

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

Monday, October 15, 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 Woodney Christophe, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: None.

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING LITTLE FALLS ATHLETES – At this time, Mayor Damiano read several Proclamations honoring the third and fourth grade boys baseball team, fifth and sixth grade girls softball team, and the fifth and six grade boys baseball team for their accomplishments and successful records. Athletes, coaches and their sponsors were invited to the podium where athletes received a medal.

PRESENTATION BY LITTLE FALLS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF 2017/2018 TEST SCORE RESULTS – Superintendent Marinelli provided a powerpoint presentation describing PARC scores. Student cohorts made a 15% gain over the last three years in mathematics in combined special and general education, and a 14% increase occurred in ELA for combined general education and special education. Ms. Marinelli attributed the increases to program change, professional development, unpacking standards, the administrative team working together as instructional leaders, teacher PLCs working with Linkit! online assessment, analysis and redevelopment of curriculum, departmentalization of grades three and four, and utilization of an ELA consultant to realign scope and sequence. Ms. Marinelli stated a full inclusion program contributed to the increase in special education meeting and exceeding results and well as the use of Linkit!, Horton Gillingham training for staff, data analysis training, restructuring of classroom practices to be more student centered, and staff collaboration and enthusiasm.

Ms. Marinelli discussed the new Steam Lab and described the information found on website at www.lfschools.org, encouraging everyone to view them. She welcomed everyone to call or send an email any time and to attend Board of Education meetings. Lastly, Ms. Marinelli announced the successful completion of the five year strategic plan and the next step of working on the next five year plan.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, questioned the appropriateness of score comparison. Ms. Marinelli discussed district factor groups and how comparisons of data can be made using them. Once the scores of other school districts are obtainable, Ms. Marinelli will make the data available. She also provided data comparing historically high performing districts from last year. Mr. Fernandez suggested the Board of Education convene a meeting prior to a Council meeting. Ms. Marinelli will bring this suggestion back to the Board for discussion. Ms. Marinelli also invited residents to attend a Talk a Latte, which are informal sessions scheduled during day and evening hours.

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 Seber, 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.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, referred to Resolution C, and requested clarification as to what the resolution incurs. Mr. Simone stated the bid covers everything including asbestos and lead removal, and restoration for ten houses.

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

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TAX REFUND RESOLUTION/RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES –Mayor Damiano stated several more buyouts have occurred and the Township is therefore refunding or cancelling the future taxes on those properties.

Meeting of October 15, 2018

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATE – The Mayor explained the details of this resolution as a formality. There was an issuance of a tax sale certificate to the individual who acquired it, who then lost their documentation. A small fee has to be paid by the individual and an affidavit that the documents were in fact lost obtained. A new tax sale certificate can be issued.
3. REQUISITION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR DEDICATION BY RIDER- Mayor Damiano indicated the concern highlighted by the auditor that a dedication by rider was not filed for one of the Township departments is more of a formality and administrative issue. So that their trust account and trust funds can be set up to spend their funds, for each department it is required that there be a dedication by rider that provides authorization. As part of the process to have the dedication by rider filed, it will be sent down to the Division of Local Government, held in their files and that item will be resolved. Council President SGOBBA requested clarification, to which Mayor Damiano explained the rationale of the rider.
4. RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH NJDOT FOR LITTLE FALLS DOWNTOWN SAFE STREETS TO TRANSIT PROJECT – Mayor Damiano stated this resolution is part of the application process in seeking grants to receive funding from the State to make improvements to the Township's town center. This resolution works in conjunction with the resolution stated in Item No .5.
5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF 2019 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT FOR PHASE I OF MAIN STREET STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – Mayor Damiano explained the similarity to Item No. 4. Councilmember CORDONNIER questioned whether Item No. 4 and Item No. 5 were dependent on one another. Mayor Damiano stated neither one is dependent on the other to receive the funding.
6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LITTLE FALLS AND PARAMUS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MILITARY VEHICLES – Mayor Damiano elaborated that Paramus has recently hired a former military mechanic to maintain their vehicles. The Mayor explained why the agreement will benefit the municipality as the service is at a reasonable hourly rate. Councilmember SEBER questioned whether servicing would be on a schedule or as needed basis. Mayor explained there will be some schedule but primarily service will be on an as needed basis.
7. RESOLUTION RENEWING ELEVATOR SERVICE CONTRACT – Mayor Damiano commented this is a standard resolution renewing the elevator service contract.
8. CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION FO FIRE DEPARTMENT- The Mayor explicated this resolution allows grant funds received by the Fire Department to be deposited into the municipal account to be expended and utilized for the purpose of purchasing carbon monoxide detectors, which will be distributed in accordance with the grant regulations.
9. PROPOSE ORDINANCE FOR STOP SIGN REPLACEMENT AT UNION AVENUE AND RAILROAD AVENUE –Mayor Damiano noted this topic was previously discussed and will be on the next Agenda. He explained the proposal that a stop sign be included in the ordinance and installed at the end of Railroad Avenue. Union Avenue will become the thru street. Councilmember VANCHERI thanked the Mayor for moving forward with this as the Transportation Committee has been adamant about making an improvement in that area.
10. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO AJM CONTRACTING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO WOODCLIFFE AVENUE – Mayor Damiano stated the contract will be awarded to AJM. Mayor Damiano reviewed that Woodcliffe Avenue has received a grant for improvements for a streetscape in two consecutive years, which are being combined. There will be minimal additional municipal funds that need to be utilized to provide a streetscape from one end to the other on Woodcliffe Avenue. Councilmember VANCHERI requested clarification on the bid request. Mr. Wenzel explained, in detail, that there was a minor irregularity with the AJM bid submission, resulting in AJM as the lowest responsible bidder under the law. Mayor Damiano clarified that in one instance in their bid a number was spelled out with letters which indicated a different number that was indicated in the actual numerical numbering. Mr. Wenzel provided further extensive detail.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT:

1. AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT TO CREW ENGINEERS FOR FAIRFIELD AVENUE PUMP STATION – Mr. Simone announced he provided the Mayor and Council with a letter of recommendation pertaining to the Fairfield Avenue Pump station. The project is expected to take a year to complete, will bring the pump station out of the flood water elevation, and increase capacity to 25,000-30,000 gallons per minute. Mr. Simone reviewed all proposals received and indicated CREW engineers was the low bidder at \$220,400. The time to award a bid is approximately six months and the time to build the station will take about six months. Mr. Simone requested the Council make the award so the project can move forward. Councilmember SEBER questioned the status of the pump station while the project is in process as to whether it would go offline. Mr. Simone highlighted different scenarios and indicated pumping capacity in that area will not be affected. Councilmember VANCHERI queried the project timeframe. Mr. Simone elaborated obtaining the flood hazard permit from the State impacts the timeframe, anticipation of design and build time is 6 months, and the construction time period is 6 months for actual construction. Mayor Damiano clarified that from a budgetary perspective, an ordinance passed in 2010 provides funding for this project, and therefore there is no action from the Council with regard to that issue. Per Council President SGOBBA's request, Mr. Simone described the location of the pump station.
2. DISCUSSION OF BIDS RECEIVED FOR DEMOLITION OF TEN FEMA FLOOD BUYOUT HOUSES – Mr. Simone reported the Township received bids for ten FEMA houses and one house which is In-Rem foreclosure. The ten FEMA houses amounted to \$233,875 which includes everything and the In-Rem foreclosure house was \$20,100. The latter home is only accessible once the FEMA house near it is knocked down as it is land locked. The house is dilapidated and needs to be taken down for safety reasons.

Meeting of October 15, 2018

ACTION ITEMS:

RESOLUTIONS

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

Award of Contract for Woodcliffe Avenue Improvements

**RESOLUTION [A] 18-10-15 - #1
AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO WOODCLIFFE AVENUE**

WHEREAS the Township of Little Falls solicited bids for Improvements to Woodcliffe Avenue as follows:

Reivax Contracting Bid \$396,658.00	4 Clean-Up, Inc. Bid \$421,032.05
JTG Construction, Inc. Bid: \$425,710.00	D&L Paving Bid \$428,850.00
AJM Contractors, Inc. Bid: \$439,136.00	Cifelli & Son Bid: \$466,240.00
Marini Brothers Bid: \$478,914.00	Your Way Construction Bid: \$496,510.88
Smith Soudy Asphalt Bid: \$596,136.70	

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has provided a Certification of the Availability of Funds (a copy of which is appended to the original of the within Resolution) pursuant to Rule 5:30-1.10 of the Local Finance Board, and the appropriation to be charged for this expenditure is various bond ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the contract term will be in effect until completion of the work;

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

- 1) That the proposal of

AJM Contractors, Inc.
300 Kuller Road
Clifton, NJ 07011

in the amount of

\$389,636.00

be and the same is hereby accepted subject to legal review; 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 purchase of the within designated services subject to the successful contractor's filing the required New Jersey Employee Information Report (Form AA302) or providing a Certificate of Employee Information to the Township.

Award of Contract for Fairfield Avenue Pump Station

**RESOLUTION [B] 18-10-15 - #2
AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE FAIRFIELD AVENUE STORMWATER PUMP STATION**

WHEREAS the Township of Little Falls solicited proposals for engineering services for the Fairfield Avenue Stormwater Pump Station as follows:

Crew Engineers, Inc. Bid \$220,400.00	CP Professional Services Bid \$241,955.00
Boswell Engineering Bid: \$269,000.00	H@M Architects & Engineers Bid \$280,100.00

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has provided a Certification of the Availability of Funds (a copy of which is appended to the original of the within Resolution) pursuant to Rule 5:30-1.10 of the Local Finance Board, and the appropriation to be charged for this expenditure is various bond ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the contract term will be in effect until completion of the work;

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

- 1) That the proposal of

Crew Engineers, Inc.
1250 Route 23 North
Butler, NJ 07405

in the amount of

\$220,400.00

With the addition of any regulatory permit fees.

be and the same is hereby accepted subject to legal review; 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 purchase of the within designated services subject to the successful contractor's filing the required New Jersey Employee Information Report (Form AA302) or providing a Certificate of Employee Information to the Township.

Award of Contract for Demolition of Ten FEMA Buyout Houses & One In-REM Foreclosure House

**RESOLUTION [C] 18-10-15 - #3
AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR THE DEMOLITION OF TEN HOUSES UNDER THE
FEMA BUYOUT PROGRAM AND ONE IN-REM FORECLOSURE HOUSE**

WHEREAS the Township of Little Falls solicited bids for the demolition of ten (10) houses under the FEMA Buyout Program and one (1) house under the open space account as follows:

IBN Construction Corp. Base Bid \$233,875.00 86 Woodcliffe Ave: \$20,100.00	Yannuzzi Group, Inc. Base Bid \$429,200.00 86 Woodcliffe Ave: \$24,500.00
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Meeting of October 15, 2018

Caravella Demolition
Base Bid \$296,760.62
86 Woodcliffe Ave: No Bid

CID Construction Services, LLC
Base Bid \$403,000.00
86 Woodcliffe Ave: \$95,000.00

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has provided a Certification of the Availability of Funds (a copy of which is appended to the original of the within Resolution) pursuant to Rule 5:30-1.10 of the Local Finance Board, and the appropriation to be charged for this expenditure is various bond ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the contract term will be in effect until completion of the work;

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

1) That the bid of

IBN Construction Corp.
49 Hermon Street
Newark, NJ 07105

in the amount of

\$233,875.00
86 Woodcliffe Ave.
\$20,100.00

be and the same is hereby accepted subject to legal review; 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 purchase of the within designated services subject to the successful contractor's filing the required New Jersey Employee Information Report (Form AA302) or providing a Certificate of Employee Information to the Township.

Authorization of Film Permit

**RESOLUTION [D] 18-10-15 - #4
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF FILMMAKING PERMIT**

WHEREAS, Montclair State University has submitted an application for a filmmaking permit in the Township of Little Falls; and

WHEREAS, filming will take place at Memorial Park, Wilmore Road, Little Falls, NJ 07424 on Friday, October 26, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Montclair State University has submitted a Certificate of Insurance for this purpose, and paid the required application fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council does hereby approve the issuance of a filmmaking permit to Montclair State University.

Bill List

RESOLUTION [E] 18-10-15 - #5

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.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember VANCHERI reported Corporal Moncato will send the required traffic data regarding a proposed traffic light at Cedar Grove Road, Wilmore Road, and Francisco Avenue to the County with the hope of future discussion at a Freeholder's meeting. Councilmember VANCHERI expressed his gratitude to Corporal Moncato and the Transportation Committee for their efforts. In follow-up to the topic of speed humps, the Township Engineer was consulted to review the next steps to consider speed humps on Houston Road and Jacobus Avenue. Once a comprehensive review is conducted and recommendations are made to the Council, Councilmember VANCHERI suggested methods for resident involvement prior to moving forward with any action.

Councilmember LIESS announced the Harvest Moon Dinner Dance will be held on October 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember CORDONNIER stated the Open Space Committee will convene tomorrow at the Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. to discuss projects for the upcoming year. Councilmember CORDONNIER announced the Township along with the Little Falls Business Association will host an expanded Holiday on Main Street in December. She also attended the opening of the STEAM lab with Mayor Damiano and was impressed with the confidence and patience of the students conducting the lab.

Councilmember SEBER reported the Municipal Alliance convened last week to plan activities for the coming year. The next event will be a dance for school-aged children.

Council President SGOBBA conveyed Christine Pelchant-Miller announced her resignation as the Library Director. The Library Board will convene to discuss a replacement.

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.

Dorothy O'Haire, 89 Turnberry Road, referred to an email she sent requesting a discussion on the gauges. Mayor Damiano then responded to the questions in Ms. O'Haire's email. Mayor Damiano announced the first Flood Board

Meeting of October 15, 2018

meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building on Thursday and is open to the public. The Township recently received DOT approval to install the gauge on the Route 46 bridge and is in the process of scheduling time with Yogi. Yogi is currently re-evaluating the locations of where the gauges should be mounted in light of the damage they sustained after the August 11, 2018 flooding event. Yogi currently has the damaged gauges in his possession. Mr. Simone stated the Francisco Bridge gauge is operating, however the gauge on East Main Street is not working. Agendas for the Flood Board will be prepared by the administrators. Requests for items to be put on the Agenda should be sent to the Township Clerk or Administrator. As is routine, there will be a public comment and input at these meetings. With respect to the track hoe, the used track hoe was approved to be purchased by the State last week. Woodland Park is the lead agency and is researching which equipment is available for purchase. Mayor Damiano added that it seemed financially prudent to purchase a used track hoe. The Mayor indicated an issue that remains to be addressed has to do with the readings the gauges provided during the storm. As previously discussed, the gauges, while remaining operational during a good portion of the storm, provided inaccurate data. The Mayor emphasized the importance of collaborating with Yogi to obtain more accurate readings to better predict the actual storm event and how best to react to it. Ms. O’Haire suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to John Richie and Nick Agnoli by the Council and Mayor for their efforts.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, referred to the Interlocal agreement for maintenance of military vehicles. Mr. Fernandez questioned how many military vehicles the Township has and whether it would be beneficial to put them on an annual contract. Mayor Damiano stated the Township has four vehicles that would be maintained by this agreement. Mayor Damiano explained the services are through an hourly agreement at \$75 an hour. Mr. Fernandez requested the dollar amount of the elevator contract. Council President SGOBBA said the number will be provided. Mr. Cuccia indicated the contract is for maintenance of the elevator in the Municipal Building and the inspection portion applies to the elevators located within the Township. Lastly, Mr. Fernandez requested clarification on the bidder amounts pertaining to the Woodcliffe Avenue improvements. Mr. Wenzel provided clarification as to why AJM’s bid was actually the lowest bid.

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

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 8:32 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk