

November 7, 2019
Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee was 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 pledge of allegiance, minutes of the October 10th and 24th meetings were approved as motioned by Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote. Reports for the month of October accepted, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2019-57, A Resolution requesting approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to establish a dedicated trust by rider for uniform fire code violations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.12 approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta, unanimous yes rollcall vote.

Resolution 2019-58, Authorizing necessary budget transfer, 105.00 from Engineering OE to Sanitary Landfill Post Closure approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2019-59, confirming land sales, October 24th land sale and authorizing Mayor Bowman to execute necessary deeds approved, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Twenty properties were sold for a total of \$79,960.00.

Quotes received for purchase and installation of overhead doors and operators for Public Works addition:

Elmer Door Co., Inc.	12,948.00
South Jersey Overhead Door Co., Inc.	12,400.00
Eastern Door Company	no quote

Elmer Door quoted Haas model as specified in RFP, South Jersey Overhead Door quoted Clopay. Clopay doors were previously purchased and installed on Commodities Building. Committee agreed that the Haas is a better quality, but also questioned if Elmer Door's quote included the operators. Committee approved award to Elmer Door contingent upon confirmation that operators are included, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Quote received for recorder from Gramco Business Communications:
Marantz PMD611 Digital Recorder \$739.00 Superscope ESCNJ Digital Recorder \$1,334.00
Clerk suggested that the Superscope would be the better choice due to the ease of copying the recordings for OPRA requests. Motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote that PO be issued to Gramco for purchase of Superscope Digital Recorder.

Quotes for remediation to remove mold from crawl space under Bank building at 339 Main Street reviewed.

Serve Pro \$8,938.87 Service Master to the Rescue \$14,996.67
Mayor Bowman suggested that one additional quote be requested from Fred Ludwig, F&D Construction, whom he just learned has the proper certification for mold remediation. Mr. Sheppard suggested that Mayor Bowman be authorized to take action on low quote, once the final proposal is received, due to urgency to have mold removed. Action taken, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter 2020 contract reviewed, up \$2,751.00 over last year, total of \$15,495.00. Mayor Bowman stated that the CDC will again review all participating municipalities proposals for animal control services and hopefully be able to negotiate in the future, but basically stuck with current proposal at this time. Funds will be provided for in the 2020 budget. Contract awarded, motioned Sheppard, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Brief discussion held regarding Fire Official and Fire Inspection Services. Committee is not happy with State services and would like to research all options – inter-local or in-house. Clerk provided a copy of

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agreement for City of Bridgeton's inter-local agreement. Mr. Sheppard instructed Clerk to contact Louis Kilmer, Chief at the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement to determine the procedure to provide local service. Further consideration will be given.

Clerk provided committee with copy of minimum recommended back up procedures for computer programs as recommended by software provider, Edmunds Gov Tech, who recommends that back-ups be to a local media and off-site cloud location. Pending available funds, further consideration may be given in 2020 budget.

Completed copy of 2019 Best Practices Inventory (filed October 30th) provided to committee for review and comments. The preliminary inventory was previously provided for committee input. No aid will be withheld, final score 36.5. questions answered "prospective" will be addressed. Brief discussion held regarding the Division's new Local Assistance Bureau which provides consulting services to municipalities in many areas, such as financial administration, asset management, procurement, planning, etc., at no cost.

Resignation received from Gordon Gross, Construction Code Official, retirement effective February 1, 2020 accepted motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote. Clerk instructed to advertise to fill the position.

Brief discussion held regarding foreclosed property, house located at 135 Maple Ave. Clerk questioned if Public Works employees could demolish the dwelling. Committeeman Miletta stated that footprint needs to be marked prior to any demolition so that lot could be sold as buildable. All agreed. Mayor Bowman stated that prior to demolition, the house needs to be treated with rat poison and Township will apply to CCIA for free tipping fees through the derelict housing program. He suggests that quotes for demo be obtained when the time comes to demolish.

George Ripper, Supervisor of Public Works was present and advised that both Christmas and New Year's fall on a Wednesday this year. He suggested that the Convenience Center be opened on Thursdays following the holidays. Committee agreed.

Mr. Ripper also advised of a problem with cell phone service at the Convenience Center, and requested permission to look into some type of booster/internet service to improve service. Mr. Miletta advised that he has been in contact with County and is waiting to get information regarding installation of equipment on tower and 2 way radios. All agreed radios will be a great asset as we have many areas in town with no cell service. Mr. Ripper also advised that he was having an issue with beavers at Co-Op spillway. Mr. Miletta suggested he contact Zane Batten, Fish and Game to have the beavers trapped and relocated. Mayor Bowman advised that Downe Township Public Works assisted in relocating beavers some years ago when there was a problem at the same location.

Clerk advised that the Thompson's, block 197 lot 51 are behind in their installment plan for tax arrears. Last payment received in July. Mr. Sheppard suggested giving them until Dec. 15th to bring installments and 4th quarter current. Although sympathetic to their current situation, committee agreed that the agreement must be adhered to. Clerk will send a letter advising them of the December 15th deadline and that if they are unable to comply, the Township will have no option but to proceed with a foreclosure.

End of year meeting set for Monday December 30th at 5:00 pm, motioned Miletta, seconded Sheppard, unanimous vote.

Floor opened for public comment. Receiving none, floor closed and meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm, motioned Sheppard, seconded Miletta.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

