

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

Quotes received for repairs to EMS overhead doors reviewed. Elmer Door 3,500.00, South Jersey Overhead Door 3,360.00. Committeeman Miletta stated that he wanted replacement panels to be same make, which he believed was Haas, provided by Elmer Door. Award made to Elmer Door, pending confirmation that sections to be replaced are same make, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote. Quote received from ACH Construction to remove and replace exterior brick on bank building in the amount of 62,550.00 reviewed. Further consideration for an alternate repair such as siding will be given.

Health benefits plans reviewed. Options provided by Cindy McQuade, Dempsey Weiss. It was determined that the Amerihealth SHE Select Silver EPO provided better coverage at comparable cost of current plan. Change effective June 1 motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Correspondence received regarding 2022 NJDOT State Aid Program. Committee will consider which roads will be submitted for the June meeting as the deadline is July 1, 2021. Correspondence received from NJDEP regarding closed landfill reviewed. The Post Closure Evaluation Report filed in January of 2020 has been reviewed. It was determined by DEP that current post closure care period shall remain in effect ending February 5, 2027. Another post -closure evaluation report will need to be prepared and filed between February 5, 2024-February 5, 2025.

Correspondence received from Joseph Sutton regarding opening of Early Avenue reviewed. Mr. Sutton recently acquired a building lot on the corner of Monroe and Early Avenue. As the majority of his property fronts Early Ave., he questions the process of getting it opened. He is in the process of getting the property surveyed and is willing to clear the roadway himself with Township approval. Committee agreed that he could do so, if the work meets specifications as determined by the Township engineer.

Land sale offer received for block 104 lot 31, 12,500 from Mr. John Belland who owns adjacent property. Based on the sale of a similar parcel, being block 187 lot 3 sold at the April 12th land sale, Mayor Sheppard suggested a minimum bid of 13,000. Mr. Miletta and Mr. Bowman agreed. Clerk will correspond with Mr. Belland to determine if he wants to proceed. Further consideration may be given following his reply.

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

Brief discussion held regarding Animal Shelter issues. Mayor Sheppard stated that the County does not want to get involved in a County Shelter. Mr. Bowman advised that Vineland is definitely going out on their own, and will hopefully participate in shared services for all other towns. He stated that Commercial Township may be in a position to donate a school building for the use. Mr. Miletta replied that a school could easily be restructured for shelter use. The CDC will continue to meet to resolve the issue.

Meeting opened for public comment. Jayme Hyson who resides at 38 Newport Rd appeared before the committee to advise of his concerns regarding what he feels is a conflict between himself and Construction Code Official Wayne Shelton. Mr. Hyson will be making an application to the Zoning/Planning Board for a change of use. Prior to his purchase, the structure was approved for a flower shop and 2 rental units by court order. Mr. Hyson will be applying for a variance to change to single residential use. Mr. Hyson stated that he was not getting any clear direction from Mr. Shelton on the process, but now feels that he is making progress with assistance from Zoning Official Tony Lamanteer. Once Planning/Zoning Board approval is granted he will apply for necessary building permits to be in compliance. He questioned if he could opt out to have Upper Deerfield handle any necessary permits and inspections due to his concerns of conflict with Mr. Shelton. Solicitor Seeley questioned

what constitutes a conflict. Mr. Hyson stated that Mr. Shelton expressed an interest in purchasing 38 Newport Rd prior to his acquiring the property and that they are neighbors sharing a property line. Mr. Hyson provided Mr. Seeley with a copy of the court order. Mr. Seeley reviewed and referred it to Planning Board Solicitor. Mr. Hyson will determine which direction he will go for construction permits following Planning/Zoning Board approval.

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

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

May 10, 2021
Regular Meeting

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 April 8th and 12th meetings approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Reports for the month of April accepted motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Land sale conducted as advertised with the following results: Block 6 lots 15, 16 no bid. Block 180 lots 5 and 6 sold for \$2,000 each to Josephine Day, offers accepted motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Public hearing, Calendar Year 2021 Model Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank opened as advertised. Receiving no public input, hearing closed and the Ordinance adopted, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

A seconded public hearing opened as advertised, Ordinance No. 2021-425, An Ordinance of Lawrence Township Prohibiting the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Businesses Within its Geographical Boundaries. Again, no public comment, hearing closed and ordinance adopted motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-30, Authorizing submission of a Municipal Alliance Strategic Plan fiscal year 2022 approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-31, Confirming sale of surplus property, land sale conducted at the April 12 meeting: Block 35 lot 144 sold to Michael Powers \$2,000 and block 187 lot 2 sold to Paul and Amy Gilson \$13,000. Resolution approved motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-32, Establish authorized owners on Lawrence Township bank accounts approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-33, providing that the budget may be read by title only at the time of the public hearing approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Public Hearing for 2021 budget opened as advertised. Auditor Fred Caltabiano provided a very informative presentation. 2021 estimated tax bill breakdown, only 18.42% Township with 81.58% county and school district combined. 2020 Tax collection rate 95.32% highest ever. Schedule of revenues, 2017-2021 reviewed. Mr. Caltabiano noted that state aid which remained at 288,712 for years increased by 34,088 in 2020, on paper only. Received was 288,712 which is anticipated for 2021 also. Comparison of major appropriation, local tax rates and taxes reviewed. The 2021 budget calls for a 0.019 tax rate increase which amounts to 32.00 on the average home assessed at 170,000.

Mr. Caltabiano asked if there were any questions. Mayor Sheppard had questions concerning capital budget and the need for a new dump truck and also a new fire truck. Estimates were used, and additional funds may be necessary. Mr. Caltabiano advised that the capital budget can be amended by resolution. CFO Susan Quinones was present and added that the capital budget is a plan to put money aside for long term projects. She stated that once it's determined what the actual cost will be, a bond ordinance can be prepared. Once the ordinance is adopted the equipment can be ordered. Notes or bonds do not need to be issued until the actual money has to be paid. Mr. Miletta stated that the fire company is looking at trucks, and once ordered 18 months out for delivery. Mayor Sheppard suggested Mr. Miletta look online for dump truck to determine what's under state contract and the cost. Also discussed briefly was what can be done with proposed stimulus money. Mr. Caltabiano stated that as of now it's been determined that it is to be used for water, sewer and infrastructure. Additional guidance will follow. Receiving no public comment, the hearing was closed and budget adopted motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-35 Approving Subordination of Mortgage (agreement) block 5 lot 27, lien for grant rehab work 770 Hogbin Road adopted, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Refund of duplicate second quarter tax installments to Corelogic authorized motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote, Resolution 2021-36.

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

Brief discussion held regarding opening of Municipal Building to public access. Mr. Sheppard suggested that if all employees have been fully vaccinated, policy for dealing with the public should be in writing and acknowledged by employees. Deputy Mayor Miletta and Committeeman Bowman agreed. Clerk will provide a draft for consideration.

Mr. Bowman announced that the County Health Department will conduct a covid-19 vaccine clinic at The Senior Center on Wednesday May 26, 2021 from 4-7 pm. Walk ins are welcome.

Mr. Miletta questioned if there was any word from the County regarding the road sinking at dam. Mr. Bowman replied that he has seen County engineers at the site and they are aware of the issues.

Floor opened for public comment. Receiving none and with no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

May 17, 2021
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 conduct interviews for the part time position of Convenience Center Attendant. Following interviews applicant Herbert Sharp was hired to fill the position at 13.00 per hour motioned Miletta seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm, motioned Bowman, seconded Sheppard.

Ruth Dawson

