

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

Monday, October 19, 2020

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

Absent: None.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steve Post.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Following the Salute to the Flag Council President SGOBBA requested a moment of silence to honor Phillip H. Simone.

At this time, Mayor Damiano read the following statement from his family:

Phillip H. Simone has served the Township of Little Falls proudly for over 40 years. He has to be one of the longest tenured employees if not the longest. To put that into perspective Jimmy Carter was president and a gas cost .59 cents a gallon when he started. The titles he has held have been Superintendent of Public Works, Sewer System Operator, Recycling Coordinator, Clean Communities Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, and Shade Tree Chairman among others. He has led through ten major floods, with one on the Passaic River being the second worst of all time, countless hurricanes and tropical depressions, way too many snowstorms and blizzards and many other natural and manmade problems.

He started his career with Little Falls in sewer plant which has not been around since the late eighties with the only piece left of it is the road department salt bin. From managing the township sewer system, he moved to managing the town's road department in the late eighties where he was influential in many projects and programs during his tenure. He was instrumental in starting the townships recycling and Clean Communities programs as well as building a recycling center when they were just in infancy around the state. He oversaw the construction of every township building in use today from the public works garage and sewer pump stations, the recreation center, the municipal building and then its addition of the police station and court, and the renovation of the civic center from an old post office to a new community center. He has been part of or overseen the development or redevelopment of the townships park system from Amity, Louis St, Railroad, Inwood, and Paterson Ave ball fields to the Morris Canal green ways and Wilmore road Memorial park.

He was a fountain of knowledge because of his years of service. If a resident, contractor, elected official, or township employee within the road department or another department had a question, nine times out of ten he was able to provide you with the right information and if he could not he could point you in the right information. His standard for quality for work was second to none and he expected nothing less from the men working for him or contractors doing the work for the township. He lived in Little Falls, worked in Little Falls, raised a Family in Little Falls and because of all of this he took pride in Little Falls and what it stood for, Little Falls was his town. So much of what the Road Department does is behind the scenes and people don't really get to see much of it, but that is the way it should be. When you are able to get up in the morning and brush your teeth and take a shower, or get in your car and drive your kids to school or wake up in the morning after a large snow fall and the streets are cleaner then when you went to bed, there is a reason, someone is making sure all these things are taken care of and for the past 30 years that man has been Phillip H. Simone. His knowledge, expertise, and determination will all be missed, but the man will not be, and his memory and legacy not forgotten.

Mayor Damiano then stated that Phil Simone always picked up the phone when he called, he always pointed him in the right direction, and always knew the answer without even having to point him in the right direction because he was an absolute wealth of knowledge, having everything to do with Little Falls. And he will certainly be missed here by not only us within the government here in Little Falls but by the residents of Little Falls because he was truly a dedicated man, and as dedicated as he was to this Township for 40 years, he was even more dedicated to his family at home and he will certainly be missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 and 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 9, 2020. A copy of the notice was mailed 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. **This meeting is being conducted under the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 health situation. No public will be allowed to attend the meeting in person. A Youtube link to view this meeting can be accessed on the Township website at www.lfnj.com. Electronic provisions have been established for the public to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting.**

ROLL CALL – Council President Sgobba, Mayor Damiano and Township Administrator Charles Cuccia were present in person. Councilmember Christine Hablitz, Councilmember Albert Kahwaty, Councilmember Tanya Seber, Councilmember Christopher Vancheri, Attorney Joseph Wenzel, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus, and Police Chief Steve Post attended the meeting remotely.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the Minutes of the September 21, 2020 Regular Meeting be and they were approved.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember KAHWATY recalled the Domestic Violence Vigil and thanked the Committee members and those who participated. The Halloween event has been put on hold due to COVID-19. Councilmember KAHWATY commented on improvements at the Recreation Center and Duva field. Council President SGOBBA commended Councilmember Kahwaty for organizing a very moving program for the Domestic Violence Vigil. He further commented on various types of domestic violence to which Councilmember KAHWATY further expounded upon.

Councilmember HABLITZ reported the Library will be at the Farmer’s Market this weekend. Book and DVD donations will be accepted until the end of October for the Friends of the Library Book Sale. The Library will sponsor the first annual Honk or Treat on Halloween from 12pm-2pm. The Farmer’s Market has been extended until November 1, 2020.

Councilmember VANCHERI expressed his appreciation for the moment of silence and remembrance for Phillip H. Simone. Councilmember VANCHERI reported progress on four way stop signs and a review of signage in the Township. He thanked the DPW for installing “Children at Play” signs in response to resident requests. Lastly, he commented on the improvements at the Recreation Complex. In response to Council President SGOBBA, Councilmembers Vancheri and Kahwaty provided feedback on their experience with the new fields from their perspective as soccer coaches.

Councilmember SEBER thanked the participants of the door decorating contest sponsored by the Municipal Alliance. She then highlighted the upgrades of the racquetball courts and other areas of the Recreation complex. Council President thanked the Municipal Alliance and Pam Cannataro for organizing the door decorating contest and commented on the addition of the pickleball courts.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

On Sunday, Council President SGOBBA stated he and Councilmember Hablitz accompanied the Girl Scouts to pick up litter near the Morris Canal, Passaic River and Lewis Street park. Council President SGOBBA also commented on the Clean Communities program and efforts to keep the Township clean.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Damiano discussed details regarding voting in the 2020 Election. The Mayor congratulated Superintendent Traci Marinelli for being named Passaic County and North Jersey Superintendent of the Year and achieving the designation as a Blue Ribbon for School No.3 and Lighthouse District for the Township.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS PROCLAMATION – At this time, Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation declaring October 2020 Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PROCLAMATION – Mayor Damiano then read the Proclamation recognizing October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

DOWN SYNDROME PROCLAMATION – Lastly, Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation announcing October 1, 2020 World Down Syndrome Awareness Day in the Township of Little Falls.

2020 BEST PRACTICES REPORT – Mr. Cuccia reported the Township has met the minimum requirements to maintain State aid. Mr. Cuccia explained that all municipalities must participate in the Best Practice Inventory annually and provided a summary of the various components.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Mr. Wenzel had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ALL MATTERS

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so by sending an email to CKRAUS@LFNJ.COM. The email must provide your name and address for the record. At this time there will be a ten-minute recess, which will allow the public to send comments and questions via email. At the end of the recess, the Meeting will reconvene and all proper emails will be read into the record. The Council President will determine if a response is needed and if so, shall direct said response. Once the process is complete, we will return to the regular order of business.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

At this time, Council President SGOBBA announced there will be a ten-minute recess such that questions from the public can be emailed to the Clerk. The Council recessed at 7:41 PM and returned to session at 7:51 PM.

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Luis Fernandez – 54 Harrison Street, requested clarification on Resolution B. Mr. Cuccia explained the adjustment. Mr. Fernandez requested an update on negotiations regarding the Township and the owner of 75 Harrison Street. The Mayor provided a status report.

As no further emails were received for comment, it was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine and were enacted with a single motion. Any items under REQUISITIONS carried a Treasurer’s certification as to sufficiency of funds.

REPORTS

Municipal Clerk’s Report – Month of September 2020

MUNICIPAL CLERKS REPORT
Month of September 2020

ABC LICENSES		13,200.00
OTHER LICENSES		
Business Licenses		
Pre-paid Business Licenses	\$210.00	
Raffle Licenses		\$210.00
REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS		
Fees & Permits	\$480.00	
Marriage Licenses-LF	200.00	
Marriage Licenses-NJ	24.00	
		\$704.00
MRNA		
Street Maps		
Zoning Maps		
Zoning Ordinances		
Document Copies		
Garage Sales	60.00	
Misc. Fees & Refunds:	78.16	
TOTAL MRNA		138.16
TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT		<u>\$14,252.16</u>
TOTAL TO TREASURER		<u>\$14,252.16</u>

Municipal Clerks Dog/Cat License Report - Month of September 2020

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S DOG/CAT LICENSE REPORT
Month of September 2020

Dog Licenses issued 09/01/2020 thru 09/30/2020	
Nos. 49 to 64 = 16 Licenses	
Amount due Little Falls	108.00
Amount due State	28.20
Total Cash Received	137.00
Cat Licenses issued 09/01/2020 thru 09/30/2020	
Nos.4 to 8	
Licenses Issued 5	
Total Cash Received	43.00
Total to Treas.	<u>\$180.00</u>

Recreation Report – Month of September 2020

Recreation Center - Sept 2020				
Program	Facility	# Classes	Hours	Participants
LFFPA Football & Cheer	0	0	0	0
Rec Soccer	Turf Field	10 Games	14	400
Lady Hornets Softball	0	0	0	0
Weekly Totals		0	14	400

Civic Center Report – Month of September 2020

Month of September 2020			
Meetings Limited to 25% Capacity			
Meeting Group	# of Meetings	Hours	Participants
Senior Clubs	6	16	125
School #1 PTA	1	1	15
Fire Commission Meeting	2	2	15
Monthly Totals	9	19	155

Police Department Report - Month of September 2020

PATROL DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT – September, 2020

This agency handled **17,424** details between January 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020.
 This agency completed **4,088** reports between January 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020.
 This agency received **XXXX** inbound telephone calls and had **XXXXX** outbound calls during the month of September, 2020.
 This agency received **XXXX** 911 calls during the month of September, 2020.
 The Little Falls Police Department handled **2,523** details and wrote **485** Operation/Investigation reports between September 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020.
 The patrol division patrolled **12,051** miles during the month of September, 2020.

