

**WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS WAS  
HELD THIS EVENING IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**Monday, August 14, 2017**

Council President Anthony Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: Maria Cordonnier, William Liess, and Chris Vancheri. Also present were Mayor James Damiano, Township Attorney Joe Wenzel, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: Councilmember Marc Benitez and Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay.

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Philip Simone, Police Chief Steve Post, and Recreation Director John Pace.

Prior to the Salute to the Flag, Councilmember CORDONNIER requested a moment of silence to reflect upon the recent incidents in Charlottesville, VA. The Statement of Public Notice was then read.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE:** Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 as follows: A notice of the meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building, located at 225 Main Street, Little Falls, N.J. on January 3, 2017; a copy of the notice was faxed to the North Jersey Herald and News and The Record on the same date. Additionally, a copy of the notice was filed in the office of the Township Clerk on said date.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS**

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll:           Ayes:    Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba  
                  Nays:    None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Al Attianese, 27 Dewey Avenue, presented three issues to the Council. The first issue involved a point of information regarding questions raised at the last meeting on the notice of school elections, two pillars erected at School #1, and the function of the school liaison on the Council. He added his opinion that students would be better served to use funds for enrichment rather than beautification purposes. The second issue questioned whether follow-up had been conducted to remediate issues highlighted by the Township Planners's report at a recent Planning Board meeting regarding Rainbow Caterers. The third issue queried whether a replacement of equal caliber would be sought due to the resignation of the EMS Coordinator.

Council President SGOBBA informed Mr. Attianese the Council does not have jurisdiction over the School Board. He also reviewed the role of the school liaison in detail. Council President SGOBBA welcomed comments to the Council, and stated residents may voice concerns related to the schools at the School Board meetings. In response to Mr. Attianese's question, Councilmember CORDONNIER replied she is liaison to both PV and the School Board, and therefore has not attended a local School Board in several months. She added that it is not part of the liaison's responsibility to attend every School Board meeting.

Council President SGOBBA responded to the Planning Board presentation referred to by Mr. Attianese. Council President SGOBBA stated the area discussed by Mr. Janota is under consideration for rezoning. Council President SGOBBA provided assurance that if violations exist, they will be looked into to protect the safety of the public. Mayor Damiano explained that the number of past infractions Rainbow Caterers has had on record was minimal considering the nature of the business. The Mayor further elaborated that while Mr. Janota had indicated some of the buildings were in a state of disrepair, he was not sure that they were necessarily violations or deficiencies, but that certain criteria were met to declare the site an area in need of redevelopment or rehabilitation. The Mayor was unaware of any specific violations Mr. Janota referenced at the meeting, however, if any were present, follow-up would occur. Mayor Damiano explained the Health Department also performs regular and routine checks as they do with all establishments in the Township. In response to Mr. Attianese's question regarding the timing of inspections, Mayor Damiano indicated the company is currently in compliance with health codes and is operational. He further explained the reason for review of the area for redevelopment was to determine what type of development is best suited for the site and would be most beneficial to the Township.

Council President SGOBBA stated the Council cannot comment on personnel but consider the best candidate to fill a vacancy. Mayor Damiano acknowledged Chief Murray was instrumental in implementing the paid EMS program. However, as the program is running smoothly, the Mayor believed the Township would be able to continue to operate the program without refilling the position using the current staff. He further indicated Mr. Murray resigned for personal reasons. In response to Mr. Attianese's query as to whether consideration was given to appoint Chief Sweezy to the position, Council President SGOBBA reiterated the Council will not comment on personnel at this time.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, expressed his appreciation for Councilmember Cordonnier's statements at the beginning of the meeting and read an excerpt from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's statement. He voiced his displeasure with Council to make a statement regarding the recent incidents in Charlottesville, VA. Council President SGOBBA acknowledged Mr. Korotkin's comments.

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Mr. Korotkin requested a progress report on the initiatives for a stigma free community relating to mental illness and substance abuse discussed by Councilmember Cordonnier at a previous meeting. Councilmember CORDONNIER responded that October is the targeted month and meetings with Superintendent Marinelli and Chief Post have occurred to discuss preparations. A month of events will be planned, culminating with naming Little Falls a stigma free community.

Mr. Korotkin requested the status of the ADA compliance at the Inwood Park playground. Specifically, he queried whether the ramp slope is ADA compliant, a paved surface will be provided to access the bleachers, and if a curb cut and tactile warning system will be installed on Tanglewood Drive.

Mr. Simone stated the ramp does meet ADA slope requirements. Mr. Simone explained that in regard to the pathway to the bleachers, a grass surface meets the ADA requirements. Council President SGOBBA stated the Township Engineer will be consulted to provide an answer to the question regarding the curb cut and tactile ramp on Tanglewood Drive.

Louis Fernandez, Harrison Street, agreed with the comments expressed by Mr. Korotkin regarding recent events in Virginia. Mr. Fernandez also shared the opinion of Mr. Attianese. He conveyed his disappointment regarding the use of school expenditures, and that more focus should be on the quality of education. He voiced his discontent with a recent survey that ranked the US 27<sup>th</sup> in education.

Council President SGOBBA explained the school board members are elected officials and Mr. Fernandez can cast his vote on those officials as his right. The Council will listen to Mr. Fernandez's comments, however, comments are also welcome at the School Board meeting. The Council does not have jurisdiction over the School Board. Residents have the right to vote or not vote for school board members and attend their meetings.

Mr. Fernandez raised an issue that the houses on his street are not numbered in order and this affects mail delivery. Council President SGOBBA stated that the Council will look into the matter to determine what can be done.

Mr. Fernandez requested clarification as to what days and hours solicitation is permitted in the Township. Mr. Cuccia reviewed the ordinance for solicitation. He instructed that a permit is required and is valid for one year. Solicitation may occur during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and not on Sundays or holidays. Mr. Fernandez stated he raised the question as workers were stopped from performing renovations on his home prior to 9 a.m., but that political solicitors were canvassing on Harrison Street on a Saturday evening. The Mayor explained the Township has a noise ordinance which applied in Mr. Fernandez's circumstances involving roof repair. Mayor Damiano also instructed that political is a statutory exception to solicitation.

Joan Reynolds, 7 Notch Road, requested the Council's assistance to resolve the issue on mail delivery on Notch Road. She cited the construction and the presence of police and sheriff cars blocking the road on both ends.

Council President SGOBBA stated the Council will work on rectifying the issue right away.

Tricia Toomey, 139 Wilmore Road, on behalf of the Little Falls Library, announced the Library Construction Bond Act was signed by Governor Christie to appear on the ballot in the fall. The Little Falls Library will be working hard to get the word out to residents to vote for this act. Ms. Toomey also declared the Library has acquired five mobile hotspots and five tablets. The tablets can be taken on vacation or used for the internet. They can be taken out for two weeks. Each mobile hotspot will work with ten devices.

Council President SGOBBA asked Ms. Toomey to provide an explanation of a hot spot. She explained it is an actual device that has cellular communication. The device can be used with a phone or computer to get an internet connection.

It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

### ***ACTION ITEMS:***

#### ***Council Ad-Hoc Committees:***

Domestic Violence Prevention Committee – Council President appoints COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES (1)  
WENDY HARTMAN

### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the Council approve the following:

**RESOLUTION [A] 17-08-14 - #1  
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC,  
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT  
WITH RESPECT TO A RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Highview Homes at Totowa, LLC ("Developer") applied to the Planning Board of the Township of Little Falls (hereinafter the "Board") for the approval of a preliminary and final major site plan with respect to the property commonly known as Block 155, Lots 4 and 5 on the tax maps of the Township of Little Falls ("Township"), to permit the subdivision of said property and development thereon of 24 townhouse units in three (3) buildings with eight (8) townhouses per building (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board granted final site plan approval for the Project by resolution adopted on March 2, 2017 ("Resolution"); and

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**WHEREAS**, the Resolution requires the developer to enter into a developer’s agreement with the Township in connection with the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the developer’s agreement attached hereto between the Township and Developer (“Agreement”) has been prepared by the Township Attorney and has been reviewed and approved by the Engineer and by the attorney for the Developer.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, in the County of Passaic and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement substantially in the form as attached hereto as Exhibit A, subject to such additions, deletions, modifications or amendments deemed necessary by the Mayor in his discretion in consultation with counsel, which additions, deletions, modifications or amendments do not alter the substantive rights and obligations of the parties thereto, and to take all other necessary and appropriate action to effectuate the Agreement.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS  
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION [B] 17-08-14 - #2  
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING CLOSURE OF NOTCH BRIDGE ROAD BY THE NJDOT**

**WHEREAS**, The Township of Little Falls acknowledges the New Jersey Department of Transportation has a contract with Creamer-Sanzari, A Joint Venture for the reconstruction of the Route 3-46 Interchange (Contract A) in Little Falls and Woodland Park in the County of Passaic.

**WHEREAS**, the NJDOT has proposed the closure of the Notch Road Bridge to expedite the re-construction of said structure and minimize the impact on the travelling public. The Closure will result in a four-month duration of bridge reconstruction in lieu of the original design which was scheduled for an 8-month duration.

**WHEREAS**, Creamer -Sanzari has developed a detour which has been approved by the NJDOT and utilizes Lower Notch Road (local road) and Valley Road (Passaic County Road). Both roadways will be utilized to allow the traveling public access to points on the north and south of Notch Road Bridge in Little Falls and Woodland Park. Furthermore, construction signage, including variable message signs, along Route 46 East and Westbound will alert motorists to the closure and direct them to the appropriate detour routes.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Little Falls as follows:

1. The Mayor and Council of Township of Little Falls hereby acknowledge the proposed closure of the Notch Road Bridge and the connected roadways of Notch Road and the approved NJDOT detour route.
2. Mayor and Council of Township of Little Falls hereby acknowledges that the complete closure will result in an expedited construction schedule of said bridge and minimize the impact on the travelling public.
3. Mayor and Council of Township of Little Falls hereby acknowledge that Mayor James Damiano forwarded a letter on July 12, 2017 to the NJDOT acknowledging the closure as well.

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Mayor Damiano clarified Resolution A pertains to the 24 town homes being developed on Lindsley Road and Resolution B concerns the closure of the Notch bridge which crosses over Route 46 and connects with the top of Notch Road, Rifle Camp Road, and Lakawanna Avenue. Mayor Damiano explained the rationale for Resolution A. He recalled a recent County meeting with NJ Department of Transportation (DOT), County representatives, and representatives from the company doing the project. Two possibilities for the bridge were examined and discussed at length. Stemming from the meeting, recommendations were made to close the bridge to complete repairs, which would take approximately three months. The resolution before the Council was in response to a DOT request.

Poll:           Ayes:    Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
                  Nays:   None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

**ADMINISTRATOR:**

1.        **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** – Mr. Cuccia stated that the Township will participate with Berkeley College in an internship program. There will be two intern positions, one in business and one in health. Both positions are unpaid and will take place from September to December.
2.        **2017 SALARY ORDINANCE**- Mr. Cuccia stated the Council will be asked to introduce amendments to the Salary Ordinance at the Regular Meeting which contain two title changes. In addition, all employees receiving longevity will no longer receive a longevity payment.
3.        **ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PARKING DURING CERTAIN HOURS FOR VEHICLES WEIGHING IN EXCESS OF FOUR TONS**- Mr. Cuccia stated this Ordinance will be presented at the next Regular Meeting and has been amended to prohibit parking for all commercial vehicles on all streets. The amendment includes a title change as well. Council President SGOBBA requested clarification on the request put forth to which Mr. Cuccia stated the change is administrative and provided further clarification.
4.        **WOODCLIFFE AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS** – Mr. Cuccia announced grant funds have been awarded to the Township. A 2016 DOT Municipal Aid road grant of \$250,000 and a DOT Municipal Aid road grant for 2017 for \$233,708. This grant relates to the Woodcliffe Avenue improvements. A bond ordinance will be presented at the next Regular Meeting for \$675,000, representing the difference between the grant awarded and the total cost of the project. Councilmember CORDONNIER thanked the Grant Committee for their efforts in obtaining this grant.

**DPW SUPERINTENDENT:**

1.        **PURCHASE OF NEW WHEEL LOADER** – Mr. Simone recalled the Council had previously approved funds and a bond ordinance for the wheel loader. Mr. Simone stated a joint contractor under NJPA was found. He requested the Council add NJPA to the list of co-ops that the Township may purchase from. The Township will be saving approximately \$7,000, plus bidding expenses by not going out to bid.
2.        **RECYCLING SCHEDULE** – Mr. Simone requested confirmation and agreement with the proposed recycling schedule, such that every week an alternate commodity would be picked up, thus eliminating no pick up on the fifth Wednesday. The Council approved.

**COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Councilmember VANCHERI invited the public to come to a presentation at the Municipal Building on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 from 6-7:15 pm to learn about the dangers of wildlife. The presentation will be given by the

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Clifton Board of Health and Wildlife Committee. Councilmember VANCHERI also acknowledged the sensitivity of the public to the incident in Virginia and emphasized it was difficult for everyone. He stated it was very emotional and the asked for respect for the Council and their feelings as well.

Councilmember CORDONNIER reported the Open Space Committee will have an Open Space master plan in collaboration with the Township Planner and County. The purpose is to present it the State with the hope to be eligible for more grants. In reference to Charlottesville, VA, Councilmember CORDONNIER commented that Council President SGOBBA was following the appropriate order for a Workshop meeting. She also noted that comments were made prior to this portion of the meeting, when Councilmembers have an opportunity to comment. She hoped that our country can find some peace and healing.

Councilmember LIESS reported the Senior Advisory Board will have a program on foot and ankle health as well as presentation on social activities to promote better living. On October 27, 2017 the Annual Harvest Moon dinner dance will be held. In November 15, 2017, MSU students will perform musical theatre for the seniors. Councilmember LIESS stated more social activities will be planned in the future.

Council President SGOBBA announced Councilmember Vancheri will be in charge of the 9-11 ceremony this year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, requested information on the commencement date and detour route concerning the closure of the Notch Road Bridge. Mr. Cuccia stated August 28, 2017 is the slated closing date. The bridge is supposed to be completed and reopened by some time in December. It will be fully completed by Memorial Day the following year. The detour would require vehicles to go down Lower Notch Road. Mr. Korotkin expressed concern that Lower Notch Road may be too narrow. Mr. Cuccia stated his belief the DOT and the County have worked that out.

Mr. Korotkin questioned what would happen if the Township did not sign the Resolution requested by the DOT. Council President SGOBBA highlighted the importance of a relationship with the State, and therefore it may not behoove the Township to not sign the Resolution.

Mr. Korotkin was pleased to hear that there is an internship with Berkeley and wondered whether any other colleges participated. Mr. Cuccia indicated there tends to be a rotation between colleges. Mr. Korotkin suggested the Township post opportunities at the career services at MSU such that students may come to the Township directly.

He appreciated Councilmembers remarks on his comment on the events in Charlottesville, however, he stated his continued hope the Council would reconsider and make a statement.

No one having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, that the Council approve the following:

**RESOLUTION [EX]**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into executive session during a Public Meeting; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Township of Little Falls has deemed it necessary to go into executive session to discuss certain matters which are exempted for the Public; and  
**WHEREAS**, the regular meeting of this Governing Body with reconvene;  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls will go into executive session for the following reason(s) – contract issue.

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Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

The Council entered Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

At 8:32 p. m. the Council returned and it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier that the meeting return to Open Session.

Council President SGOBBA requested a motion to reject the request of withdrawal from Reivax Contracting of their bid for submission for the Great Notch Village force main replacement project. It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, to reject the withdrawal of the bid submission from Reivax Contracting.

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Poll:           Ayes:           Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
              Nays:           None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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Cynthia Kraus  
Municipal Clerk