

February 7, 2018
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 COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI
DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK MAYOR TROTTA DAVID LEUTWYLER, CDC
ATTORNEY KELLY MUNICIPAL CLERK HENDRICKSON

CFO Madden, Public Safety Director Galloway, Officer-in-Charge Sergeant Meroney, and Sergeant Reilly were also in attendance.

Mayor Trotta asked everyone to rise for the flag salute. The invocation was led by Pastor Zoon.

Mayor Trotta reviewed the agenda. He said there is one proclamation. It is for National Donate Life Month. There were some certificates of recognition to be given out to the scouts tonight for the 2017 Tree Lighting Ceremony, but the scouts will not be here. The certificates of recognition will be handed out by the scout organization itself.

There is one ordinance for second reading. It is the salary and wages ordinance. There is also an ordinance for introduction. It establishes the CAP bank for this year. June Madden will be able to answer any questions about the ordinance. The bank allows the township to spend more money than it would under the 2% cap. The township does this every year so it is available if we need to use it.

Trotta said there is a resolution concerning the countertop in the construction office. The countertop is in need of repair and a local business, Specialty Fabricators, offered to re-do it at no cost. The owner, Ed Symbouras, lives in town and his business is located across the border in North Hanover. The resolution needs to be approved so the work can be done.

Trotta said that Sharon Gower passed her Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) exam. There is a resolution tonight appointing her as QPA as of March 1, 2018. The rest of the resolutions are the usual ones.

Trotta asked if there was any discussion before moving on to the Budget Workshop.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik said that he and Committeeman Jones attended the meeting of the Fire Commissioners on Monday night. The department is in the process of getting their budget approved. They will be looking for a construction bond to construct a pole barn on the property they purchased next door to house their emergency equipment. If things go as planned, they will relinquish the First Aid Squad building back to the Township.

Sorchik said that the problem with the electricity for the cell tower on the First Aid Squad building has been rectified. The power is back on, so it is no longer an issue.

Sorchik said that Committeeman Marinari will be going to an information seminar on marijuana. There are two seminars scheduled. Mayor Trotta said he may go to one also. He said it depends on his schedule. Sorchik said he will be going to the one in Lakewood that will be run by Barnabas that deals with recreational marijuana. Marinari said the one he will attend is at Ocean County Community College and is strictly on abuse.

Trotta asked if there was any further discussion. There was none.

Trotta opened the Budget Workshop.

CFO Madden said that before the workshop is started, she wants to inform the committee that the net valuation for Plumsted Township for 2018 is \$785,489,200. One cent in Plumsted Township is equal to approximately \$78,548.00. This represents about a half a cent increase in the budget.

Madden said the first document in the packet she provided is the 2018 Trust Budget sheet, which is the summary of the budget line items. She then reviewed the 2018 Revenue sheet, Debt Projections Scenario 10, 2018 Capital Budget, 2018 Budget, 2018 Salaries and Wages, Budget/Revenue Preparation Worksheet, and the Abbreviated Budget Account Status. She responded to questions and comments from the Committee Members.

Trotta asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

Trotta said that a short break would be taken before the start of the regular meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Deputy Mayor Sorchik read the proclamation for “National Donate Life Month – April 1-30, 2018” regarding organ and tissue donation to those persons awaiting transplants.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, THE PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH – APRIL 1-30, 2018 WAS 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. 2018-01. The ordinance amends the salaries of various officials for the Township of Plumsted.

Mayor Trotta opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2018-01. There were no public comments.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2018-01 – 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” WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, ORDINANCE NO. 2018-01 WAS ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ORDINANCES: Introduction

Mayor Trotta introduced Ordinance No. 2018-02. The ordinance allows the Township to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits. This is done annually to establish a CAP bank to permit the Township to go beyond the 2 percent cap on budgetary matters.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN JONES, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.14) WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for the meeting of March 7, 2018.

RESOLUTION:

Deputy Mayor Sorchik asked Sergeant Reilly and Public Safety Director Galloway to explain the changes to the rules and regulations of the Plumsted Township Police Department in Resolution 2018-125. Reilly said the resolution allows the public safety director, the chief and the lieutenant to amend or revoke any of the rules and regulations of the Plumsted Township Police Department. Sorchik commented that nothing substantive has changed in the rules and regulations. It adds the positions of the Public Safety Director and lieutenant to the chain-of-command structure. Galloway said it was recommended by the certification committee.