Calls for Service

Call Type	Total
Medical emergency	59
Fire Department incident	7
Narcan deployment	0
Burglar alarms/false	16
Burglar alarms/valid	4
Domestic violence incidents	3
Burglary	1
Criminal mischief	3
Theft	7
Suspicious person/vehicle/incident	29
General investigation	26
Noise complaint	21
All others not listed	309

Traffic Summary

Crashes	Total
Motor vehicle crashes	71
Motor vehicle crash injuries	11
Motor vehicle crash fatalities	0
Enforcement	Total
Motor vehicle stops	410
Speeding summonses	33
DWI summonses	3
Driving while suspended summonses	9
Uninsured vehicle summonses	4
Moving violations	152
Parking violations	41
Total summonses issued	193

Arrest Summary

Total Arrests – 21

Type of Arrest	Total
CDS	9
DWI	3
Warrant	1
Domestic Violence	1
Theft	5
All others	2

Directed Patrol Summary

Detail Type	Total
School arrival	68
School dismissal	62
School walk through	55
Radar post	136
Park check	150
Vacant house check	26
Extra attention check	308
DWI/Aggressive driving patrol	0
Foot patrol	22

Patrol Division Time & Attendance

Type of Hours	Total
Vacation	96
Holiday	328
Compensatory	155
Sick	60
Personal time	18
Credit time	97
Administrative	12
PBA day	14
Schedule transition	29
Bereavement	0
Overtime due to Training	0
Overtime hours to maintain minimum staffing level	36
Overtime due to incident/weather/other event	6

3 out of a total of 60 shifts during the month of September were below minimum staffing.

Patrol staffing level during month: 3.88

Major incident/Notable achievement

Pro-Trump/Pro-Police/Pro-Military Rally held at Memorial Park on Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 1100 hours to 1400 hours. A total of 55.5 hours of overtime was needed to handle the rally.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Detail Type	Total
Cell block inspection	21
School arrivals	17
School dismissals	17
School walk thru	39
Vacant house checks	18
Child car seat installations	1
Headquarters safety inspections	0
Project medicine box emptied	1 (24 lbs)
Trips to Covanta for prescription drug destruction	0
Community function appearances	1
School function appearances	0

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Special projects/details

9/9 Had Zoom meeting with L.E.A.D.
9/10 Municipal Alliance meeting
9/11 Attended 9/11 ceremony
9/12 Worked Trump rally
9/21 Participated in School #1 lock down drill
9/22 Participated in School #2 lock down drill
9/24 Participated in School #3 lock down drill
9/28 Picked up L.E.A.D. books in Paramus
Registered department for Toys for Tots
Completed several Power DMS courses

TRAFFIC DIVISION

Detail Type	Total
Traffic details	*
Radar posts	*
Crashes investigated	*
Speedometer calibrations	*
Alcotest maintenance assignments	*
Traffic meetings attended	*
Traffic complaints received	*
Road job safety checks	*
Assisted patrol	*
Enforcement	Total
Motor vehicle stops	*
Moving summonses	*
Parking summonses	*
Total summonses issued	*

Special projects/details

***Due to a personnel shortage, Cpl. Moncato reassigned to the patrol division.

Investigations Division Report
September,2020 Monthly Report

Criminal Case Management

- 9 Cases were assigned for follow-up investigation.
- 12 Investigations currently remain open and active.
- 14 Cases closed from current and previous months.

Criminal Complaints/Warrants Served:

- 2 Cases where Criminal Complaints were issued by the Investigative Division.
- 1 Attempts were made to service outstanding criminal arrest warrants issued by the Little Falls Municipal Court.

Juvenile

- 0 Juvenile Petitions were issued and submitted to the Passaic County Superior Court, Family Division.
- 0 Station-House Adjustment was filed by the Department’s Juvenile Detective.

Narcotics

- 1 Active Narcotics investigation(s)
- 0 Arrests were made by the investigative division for a drug related offense.
- 24 Pounds of prescription medication was deposited in the Prescription Drug Box.

After Hours Call-Outs

- 2 Incidents required a detective response for investigative support after hours.

Internal Affairs (IA)

- 0 IA Complaint was screened and indexed.
- 1 IA Investigation was conducted and closed.
- 0 IA Complaint remains open and is being investigated.
- There were 0 investigations that resulted in disciplinary action requiring a suspension of ten (10) or more days.

Grand Jury/Superior Court Appearances

- 0 Cases required a Detective to appear and testify before a Grand Jury or Superior Court.

Search Warrants/Subpoenas

- 2 Subpoenas were requested to be served for an investigation.
- There was 1 search warrant and 0 communication data warrants executed.

Background Investigations

The Investigative Division conducted 0 Police Applicant investigations, 0 Dispatcher Applicant Investigation and 0 Crossing Guard Applicant Investigations.

Megan’s Law (Sex-Offender) Registrations

- 0 New Registrations
- 4 Address Verification and Re-Registrations
- There are currently 9 registered sex-offenders residing within the Township.

Detective Time Off and Overtime:

Detective Time Off: TOTAL 93 hours

Compensatory – 13 hours Vacation/Holiday – 56 Hours Personal – 0 hours Sick- 24 hours Other – 0 Hours

Division Monthly Staffing Level (M-F) – 2.47 Detectives

Detective Overtime

Hours worked for Cash – 8 hours (All 8 hours attributed to the Rally and March on 09/12) Hours worked for Compensatory Time – 18.5 hours

Property and Evidence

- 0 Item classified as property was entered into the department’s BEAST Evidence System, processed, logged and secured. (This includes missing, lost and found property, recovered stolen property and items left for safekeeping.)
- 0 Firearms/Weapons were entered into the BEAST Evidence System, processed, logged and secured.
- 0 Firearms were transported for ballistics analysis.
- 14 Items classified as evidence were entered into the BEAST Evidence System, processed, logged and secured.
- 3 Items classified as Drug Evidence were transported to the NJ State Police Laboratory for analysis.
- 6 Items classified as Forensic Evidence were transported to the NJ State Police Laboratory at Hamilton or Holmdel, NJ for

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analysis. (This includes physical, chemical, and biological evidence.)
0 Random drug screen analysis specimens were transported to the NJ State Medical Examiner’s Office for analysis.
\$0.00 Currency was seized and submitted to the Passaic County Prosecutor’s Office pending asset forfeiture proceedings.

Notable Cases

- 20-2414 – On 9/17/20, the Department of Justice issued a press release regarding the arrests of four men “Charged in Scheme to Steal Mail and Commit Bank Fraud.” One of the men, Jeffrey Bennett was arrested in a joint operation involving officers of the Little Falls Police Department due to an investigation conducted by Det. Cespedes. On 6/23/20 patrol responded to the Route 46/Jeep/Dodge/Chrysler dealership and filed a report of a Jeep with numerous fictitious identifications located inside. The vehicle was subsequently towed and impounded. Det. Cespedes started his investigation, obtained a search warrant and located additional items that linked Jeffrey Bennett and others to a fraud ring. Det. Cespedes shared his findings amongst other law enforcement investigators and learned that Jeffrey Bennett was the target of other investigations by Newark PD and the US Postal Service. Det. Cespedes forwarded his investigative findings and evidence to the US Postal Police which strengthened their case and contributed to additional charges against Jeffrey Bennett.
- 20-03304 – Detective Cepedes was able to identify the actors responsible for several motor vehicle burglaries that occurred during the overnight hours of 08/15 in the Singac section of town. Once identified, 7 criminal charges were signed against the men responsible. As a result of the investigation, Det. Cespedes revealed an additional accomplice who was charged with 3 counts of fraudulent use of a credit card and receiving stolen property.
- 20-03789 – Detective Strothers was able to determine the identity of an unknown actor who shoplifted various items from the Shop-Rite store. The suspect was also wanted in connection with other incidents in Woodland Park. As a result of the investigation, criminal complaints were issued against the actor.

Comments:

Throughout September, the health-crisis surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic continued to affect some aspects of the Investigation Division. Sections of Superior Court remain closed and are still unable to process subpoena requests. This is causing an unusually high number of open/inactive cases pending both financial and investigative subpoenas.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION – Administrative Monthly Report – September, 2020

RECORDS BUREAU

Discovery and OPRA

12 Discovery Cases involving Digital (Audio/Video) files were processed and uploaded to Dropbox for defense attorneys, the public defender and prosecutors.
26 OPRA requests were processed.
665 pages of reports were facilitated and forwarded to the Township Clerk’s Office for OPRA requests.
\$930.00 was deposited by the Records Bureau during the month.
\$0.00 of the total deposited was as Unclaimed Property.
 Discover **\$0.00**/Firearms **\$238.00**/Accident & Incident Reports **\$692.00**/Fingerprints **\$0**/Solicitor **\$0**

Firearms

32 Applications for Firearms Permits
18 Firearms Purchaser ID cards were *Issued*
24 Handgun Purchase Permits were *Issued*
2 Applications were *Denied*

Background Investigations

Firearms – **21** Firearms Investigations Completed
Permit to Carry – **0** Permit to Carry Applications.
Solicitor(s)- **1** solicitor permits were processed and issued

TRAINING

Outside Training

- Lt. Presing/Sig Sauer P 320 Armorer Course
- Ptl. Fleck, Lt. Prall, Lt. Presing, Sgt. Gilchrist, Ptl, Kania, Sgt. Pinnola/Alcotest Recertification
- Ptl. Issak attended and successfully completed a 2 -week Motorcycle Training Course
- Ptl. Conti, Ptl, Sayad, Ptl. DeLuccia/ 2-day Report Writing
- Sgt. Hoyt, Ptl. Kania, Ptl, DeLuccia, Ptl. Sayad, Ptl. Conti/MV Stop & 2 C Update
- Sgt. Pinnola/Below 100 Training
- **Departmental Training**

Online Training:

Power DMS: Use of Force Online Reporting Portal Training
 Safe Fireground Operations for Law Enforcement

Firearms

11 Officers completed Handgun and Rifle Qualifications as required. These officers also participated in voluntary proficiency training with the department issued firearms.

DISPATCHER TIME OFF AND COVERAGE

Dispatcher Time Off

COMP – **0** Hours HOL – **36** Hours VAC – **8** Hours PER – **0** Hours
 C/T – **79** Hours SICK – **0** Hours FML - **12** Hours

Dispatcher Coverage – Overtime

Part-time Dispatcher Hours Worked – **66** hours
 Full time Dispatcher OT CASH – **53** Hours
 Dispatch Vacancy Covered by Patrol OT – **0** hours
 Dispatch Vacancy Covered by Patrol Shift – **4** hours
 Full-time Dispatcher OT Comp – **0** hours
 Part-Time Dispatcher Proficiency Hours Worked – **0** hours
 (Suspended due to COVID-19)

SEPTEMBER 2020 VEHICLE EXPENSE REPORT

DATE	VEH	MIL	Maintenance Complaint	Repair	Location	Invoice	Amount	BDG	OOS	BIS	Days
9/2/20	MC-1	8246	Tires	Purchase F/R tires	Harley	1124234	\$442.92	716	9/2		0
9/2/20	MC-1	8246	Clutch cable	Purchase Clutch Cable	Harley	1124233	\$67.05	716	9/2		0
9/7/20	817	56845	CK Engine,RF light	Repaired	DPW	N/A	\$0.00	733	9/7	9/7	1
9/12/20	812	19525	MVR in Opp	Needs window 10	Tronosys	N/A	\$0.00	756	9/12		1
9/12/20	814		MVR in Opp	Needs window 10	Tronosys	N/A	\$0.00	752	9/12		1
9/12/20	816	65877	MVR in Opp	Needs window 10	Tronosys	N/A	\$0.00	744	9/12		1
9/12/20	800	12384	MVR in Opp	Needs window 10	Tronosys	N/A	\$0.00	756	9/12		1
9/12/20	811	56829	MVR in Opp	Needs window 10	Tronosys	N/A	\$0.00	742	9/12		1
9/23/20	D-3	95311	Washer FLD Leak	Replace Tank	Wayne Ford	309622	\$109.37	S/C	9/23	9/23	1
9/23/20	D-3	95311	Service Trans	Change Trans Fluid	Wayne Ford	249451	\$267.29	716	9/22	9/28	7
9/23/20	816		Fire Exting. Discharged	Replaced	United	N/A	\$0.00	733	9/22	9/22	0
9/28/20	811	57983	Brakes 2 Tires	DPW		N/A	\$0.00	733	10/7	10/9	3
9/30/20	D-3	95311	Swaybars V-belt	Service	DPW	N/A	\$0.00	716	9/30		0
							\$886.63				17

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FLEET MANAGEMENT

PATROL DIVISION MONTHLY MILEAGE REPORT – September 2020

UNIT	STARTING MILEAGE	ENDING MILEAGE	TOTAL
800	11974	12644	670
810	15404	17592	2188
811	56080	58034	1954
812	18681	20220	1539
813	25275	25295	20
814	68194	70022	1828
815	41283	41884	601
816	65590	65573	983
817	56358	58067	1709
818	68832	69007	175
384 miles on new 818		TOTAL MILEAGE	11667

Construction Report – Month- September 2020

Uniform Construction Code

Permits Issued – 37
 Inspections – 157
 Total Value of Construction - \$393,086.00
 Certificate of Occupancy - \$5,935.00
 Permit Fees Collected - \$11,897
 Permit Fees Waived - \$
 Penalties Collected - \$5,000.00
 Total Fees Collected - \$22,832.00

Zoning

Fence Permits –\$500.00
 Zoning fees – \$620.00
 Total Fees Collected- \$1,120.00

Property Maintenance

Certificates of Compliance Fees –\$1815.00
 Inspections – 34
 Complaints Inspections - 18
 Violations Issued – 14
 Roll-off permits – \$30.00
 Total Fees Collected - \$1,845.00
Monthly Revenue \$25,797.00

YTD Revenue \$182,658.50

APPLICATION

RED LIGHT PERMIT, EDMUND POMPONIO, DONATO DRIVE, LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

RAFFLE, OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ANGELS CHURCH, ANNUAL CALENDAR RAFFLE LICENSE, 12/24/20 THROUGH 03/18/2021, 9:30 A.M., 465 MAIN STREET, LITTLE FALLS

RESOLUTIONS

Refunds on 2020 Real Estate Tax Overpayments

RESOLUTION [A] 20-10-19 - #1

WHEREAS, the following properties in the Township of Little Falls, New Jersey have overpaid real estate taxes in 2020; and
WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is requesting that the Township Council direct the Treasurer to refund said amounts overpaid listed below;

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

<u>Tax Year & Qtr.</u>	<u>Block Lot/Q</u>	<u>Taxpayer/ Location</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2020/4 for 3 rd	88.03/1 C302	Nevrin Lao 262 Main St, #302	Safeland Title Agency LLC 550 Kinderkamack Rd, Suite 110 Oradell, NJ 07649	O/P	\$1,608.43
2020/4 for 3 rd	238/4	Vincent & D DiMattia 635 Long Hill Rd	Signature Closing Serv LLC 520 Speedwell Ave, Suite103 Morris Plains, NJ 07950	O/P	2,242.38
Total Refunds					\$3,850.81

Cancellation of 2020 Taxes

RESOLUTION [B] 20-10-19 - #2

WHEREAS, as a result of an error in the 2020 Extended Tax Duplicate there is a need to correct the assessed value for Block 226 Lot 5, James D & Marian Cestone, 23 Jackson St, Little Falls from \$777, 200 to \$382,700; and

WHEREAS, Resolution (A) 20-08-10-#1 corrected the 2020 Estimated 3rd qtr. taxes with a cancellation of \$6, 343.56 and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls that the required tax cancellations be made by the Tax Collector:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>OWNER & LOCATION</u>	<u>TAX CANCELLATIONS</u>
226	5	James D & Mariann Cestone 23 Jackson Street Little Falls, NJ 07424	2020 (4) \$6,213.38 2021 (1) 3,139.23 2021 (2) 3,139.24

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Submission of Application to NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program 2020

**RESOLUTION [C] 20-10-19 - #3
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM 2020**

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls, State of New Jersey desires to apply to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls has designed the Downtown Little Falls Streetscape Improvements Project to meet all criteria necessary to receive funding under Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program, and to maximize accessibility of multiple modes of surface transportation along Main Street between Union Avenue and Center Avenue; and,

WHEREAS, the primary activity within this Project Area will be to complete a number of streetscape improvements that will improve pedestrian access to downtown Little Falls and beautify Main Street; and,

WHEREAS, this primary activity involves land that is owned by the Township of Little Falls, and the Township of Little Falls hereby commits to maintain the Project Area once developed; and,

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of grant funds available is \$1,000,000, and the Township of Little Falls will provide additional funds to fully fund the project; and,

WHEREAS, responsibilities for administering the proposed project in accord with federal and state guidelines (to be known as the Responsible Charge) will be Charles Cuccia, full-time Township Administrator; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, State of New Jersey formally authorize submission of the electronic grant application identified as TA-2020-Little Falls Streetscape Improvement-00028 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program on behalf of the Township of Little Falls.

Insertion of Special Item of Revenue and Appropriation into Municipal Budget

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION [D] 20-10-19 - #4
SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION**

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls in the County of Passaic, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2020 in the sum of \$14,083.74 which is now available from Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F – Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with prior written consent of Director of Local Government Services - Public & Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations Fire House Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant \$14,083.74

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$14,083.74 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

General Appropriations		
(A)	Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”	
	Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenues	
	Fire House Subs Public Safety Foundation	
	Acquisition of Lucas Chest Compression System	\$14,083.74

Change Order for Duva Field Project

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
RESOLUTION [E] 20 - 10 - 19 - # 5
AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE DUVA FIELD TURF PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls, pursuant to a cooperative purchasing contract, (#060518-SII) awarded a contract to Athletic Fields of America for the installation of a Turf Field at Duva Field 160 Paterson Avenue, Little Falls New Jersey for the original sum of \$3,631,907.00; and

WHEREAS, by memorandum dated October 14, 2020, the Township Engineer recommended that the contract be amended to change bid items in the base bid as follows; and

PCO-27 – This change order revises previously approved Change Order 20. It was decided that the Township’s DPW would assemble the bleachers rather than have the assembly performed by the contractor, resulting in a credit of \$50,467.81.

WHEREAS, change orders total \$618,817.09, and will be used for the improvements to Duva Field Turf Project; and

WHEREAS, funds for the above referenced Project Change Order #27 have been provided for as part of the Township’s Capital ordinances and;

WHEREAS, based on the forgoing the Township Council has determined that it is necessary and appropriate to approve Change Order #27 negative \$50,467.81 of the contract price. Total change orders represent a change of 17.03% on the original Contract amount;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Little Falls, in the County of Passaic, that the Mayor and the Township Clerk be, and they are authorized to execute Change Order #27 to the contract with Athletic Fields of America. Funds for the Change Orders are to be charged to the accounts in the Capital Program or as otherwise determined by the Chief Financial Officer’s pending certification of funds.

Bill List A

RESOLUTION [F] 20-10-19 - #6

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.

Bill List B

RESOLUTION [G] 20-10-19 - #7

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.

Meeting of October 19, 2020

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the Consent Agenda be approved as printed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

At this time, Mayor Damiano explained Resolution E regarding a change order for Duva field.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1390 - It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Seber, that there be introduced and the meeting of November 23, 2020 set as the date for the public hearing of the following:

TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS ORDINANCE NO. 1390

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND CHAPTER 136 (NOISE) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS

WHEREAS, the current Municipal Code under Chapter 136 contains certain provisions for the control and reduction of noise in the Township of Little Falls as well as means for enforcement of these standards; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 136 was enacted to ensure the safety and protection of residents from unwanted and intrusive noises from various types of uses; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has found it proper to amend the language of the Municipal Code to update and provide means for enforcement of noise reduction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, that Chapter 136, Noise, of the Code of the Township of Little Falls, is hereby amended and supplemented as follows (deletions are struck through and additions are underlined):

SECTION 1: §136-1 Definitions.

NOISE CONTROL INVESTIGATOR (NCI)

An employee of a municipality, county or regional health commission that has a Department-approved model noise control ordinance and the employee has not received noise enforcement training as specified by the Department in N.J.A.C. 7:29. However, they are knowledgeable about their model noise ordinance and enforcement procedures. A Noise Control Investigator may only enforce sections of the ordinance that do not require the use of a sound level meter. The employee must be acting within his or her designated jurisdiction and must be authorized to issue a summons. Police Officers may function as a Township NCI where the use of a sound level meter is not required or indicated.

SECTION 2: §136-6 Maximum permissible sound levels.

C. The measurements above shall not apply to those specific uses which are restricted as identified in §136-8 and 136-9. It shall not be required of any NCI or other Township personnel to obtain a sound level measurement prior to undertaking enforcement action as provided herein as to the restricted uses in §136-8 and 136-9.

SECTION 3: §136-8 Restricted uses and activities.

The following standards shall apply to the activities or sources of sound set forth below:

A. Excluding emergency work, power tools, home maintenance tools, landscaping and/or yard maintenance equipment used by a residential property owner or tenant shall not be operated between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., ~~unless such activities can meet the applicable limits set forth in Tables I, II or III. At all other times the limits set forth in Tables I, II or III do not apply.~~ All motorized equipment used in these activities shall be operated with a muffler and/or sound reduction device if possible.

B. Excluding emergency work, power tools, landscaping and/or yard maintenance equipment used by nonresidential operators (e.g. commercial operators, public employees) shall not be operated on a residential, commercial, industrial or public (e.g. golf course, parks, athletic fields) property between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekdays, or between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends or federal holidays, ~~unless such activities can meet the limits set forth in Tables I, II or III. At all other times the limits set forth in Tables I, II or III do not apply.~~ All motorized equipment used in these activities shall be operated with a muffler and/or sound reduction device if possible.

C. All construction and demolition activity, excluding emergency work, shall not be performed between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, or between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends and federal holidays, ~~unless such activities can meet the limits set forth in Tables I, II or III. At all other times the limits set forth in Tables I, II or III do not apply.~~ All motorized equipment used in construction and demolition activity shall be operated with a muffler and/or sound reduction device if possible.

D. Motorized snow removal equipment shall be operated with a muffler and/or a sound reduction device if possible when being used for snow removal. ~~At all other times the limits set forth in Tables I, II or III do not apply.~~

E. All interior and exterior burglar alarms of a building or motor vehicle must be activated in such a manner that the burglar alarm terminates its operation within five minutes for continuous airborne sound and 15 minutes for intermittent sound after it has been activated. ~~At all other times the limits set forth in Tables I, II or III do not apply.~~

F. Self-contained, portable, nonvehicular music or sound production devices shall not be operated on a public space or public right-of-way in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet in any direction from the operator between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., sound, operated on a public space or public right-of-way, from such equipment shall not be plainly audible at a distance of ~~25~~ 5 feet in any direction from the operator.

G. Domestic or caged animals.

(1) It shall be unlawful for any property owner or tenant to allow any domesticated or caged animal to create a sound across a real property line which unreasonably disturbs or interferes with the peace, comfort, and repose of any resident, or to refuse or intentionally fail to cease the unreasonable noise when ordered to do so by a Noise Control Officer or Noise Control Investigator. Prima facie evidence of a violation of this section shall include but not be limited to:

(a) Vocalizing (howling, yelping, barking, squawking etc.) for five minutes without interruption, defined as an average of four or more vocalizations per minute in that period; or

(b) Vocalizing for 20 minutes intermittently, defined as an average of two vocalizations or more per minute in that period.

(2) It is an affirmative defense under this subsection that the dog or other animal was intentionally provoked to bark or make any other noise.

H. Radios; televisions; personal entertainment devices: The using, operating or permitting to be played, used or operated of any radio-receiving set, television, musical instrument, personal entertainment device or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound in such manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or with louder volume than is necessary for the convenient hearing of the person or persons who are in the room, vehicle or chamber in which such machine or device is operated and who are voluntary listeners thereto. The operation of any such set, instrument, device, machine or device between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet or more from the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this chapter.

Meeting of October 19, 2020

I. Yelling; shouting: yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling or singing on the public streets, particularly between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. or at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons in any office, dwelling, hotel, motel or other type of residence or of any persons in the vicinity.

J. Schools, courts or churches: the creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church or court while the same is in use, which unreasonably interferes with the working of such institution, provided that conspicuous signs are displayed in such street indicating that the same is a school street.

K. Whistles: the sounding of any or the blowing of any whistle attached to any building except as a warning to prevent injury to life or property.

L. Loading and unloading operations: the creation of any loud or excessive noises in connection with the loading or unloading of any vehicle or the opening or destruction of bales, boxes, crates or containers, more especially between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

M. Drums, etc.: the using or playing of any drum, loudspeaker or other instrument or device or the creation of any noise for the purpose of attracting attention to any performance, show or sale or display of merchandise.

N. Cooling apparatus and generators: the operation of any air conditioner, refrigerator unit, cooling tower, evaporative condenser, air-cooled condenser, mechanical fan, compressor unit, and generators or other such apparatus which causes frequent, irregular or continued noise which causes discomfort or annoyance to or which unreasonably invades the privacy of the public.

SECTION 4: §136-9 Motor Vehicles.

E. Horns: The sounding of any horn or warning device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus or other vehicle except when required by law or when necessary to give timely warning of the approach of the vehicle or as a warning of impending danger to persons driving other vehicles or to persons upon the street. No person shall sound any horn or warning device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus or other vehicle which shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or for any unnecessary or unreasonable period of time.

F. Exhaust: The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal-combustion engine or motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.

G. Defect in vehicle or load: The use of any automobile, motorcycle or vehicle so out of repair, so loaded or in such manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or otherwise.

SECTION 5: §136-9(A) Exemptions (new section)

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply to:

A. The use of bells, chimes or sound amplifiers by churches in church activities.

B. Activities of the Township departments in the performance of their duties, drills or public demonstrations.

C. Activities in the public parks, playgrounds or public buildings under the permission or authority of Township officials.

D. Any public utility, as defined in Title 48 of the Revised Statutes of New Jersey, or to any employee of such public utility when such public utility or its employees shall be engaged in performing work to prevent the threatened interruption of its services or to terminate the interruption of its service rendered to its customer.

SECTION 6: §136-10 Enforcement – Use of Sound Level Measurement.

K. The provisions contained in this section shall only be applicable to when the NCI has employed the use of a sound level measuring device to ascertain whether a potential violation has occurred. Any enforcement of violations under §136-8 and §136-9 shall be in accordance with §136-10(A).

SECTION 7: §136-10(A) Violations and penalties. (new section)

Any person, party or entity discovered to be in violation of any section of §136-8 or 136-9, shall be issued a violation by an NCI, Township police officer, Township code enforcement officer or any Township employee charged with the enforcement of these provisions regarding Noise violations. Such violations will be heard before the Municipal Court as all other municipal code violations. Any person, party, or entity found guilty of a violation of shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine not to exceed \$2,000 or imprisonment for a term not to exceed 90 days or a requirement to perform community service for a period not to exceed 90 days.

SECTION 8: §136-11 Consistency, severability and repealer.

D. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed a repeal of the provisions of Chapter 280, Zoning, of the Code of the Township of Little Falls which establish performance standards for industrial noise, nor shall this chapter be deemed to conflict with or supersede any regulations or standards for the control or prohibition of noise adopted or promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection under the Noise Control Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1G-1 et seq.).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that:

1. Ordinances, resolutions and regulations or parts of ordinances, resolutions and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency; and
2. If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such a decision shall not affect the remaining portion of the Ordinance; and
3. Except as hereby amended, the Code of the Township of Little Falls shall remain in full force and effect.
4. This Ordinance shall take effect twenty days after final passage and publication in accordance with law.

Council President SGOBBA discussed the development of and rationale for the Ordinance. Mr. Wenzel added the Ordinance gives the Police Department and Code Enforcement the additional powers to ensure that the residents of the Township can enjoy the benefits of the Township without intruding onto each other's peace and good order.

At this time, Council President SGOBBA acknowledged an email received from Mr. Fernandez stating there are audio problems with the Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Seber, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk