

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

Monday, February 12, 2018

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

Absent: None.

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Philip Simone, and Police Chief Steven Post

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, 2018. 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 Liess, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Louis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, expressed his concerns regarding increasing the high school budget in light of a statewide report from the Department of Education. Council President SGOBBA acknowledged Mr. Fernandez's statement and welcomed him to voice his concerns at the Board of Education meeting.

Scott Reynolds, 138 Glen Rock Road, stated his presence tonight was to support the plans for Glen Rock Road. Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Reynolds refrain his comments until agenda items are discussed.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

PRESENTATION OF MAYOR'S BUDGET – Mayor Damiano displayed a Powerpoint presentation of the proposed budget on the dais televisions. The Mayor was pleased to report an increase in assessed home values, which was attributed to zoning updates and the promotion of redevelopment. A municipal tax increase of approximately \$55 for the year or \$4.58 per month was proposed. He explained that an anticipated surplus of \$1.75 million will provide better cash flow, better bond rates, and be available in case of an emergency. Appropriations have been set to reflect contractual salary increases for the teamsters; administrative salary increase has been set to reflect the 2% base increase. Two new positions will include a full time Assistant Recreation Director and a Part Time Administrative Clerk for the Construction Office. The budget also reflects a 1.95% increase pertaining to a contractual salary increase for the Police Department. The Mayor announced the contract with the Police Department has been resolved and will contain a seventeen step guide rather than the previous seven step guide. The Mayor elaborated upon the vehicle acquisition program and proposed two more vehicles be purchased in 2018. He anticipated maintaining the current staff in the Police Department at 28 officers and 13 employees in the DPW. The Mayor explained the increase in the insurance costs of \$53,000 are minimal, as the coverage is superb and includes the addition of cyber security and contamination coverage. The cost of the EMS program has been maintained such that the full time EMS program does not cost the Township more than the previous volunteer program, with the bonus of better response times. Debt service has remained flat compared to 2017. The capital budget, if authorized, will result in an increase of debt of \$164,250, and will include projects such as security upgrades and police training and equipment. The Mayor concluded his report by stating a more detailed presentation will be provided at the end of the month. The budget is slated to be introduced at the February 26, 2018 Regular Meeting with a public hearing and adoption scheduled for the March 26, 2018 meeting.

GO RED FOR WOMEN PROCLAMATION – Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation to declare February as Heart Health Awareness Month.

ACTION ITEMS:

Council Ad-Hoc Committees:

Senior Citizen Advisory Board

Community Representative Additions (1) Helene Swank

RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Seber, to approve the following:

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Deferred School Taxes

RESOLUTION [A] 18-02-12 - #1

Resolution Re: Authorizing Increase in Deferred School Taxes for Regional High School Taxes

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services requires that the Governing Body of any municipality which has Deferred School Taxes must authorize any increase in the deferral of any amounts, and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to increase Deferred School Taxes to the amount permitted under State statutes and to be effective at December 31, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Council that the following Deferred School Taxes be hereby increased for the year ended December 31, 2017 as follows:

	Deferred Regional High School Taxes
Amount Deferred 12/31/17	\$3,766,497
Amount Deferred 12/31/16	<u>3,627,671</u>
Amount of Increase	<u>\$ 138,826</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Funding of Municipal Alliance Program

**RESOLUTION [B] 18-02-12 - #2
GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
FISCAL GRANT CYCLE JULY 2014-JUNE 2019**

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Passaic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Little Falls Municipal Alliance grant for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 (FY2018) in the amount of:
2.

DEDR	\$22,440.00
Cash Match	\$ 5,610.00
In-Kind	\$16,830.00
3. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Designation of Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area

RESOLUTION [C] 18-02-12 - #3

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED AS Block 89, Lots 4-5; Block 111, Lots 1-14; Block 112, Lots 1-25; Block 113, Lots 2-8 BE DESIGNATED AS A NON-CONDEMNATION REDEVELOPMENT AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. ("Redevelopment Law"), authorizes municipalities to determine whether certain parcels of land located therein constitute areas in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2017 the Township Council ("Council") of the Township of Little Falls ("Township") adopted a Resolution authorizing and directing the Planning Board of the Township ("Board") to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether certain properties, identified as Block 89, Lots 4-5; Block 111, Lots 1-14; Block 112, Lots 1-25; Block 113, Lots 2-8, or any portions thereof ("Study Area"), meet the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law and should be designated as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area, as that term is defined by the Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted a preliminary investigation of the Study Area to determine whether it should be designated as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area in accordance with the criteria and procedures set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 and 40A:12A-6; and

WHEREAS, as part of its preliminary investigation, the Board caused Jeffrey L. Janota – H2M Associates, the Board's Consulting Planner, to prepare an Area in Need of Redevelopment Investigation Study ("Area in Need Study") for the Board for its consideration in determining whether the Study Area should be designated a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the foregoing, Mr. Janota prepared a map showing the boundaries of the proposed redevelopment area and locations of the parcels of property included therein, along with a statement setting forth the basis for its investigation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6(b)(1); and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted by the Board on November 2, 2017 with notice having been properly given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6(b)(3); and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, the Board reviewed the Area in Need Study, the map and associated documents, and heard testimony from Mr. Janota; and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, members of the general public were given an opportunity to be heard and to address questions to the Board concerning the potential designation of the Study Area as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, after completing its investigation and public hearing on this matter, the Board concluded that there was sufficient credible evidence to support findings that satisfy the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law, particularly at N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 et seq., for designating the Study Area as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area and that said designation is necessary for the effective redevelopment of the area comprising the Study Area; and

WHEREAS, the Board further concluded that there was sufficient credible evidence to support findings that any designation of the Study Area as a Non-Condemnation Study Area shall not authorize the municipality to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire any property in the Study Area; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Redevelopment Law and as memorialized by Resolution, dated December 7, 2017, the Board recommended to the Township Council that Block 89, Lots 4-5; Block 111, Lots 1-14; Block 112, Lots 1-25; Block 113, Lots 2-8 be designated as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area; and

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WHEREAS, the Township Council considered the Board's recommendation at its regularly scheduled public meeting on February 12, 2018; and

WHEREAS, at the Township Council's public meeting, members of the general public were given an opportunity to be heard and to address questions concerning the potential designation of the Study Area as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, Township Council accepted the recommendation of the Planning Board to declare the Study Area as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey accepts the recommendation from the Planning Board of the Township of Little Falls and finds that Block 89, Lots 4-5; Block 111, Lots 1-14; Block 112, Lots 1-25; Block 113, Lots 2-8 as shown on the official tax map of the Township of Little Falls be and are hereby deemed to be a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the designation of Block 89, Lots 4-5; Block 111, Lots 1-14; Block 112, Lots 1-25; Block 113, Lots 2-8 as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area shall not authorize the Township to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire any property in the Study Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township hereby reserves all other authority and powers granted to it under the Redevelopment Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Township of Little Falls shall forthwith transmit a copy of the within Resolution to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs for review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that within ten (10) days of the Township Council's adoption of the within Resolution, the Clerk of the Township of Little Falls shall serve notice of the Township Council's determination and the within Resolution upon all record owners of property within the Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area, those whose names are listed on the tax assessor's records, and upon each person who filed a written objection thereto and stated, in or upon the written submission, an address to which notice of the determination and Resolution may be sent and upon the Commission of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Planner, Jeffrey Janota of H2M Architects and Engineers is authorized and directed to prepare a Redevelopment Plan for the Study Area, including an outline for the planning, development and redevelopment of the Study Area pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Planning Board shall transmit a report containing its recommendation concerning the Redevelopment Plan to the Township Council. The Planning Board's report shall include an identification of any provisions in the proposed Redevelopment Plan which are inconsistent with the Master Plan and recommendations concerning these inconsistencies and any other matters as the Planning Board deems appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Bill List

RESOLUTION [D] 18-02-12 #4

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. ORDINANCE AMENDING CODE SECTION 122 – ELECTRONIC SMOKING OR VAPOR DEVICES - Mayor Damiano explained the ordinance was developed to be in line with the legal age to purchase cigarettes, which has since been increased. The amendment will allow the ordinance to conform and align with the current legal age to purchase cigarettes of 21 years of age.
2. ORDINANCE AMENDING SEWER CONNECTION FEES – Mayor Damiano stated the amendment will include a scale for sewer connection fees such that certain quantities offer a price reduction. The Mayor described a suggested cost schedule. Commercial fees will remain as they had been. The Mayor also provided examples where sewer fee credits would be provided for decommissioned residential sewers.
3. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 –TRAFFIC – GLEN ROCK ROAD- Mayor Damiano proposed the removal of the code section that prohibits vehicular traffic from entering and exiting Glen Rock Road from the Little Falls side. He described the findings of a study conducted by the Police Chief and the benefits of the amendment. He also cited the number of communications he received from residents, the majority of which supported the proposed amendment.
4. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 – TRAFFIC – WOODCLIFFE AVENUE - Mayor Damiano described that the end of Woodcliffe Avenue has Do Not Enter signs that were intended to prohibit traffic from using Woodcliffe Avenue as a cut through. The Mayor stated the amendment would enforce the Do Not Enter sign only between 6am and 8pm Monday through Friday. On nights and weekends residents would be able to use Woodcliffe Avenue in both directions to access their homes, ameliorating access issues currently experienced by residents.
5. OPEN SPACE/CDBG RESOLUTIONS – Mayor Damiano stated two grant applications, one for open space and one for a Community Development Block Grant(CDBG), would be submitted to the County with the Council's approval.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT:

1. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC ORDINANCE – TRUCK ROUTES –Mr. Simone reported the Council will be asked to amend Ordinance No. 728. The ordinance was submitted along with the truck route mapping to the County Engineer, who requested several modifications. Mr. Lindsay has corrected the truck route mapping, which will result in a total of approximately 70 signs to be erected. Additionally, there were two sections of the County road that were omitted from the truck route. Mr. Simone explained the ordinance must be reviewed by the County before implementation. Mr. Simone announced the County has requested the Township address Browertown Road coming off Route 46. Therefore, Mr. Lindsay has been in the process of contacting the NJ DOT to determine if the NJ DOT will require any type of advanced notice for truck routes.

At this time, Mr. Simone provided follow-up from a request at the last Council meeting regarding the two marquees at the ball field. He explained that the feed of the marquee near the refreshment stand was cut off when the ball field lights were changed, and will be restored when the lighting is completed. He clarified that the marquee at the

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Recreation Center never had an electric line. Upon consultation with an electrician, Mr. Simone described how electricity could be provided to light the sign. Councilmember VANCHERI questioned when the lighting might be completed. Mr. Simone estimated that test runs on the lighting would be conducted by the end of the week.

Council President SGOBBA raised the issue of problems emanating from uncollected newspapers, especially in stormy weather. Mr. Simone stated he sent an email to the President of the newspaper of concern on February 1, 2018. The DPW had gathered over 300 newspapers prior to the last storm. He also convened with the distribution director of the newspaper and detailed methods the company would take to rectify the problem.

Councilmember VANCHERI commended Police Chief Post and Corporal Moncato for their recent response to resident concerns on Ethel Drive. As a result, new signs to indicate limited sight distance and speed restrictions to make the area of concern safer will be erected.

Councilmember SEBER stated the Municipal Alliance recently convened. Upcoming events include a dance at the Recreation Center on April 27, 2018, and an event titled Staying on the Right Path for eighth grade students on May 21, 2018. Additionally, the Municipal Alliance will have a booth at the Street Fair on July 4 2018, and is making plans for the National Night Out on August 7, 2018.

Councilmember CORDONNIER reported an open space grant has been submitted to improve the playing fields by the Passaic River. She commended the DPW on the maintenance of the lots in that area. She also noted the Grant Committee is also reviewing a grant to pay for an open space master plan.

Councilmember LIESS stated the Senior Advisory Committee convene on February 13, 2018 to plan social and informational events.

Council President SGOBBA announced the Prevention of Domestic Violence Committee meeting was cancelled due to the snow. Council President SGOBBA reported the Library Board convened on Thursday to discuss concerns regarding the increase in students from 3pm-5pm due to the change in student busing. A meeting with the Mayor, Superintendent, and Director of the Library will meet to review possible methods to address this issue.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Scott Reynolds, 138 Glen Rock Road, expressed his support for the ordinance pertaining to Glen Rock Road. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their time to come to their neighborhood and consider residents’ concerns.

Tom Sweezy, 272 Woodcliffe Avenue, cited he was pleased to have received notice regarding the changes to Woodcliffe Avenue. He stated that rush hour is the most difficult time to traverse Woodcliffe Avenue and expressed his opinion that the One Way sign is not necessary.

Louis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, referred to the Mayor’s budget presentation and questioned the outstanding bond amount for the Township. Mayor Damiano stated his detailed budget presentation slated for the next Regular Meeting will include the information requested. Mr. Fernandez also raised his concern regarding multiple family dwellings in relation to sewer fees. Mayor Damiano stated that under the Township’s current zoning, multiple family dwellings, excluding townhome style homes, are no longer permitted, unless grandfathered in. Mr. Fernandez questioned when the Notch Road bridge would be completed. Mayor Damiano replied he has a letter from the contractor stating it will be open to vehicular traffic by the end of the month.

Morty Bernstein, 6 Chestnut Ridge, thanked the Mayor and Council for the ordinance amendment to remove the Do Not Enter signs on Woodcliffe Avenue.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember , 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.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Seber, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk