

The Plumsted Township Committee meeting of April 1, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Marinari. Due to the emergent situation with COVID-19 and the municipal building being closed, the meeting was conducted through Zoom.com for the public to participate.

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:

In the Meeting Room:

COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO MAYOR MARINARI DAVE LEUTWYLER CLERK WITHAM

Calling in through Zoom.com:

DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK	COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN	COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA
BA PRIVETT	ATTORNEY ZABARSKY	ATTORNEY STIEBER

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

Marinari said this is a whole new world, especially the set-up for tonight’s meeting. He apologized for any glitches and said that we are doing the best we can. He thanked the community members who are holding to the social distancing, washing their hands and trying their best to keep the number of virus cases down within our community.

Marinari also thanked all of the businesses that are donating so much of their time and effort. Please support our local businesses. A lot of them were in trouble before this started with the virus, and they need your support now even more than ever. When you can, if not now, in the future please support our local businesses.

Marinari thanked the township committee and employees of the township. He said everyone is doing the very best they can for our community. He would especially like to thank Deputy Mayor Sorchik. He is a strong asset for us and is well-versed in the issues we are having now. He has been doing an excellent job of keeping the public updated on anything new coming out through the federal and state governments, Ocean County and the Ocean County Public Health Department.

Marinari asked that everyone be careful and be well. Please keep an eye on older residents in our community and anyone with a health issue.

Marinari reviewed the agenda. He asked the committee members for any comments about the agenda.

Committeeman Grilletto said he would like to talk about the invocation and the second amendment at the next township committee meeting.

There were no other comments.

Marinari said that there are no minutes to approve, presentations, proclamations or correspondence.

He advised that the ordinances that were scheduled to have a second reading/public hearing/adoption are being postponed due to COVID-19. They have been postponed to the May meeting.

ORDINANCE – Second Reading and Public Hearing - POSTPONED

***Note: the second reading and public hearing that was scheduled for the following two ordinances is postponed until the meeting of May 6, 2020 due to the emergent situation with COVID-19.**

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”

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

RESOLUTION – NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-172-AMENDING THE TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2020 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

RESOLUTIONS – 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. 2020-165 – AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A CHECK FOR THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-166 - DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-167 - APPOINTING MARK BUTERA AS ALTERNATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR IN THE ABSENCE OF MARCEL RENSON

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-168 - ACCEPTING THE 2020 STATE OF NEW JERSEY SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT #20-1523 ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-169 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-170 - AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES, GRANT RECEIVABLES AND APPROPRIATED GRANT RESERVE BALANCES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-171 – CANCELLING 2020 PROPERTY TAXES DUE TO TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN STATUS EFFECTIVE 2/28/2020 FOR DOUGLAS J SCHOENING (BLOCK 47, LOT 14.31)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-173 – AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A LETTER OF CREDIT FROM PNC BANK POSTED BY THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CHURCH IN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED UPON THE POSTING OF A NEW LETTER OF CREDIT FROM FULTON BANK

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-174 – URGING GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY AND THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY TO RECONSIDER ANY PLAN THAT INCREASES TOLLS ON THE GARDEN STATE PARKWAY AND THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-175 - AMENDING RESOLUTION 2019-244 TO APPOINT T&M ASSOCIATES AS SPECIAL PROJECT ENGINEER FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY2017 MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BRYNMORE ROAD AND CEDAR STREET

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS 2020-165 THROUGH RESOLUTIONS 2020-175 ON PAGES 1 AND 2 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ADD ON RESOLUTION:

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-176 – EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FROM 5 TO 10 DAYS FOR 2ND QUARTER TAXES DUE TO COVID-19 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS:

Mayor Marinari asked if there were any questions on the Bill List; there were none.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE BILL LIST OF APRIL 1, 2020 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW: ENGINEER'S REPORT – April 1, 2020; CONSTRUCTION REPORT – February 2020; TAX COLLECTOR REPORT – February 2020; FINANCIAL REPORTS –Revenue Summary by Month February 2020; Abbreviated Summary Budget Account Status February 2020; Treasurer's Report February 2020; POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – February 2020; PLUMSTED BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT #1 MEETING MINUTES – 1/6/20 and 2/3/20; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUA MINUTES – February 18, 2020

Marinari said there is a report from Dewberry Engineers. He asked if there were any comments.

Committeeman Trotta spoke about the paving project for Loveman Road. He said the committee had voted to move forward on it. The engineer has done his report. The township has to get the project done because with everything shut down, the state will be looking for money and they could decide to take back the grant money. The project has already been authorized by the committee and the township should move forward with the bid process. It should be done as soon as possible so the township does not lose state funds.

Walter Bronson was on the Zoom call and said his office will work with the municipal clerk's office to advertise for bids and move the Loveman Road project forward. Clerk Witham said the resolution authorizing the bid was adopted on March 4, 2020.

Marinari asked if there were any other comments on the engineer's report.

Grilletto said he would like to meet with the engineer to talk about funding for the iBank for road construction in rural areas. Bronson said before COVID, iBank was looking for people who wanted to apply for funding. The township would need to find out if the COVID situation has had an effect on available funding. He said his office would request a conference call be scheduled with iBank to find out what funding is available and what the rates would be for the township.

Mayor Marinari asked for any old business.

Trotta asked that the special meeting scheduled in April to adopt the township budget be cancelled. He believes the last-minute changes that were made need to be reversed and the police overtime issue needs to be addressed. As of this week's payroll, the dollars are still well above what they were last year at this time. The township needs to make sure that it is able to pay the officers. In addition to taking the state delay into account, the township does not know how much money it will be paying for the current health issue and when it will get that money back. The committee needs to make sure that there is money in the budget today to pay for those things. He thinks the committee should not rush into passing the budget. It has until sometime in June to adopt the budget. He said that the budget needs to go back to where it was.

Marinari and Sorchik said they agree with him. Sorchik said he is very suspicious of funding and state aid at this point and is not ready to cut certain amounts. The township will be reimbursed for overtime activities related to the current disaster, but has no idea when that money is going to come forward. He does not want to spend money that the township does not have in anticipation of getting these funds. He would like to take another look at the budget.

Marinari said he will speak to CFO Madden about rescheduling the April meeting.

There was a discussion about extending the five-day grace period for May 1, 2020 property tax payments. It was decided that it could be done in this meeting by a resolution by title. Witham said that she was told by the tax collector that the only thing the committee is allowed to do by law is to extend the grace period to ten days. Any change in the deadline beyond ten days has to come from the state.

Marinari asked if there was any new business from the committee. There was none.

Mayor Marinari opened up the meeting for public comment. Linda Leutwyler of Hampshire Court just stated that she was able to hear the meeting without any issues. The committee appreciated her comment. There was no further public comment.

Sorchik provided an update about where the most up-to-date and accurate information is available regarding the coronavirus. He said the federal government has an excellent site. It is coronavirus.gov. The site deals with same issues that we have in the township and provides information on rumor control and fraud. The State of New Jersey also has a very good site. It is covid19.nj.gov. He said Ocean County has opened a testing site at Ocean County College. You must be a resident of Ocean County, have a prescription from your health provider and an appointment must be made through the Ocean County Health Department. Their website is OCHD.org. They have a calendar to sign up and get an appointment time and date. Testing is done from your car. About 150 people are being tested per day.

Marinari said he checks the number of cases every day. He asked everyone to limit their contact with other people, wash their hands and take care of their loved ones. It is a very scary situation we are in. If we all stand together and be strong, this community will come out of it in a much better place.

Marinari asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE APRIL 1, 2020 MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk