

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

Monday, September 17, 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 Paul Przybylinski, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: None.

Township Employees/Volunteers present: James DiMaria, Construction Official, Police Chief Steven Post, DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone, Fire Chief Jack Sweezy, Jeff Altonjy, Mike Bandurski, Ron Campbell, Ken Cichy, Ron Cordero, Anthony Englehardt, Ed Farnan, Christina Ihle, Ron Stell, Paul Holzach, Paul Holzach, Jr., James Hearnay, Brian Mistrette, Chris Moletta, and Arthur Savage.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 as follows: A notice of the meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building, located at 225 Main Street, Little Falls, N.J. on January 2, 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.

LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARD CEREMONY- Mayor Damiano announced the award ceremony was deferred until today due to unforeseen circumstances. At this time, the Mayor invited Arthur Savage and Brian Mistretti to the podium and awarded them for meritorious service for their quick action regarding a fire on 26 Riverview Circle. Fire Chief Jack Sweezy recounted the lifesaving incident conducted by Captain Brian Mistrette and firefighter Arthur Savage on March 1, 2018 while working in the DPW capacity. Chief Sweezy presented lifesaving achievement awards for saving the life of Susan Ashmore and her son Bobby on March 1, 2018 at the scene of a residential structure fire. He concluded by thanking the Mayor Damiano, Mr. Cuccia, the Police Chief and his Department, for their continued support of the Fire Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Seber, 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.

Tricia Toomey, 139 Wilmore Road, on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission, announced the Township received 500 daffodil bulbs from the Big Dig Program through Passaic County. Ms. Toomey then described the three locations where the bulbs will be planted with the assistance of the ABC and the Girls Scouts before November 30, 2018. Once a date for planting is established, it will be communicated via email blast, should anyone else want to help.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

RESOLUTIONS

Per Council President SGOBBA, Mayor Damiano provided an explanation of Resolution A. The modification calls for an increase in scope such that the excavator can be used in all the contributories of the Peckman and Passaic Rivers. Woodland Park, which is the lead agency, will also make a similar resolution this month. Approval of this modification will be sought through the grant such that acquisition can then move forward. Councilmember CORDONNIER requested a timeline for approval of the grant and procurement of the equipment. Mayor Damiano stated the grant has been approved. The resolution seeks to modify the scope of what the machine can be used for and what the Township can be reimbursed for as well. Mayor Damiano elaborated on the requirements of a reimbursement grant. In response to Council President SGOBBA, the Mayor indicated the equipment will be stored at the DPW yard and will only be used for issues pertaining to the rivers. In response to Councilmember SEBER's query regarding reimbursement, Mr. Cuccia provided a breakdown of the grant, the project cost, costs incurred thus far, and how the amendment to the grant to purchase the track hoe was developed. The Township still has to do the work to remove the shoals and the Township has to pay for that. Sometime next year, there will be an ordinance that funds the Township's portion of that part of the process. Once the entire project is done, the Township can ask for reimbursement for the \$150,000 which is the portion of the project is funded by the grant. The remainder is funded half from Woodland Park and half from Little falls.

Meeting of August 13, 2018

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

Grant Amendment for Acquisition of Excavator to De-Snag Peckman River

RESOLUTION [A] 18-09-17 - #1

RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK, AS LEAD AGENCY, TO EXECUTE THE AMENDED GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN EXCAVATOR TO BE USED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS AND THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK TO DE-SNAG AND REMOVE SEDIMENT FROM THE PECKMAN RIVER.

WHEREAS, both municipalities applied for and were awarded a grant to de-snag and remove sediment from the Peckman River; and
WHEREAS, after the initial engineering and review by our municipal professionals and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection the original grant is to be amended from contracting to have the work completed to acquiring an excavator and having the municipal DPWs perform the work intended; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council desires to have this Resolution stand as formal authority to have our lead agency, the Borough of Woodland Park, execute the grant amendment with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for this purpose;

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

The Township of Little Falls authorizes the Borough of Woodland Park to execute the grant amendment of its behalf in accordance with the provisions established as the projects Lead Agency.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TAX REFUND RESOLUTIONS –Mayor Damiano highlighted the tax refund resolutions to be presented at the September 24, 2018 Regular Meeting for approval. The Mayor noted that most of the resolutions are not from tax appeals but from FEMA acquisitions. Mayor Damiano stated there is a total of \$8142.00 in total refunds.
2. RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY DOOR REPLACEMENT – Mayor Damiano discussed the CDBG grant of \$25,000 awarded to the Township to replace the Library’s doors, making them ADA accessible. The award of contract for the project is slated to be presented at the next Meeting. The project costs should be covered by the grant absent any unforeseen circumstances. In response to Council President SGOBBA’s query on a timeline, the Mayor could not provide a specific schedule at this time.
3. PROPOSED BOND ORDINANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF STANLEY STREET PROPERTY – Mayor Damiano discussed parking in the downtown area and that some properties in the downtown area have become available, which may provide a more cost effective way to alleviate parking. The Mayor explained the bond ordinance which enables the purchase of property to utilize for downtown area parking.
4. PROPOSED BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE #1326 – Mayor Damiano described the technical amendment of Bond Ordinance No. 1326 will allow the Township to move money from one account to another.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember VANCHERI thanked everyone who took part in the well attended 9/11 Ceremony. Regarding the Transportation Committee, Councilmember Vancheri and Corporal Moncato met with the Passaic County Traffic Engineer contact, to discuss outstanding issues. The possibility of performing traffic studies was discussed as a method to capture data for the consideration of a traffic light at the intersection of Francisco Avenue, Cedar Grove Road and Wilmore Road. In addition, Councilmember VANCHERI stated complaints have been received regarding the No Turn On Red at Stevens Avenue and Main Street. A sign has since been placed in the proper location and police monitoring of compliance will also occur. Another area of concern involved the fading traffic lines for turning lanes on Union Avenue coming from Totowa. In early November, the County will retouch those lines as well as those on other streets throughout the Township. Councilmember VANCHERI discussed resident interest in speed humps and speed bumps on several streets in the Township. The issue will be further discussed at a future meeting after further exploration at the Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2018.

Councilmember LIESS reported on his attendance at the Passaic County Senior Services meeting last week.

Councilmember CORDONNIER reported the Neighbors to Neighbors project, which provided cleaning and household supplies to victims of the flood, has concluded. Clothing was also donated and distributed to residents, and surplus was given to students and parents from operation graduation for a clothing fundraiser. One more event will be held for those affected by the flooding in collaboration with an organization called Delivering Good.

Councilmember SEBER stated the Municipal Alliance will be holding meetings to plan upcoming events. The Fall Dance is scheduled for November 2, 2018 at the Recreation Center.

Council President SGOBBA questioned the extent to which Solomon Brothers Contracting dredged the Peckman River. Mayor Damiano stated the contractors continued the entire length of the river and accessed under the Main Street bridge at different points. Council President SGOBBA stated he visited an area near the Peckman and several condominiums where the bank was eroded. He requested that area be examined. He then queried how many brooks and streams run through the Township. Mr. Simone explained there are between 20 and 25 brooks and ditches that are currently maintained by the Township. About half flow into the Peckman River and the remaining into the Passaic River. Council President SGOBBA questioned the operational status of the new Toro lawn mower. Mr.

Meeting of August 13, 2018

Simone stated the mower is operational. A trailer was received this week and has to be registered. The mower will be brought out to the ball fields and parks for use.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Seber, 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, discussed the importance of the excavator to remove shoals from the Peckman River and questioned the status of removing the piles of sediment. Mayor Damiano explained the Township is required to allow the sediment to dry out prior to removal for a period of time. Council President SGOBBA questioned the timeframe of removal of sediment near Wilmore Road. Mr. Simone stated he is in the process of collaborating with Nick Agnoli to determine the disposal location and will keep the Council informed.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, expressed his pleasure to see parking addressed. He requested the specific location of the Stanley Street property being purchased for parking and the dollar amount of the bond ordinance. Mayor Damiano stated the property is at 56-58 Stanley Street and the proposed bond ordinance is for \$375,000. Mr. Korotkin then questioned whether a written parking plan has been developed, expressed concern that residents in the area be made aware of parking plans, and that residents should be invited to a forum to hear the same information and ask questions. Mayor Damiano indicated that he has gone door to door to residents on Stanley Street and Ridge Avenue to discuss plans for parking on Stanley Street.

Eva Visperas-Salierno- 50 Lincoln Avenue, stated she was not informed of plans for parking on Stanley Street or the playground plan that was previously discussed. Ms. Visperas-Salierno requested more specific information on plans for parking on Stanley Street as well as other areas in the downtown area. Mayor Damiano responded the intent to include additional downtown parking in that immediate area have been discussed at length at Council meetings in public. The Mayor has discussed this with residents in the immediate area. There is a master plan adopted by the Township that indicated a demand for downtown parking. The Council and Mayor are attempting to achieve this goal and acquiring these properties is a feasible manner to achieve that. Ms. Visperas-Salierno questioned whether there was anything in writing and whether future plans would go further into Stanley Street. Mayor Damiano explained that until all properties needed are acquired, it is difficult to determine. There are no plans to go further into Stanley Street as there seems to be a natural break line. Councilmember CORDONNIER added the proposed bond ordinance is for the acquisition of Stanley Street and the Workshop is an opportunity to bring up topics and ask questions. The Mayor also went door to door to speak with residents. Councilmember CORDONNIER stated the Council is following the natural course of governing. The topics are on the Agendas, Council Meetings are available on YouTube, and residents can reach out to the Mayor and members of the Council any time.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, elaborated that his concern regards maximizing citizen involvement. Council President SGOBBA commented that the Township makes sure to communicate with residents as effectively and legally as possible. Mayor Damiano added that the Council Meetings provide an opportunity to voice concerns. He discussed the Township’s adherence to proper notice and elaborated that ordinances are discussed at no less than three meetings. There is proper notice given to all residents in the Township.

Al Kahwaty, 45 Morningside Circle, questioned whether the Mayor and Councilmembers had gone door to door on his own time and whether he was legally required to do so. Mayor Damiano indicated he was not required by law to go door to door to the residents on Stanley Street as was on his own time. Mr. Kahwaty then confirmed that the Mayor went to residents to give them notice of a topic affecting them and that residents would have three opportunities to discuss the issue with the Council. Council President SGOBBA added that residents can contact the Councilmembers and Mayor any time.

Dorothy O’Haire, 89 Turnberry Road, queried whether the acquisition of the excavator could be fast tracked. Mayor Damiano instructed Ms. O’Haire to contact Woodland Park as they are the lead agency.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mayor Damiano wished a Happy New Year to all those of the Jewish faith.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.