

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

Monday, February 11, 2019

Council President Anthony Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Maria Cordonnier, Albert Kahwaty, Tanya Seber, and Chris Vancheri. Also present were Mayor James Damiano, Township Attorney Joe Wenzel, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: Township Engineer Woodney Christophe.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steve Post and DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting has been 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 2, 2019. 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.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING LFAC GIRLS SOCCER CHAMPIONS – Mayor Damiano presented each member of the LFAC Girls Soccer Champion team with a Proclamation celebrating the team’s accomplishment.

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, Kahwaty, Seber, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Robert Kusant, 32 Woods Road, presented his rationale for additional signage at the intersection of Long Hill Road and Woods Road. Council President SGOBBA requested Councilmember VANCHERI as chair of the Transportation Committee follow-up with Mr. Kusant to discuss his request further. Mayor Damiano advised that both roads are County roads and must be reviewed at the County level prior to any action taken by the Township. Councilmember VANCHERI to reach out to the County traffic engineer.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, indicated he would accept the Mayor’s invitation to discuss how taxes were lowered. Mr. Fernandez also raised the issue of the assignment of house numbers affecting first responder times and mail delivery on his street. Mayor Damiano stated new homes are assigned numbers by the Tax Assessor, however, he was unaware of the process of number assignment previous to this time, and was not sure of the process for changing numbers. Mr. Simone recalled when the houses were originally built a lot of the houses just put the numbers on. Mr. Cuccia explained that the Assessor and 911 coordinate the number system now. Council President SGOBBA stated the Council will look into it further.

Mike Martinello, 25 Maple Street, stated he recently had to call 911 twice and commended the response of the Police, the ambulance and EMTs. He expressed his thankfulness on behalf of his family. Councilmember VANCHERI read a letter from Mr. Martinello’s wife regarding the professionalism in handling an emergency call placed on January 28, 2019. Councilmember VANCHERI commended EMT Anthony Posyton and Chief Altonjy who were present at the call. Council President SGOBBA thanked Mr. Martinello for sharing his story and not hesitating to call 911. Councilmember KAHWATY indicated this might be an opportunity to highlight the importance of checking the functionality of smoke alarms and to make sure they have carbon monoxide detectors as well. Councilmember SEBER commented that homeowners should have their homes well marked so that first responders can find them. Mayor Damiano thanked Mr. Marinello for coming tonight and thanking the first responders.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TAX REFUND RESOLUTIONS/RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES – Mayor Damiano explained this item is a standard item on the Agenda.
2. TWA CONSENT FOR PSE&G APPLICATION THROUGH NJDEP – The Mayor explained Treatment Works Approval (TWA) is a standard request PSE&G makes when conducting roadwork and improvements. PSE&G will run an underground line from Totowa to Cedar Grove connecting two of their service plants.

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3. PROPOSED LITTER ORDINANCE – Mayor Damiano discussed the rationale to increase the fines for littering to discourage littering on Township streets. The Mayor recommended the littering fine be increased to a first penalty of \$250 for a first offense and \$500 for any offense thereafter with mandatory court appearances required.
4. PICKLEBALL COURT- Mayor Damiano described the upcoming sport of pickleball, and plans to install pickleball courts near the tennis courts, as well as resurfacing the tennis courts, and addressing water retention in that area. Prices will be obtained by the Engineering consultant before making any decisions. The project will be funded with local Open Space dollars so there will be no extra cost to tax payers. Councilmember CORDONNIER commented that the pickleball courts can be used by many different age groups as well as individuals with disabilities. Mayor Damiano announced pickleball equipment can be obtained for free by residents at the Recreation Center during operating hours.
5. TURF AT DUVA FIELD- Mayor Damiano discussed how installing turf would extend the use of Duva field. He also highlighted his former concerns, positive aspects of turf, and funding of the field. The Mayor has been working with the County in the hopes that grant applications and Open Space funds can be reallocated towards Duva field, as well as keeping other options open to offset out of pocket costs. At Councilmember SEBER’s request the Mayor spoke to the use of the other athletic fields. Councilmember CORDONNIER requested clarification on Lewis, Railroad, and Inwood fields’ size appropriateness for football and soccer. Mayor confirmed that the ability to practice on full size regulation fields is limited in the Township. Councilmember VANCHERI indicated that the field dimensions are only appropriate at Duva field for soccer.
6. MAYOR’S 2019 BUDGET- Mayor Damiano is in the process of finalizing this year’s budget and will make his first presentation at the February 25, 2019 Regular Meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the following be approved:

Refund of Tax Overpayments in the Year 2014

RESOLUTION [A] 19-02-11 - #1

WHEREAS, the following property in the Township of Little Falls, New Jersey, has overpaid real estate taxes in the Year 2014 due to a State Tax Court Judgement; and

WHEREAS, the Judgement entered date was 12/21/2018; having no provision waiving the 5% interest in the Judgement; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 judgement is in the amount of \$21,335.24, and the 5% interest is in the amount of \$4,526.00 totaling \$25,861.24; and

WHEREAS, the total refund below shall be given after the Township receives a copy of R Realty LLC W-9 form; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is requesting that the Township Council direct the Treasurer to refund said amount overpaid listed below;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey that the following listed tax refund be made by the Treasurer:

<u>Tax Year & Atr.</u>	<u>Block Lot</u>	<u>Taxpayer/ Location</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2014/4	200/1	R Realty LLC 1615 Route 46E	R Realty LLC 1625 Route 46E Box 320 Little Falls, NJ 07424	STCJ	\$21,335.24
2014/4	200/1	R Realty LLC 1615 Route 46E	R Realty LLC 1625 Rte 46E Box 320 Little Falls, NJ 07424	STCJ 5% INT	<u>4,526.00</u>
Total Refund =					\$25,861.24

Bill List

RESOLUTION [B] 19-02-11 - #2

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls the Council having received the Treasurer’s certification of the availability of funds for payment of all bills presented, that payment of all bills approved by the Finance Committee be and is hereby authorized, subject to the availability of funds and subject to the appropriate and available appropriation in the line item.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember KAHWATY reported the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee is planning a vigil in October. He provided preliminary details of the Green Fair to be held at the Civic Center on March 30, 2019.

Councilmember VANCHERI reported the Transportation Committee has been rescheduled due to the weather. He contacted Chuck Silverstein at the County to obtain timelines on line striping. He and Corporal Moncato have been in discussion with NJ Transit to determine if jurisdiction of enforcing the parking lot stop sign near train station could be given to the Township. Councilmember VANCHERI recommended establishing several days throughout the year to dedicate to cleaning up the Township. He will be meeting with the Boy Scouts and other groups to discuss participation. Lastly, Councilmember VANCHERI spoke with Michael Deluccia, Director of the PV High School band, regarding obtaining the band for the Memorial Day parade. Mr. Deluccia had offered to have the band available for a free concert in the park the day before the parade.

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Councilmember SEBER announced the Municipal Alliance was rescheduled until next week due to Valentine's Day. She attended the Library Board meeting and reported the doors and flooring were successfully replaced.

Councilmember CORDONNIER expressed her support of kicking off Memorial Day with the band concert on Friday. She noted the Open Space Committee is excited about installation of pickleball courts, and is considering the expansion of Memorial Park in 2019, with separate areas for different age groups of children. Councilmember CORDONNIER met with Sam Yodice, Director of Senior Services of Passaic County, who gave a tour of the array of senior services available at the center in Totowa. She is working with the Mayor on how to communicate what is available to seniors, adding that the County will send a bus to pick up senior residents. Councilmember CORDONNIER will also share this information with the Senior Advisory Committee. Lastly, the Senior Advisory Committee is planning a Spring Fling dance in May.

At the request of Council President SGOBBA, Mr. Simone explained the purpose of brining the roads and the purpose of the flags put out by PSE&G, indicating work to be done in that area. Presently, mains are being upgraded in the Great Notch area, and road resurfacing will then occur in the spring. Mr. Simone explained valve placement is dependent on whether the homeowner has a meter in the basement or outside. Mayor Damiano commented that the Township has been trying to coordinate with the DPW and Police Department to keep as many roads open as possible when work is being done.

Mayor Damiano provided a status report on the Army Corps. of Engineers concerning the Peckman River. Plans are on track with a target start range of 3-5 years to begin work in two phases: the flood tunnel and bank stabilization.

Mayor Damiano reported this morning Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill held a roundtable discussion with all of the mayors in her district. He was impressed with the collaborative effort and noted that many good ideas were shared.

Council President SGOBBA recounted his visit to the rescue squad over the weekend when a call came in. He stated he was impressed with the response time of under two minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Dorothy O'Haire, Turnberry Road, discussed a call she received from Mikie Sherrill's District Director, Kellie Doucette. Ms. O'Haire questioned the placement of the culvert, whether there were commercial buildings in question, when the Mayor would hold Town Hall meetings, and when the Flood Board would convene. Mayor Damiano clarified the exact location of the tunnel has not been finalized, and he was unaware of any questions with commercial buildings. The Mayor plans to hold a Town Hall meeting in March and will announce the date at the February 25, 2019 Regular Meeting. Lastly, Mayor Damiano indicated this year it is the Township's turn to chair the Flood Board, which he will work on scheduling within the next month.

Andrew Baggot, 78 Franklin Road, Denville, questioned who is responsible for litter spilling out of the public garbage can near his property. Council President SGOBBA and Mayor Damiano explained the Litter Ordinance in more detail, emphasizing it addresses the individual that litters.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, referred to the roundtable meeting with Congresswoman Sherrill, and questioned who will be responsible for paying for the project. Mayor Damiano stated as there were only three towns in her district that have issues with the Peckman River, most of the discussion centered on the Passaic River. However, funding through FEMA was a large part of the discussion.

Peggy Olivi, 181 Long Hill Road, commented on the amount of litter off an exit on Route 46 East, and questioned who is responsible for the area. The Mayor stated the DPW cleans in that area regularly and that the Littering Ordinance refers to the individual that littered. Council President SGOBBA expressed his hope the Littering Ordinance and cleanup days suggested by Councilmember VANCHERI will alleviate the presence of litter.

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

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Kahwaty, Seber, 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 Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk