta stated that our hard copper wire is outdated. Mr. Bowman stated that since the Township along with County and other municipalities filed a law suit against Verizon for failure to maintain copper wires, he has seen Verizon pulling new cable in various areas of the Township. Mr. Sheppard stated that we need Fiber. Solicitor Seeley stated that Mr. Kulik's attendance is only good PR, as the Township Committee cannot reject the request. Mr. Kulik replied that Mr. Seeley is correct, under the Federal Telecommunications Act the Township cannot withhold approval. A draft resolution was provided by Verizon for further consideration of the Township Committee. Mr. Kulik reiterated that he hopes the Township would establish procedures that would avoid going before the Planning/Zoning Board but dealing directly through the Building Department. Mr. Sheppard said that he would want the Planning Board and Building Inspector to review. Mr. Kulik stated that there are no specific plans to move forward at this time, but it is coming. Further consideration will be given by the Township Committee following review by Planning/Zoning Board and Building Inspector.

Mr. Sheppard instructed Clerk to contact CFO to get process started for Bond Ordinance for Public Works Garage Project, estimated cost for engineering \$2,000.00, purchase of building and construction 98,000.00. Committee has agreed on location and hopes to start project in the spring.

Discussion held regarding 2017 NJDOT Trust Fund applications. Clerk advised that she spoke to Engineer Stephen Nardelli regarding the possibility of oil and stone projects as previously questioned by Mayor Miletta. Mr. Nardelli did not believe it could be done, but said New Road if approved, could be reconstructed in asphalt in it's entirety. Motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote that Mr. Nardelli prepare applications for New Road, Resolution 2017-20, and Lummistown Road Section III, entire stretch from the Lake to Cedarville Millville Road, Resolution 2017-19.

Resident Francis Hancock was appointed as alternate member (#3), 2 year term ending December 31, 2018, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard.

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

Committee comments:

All three committeemen complimented the Public Works employees for a job well done with snow removal for recent snow event.

Public Comment:

Pastor Daniel Vazquez appeared before the committee. He is coaching the girl's soccer team at Fairton Christian School and requests use of soccer field at the Lawrence Township Recreation Complex. His league can provide the necessary certificate of insurance. The request is for one field, and one year only, until the school can finish construction and seeding of their field. He/they will stripe and maintain the field. Committeeman Sheppard stated that public works will continue to mow the area. Committee approved his request contingent upon final approval given by Jason Ripper, President of Recreation. Mr. Vasquez was advised that his schedule will have to revolve around existing programs.

Receiving no further comment, meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

January 19, 2017
Budget Meeting

A budget workshop meeting of the Township Committee was called to order at 5:00 pm as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Members present: Sheppard, Bowman, Miletta.

Committee met with various department heads, EMS and Fire Chiefs to review 2017 budget needs. Further consideration will be given at a second budget meeting to be held on January 31st with CFO Mary Jane Lake and Auditor Fred Caltiabiano. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

January 31, 2017
Budget Meeting

A special budget workshop meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee was called to order as advertised at 5:00 pm, and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Members present: Miletta, Bowman, Sheppard. Also in attendance was CFO Mary Jane Lake and Auditor Fred Caltiabiano.

Discussion held regarding Public Works Garage. Confirmed to CFO Lake that total project is estimated at \$106,000. Ms. Lake advised that Bond Council will have ordinance prepared for introduction at the regular meeting of February 13th. Committeeman Sheppard requested a special meeting to hold public hearing for final adoption to expedite timing for site plan to begin. Once ordinance is received by clerk, to arrange publication, date will be set. Also discussed was EMS Parking lot improvements, and construction/installation of new steps for Municipal Building. Ordinance will be prepared to repurpose balance remaining (15,389.00) in ordinance No. 2015-389 for Dump Truck and related equipment for these improvements.

Budget appropriations reviewed line by line. The proposed budget will increase the local rate by 1.5 cents, or 24.76 on the average home per year. Further consideration will be given at introduction planned for the regular meeting of March 13th.

Mayor Miletta expressed concerns that volunteers for Recreation and Parade Committee spend their personal monies on supplies etc., for their events, then have to wait to be reimbursed by the Township. He feels that the two organizations should have access to funds. CFO Mary Lake suggested a petty cash fund be established for each organization, maximum amount by statute \$1,000.00. Auditor Fred Caltiabiano will contact the Division to see if petty cash checking accounts are permitted.

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

