

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

Monday, May 9, 2016

Council President Louis Fontana called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: James Damiano, Pamela Porter, and William Liess. Also present were Township Attorney Leslie London, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: Councilmember Joseph Maceri

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone, Lt. Steve Post, Deputy Registrar Marlene Simone, Fire Chief Jack Sweezy

Following the Salute to the Flag, the Statement of Public Notice was 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 8, 2016; 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.

Council President FONTANA encouraged everyone to attend the presentation of Little Women on May 14, 2016 and the all day celebration at the Library on June 11, 2016. Both events are commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Library.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

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

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Liess, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Renea Shapiro, ABC, questioned budget cuts made to the Recreation Department and requested reconsideration. She also expressed disappointment in not having a public comment after the Council discussed the budget amendments.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, commented whether the budget for Passaic Valley High school requires ballot approval by residents in November as it relates to exceeding the two percent cap. He also reiterated his request for a lead status report in the schools.

Louis Fernandez, Harrison Street, expressed his disagreement with the hiring of a rent control officer, the knowledge of which he ascertained from newspaper article.

Bob Dombrowski, Parkway, raised the issue of maintenance of flood mitigated and acquired properties.

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

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Liess, Porter, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mr. Cuccia addressed the budget issue brought forth by Ms. Shapiro, instructing that the original larger amendment had a public notification and hearing as per statute. The second amendment did not meet the requirements for notification and advertisement. Councilmember DAMIANO further clarified that the second amendment was within the ten percent cap, therefore public comment was not indicated. Mr. Cuccia continued to explain the reduction in Recreation Department budget was from the "other expense" line item, not salary, and all Department Heads shared in that reduction.

Mr. Cuccia stated although he was not present for the comment, he addressed Mr. Korotkin's question by equating it to the Municipal budget. He instructed that like the Municipal budget, there may be items outside the cap or that are exceptions to the cap. The Department of Education has the responsibility to review the High School budget.

Councilmember PORTER stated she sent an email to the public school administrator after Mr. Korotkin's last request and obtained the name of the company performing testing. However, at this time, she has not received a status report on results. Councilmember Porter to follow-up with the public school administrator and report back.

Council President FONTANA and Mr. Cuccia confirmed an individual is not being hiring by the Township and it is not in the budget. Mr. Cuccia explained the history and premise of rent control, and that the provisions for tracking the ordinance have not been occurring. The modification to the ordinance will enable the rent control officer to track the necessary information administratively, and ensure ordinance compliance.

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In response to Mr. Dombrowski’s comment, Council President FONTANA stated plans are for expansion of the Lewis Street park once all acquisitions in the vicinity are complete. Mr. Simone stated that all of the grass has been cut last week, and some of the grass has been cut two and three times. He explained he is assessing crew assignment to properly handle the workload and has followed-up with the contractor on areas where grass still needs to grow. He cited lack of consistent watering as a problematic factor. He also stated there are five more properties slated for hydraseed.

Mayor Conti announced the EMS will commence on Monday May 15, 2016, which is also the beginning of Emergency Medical Services Week. At this time, the Mayor called all volunteer firefighters and EMS to come up. She then read a Proclamation designating May 15-21, 2016 as Eagle Rescue Squad Week and May 15, 2016 as the commencement of the Little Falls EMS. Chief Jack Sweezy thanked the Council and Company No.1 for their support on this project and looked forward to a successful implementation.

ACTION ITEMS:

Resolution – Grant Application for Batting Cages- It was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Damiano, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [A] 16-05-09 - #1

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls is making a grant application to the Passaic County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund for Improvements to Paterson Avenue Field; and

WHEREAS, the funding request of \$190,193.90 is to make improvements to the batting cages at the Paterson Avenue Field.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Body resolves that Mayor Darlene J. Conti or the successor to the office of Mayor is hereby authorized to:

- (a) Make application for such a grant,
- (b) Provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
- (c) Act as the authorized correspondent of the above named applicant.

Mr. Lindsay detailed the current state of the batting cages, maintenance requirements, and plans for additional batting cages.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Liess, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Resolution- CDBG Disaster Recovery Resettlement Incentive- It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Damiano, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [B] 16-05-09 - #2

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE UTILIZATION OF A RESETTLEMENT INCENTIVE FOR HOME OWNERS UNDER THE PASSAIC COUNTY CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR OWNER-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls (the “Township”) received a grant (Resolution K 14-08-11-#11) from the County of Passaic (the “County”) for the acquisition and demolition of flood prone properties pursuant to a Passaic County Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Sub-Recipient Agreement entered July 22, 2013 as amended (“CDBG DR Grant); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of Little Falls may provide an incentive of \$20,250 for resettlement as part of the CDBG DR grant to owner-occupied homes as a separate payment after the closing of the property; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls, to authorize the resettlement payment under the CDBG-DR program to eligible homeowners. The resettlement payment may only be offered to owners who occupied the home, or if vacant, occupied the house at the time of Hurricane Irene (August 28, 2011). The incentive is a separate transaction from the offer to purchase the property. However, the owner must accept the acquisition offer and settle on the property in order to be eligible for the resettlement payment.

Mr. Cuccia explained that with the acquisition of flood mitigated homes, the Township received a FEMA grant with a matching portion stemming from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for disaster relief. The project from the federal side provided 90% of the funding for the purchase of the home. The other 10%, in some cases, came from the CDBG, payable to the homeowner.

Poll: Ayes: Porter, Liess, Damiano, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Resolution – Third Party Billing for BLS- It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Damiano, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [C] 16-05-09 - #3

ACCEPTING PRPOSAL AND AWARING CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF THIRD PARTY BILLING SERVICE FOR MUNICIPAL BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) AMBULANCE SERVICES

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertising duly made, proposals were received by the Township of Little Falls on April 19, 2016 for Third Party Billing Service for Municipal Basic Life Support, and the bids were opened and read publicly as follows:

ARS, Inc.	DMMB	Revenue Guard
Allentown, PA	Gibbsboro, NJ	Morganville, NJ
Years 1-3: 5.9%	Years 1-3: 5.95%	Years 1-3: 13%

and, **WHEREAS**, Township Attorney has reviewed the proposals for legal sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, upon review, it was determined that the lowest numerical proposal from ARS, Inc. must be rejected on the basis that the company does not provide for bundle billing, which is a necessity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls as follows:

- 1) That the bid of DMMB
 Gibbsboro, NJ

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At the rate of

5.95%
for a period of one year

be and the same is hereby accepted; and

2) That the Mayor and Clerk be and they are hereby authorized to execute a Contract in a form approved by the Township Attorney for the designated services at the bid price hereinabove cited, subject to the successful Contractor's filing the required form of Affirmative Action compliance and Payroll Certification for Public Works Projects.

Mr. Cuccia stated the lowest bidder was 5.90%, however, the Township would like to award another bidder at 5.95%. This is due to the inability of the low bidder to fund a bundle bill. He further elaborated that the system requires the bill be presented once in a bundle, and revenue shared among the treating and transporting agencies. DMMB was the lowest bidder able to accomplish this. In response to Councilmember DAMIANO's question about contract duration, Mr. Cuccia explained the contract is to be rewarded for one year with a provision to award after review of their activity.

Poll: Ayes: Porter, Liess, Damiano, and Council President Fontana
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. RENT CONTROL ORDINANCE- Mr. Cuccia explained this ordinance was held at the last Regular meeting to allow for further review and discussion. It was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Porter, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Liess, and Council President Fontana
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed

Harold Lipoff, 161 Main Street, thanked Mr. Cuccia for availing the ordinance to him, and explained his interpretation of the ordinance. He expressed his agreement with the ordinance and queried whether an individual who is already employed by the Township would manage the position of rent control officer. Mr. Cuccia confirmed a current employee would take on the role of rent control officer.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, applauded the availability of the Rent Control Ordinance, and questioned how residents could be better informed of the ordinance's existence.

No one further coming forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Porter, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Liess, and Council President Fontana
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed

Council President FONTANA affirmed Mr. Cuccia's request to place the Rent Control Ordinance on Agenda for the next Regular meeting. Council President FONTANA suggested circulation of the ordinance via the Township website. Mr. Cuccia stated a mailer to the rental community could supplement communication of the ordinance as well.

2. TOWING CONTRACT BIDS- Mr. Cuccia explained the ordinance for towing indicates the timeframe to go out to bid is every two years. The deadline is for year end, therefore specifications will be prepared to seek bids.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT:

1. INFILTRATION INFORMATION STUDY FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM- A Flow Metering Infiltration and Inflow Report from 2004 was previously distributed to Councilmembers. Mr. Simone reported the Township received a visit by the US EPA to review the sewer system and raised the issue of the infiltration and inflow (I&I) program. Mr. Simone recommended restarting the I&I program to revisit locations where issues were identified in the Crew Engineer report, in order to confirm that they have been addressed. The DPW will notify residents that they will be checking via door tags. Mr. Simone also noted the DPW is in the process of devising a bid spec for a contractor to clean and televise the sewers, and identified areas of focus. Mr. Simone recalled the I&I program was initiated in 2005 and then dropped. Per Councilmember DAMIANO's request, Mr. Simone explained the sources of I&I, that most of the necessary work could be done from manholes, and how residents are notified of smoke testing.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The Councilmembers had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Liess, and Council President Fontana
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Liess, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Damiano, 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) – anticipated litigation- no action taken.

Poll: Ayes: Porter, Liess, Damiano and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.

At 9:18 p.m. the Council returned and it was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Porter, that the meeting return to Open Session.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Porter, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk