

December 6, 2017
Municipal Building
121 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Workshop Session of the meeting of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Trotta.

STATEMENT: “This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. It was advertised for publication in the Asbury Park Press and posted on the bulletin board.”

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE:

COMMITTEEMAN JONES DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK MAYOR TROTTA
DAVID LEUTWYLER, CDC ATTORNEY KELLY MUNICIPAL CLERK HENDRICKSON
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR PEZARRAS

Committeeman Lotito and Committeeman Marinari were excused.

Mayor Trotta asked two Boy Scouts from Troop 18 from the Joint Base to lead everyone in the flag salute. The invocation was led by Pastor Bethany.

Mayor Trotta reviewed the agenda for the evening. He said there are some minutes to approve, and a second reading on the ordinance for the new position in the Municipal Court. Two ordinances will be introduced tonight. The first is a salary ordinance for next year's salaries. One thing was missing on page 1 of the ordinance. “Class III” officers will be added under “Special Officers,” with the same pay rate as the Class II officers. The second is an ordinance increasing the hotel and motel tax from 1% to 2%. State law allows the tax to go up to 3%.

Trotta said that as far as resolutions, there are a couple of resolutions for grants. There is also a resolution advertising for grounds maintenance since our current contractor will not be going forward with the township. There is another a resolution advertising for bids for paving Brynmore Road and Cedar Street. The township will be asking for a couple of sets of quotes. Most likely, the township will be looking at the quote where the two roads will be done at separate times. Cedar Street will be getting sewers, so it does not make sense to pave it and then dig it up. It will be put in the specifications that the township wants Cedar Street to be a separate job, with one bid to take care of the whole thing.

Trotta said due to a computer malfunction, the full description for Resolution 2017-321 is not on the agenda. It will be voted on separately so the entire title is read into the minutes. There is a draft resolution to appoint a permanent officer in charge for the police department. After the committee discusses the interview process and selection procedures we went through, a name will be filled in and the resolution will be voted on tonight. There is also a bill list and reports for the committee to review.

Trotta asked if there was any discussion.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik spoke about the fire department. He said that the inspection was done yesterday on the property they purchased adjacent to the firehouse. They have received all of their approvals and clearances and they are going to proceed to tear down the structures next door.

They found that the property lines that were marked were not the actual property lines. Their property line is larger. There is the firehouse and there is the restaurant, the Plum Tree, and there is a house is next to that. Their property line is five feet closer to the white house. Sorchik said that with the fire apparatus etc., they will have to put up a fence, otherwise, the engines will be looking into people's windows.

The fire department had a title survey done. Sorchik said the title goes back to the early 1800's, with supporting documentation that the Plum Tree was originally a wagon wheel shop. He said the town would like to have the title for its records. The fire department is going to process it and bring it in. There have been many businesses in there over the years.

Sorchik introduced the two scouts from Troop 18 at the Joint Base. He said they are here tonight to fulfill their requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. One is a Star Scout and one is a

Life Scout. Life Scout is the rank just before Eagle Scout. He said around eighty percent of scouts make it as far as Life Scout and maybe one percent makes it to Eagle Scout. It is a big leap from Life Scout to Eagle Scout. There is a big difference between the projects to be completed to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Sorchik said there are mandatory merit badges in the Boy Scouts, and this is one of them – Citizenship in the Community. They are required to attend a public meeting and answer questions. Sorchik said he talked to them before the meeting about their obligations as a citizen in this country. What does citizenship mean? Not just that you get a chance to put up an American flag or drive on our roads.

Sorchik asked one of the scouts what his obligations are as a citizen. The scout answered that one of the obligations is to obey the laws as a thoughtful citizen. Sorchik that is correct and asked the second scout for another obligation is as a citizen. The second scout answered to petition your legislature. Sorchik said it is correct that you have a right to petition your legislature and I encourage you to do that. The obligations are critical. We are obliged to follow the laws as scripted. Sorchik says it does not mean that we just have to blindly follow government. You have the right to petition your elected officials to change those laws that are unfair or not applied correctly.

Sorchik said we also have an obligation to vote. Sadly, only a small portion of this country exercises that obligation. I would encourage you to vote as you go forward. Register and vote and find out about your candidates – who they are and what they represent. Do not be afraid to come to meetings like this and ask questions. That is why we are here. If we do not have the answer, we will find out and get back to you on it. Barbara Diblin commented that there is one more – pay taxes. Sorchik said that yes, government has to be funded.

Sorchik said that the Bill of Rights is also covered under citizenship and the nation. They are the first ten amendments to our Constitution. He suggested that the scouts focus on them and realize what they mean. He said they empower you as citizens, and give you control of your government so the government does not control you.

You have a right to say and speak your mind. You have a right to protect yourself. You have a right not to be searched or stopped in your progression by government officials. You have the right not to be forced to give testimony to incriminate yourself, and you have the right to counsel. These rights are important. He said it is misused on television these days, but as a scout, you are going to be looked upon as leaders, so you should be familiar with them.

Trotta said that Sorchik was a scoutmaster for eleven years and he knows what he is talking about. Sorchik said the scouting program is a tremendous program, for girls and for boys, depending on which program you enter. It teaches leadership and individual responsibility. It emphasizes that everyone needs to take responsibility for their actions. Everybody makes mistakes. There is nothing wrong with that, but take responsibility for it. Do not blame somebody else.

Barbara Diblin said it is important to vote and to get other people to vote. You cannot complain unless you vote. Sorchik said that is what happens. People complain, but they do not participate. Barbara said it is so easy to vote. You can even mail in your ballot.

Trotta asked if there were any comments. There were no comments.

Attorney Kelly read Resolution No. 2017-314 for Executive Session. The following matters will be discussed: under personnel – Officer in Charge appointment; under contractual – PBA contract update and Municipal Court; under potential litigation – Code Enforcement/Land Use issue, police canine issue, the weekend traffic issue, and the cell tower issue.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, RESOLUTION NO. 2017-314, AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED AS AMENDED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. WAS AMENDED TO ADD CELL TOWER UNDER LITIGATION.

Mayor Trotta called the regular session of the meeting to order.

MINUTES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN JONES SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2017 WERE ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES THE WORKSHOP/REGULAR/EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017 WERE ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ORDINANCES: Second Reading and Public Hearing

Mayor Trotta said the next item on the agenda is the second reading and public hearing on Ordinance No. 2017-22. The ordinance allows the township to create another position in its court. There has been a shared services agreement for court services for the past few years between Allentown and Plumsted Township. Allentown informed the township several months ago that they would not be continuing with the agreement, so the township decided to go with its own court. As a result, the township needs a part-time person to help out and has to add an employee title for the court.

Mayor Trotta opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2017-22. There were no public comments.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2017-22 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 35 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED ENTITLED “MUNICIPAL COURT” WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, ORDINANCE NO. 2017-22 WAS ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ORDINANCES: Introduction

Mayor Trotta introduced Ordinance No. 2017-23. This ordinance was amended during the workshop session. This is to get the township set up to pay employees in 2018.

Sorchik asked if a Class III position is being added to this salary ordinance. Trotta said yes, with the same rates as a Class II officer.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, ORDINANCE NO. 2017-23 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH SALARIES FOR VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY REGULATING THE MANNER OF PAYMENT OF SAME” AS AMENDED WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for the special meeting of December 27TH.

Trotta said as discussed in workshop, this ordinance increases the hotel and motel tax from 1% to 2%.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, ORDINANCE NO. 2017-24 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 21AA SECTION 1 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED “HOTEL AND MOTEL TAX” WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for the special meeting of December 27TH.

RESOLUTION:

Trotta said that Resolution 2017-321 has been removed from the Consent Agenda because the full description was not on the agenda due to a computer problem. He is going to read it fully into the record.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN JONES, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2017-321, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2016-288, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL AND THE EXECUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

CONSENT AGENDA:

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ON A CONSENT AGENDA ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE AND SHALL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. SHOULD ANY MEMBER OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SEEK SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM, THAT ITEM SHALL BE REMOVED AND DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WILL BE VOTED ON IN ONE VOTE

Committeeman Jones asked what the date is for Resolution 2017-323. Mayor Trotta said it is for the year. Laurita Winery pays for the police officers who work at their special events. They give the township money that they replenish over the year as needed for their off-duty work. Since they are done for the season until next spring, the leftover money is returned to them.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-315 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2017-313, APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING/LAND USE BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-316 – APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS) PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-317 – AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 TO AN AWARDED CONTRACT TO EARLE ASPHALT FOR THE AWARDED CONTRACT TO EARLE ASPHALT FOR THE NJDOT FY2016 MUNICIPAL AID ROAD PROGRAM (BRYNMORE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS)

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-318 – APPROVING THE NEW EGYPT MAIN STREET IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-319 – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF ELECTION DAY FLEX TIME FOR THE MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-320 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2019-286, REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:4-87 (DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND GRANT FY2017)

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-322 – AMENDING THE CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY FUNDS FOR RESOLUTION NO. 2017-237 (GUARDIAN DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION)

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-323 – AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF OFF-DUTY POLICE ESCROWS TO LAURITA WINERY

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-324 – APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-325 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE YEAR 2018 STATE OF NEW JERSEY SAFE & SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-326 – AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MONMOUTH WIRE & COMPUTER RECYCLING, INC. TO PROVIDE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SERVICES TO PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-327 – AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR THE RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR THE NJDOT FY2017 MUNICIPAL AID GRANT ROAD PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO CEDAR STREET AND BRYNMORE ROAD

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-328 – AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCEAN COUNTY OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES COMPETITIVE CONTRACT FOR THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT TITLE III AREA PLAN GRANT FUNDING FOR 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-329 – AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR A PRIVATE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE COMPANY TO PROVIDE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-330 – AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #2 TO AN AWARDED CONTRACT TO MECO, INC. FOR THE NJDOT FY2016 MUNICIPAL AID ROAD PROGRAM (HOPKINS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS)

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN JONES, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS 2017-315 THROUGH 2017-320 AND 2017-322 THROUGH 2017-330 ON PAGES 2 AND 3 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

RESOLUTION:

Mayor Trotta read Resolution 2017-331 and asked if there was any discussion.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik said the township's Police Chief Matt Petrecca resigned his position approximately six months ago. He took a job as another police chief in another town and we wish him every success. That being said, the township still needs to have leadership in its police department.

The township committee formed an interview committee that consisted of Public Safety Director Wendy Galloway, Business Administrator Scott Pezarras, Mayor Trotta and Deputy Mayor Sorchik. There were three eligible candidates from the township's police department, all holding the rank of Sergeant. Two applied for the position of chief.

Under New Jersey State statute, the chief is a permanent position. Once appointed, they hold the position for life until they retire. The township wanted to make sure and give the candidates the utmost opportunity to be successful in their endeavor as police chief.

Sorchik said that the candidates were asked to submit position papers as to where they feel the police department is now and a vision statement on where they want to take it over the next five years. They were also asked to provide a public hearing on their position papers, which they did in a special meeting held on October 5, 2017, that was publicized and open to the public. They did an excellent presentation. Unfortunately, no one from the public showed up. Those are the minutes that were approved tonight. It is a matter of record. Their presentation is available, and the township is going to have them do it again.

The third part was an interview process in which each candidate was interviewed by the board. They were asked scripted questions and both candidates ended up to be excellent. Each of them demonstrated leadership skills and a commitment to the community, which is most important. They also had some excellent suggestions.

Their position papers were so close in the way they were put together, Sorchik said he thought one copied from the other. It led the board to believe that they have a good handle on where they want to take the agency and the issues they see in town.

The interview process has been completed. The board spoke with the candidates today to let them know they have decided to appoint Sergeant Meroney as permanent Officer in Charge, based on seniority. Meroney has 17 years with the agency. The Executive Officer will be Sergeant Reilly.

Their promotions will follow once they have completed leadership and management training and a mentoring program that Director Galloway is currently putting together. The township looks forward to them making their rank advancement sometime mid-year 2018.

The township wants to make sure that when they take the official titles that they have had all of the training necessary to succeed in the job. That they are not being thrown into a strange environment, and they feel comfortable in those positions. That is what this resolution is for tonight. Official actions to make them chief and other actions will come later on.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN JONES, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2017-331, AUTHORIZING THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT EARL MERONEY TO THE POSITION OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

MOTION TO CONSIDER:

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, THE FOLLOWING RAFFLES AND BINGO LICENSES WERE APPROVED: RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2017-30 – OFF PREMISE 50/50, MCKAIG-TEST-MULLEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 455. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS:

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, THE BILL LIST OF DECEMBER 6, 2017 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH MAYOR TROTTA ABSTAINING ON 17-00820.

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW: CONSTRUCTION REPORT – October, 2017; FINANCIAL REPORTS - Revenue Summary by Month (Current Fund) – October, 2017; Abbreviated Summary Budget Account Status –October, 2017; TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS – August, 2017; September, 2017; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUA MEETING MINUTES – October, 2017; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT #1 MEETING MINUTES – October, 2017;

Mayor Trotta asked for any old business from the committee. There was none.

Mayor Trotta asked for any new business from the committee. There was none.

Mayor Trotta asked for public comment. There was none.

Mayor Trotta said before the committee adjourns, he wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a Happy New Year. There will be one more meeting at the end of the year to wrap things up.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Hendrickson, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Was amended to add Business Administrator Scott Pezarras to the attendance list.