Trotta asked Attorney Kelly if the township can adopt rules and regulations that reference a lieutenant in the chain-of-command when the township does not have such a title in its

ordinances. Or should the committee hold off on the resolution until March when an ordinance will be adopted adding the position of lieutenant.

Kelly said it can be adopted as is, even if there is no position of lieutenant right now. He said the rules and regulations should be malleable in case the force expands and contracts. Those positions are addressed in the rules and regulations.

There was a general discussion about obtaining information from the police for the ordinance to establish the position of lieutenant.

Sorchik said he wanted to make sure for the record that the township is not changing the rules and regulations. It is just adding some titles for the chain-of-command.

Trotta asked if there was any other discussion about the resolutions. There was none.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-106 TO EFFECTUATE THE RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE 2017-2018 SNOWPLOWING/SALTING SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED TO VERNON E. DANCER

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-107 – RATIFYING THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED AND PLUMSTED 537 LLC IN REGARD TO THE BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT LOCATED AT BLOCK 60, LOT 22, PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-108 – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR 2017 UNUSED SICK LEAVE

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-109 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2017-335 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SCHEDULE “C” AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-110 – APPROVING THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS AT LAURITA WINERY FEBRUARY 17, 2018 (RAIN DATE FEBRUARY 24, 2018)

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-111 – AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A.40A:4-59

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-112 – AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT WITH AETNA FOR THE EMPLOYEE DENTAL COVERAGE IN 2018 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-113 – AMENDING THE TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-114 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2018-73 REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (C.E.R.T.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-115 – APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS) PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-116 – AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL ENDORSEMENT FOR THE OCEAN COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-117 - AMENDING THE CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RESOLUTION NO. 2016-250 (2016/2017 SNOWPLOWING/SALTING SERVICES)

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-118 – APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF A COUNTERTOP AND INSTALLATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICE FROM SPECIALTY FABRICATORS

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-119 – APPOINTING SHARON GOWER, QPA AS THE PURCHASING AGENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-120 – AMENDING THE CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RESOLUTION NO. 2017-111 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SCHEDULE “C” AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-121 – APPOINTING GEORGE CONLEY, IV AS ALTERNATE PLUMBING INSPECTOR IN THE ABSENCE OF KEVIN SCHMALZ

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-122 – AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATES

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-123 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED AND EASTERN ARMORED CAR SERVICE

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-124 – AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO GRANT A 2018 SOIL REMOVAL EXCAVATION AND MINING LICENSE TO EXCAVATING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, INC.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-125 – ADOPTING THE REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-126 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2017-336 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-127 - AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF TEMPORARY TRAILER PERMITS TO MATTHEW AND RAMANPRETT CANTO, 346 E. MILLSTREAM ROAD (BLOCK 61, LOTS 3, 5, & 6)

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-128 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND FILE THE 2018 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN JONES, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS 2018-106 THROUGH 2018-128 ON PAGES 2 AND 3 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ORDINANCES: Introduction

Mayor Trotta said there is an additional ordinance for introduction. The ordinance establishes the position of lieutenant in the police department. It will be done by title tonight. It will be Ordinance 2018-03.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, ORDINANCE NO. 2018-03 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF LIEUTENANT IN THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for the meeting of March 7, 2018.

RESOLUTION

Trotta opened the public hearing for Resolution 2018-128 regarding the 2018 Community Development Block Grant application. He said the committee discussed the grant at last month’s meeting. The township receives money from the county every other year for projects. Last time, half of the parking lot at the recreation field was paved and a small repair job was done at the parking lot on Main Street between the yoga studio and Scott’s Market.

After discussion by the committee, the decision was made that the money would be used to finish paving the parking lot at the recreation fields and to construct a curb cut at the municipal building. Trotta said Resolution 2018-128 which authorizes the Mayor to execute the 2018 Community Development Block Grant application, will be re-adopted.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 128 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND FILE THE 2018 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 128 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND FILE THE 2018 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION TO CONSIDER:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, THE FOLLOWING RAFFLES AND BINGO LICENSES WERE APPROVED: RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2018-01 – OFF PREMISE MERCHANDISE NEW EGYPT ELKS NO. 2457 BPOE; RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2018-02 – OFF PREMISE 50/50 NEW EGYPT ELKS NO. 2457 BPOE; BINGO LICENSE NO. 2018-03 – BASKET BINGO COOKSTOWN VOL. FIRE COMPANY LADIES AUXILIARY #1; RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2018-04 – ON PREMISE MERCHANDISE COOKSTOWN VOL. FIRE COMPANY LADIES AUXILIARY #1; RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2018-05 – ON PREMISE 50/50 COOKSTOWN VOL. FIRE COMPANY LADIES AUXILIARY #1 ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS:

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES, THE BILL LIST OF FEBRUARY 7, 2018 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH MAYOR TROTTA ABSTAINING ON 18-00032.

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW: CONSTRUCTION REPORT – December, 2017; FINANCIAL REPORTS - Revenue Summary by Month – December, 2017; Abbreviated Summary Budget Account Status –December 2017; 2017 Annual Debt Statement; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUA MEETING MINUTES – November, 2017; December, 2017; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT #1 MEETING MINUTES – November, 2017; December 2017; POLICE INCIDENT REPORT –December, 2017

Trotta asked if anyone has any questions about the police incident report for December 2017. Sorchik said he had a question about the alarms. He asked if they are residential. Reilly said yes. There was a discussion about the number of alarms and their classification by the county.

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

Mayor Trotta asked for any new business from the committee.

Committeeman Jones commented about Sharon Gower and how she wants to be a good employee by taking classes. Every time he comes into the building, every single person is raring to go work. He is very happy that the people who work here want to succeed and advance.

Sorchik asked about road openings by JCP&L. Trotta said they do it every year. They work with Jack Mallon. Sorchik asked if JCP&L knows that the township will be opening roads for sewers. Trotta said they will have to work around the Township's schedule. Sorchik wondered about the possibility of the township and JCP&L using the same openings and sharing the costs. Committeeman Marinari said that is has been brought up a couple of times at the MUA.

Committeeman Lotito commented on the township's new website, which he said is coming along nicely. The only thing is that the township needs to follow the standard of "double opt-ins" and a footer on the bottom that tells the person they received the message because they subscribed to it. He also spoke about an unsubscribe link. If this is done, then the township's list will not be harshly penalized when people think it is trash or junk mail. There are a lot of feedback loops with big agencies, such as gmail and yahoo. As people drag the email into their trash bin, there is feedback. Domains that are not double opting in are being penalized. He wanted to bring it to the committee's attention that he does not see the double opt-in in the township's email. Right now, what is to stop someone from blasting a bunch of addresses that have never subscribed to it? Trotta said Jennifer Witham will be asked to check into it.

Committeeman Marinari said that Mr. Lewis notified him that he is shutting down his environmental group, so he will no longer be maintaining Paradise Park and the two libraries. Marinari said that the township will have to watch Paradise Park so it does not become overgrown. He said that maintaining the libraries will be a real issue.

Marinari said that at the last Recreation Committee meeting there was a discussion about the construction of a dog park by a scout, and that Dave Leutwyler would be looking into it. Leutwyler said in his preliminary research he found that there are a number of restrictions on dog parks. He has to speak to someone at JIF about the restrictions. He thinks there is a long way to go before something like that can be approved.

Leutwyler said he and Mark Healy will be meeting with the scout who suggested it to see what area he is looking at. It would be a great project because a lot of people would use it.

Marinari said he told the scout that it is a wonderful idea, but who is going to maintain the dog park after it is built. Trotta said there also needs to be running water for the dogs. Who will pay for that? There was a discussion about the other requirements for a dog park. Trotta said he thinks it will be a bit much for the scout to do and for the township to maintain afterwards.

Marinari also mentioned the death of Mr. Heller and how he will be missed in the township.

Jones asked if the police incident report will be shared with the public. Meroney said there is an end of year report that can be posted on their website. They have not discussed it because the website is still under construction. Marinari asked how it is done in other communities. Sorchik said that they give general statistics in various categories, such as motor vehicle accidents. Trotta said that he thinks that it is a good idea for the public to have information as to what the police are doing. Meroney said that Sergeant Reilly oversees the media and there is a new media person. He monitors what is put on Facebook.

There were some comments about the new police uniforms and how the red stripe on Sergeant Meroney's sleeve indicates that he was in the military. Also, about how the new uniform patches were revived from old patches that were found in a file drawer in the police department.

Trotta said he wanted to publicly commend Kelly Creighton for the great job she did during the tax quarter in the absence of the tax collector. She is a good employee and has been at the township for a long time.

Mayor Trotta asked if there was any other new business. There was none.

Mayor Trotta asked for public comment.

Arlene Samuelson, 205 Devon Road, New Egypt, New Jersey asked about amending the township's Chapter 5 ordinance regarding brush, grass and weeds to include bamboo. She said that her neighbor planted bamboo and it has run 25 feet onto her property. All of her buried utilities, including her sprinkler system, electric, cable, and satellite are on that side. She had her septic pumped in November and the contractor said the bamboo trees are growing too close to her septic tank. It will probably be in her septic field within the next two years. Her request is to have no further planting of new bamboo and to have the property owner who planted the bamboo be responsible for controlling it.

Samuelson said Rutgers University studies bamboo and writes extensively on it. Rutgers says it will encroach anywhere it is not contained. The bamboo has killed her laurel, which is native to the area, and her blueberry bushes that were there when she bought the property. The neighbor does not maintain his bamboo. The bamboo do not bend when they get heavy with snow or ice and end up cascading onto her property. They also break open.

Rutgers University has studied the relationship between bugs and the interior of the bamboo. They are the perfect environment for mosquitos because they are an incubation tube. The birds get into it because it is like a sugar plant. They want to eat it. They put holes in it.

Beach communities that had bamboo, have ripped it out. You cannot have it in Toms River, Howell, or Tinton Falls. The municipalities do not want it. They want to stop the planting of it so zoning officers are not running place the place to try and control it. It is expensive to remove. It grows three feet into the ground and its root system is stronger than steel. A company has to come in with excavating equipment and abate it, it is so aggressive.

Samuelson said she does not want to have to pay the money to rip up her septic because her neighbor is ill-informed about bamboo. She understands it is a beautiful plant for landscaping companies that know how to take care of it. They are the ones that usually put it in the liners three feet deep. They will prune it. Homeowners think it is a pretty plant when they first get it. They stick in the ground and it runs on everybody else's property.

The problem she has is that all of her utilities are buried in the ground. There is an easement on her property for the utility companies that she has to maintain. If there is anything that happens on her property where a utility company has to dig it up, it needs to be free and clear. It is not free and clear because her neighbor's bamboo is growing all over her property. What is she supposed to do? If the township has an ordinance that spells it out, like so many other towns that know it is a problem, they make the person who has it abate it. If the person does not do it, then the municipality does it and puts a lien on their property in order to remedy it.

The bamboo is running all over and she does not know what to do about it. She is probably not the only person who has a problem with it. People think it is a beautiful plant to have. They plant it and they cannot control it. It shades out any other vegetation. It competes with it. The stalk that she brought in is probably 20 feet high. She folded it in four to bring it in to show the committee. It is a grass. Would you let something like this grow on your property? Would you have this on your front lawn? Who has grass that is almost 20 feet long? If you had a foot of grass on your property, a neighbor could call the town and say his grass is too high. Come and have him cut it, or the town will cut it. Her neighbor does not take care of it and it becomes her problem. It would cost a fortune to fix it.

She does not want to have a contractor come out and have the expense of ripping it all out and her having to pay it. Why should it be any homeowner's problem? Why should she have to pay to have it taken out? She did not plant it. It would be great if the township would change the ordinance like so many other towns have around here. We are an agricultural community. We have more plants diminishing that are native because of plants like this that are so invasive that they take over. She has mountain laurel all over the back of her property. She has been living there twenty years. When homeowners came in, they are like, I'm going to cut all the way back to the property line. They took out all of this stuff. Mr. Seeds was the Zoning Officer then. He could not come out to as many homes as there were in her development when it was built. Then Sandy came and who did not have water in their basement? She didn't, because she had all vegetation in the back. They cut cleared to the wetlands line and then some. Plus, she understands from reading some of the stuff from the State, she has freshwater and she has wetlands back there. It is the perfect environment to have that grow there. She does not want it in the back. She does not want it on her property.

Samuelson said that unless the township does something and goes after those people to maintain it, like any other piece of property, it is going to change. She does not know what to do. She is at her wit's end because in two years she is probably going to have to have her septic all ripped up, unless the township does something and makes these people accountable like anything else in the township, like maintaining their property, like cutting it like it is a regular grass.

They would have to have someone else remove it because it is so labor-intensive. A homeowner cannot do it because the runners run in a line on your property unless you have a setback. That is the other thing she was going to say. You need to have a setback if you end up having an ordinance about it. The person next to me planted it right on the property line. How is the contractor going to get beyond it to excavate and actually separate it from both properties if there is no setback?

What if one of the utilities has to come out and excavate? She has had that happen. The neighbor had an invisible fence put in and did not call for a mark out. When the trench was dug, they hit a 220 power line. She had no refrigeration and no air conditioning. She had none of that. So if someone has to excavate, she is going to have a problem because of the root system. It is going to grow above it and it will grow three feet below. The easement has to be at a certain depth in the ground for the utility companies. She thinks it is eighteen inches to two feet for the electric line and for cable.

Mayor Trotta said that she recently came to "Meet the Mayor" and he told her the township is working on ordinance about this. He asked Committeeman Marinari if he wanted to say anything.

Marinari said he agrees with everything she said. It is unfortunate that people plant that species and their neighbors are the ones who are penalized. The township should have something written within the next couple of weeks that he hopes she would be in agreement with. He has not talked to the other committee people yet. That has to be done before anything is said publicly.

Samuelson said she is so frustrated. She was told when she purchased her property from the builder that you make it the easiest you can for utilities when they come out to service. That is why you have a setback from your curb line in, and that is where you usually do your setback from, property to property. The thing is, there is no setback. There really should be a 20 foot setback if your neighbor wants to plant bamboo on his property. Let him plant it in the middle of his lawn if he wants it. Let him control it because now, as it stands, she would have to hire somebody.

She said she does not want her neighbor on her property because of the likelihood of something happening and someone getting hurt. She wants someone who is insured and bonded to come out and clean it and take it all out. Usually, that is what they have to do. They have to remove it out of the dirt and dig down and chase all the runners from the property. The damage is really bad. There is a case she was reading where Ocean City had it on public property and it took a lot to abate it. Ocean City made it so you cannot even have it in the township.

Plus, the recycling center that takes leaf and brush, they do not want it there. If you get rid of it, it has to either be taken away or it has to be burned because they do not want a homeowner coming and cutting it down and leaving a piece of the root and then it ending up in mulch and on somebody's property. That is another thing to say too, for our recycling center that takes brush...no bamboo...we don't want it. You have to get rid of it. You either put it out in the garbage or you burn it.

Marinari said it is very difficult. Now, there are hybridized non-invasive bamboo. The state has two pages of what they call an invasive species. Probably 35 percent of the species on the list are commonly used. For example, ornamental planters and cherry trees, etc. that would have to be really aggressive before they become invasive. So, it is not an easy thing to put something together that cannot be questioned.

Samuelson said that is why she specifically pointed out running bamboo. She also knows by reading about it that there are clumping bamboos that run just as much as running bamboos. The thing is it needs to be contained. The homeowner put it in the ground. She has had four different homeowners who have lived in the house next to her. She is the original owner of her home. He is the last one and he put it there. She never had a problem before. The thing is, you do not know what your neighbor is planting until years go by and it is on your property and is right up against your foundation. It will go right through asphalt and cinder block and concrete foundation. Marinari said it does not take long for it to get big. She said it is killing her native plants. She loves the mountain laurel. It is beautiful. It was there before the house was built. The bamboo has killed so much of it because it out-competes it all.

Trotta said that the committee has an ordinance that is almost finished which will be introduced at the next meeting.

Samuelson thanked the committee.

Trotta asked if there was any other public comment. There was no further public comment.

Attorney Kelly read Resolution No. 2018-105 for Executive Session. The following matters will be discussed: under personnel: personnel matters; under contractual – Police Department Rules and Regulations; under potential litigation – Code Enforcement/Land Use issue and the cell tower update.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2018-105, AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED AS AMENDED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

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

Mayor Trotta asked if there was any further business. There was none.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Hendrickson, RMC
Municipal Clerk