

The Plumsted Township Committee meeting of March 4, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Marinari.

**STATEMENT:** "This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act." It was presented for publication to the Asbury Park Press and the Trenton Times and posted on the Bulletin Board.

**THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN	COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO	COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA	
BA PRIVETT	DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK	MAYOR MARINARI	
CDC LEUTWYLER	CLERK WITHAM	ATTORNEY ZABARSKY	ATTORNEY STIEBER

Mayor Marinari asked everyone to rise for the flag followed by a moment of silence.

Marinari reviewed the agenda. He discussed ordinances and some resolutions. He asked Chief Meroney to speak about the vehicles. The Chief talked about the police vehicle that Tinton Falls has donated and also the vehicle that will be purchased from the off-duty trust fund. There is another police vehicle that will be transferred to the Construction department for use by inspectors.

Marinari discussed some of the other resolutions on the agenda. One for the advertisement of bids for Loveman Road and one for revising the hiring resolution for Peter's replacement. There is quite a bit to do tonight. A portion of the public comment will be set aside for the invocation and Second Amendment discussion and he would like to hold off any discussion until that time.

Committeeman Grilletto said that he thought we were going to discuss the invocation during the workshop session, there are a lot of people here tonight. Marinari said that he consulted legal counsel and there is no public portion during the workshop. Grilletto thought that the last time this was discussed, there was a public comment portion during the workshop. Attorney Zabarsky advised that there is public comment on the agenda during the regular session. Grilletto asked if it could be discussed among the committee. Zabarsky said that the committee may discuss the invocation during the workshop portion.

Committeeman Grilletto thinks there should be invocation. He believes the State Legislature opens up with that, House of Representatives, Supreme Court and the latest impeachment trials opened with that. Also, the Ocean County Suffrage Ceremony had invocation in their program. He believes it is an important issue. He believes it is our heritage and our tradition that we have invocation here. It is his opinion; he doesn't know about the opinion of the rest of the committee. Marinari will reserve comment until later in the meeting; all other committeemen agreed.

Lisa Peterson of Dewberry came forward to discuss the status of various engineering projects. The latest on the police station culvert is that Moslowski started to excavate and found that the pipe that was to be repaired was in worse condition than anticipated. Further investigation is needed and Dewberry will work on more feedback for the committee along with an estimate of the damage. This was just realized today around 11:30. Peterson reviewed all other projects in the report. Deputy Mayor Sorchik asked about an estimate for the police station as we have to put our budget together and need to be sure we know what has to be done.

Committeeman Grilletto said that he would like to discuss having a second workshop session each month to discuss issues. Grilletto said that he would like the deadline to receive information for the meeting be the Wednesday prior to the meeting. We have been having a second meeting the last couple of months and will in the next couple of months. Mayor Marinari said that this is something we can discuss at the next meeting so everyone may give their opinion. He asked the committee to think about it and then they can discuss it. Grilletto again said that he is looking for a deadline the Wednesday before so that they can talk to professional people about the items on the agenda. He wants a cut-off date so he has more than one day to review the items.

Clerk Witham advised that the bill list is usually last item to be received. The finance department is working on it to get everything in order to be able to cut checks. Perhaps other items may be received prior to 48 hours before the meeting, but the bill list is usually last minute.

Grilletto said that once it is done in a month a week early, then we would proceed that way moving forward. Committeeman Bowen agreed and said that he would do anything to support the clerk in getting the information and reports sooner. Especially being a new committeeman, it would be helpful to have more time to review reports and speak with departments with any questions. Clerk Witham said that the reports are received early so perhaps they could be scanned and emailed to the committee earlier. And the new meeting software that she is being trained on next week will provide the meeting as a work in progress for a couple of weeks leading up to the meeting. So as a resolution is completed, it would be put on the agenda and added to the software. The committee would be able to review the agenda and all items as they are added, leading up to the meeting. It would not be a complete packet but work in progress that would allow the committee to review at their leisure. Marinari appreciated that and knows that she is overworked. Witham thanked the committee for approving the meeting software.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-142 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW

JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.

The committee returned from Executive Session. Mayor Marinari called for the approval of four sets of minutes. Clerk Witham will be revising the reorganization minutes to reflect Committee Grilletto's oath for a one-year term, rather than three-year term as brought to her attention by Committeeman Bowen.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE WORKSHOP/EXECUTIVE/REGULAR SESSION OF 12/18/19 SPECIAL MEETING WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN ABSTAINING.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, WORKSHOP/EXECUTIVE/REGULAR SESSION OF 12/30/19 SPECIAL MEETING WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN ABSTAINING.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE WORKSHOP/REGULAR SESSION OF 1/1/20 REORGANIZATION MEETING WERE APPROVED WITH REVISIONS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN ABSTAINING.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE WORKSHOP/EXECUTIVE/REGULAR SESSION OF 1/22/20 SPECIAL MEETING WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN ABSTAINING.

Mayor Marinari said there were no presentations or proclamations on the agenda. The next items on the agenda are the ordinances up for second reading, public hearing and adoption.

Marinari opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2020-01. There was no discussion from the public or committee.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01 - AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01 - AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) WAS ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Marinari opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2020-02. There was no discussion from the public or committee.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. AMENDING CHAPTER 58 TOWING AND STORAGE REGULATIONS WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. AMENDING CHAPTER 58 TOWING AND STORAGE REGULATIONS WAS ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Mayor Marinari then moved on to ordinance introductions. There was no discussion by the committee.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, ORDINANCE NO. 2020-05 - AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 45 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED ENTITLED "PEDDLING AND SOLICITING AND "NO KNOCK" REGISTRY" WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for April 1, 2020.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2017-17 ADOPTING A SANITARY SEWER MANDATORY HOOKUP REQUIREMENT TO BE SET FORTH IN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PLUMSTED MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for April 1, 2020.

Mayor Marinari then asked for any discussion on the resolutions on the consent agenda.

Committeeman Grilletto said that Resolution 2020-157 Adopting the Internal Control Handbook was good but it was very general, like a textbook, and should be more specific to Plumsted Township. That was his objection.

Committeeman Trotta mentioned Resolution 2020-146. Trotta said that we did give authorization for the police to participate in the 1033 Program and he is glad that we are doing that again for them. Trotta said if Resolution

2020-156 was amended to have the yearly number of hours to 2080 hours max per year, it would accomplish the same thing the CFO is looking for but would allow some times of the year to work more than 24 hours in a week and others less. Marinari asked if we wanted to pull this resolution or amend it per Trotta's recommendations. The committee agreed to amend the resolution.

**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. 2020-143** – AUTHORIZING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY FOR PATRICIA STARZYNSKI

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-144**– AWARDING THE PURCHASE OF A 2019 CHEVROLET IMPALA FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-145**– AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2020-126 APPROVING THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS AT LAURITA WINERY FOR DATES IN MARCH THROUGH DECEMBER 2020

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-146** - AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION TO ENROLL IN THE 1033 FEDERAL PROGRAM TO OBTAIN FEDERAL SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-147** - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT THE OCEAN COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION FY 2021 LOCAL ARTS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-148** - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A CHECK FOR THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-149** - AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO DISPOSE OF OR RECYCLE OBSOLETE ITEMS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-150** - SUPPORTING THE OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE SITING OF THE FOURTH ARMY CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-151** – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER #1 (FINAL) TO THE CONTRACT WITH P&A CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR FY 2017 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID – BRYNMORE ROAD & CEDAR STREET

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-152** - TO AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE AND ACCEPTING THE MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR THE NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID FY 2017 GRANT – ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO BRYNMORE ROAD & CEDAR STREET

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-153** - AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF A SURPLUS POLICE VEHICLE FROM THE TINTON FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-154** - AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-155** - GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-156** - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2020-105 APPOINTING ADAM TORMOLLAN AS THE DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-157** - ADOPTING THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED'S INTERNAL CONTROL HANDBOOK

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-158** - AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR THE RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR THE NJDOT FY2019 MUNICIPAL AID GRANT ROAD PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO LOVEMAN ROAD

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-159** - RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2020-120 AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO ESCHEAT THE PREMIUM PAID ON TAX CERTIFICATE #14-00018

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-160** - ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF RST LAWN CARE, LLC TO PROVIDE GROUNDS SERVICES TO PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-161** - TRANSFERRING A POLICE VEHICLE TO THE CONSTRUCTION

DEPARTMENT FOR FIXED ASSET PURPOSES

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-162 - WAIVE CLAIMANT SIGNATURE ON PURCHASE ORDERS FOR CERTAIN NAMED VENDORS FOR THE YEAR 2020**

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, RESOLUTIONS NO. 2020-146 THROUGH 2020-162 ON PAGES TWO AND THREE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ARE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN ABSTAINING FROM 2020-155 AND 2020-157 AND COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO VOTING NO ON 2020-157.

**ADD ON RESOLUTIONS:**

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-163 - AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT WITH AETNA FOR EMPLOYEE DENTAL COVERAGE IN 2020 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-164 - APPOINTING ALICIA PLAAG AS THE PART-TIME PLUMSTED PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE FOLLOWING RAFFLES AND BINGO LICENSES WERE APPROVED: Bingo License 2020-14-Basket Bingo 4/25/20 for Cookstown Volunteer Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary #1; Raffles License 2020-15-On-Premise Merchandise Raffle 4/25/20 for Cookstown Volunteer Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary #1; Raffles License 2020-16-On-Premise 50/50 4/25/20 for Cookstown Volunteer Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary #1; Bingo License 2020-17 - Bingo 4/24/20 for New Egypt High School PTO, Inc; Raffles License 2020-18 - On-Premise 50/50 4/3/20 for New Egypt High School PTO, Inc; Raffles License 2020-19 - Tricky Tray 3/28/20 for the NWTJ Central Jersey Limb Hangers. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

No discussion on the bill list. ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE BILL LIST OF MARCH 4, 2020 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW: CONSTRUCTION REPORT - January 2020; TAX COLLECTOR REPORT - January 2020; FINANCIAL REPORTS - 2019 Annual Financial Statement, Revenue Summary by Month January 2020; Abbreviated Summary Budget Account Status January 2020; Treasurer's Report January 2020; POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT - January 2020; PLUMSTED BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT #1 MEETING MINUTES - none; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUA MINUTES - January 21, 2020; Uniform Construction Code Report - 2019 Annual Report.

Mayor Marinari asked for any old business. A couple of meetings ago, there was to be discussion about the Second Amendment and the Invocation but since two committeemen were not present at that meeting, we held off until tonight. First, we will start with the invocation issue.

Marinari advised he attempted to resolve this issue by combining some entities but that didn't seem to work. At the end of the two reviews, there will be public comment. Committeeman Grilletto said what he brought up earlier tonight that we should have invocation. It is done at the Supreme Court, impeachment hearings, the suffrage ceremony, etc. It is our heritage and this committee should have an invocation at the meeting.

Committeeman Bowen said that he would like to wait to hear public comment. He said that he has answered many emails and hopes he replied to everyone that reached out to him. Committeeman Trotta had no additional comment and neither did Deputy Mayor Sorchik. Mayor Marinari will wait to hear from the public as Committeeman Bowen is.

The conversation moved to the Second Amendment. Committeeman Bowen said that there are many concerns about anti-second amendment and gun owner rights at the state level. Many counties and towns have passed a variety of resolutions supporting the rights of gun owners and the second amendment. One of our residents submitted a resolution to us for consideration. Personally, while he doesn't own a gun, he said that it is part of who we are and last year as he was campaigning, he had many great conversations with people. He feels there is an opportunity to stand up to a relatively small group of people in Trenton who think they could sleep better at night if others didn't have a gun. Bowen shared the resolution that was given to us with friends and neighbors. He supports this. He likes the language in the Jackson resolution. He would like to have input from the community, the chief, etc.

Committeeman Grilletto said that nj.com ran an article about it. There are five counties that have passed a resolution supporting the second amendment. Grilletto is a strong supporter of the second amendment. He would like to see a resolution passed reinforcing our rights. It is in our heritage, just like the invocation.

Committeeman Trotta is in support of the resolution for the second amendment. Our state is constantly attacking gun owners. Trotta is ready to vote now on a resolution. Deputy Mayor Sorchik stated he has been one of the biggest proponents of the second amendments. He has spoken with resident James Hagelstein about this. There is an online petition. There are 117 folks from our town supporting this. He has a draft resolution ready to move forward once more numbers are on that petition. He would like to include in the resolution the citizens of Plumsted are interested in this, not just the committee and our freeholders. Once we have a couple of hundred signatures, he would like to adopt a resolution. He hopes NJ would modify their laws. The laws passed are for law-abiding, honest citizens. We are put in a position and what he finds most odious, is that there are no

disorderly person violations in NJ firearms laws, only felonies which could be a five-year sentence and you'll never own a firearm anywhere else in America. We are the only state that has these restrictions. He is all for the resolution but would like more feedback from the community. Sorchik said that we will follow the laws in NJ but don't agree with them.

Mayor Marinari said that he is also fully in support of this but he thinks that we need some input from the Chief about this. Meroney said there is a Chiefs' meeting tomorrow and next week is the County Chiefs' meeting. Marinari asked him to discuss his findings with Sorchik after his meetings. A document will be put together. Marinari appreciates Hagelstein coming to these meetings and he has been an advocate. Trotta would like to sign the petition tonight as well. Committeeman Grilletto recommends the community call the freeholder to express their opinion. Trotta advised that it has already passed in Ocean County.

Sorchik said that he went to the emergency management assistance grant meeting for emergency management funding; it is a federal program. Municipalities will be getting funding. It is a competitive grant. Sorchik will be putting together an application for the grant.

Sorchik also mentioned that there is required managers and supervisors training for the MEL and he wanted to be sure everyone knew about that. Leutwyler and the BA signed up for the training. Clerk Witham advised that it is an every two-year training; the last was May 2018. Witham said that all department heads were in the meeting and we plan on scheduling it again for this year. Last time Mike Avalone from Connor Strong came here to do the training. She will reach out to him to see if he is willing to do it again.

Marinari said that Jackson Township did a resolution in support of senior services as Ocean County has reduced the funding for these services. With increased costs for seniors, funding shouldn't be cut. The mayor is asking the committee consider a resolution opposing these funding cuts at the next meeting.

PYNE has been working on the park on Collier's Mills Road. Marinari attended the environmental committee meeting last week and told them that occasionally there are cars parked at the entrance to that park. He has looked to see what activity that may be going on there. The issue is that it is far off of the road. He asked Chief to keep an eye on this. Most of the work is being done by the scouts so parents would be bringing them there. It is an isolated area and no one should be there yet. It will be beautiful once the park is complete but it is still being worked on.

Witham, Leutwyler and Marinari attended the governor's conference call regarding the virus yesterday. It was informative. They spoke about airports coming in to the state and transit system and how the cleaning is taking place. Witham put something on the website about the virus but there is additional information on the state's website. Marinari said this virus is rampant now so washing hands and using hand sanitizer is very helpful. These are basic things but would be helpful. Marinari has stopped shaking hands because this virus lives for so long, it's important to take every precaution we can.

Marinari said that we have been working on fireworks this year and he hopes that we will move forward with this. It appears we might be able to save some money but have a better display this year. We are looking at having food trucks and tables for the various entities in town. We are requesting that the entertainment be extended another 45 minutes after the fireworks to hopefully alleviate some of the traffic at the end of the display.

We did do a resolution tonight for a contract with Ron Tabor. Marinari thanked him for putting his quote in. He said that there were issues in the past with another vendor but he has never heard of any issues with Tabor so he thanked him. We are bringing some of the work in house this year so even though the contract changed a little, he appreciates him.

Marinari asked for public comment. Barbara Diblin of 12 Terrace Ave came forward. She asked the pastor to come forward and do the invocation for our town since we only had a moment of silence. The pastor came forward and spoke.

Ron Tabor of 24 Highbridge Road had some questions. He asked when construction would be done throughout town. Peter Ylvisaker's projection was before June 1<sup>st</sup> but again this is subject to change. Tabor said that after all of the construction is done, are we getting new roads put in and who is paying for it. Marinari said that is within the contract. We have to wait for the area to stabilize – weeks or months. Roads that were done initially would be paved first and so forth. Tabor said that original plans didn't include Highbridge in sewers. He wanted to know if that still stands. Trotta advised it is not part of the downtown so not part of the plan. He thanked the township for taking him back on this year.

Vince Lotito of 1 Lauren Lane came forward. He is happy that we are considering the second amendment issue. He believes that all of the contention and divisiveness is tempered by prayers that are offered. He supports the invocation. As far as the second amendment. There is an essay in the Federalist papers that lays out Adams perspective on the second amendment. It is for local municipal governments and state governments. He encourages everyone to read that. He is a supporter.

Gwen Schwarzwald, 54 Loveman Road came forward. Thanks for considering invocation again. She is requesting to bless all of those leading our town and making decision, sometimes very difficult decisions. We are trying to support and encourage each one of you. She's a little saddened this has gone on for so long. She doesn't understand what the real big concern is. It is our heritage and done in Washington DC and other areas of government. It saddens me that our sweet town of Plumsted that a lot of us love that we cannot agree to have

a pastor come in to do the invocation. She doesn't understand what the problem is. She thought it was resolved. She is here to let us know that as a citizen, it is important to her and many others.

Fran Grilletto of Highbridge Road came forward regarding the invocation. The preamble of our constitution acknowledges that our creator is involved and that's what she's asking for. That we aren't so proud as a people to think we have all of the answers ourselves but we look for guidance from our creator. We aren't here to convert or change anyone to religion but asking God for divine guidance in the way we run our township. She knows the hours the men devote to our town out of love. She understands more than ever the amount of time that is freely given to be here and go to countless meetings. She appreciates that and doesn't understand how they do it. They need God's help and his strength, wisdom and guidance. If anyone lacks wisdom, God liberally and freely gives it.

Ellen Taylor, 29 Story Street said that she doesn't know everyone here. Her life has been blessed by her creator. She doesn't want to be pushy or push her beliefs but she wants everyone to have the joy she has. God is being taken out of everywhere. She wants to stand up and say she wants to put him back. Wants to be blessed and ask for wisdom. She doesn't want to push her beliefs on anyone but she believes in the holy bible and wants to be blessed and share that with everyone. It is truly out of love and out of all the gifts in this world, love is the greatest. God bless you all. She wants the invocation.

Barbara Diblin of 12 Terrace Ave would like to have a moment of silence and invocation right after the flag salute at every meeting. She would like a pastor come up to do prayer at every meeting. Diblin would like to know thoughts on that. Marinari asked for any other public comment first. There may not be formal action tonight but committeemen can offer discussion. Diblin will continue to coordinate the prayer each meeting or there could be a chaplain with substitutes.

Sherri Lotito, 1 Lauren Lane, said she is a proponent of prayer before meetings as it calms them down. God is being taken out of everything. Ever since prayer is out of school, kids have gotten worse. We need to have 2-3 minutes of prayer before the meeting, what can it hurt?

James Hagelstein, 12 Ivins Drive, wanted to thank everyone for their comments today and will continue to obtain signatures for his petition. Some months back, he asked about having the speed limit reduced on Ivins Drive and we said we would ask the county for a traffic study on Ivins. Leutwyler said that he asked the county but hasn't heard back. He will follow up.

Christian Nevers, 5 Country Woods Drive. He said that he witnessed the work that Ron Tabor has done and sees firsthand when working the concession at the recreation field what he does and appreciates it. He also wanted to apologize for his frustration last year and personally apologize to Jack Trotta. He is glad there was an event last year and looks forward to this year's event. Marinari and Sorchik appreciated the comment. Trotta appreciated it as well. Marinari thanked him for his donations and support to this town.

There was no further public comment.

Committeeman Bowen said that President Bush said that he never set foot in the oval office without praying. Bowen said that he does the same when he walks in the municipal building. As he has corresponded to folks about this issue, he makes it a point to be all prayed up before conducting township business. He tries to make sure that he focuses on residents' concerns. It has been a wonderful experience working with residents. He said that the issues are pretty complicated, working on the budget, safety, roads, etc. How do you tackle all of these issues? A lot of that is the divine wisdom he gets on making the issues clear. It is something that is very important to him in doing this job to the best of his ability. He encourages those to pray for them and to pray for Trenton and Washington DC. The country is in need of a tremendous amount of prayer. After watching the election results last night, he never thought we would be having the discussions we are having this year. He never thought going to DC in the 80s, this is what we would be discussing today. He agrees 100 percent. He knows that Marinari has taken this to heart. One of his responsibilities that he accepts as one of the five is to the other members of the committee and to understand and respect their opinions, including the invocation. Bowen said that it is important for him to understand going forward because he doesn't want to use religion as a divisive issue among the committee and community. He wants to fully understand the perspective of his colleagues on this issue and all issues. He appreciates the fact that invocation is significant but at the same time he doesn't feel any less prayed for by not having it. He fully supports it but doesn't want it to be a divisive issue.

Committeeman Grilletto said that he will go back to the bible. When the lord asked Solomon what he wanted, it was wisdom. We all need wisdom. I think politics starts locally and all the way up to the presidency and by having invocation, it would be helpful to all of us and is a good example for our new coming citizens and helpful for young people that we recognize God as our creator. Our country was founded on these principles. Whenever we turn our back on God, that's when he turns his back on us. We have problems in the school system. Even in public schools, we studied the bible. We don't have that now. We have multi, mixed gender bathrooms. We need to stand locally. The citizens of Lexington and Concord stood up for their rights. They refused to turn in their weapons. Same thing with religion. Our belief in God. We have the right to express our belief. As our nation was founded. We put our faith in God and ask for his wisdom. Thank you for coming. He appreciates that and the public expressing their opinion.

Committeeman Trotta said that he had a short comment. He wanted to tell everyone that despite your thoughts otherwise, he does believe in prayer. He doesn't believe in the format we have here. He cannot support that.

Marinari said that it is an impassioned subject. These gentlemen up here want to do the best for our community. For the 96 cents that we all get, the community gets their value out of this committee. He knows

that it has been discussed in previous discussions where we might look to a chaplain to have one come in and say the invocation. Bowen has looked at the military base and said that they have a number of chaplains there and he identified the head chaplain he believes. He thought since they are a significant part of our community, it would be good to look at them for a chaplain. He asked Committeeman Grilletto about the American Legion where they do an invocation. Grilletto said the Legion had prayer with a chaplain and that there was a prayer at the suffrage ceremony.

Marinari would consider that we might look to have a chaplain come in and do this. He previously thought about a moment of silence. At the reorg meeting, Bowen entered in to prayer outside of this room and that might be an option for those to pray prior to the meeting. I think that would cause more issues in the long run so his point is, maybe we can get a chaplain. He asked for any further thoughts with the committee, perhaps Bowen can look into this and see if we can get a chaplain and provide prayer through that chaplain. He will leave that open to everyone up here.

Diblin was going to approach and speak but was advised that the public portion has been closed.

Marinari doesn't know how else we will resolve this issue. No decision will be made tonight. If there are any other thoughts, Bowen would look into it. Grilletto said that at the next meeting we can propose that and go by the majority of those up there. As long as everyone's opinions are respected.

Marinari tried to put something together that would work through meetings with the BA and Trotta last year. It didn't work and he said that he was out of it if it didn't work. But we are here discussing it again. He is asking Bowen to look into it further and see if that might be a resolution to this issue. Bowen said he would be happy to.

Grilletto said that he went to the Pinelands Commission meeting and said they are considering requesting testing methods reducing nitrogen levels if building a new house. This isn't law yet but it is being tested and they are looking for inputs. Pinelands is also looking at land disturbance and preserved farms. An interesting fact is that the DEP said there is more land disturbance on preserved land than non-preserved land. Right now, they are using 17% land disturbance as the base; anything more is a problem. Also looking to establish electric outputs for cars within the county.

Marinari thanked him for the report. Asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk