

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

Monday, September 9, 2019

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

Absent: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steve Post.

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, 2019. 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.

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION – At this time, Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation declaring September Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in the Township and recognized Helene Unger in her campaign to raise awareness.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE PASSAIC VALLEY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION JUNIOR LEVEL SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS- Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation and recognized members of the fifth and sixth grade junior level softball team with medals for their championship season.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Maryann Baggot, 78 Franklin Road, Denville, owner 105 &/107 Main Street, stated in attempting to review previous meetings there were issues with the audio and video. Councilmember CORDONNIER noted meeting Minutes are also available for review.

Andrew Baggot, 78 Franklin Road, Denville, stated in his review of the previous meetings there were issues with the audio, video or live stream. Mr. Baggot questioned whether professionals were consulted in relation to Ordinance No. 1341. Mayor Damiano stated the Police Department did traffic counts on several occasions. Additionally, the Fire Chief's Annual report this past year had requested eliminating of parking spaces. In response to Mr. Baggot, Council President SGOBBA stated his opinion that NJ Transit should not be involved in the decision. Mayor Damiano elaborated further on the area of focus. Mr. Baggot discussed his viewpoint on how the problem should be handled. Council President SGOBBA indicated nothing has been decided on the issue at this time.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, requested the salaries of the Councilmembers. Council President SGOBBA stated each Councilmember received a stipend of \$2500 and the Mayor received \$5000. Mr. Fernandez made comments referencing the NJ Taxpayer's Guide to Education Spending. Council President SGOBBA encouraged Mr. Fernandez to bring his concerns before the Board of Education as the Board has total control of their spending. The Council does not have any authority over the School Board. Mayor Damiano added the members of the School Board are elected officials. In response to Mr. Fernandez, Mr. Wenzel responded the matter of 53 Harrison Street is before the Municipal Court. He will follow-up with the Construction Official for an update, however, the outcome will be determined by the Court. In response to Mr. Fernandez, Council President SGOBBA explained the presence of Tom Lemanowicz, Township Engineer.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

Mayor Damiano discussed the lack of or insufficient notification regarding ongoing construction throughout the municipality. The Mayor explained the Township is considering bringing back NIXLE notifications to provide immediate notification of construction, road closures, or Township events. He encouraged residents to sign up on the website.

Meeting of September 9, 2019

1. PROPOSED EMS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - Mayor Damiano explained the rationale for Elmwood Park to enter into a shared service agreement, which would also provide additional revenues to the Township. The Mayor provided examples where the Township has entered into similar agreements. In response to Councilmember SEBER, the Mayor described the protocol should more than one emergency occur simultaneously and when mutual aid would be brought in. In response to Councilmember KAHWATY, the Mayor responded there would be no change to coverage or response time in the Township. There may be additional staff hired, however, the cost to the Township would be minimal. In response to Councilmember VANCHERI, Mayor Damiano indicated current Elmwood Park volunteers can apply to and complete training. Councilmember VANCHERI also recommended sign up for NIXLE and email blasts be included with the red bar at the top of the Township website to facilitate participation. Councilmember VANCHERI also suggested communication be included in the tax bill mailings. Councilmember CORDONNIER congratulated Chief Sweezy and the EMS staff for the success of the program.
2. TAX REFUND RESOLUTIONS/RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES– Mayor Damiano explained the standard nature of the resolution.

ACTION ITEMS:

SHADE TREE COMMISSION – Five year term
Regular Members (1) – MAYOR appoints: MARIA DORAN

At this time Council President SGOBBA requested Ms. Dorian introduce herself to the public.

RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that Resolutions A through D be approved:

Shared EMS Service Agreement

**RESOLUTION [A] 19-09-09 - #1
AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE
TOWNSHIP OF ELMWOOD PARK FOR EMS SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls has successfully operated our paid EMS services for the past three years; and
WHEREAS, the Township of Elmwood Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey has requested a shared service agreement for EMS services operated and administered by the Township of Little Falls for EMS coverage in the Township of Elmwood Park; and
WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls has the capacity to provide said services to the Township of Elmwood Park, wherein the Township will bill and collect for services rendered to operate the EMS program in the Township of Elmwood Park;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to enter into a shared services agreement with the Township of Elmwood Park for EMS services.

Settlement of Property Tax Appeal

**RESOLUTION [B] 19-09-09 - #2
TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls have been advised of the proposed settlement of the property Tax Appeal filed by North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (hereinafter the “Tax Appeal”), under Docket Numbers 002448-2016, 002240-2017, 002115-2018 and 003509-2019 and;
WHEREAS, the aforesaid Tax Appeal involves a commercial property located at 115 Paterson Ave., and is also designated as Block 89, Lot 6 on the tax assessment map of the Township (hereinafter the “subject property”), and;
WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has been advised as to the merits of the subject Tax Appeal by legal counsel, the Township Appraiser and the Township Tax Assessor, and;
WHEREAS, the proposed Tax Appeal settlement components are set forth in the Schedule “A” attached hereto and made part hereof, and;
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township to settle the subject Tax Appeal in accordance with the settlement proposal set forth hereinabove.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls, that the proposed settlement of the aforesaid Tax Appeal be approved, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with respect to the same, the Mayor, Township Administrator, Township Tax Attorney, Township Tax Assessor, Tax Collector Treasurer and/or any other appropriate Township official is hereby authorized to perform any act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

SCHEDULE “A”

The terms of the aforesaid Tax Appeal settlement shall consist as follows:

Property Owner	Block/Lot	Year	Original Assessment	Proposed Settlement
North Jersey District Water Supply Commission	89/6	2016	\$1,208,800	Withdraw
North Jersey District Water Supply Commission	89/6	2017	\$1,208,800	\$900,000
North Jersey District Water Supply Commission	89/6	2018	\$1,208,800	\$750,000
North Jersey District Water Supply Commission	89/6	2019	\$1,208,800	\$500,000

Rejection of Bids for Recreation Gym Floor Replacement Project

**RESOLUTION [C] 19-09-09 - #3
RESOLUTION REJECTING BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE RECREATION CENTER
GYM FLOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Township solicited for bids for the Recreation Center Gym Floor Replacement Project; and
WHEREAS, the Township received three (3) bids on September 6, 2019; and
WHEREAS, it has been determined that the bid amounts are in excess of the anticipated estimated figures;

Meeting of September 9, 2019

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township hereby rejects the bids received for the Recreation Center Gym Floor Replacement Project and authorizes the re-advertisement of bids for this project.

Section 6 FY2-19 NJDOT Main Streetscape Project Fiscal Year 2019

RESOLUTION [D] 19-09-09 - #4

AMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRUST FOR SECTION 6 OF THE FY2019 NJDOT MAIN STREETSCAPE PROJECT FISCAL YEAR 2019

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2018, the Mayor and Council approved resolution a F-8-10-29#6, a resolution approving the submission of a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation under the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, Fiscal Year 2019 Municipal Aid Program, for the purpose of constructing Section 6 of the Main Street Streetscape Project; and

WHEREAS, the original grant application proposed the installation of streetscape improvements along Paterson Avenue from Main Street to Maple Street and Maple Street from Main Street to Paterson Avenue, with a construction cost estimate of \$1,010,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township was awarded a grant in the amount of \$700,000.00 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Section 6 of the Main Street Streetscape Project; and

WHEREAS, the Township has a developer willing to construct the improvements for the entirety of Section 6 which is all of Paterson Avenue and Maple Street as part of their project. Consequently, the Township has decided to allow them to perform the work at their expense. The Township wishes to amend the scope of work from Section 6 which included Paterson Avenue and Maple Street to instead be along Main Avenue from Paterson to Maple Street so that project limits coincide. The construction cost of Section 4 is estimated to be **\$596,800.00** which is below the grant amount of \$700,000.00. So the Township would also like to extend Section 4 to reach Steven Avenue which is an additional 200 feet and would have a total construct cost for all of Section 4 to be **\$769,500.00**; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic hereby authorizes the submission of an "Incidental Modification to Project Scope/Limits" form to the New Jersey Department of Transportation to amend the scope of work from Section 6, as originally filed, to Section 4 as per the attached maps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and/or Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign all documents on behalf of the Township of Little Falls and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that Resolution E be approved:

Bill List

RESOLUTION [E] 19-09-09 - #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, Seber, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None
Abstain: Kahwaty

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember KAHWATY stated the first Movie Night held on August 28, 2019 was a success and he looked forward to scheduling more for next summer. The Fall Cleanup is scheduled for this Saturday starting at 10am. The Domestic Violence Prevention Committee will hold a Vigil at the Municipal Building at 6:30 pm on October 10, 2019.

Councilmember CORDONNIER thanked Helene Unger for educating women about ovarian cancer. The Senior Advisory Committee will hold a pizza and pencil drawing event on Wednesday at PencilWorks. In October there will be a presentation by the County Clerk to review programs offered and Sheriff Berdnik will discuss a new program called Angels. The Harvest Moon Dinner Dance will be held at the end of the month.

Councilmember VANCHERI announced the annual 9/11 memorial will be held at Memorial Park on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Designated handicapped parking areas will be available. Councilmember VANCHERI provided a status report on the collaboration with the Passaic County Sheriff's Department to place monitoring services on Jacobus Avenue and Lower Notch Road. They will be moved to Lincoln Avenue and Van Ness Avenue prior to being moved to Van Pelt Place and Woodcliff Avenue. Upon review of the speed reports, potential placement of speed humps with the Township Engineer, and further discussion of possible speed reduction solutions, recommendations will be made and resident input will be sought. Lastly, Councilmember VANCHERI thanked the Police Department and Lt. Briggs on their collaboration with the Transportation and Road Safety Workshop.

Councilmember SEBER thanked Councilmember KAHWATY for the success of the Movie Night. She stated the Municipal Alliance hopes to fund more movie nights in the future. Registration and sponsorships for the Run Little Falls 5K have been going very well.

Council President SGOBBA requested the record reflect the presence of Fire Chief Jack Sweezy and Recreation Director John Pace. At the request of Council President SGOBBA, Mr. Pace provided details on Bon Fire Night.

Meeting of September 9, 2019

Council President SGOBBA announced Dr. Cardillo has requested to come before the Council and present an action plan. He encouraged Mr. Fernandez to attend and pose his questions to Dr. Cardillo at that time.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Maryann Baggot, 78 Franklin Road, Denville, stated she plans to participate in the Town Clean Up and queried where to leave the collection bag when done. Councilmember KAHWATY provided further information. Council President SGOBBA discussed the fine for litter.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, stated the Council should ask Dr. Cardillo questions. Council President SGOBBA indicated he did not have an issue asking questions on behalf of the public, noting the suggestion was made in consideration of saving Mr. Fernandez time. Councilmember CORDONNIER commented on Mr. Fernandez’s previous statement regarding School Boards and funding.

Helene Unger 43 Pleasant Avenue, thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation for Ovarian Cancer and for allowing her to pain the Township teal. She recounted her own experience, stressed the importance of understanding the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, and how increasing awareness became her mission. Council President SGOBBA thanked Ms. Unger for sharing her story.

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, Kahwaty, 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 Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk