

August 5, 2020
Municipal Building
121 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Plumsted Township Committee meeting of August 5, 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 posted on the Bulletin Board.

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT:

In the Meeting Room:

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

Calling in through Zoom.com: COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA

Chief Meroney and Lieutenant Reilly and Township Engineer Walt Bronson were also in attendance.

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

Marinari reviewed the agenda. There are two ordinances up for introduction tonight; one for stormwater management and the other regarding the financial agreement with respect to redevelopment. There is a second reading of the bond ordinance. Resolutions on the agenda tonight include one to submit a request to JCP&L for the high school to hang a banner across Main Street with colleges the 2020 high school graduates are attending; one for a liquor license renewal; one to approve the bid threshold increase from \$40,000 to \$44,000. There is a resolution for recycling vehicles in the police tow yard, one to acknowledge the 2019 audit, and the usual tax sale certificate resolutions. We have a resolution renewing an agreement with Ocean County for leaf and branch composting, one for participating in an electronic tax sale. There is a civil rights resolution which is required by the JIF. There are also some resolutions appointing a Clean Communities Coordinator and increased salaries for employees who have increased their responsibilities. There is also a resolution for a change order for the DOT Loveman project.

Marinari asked if there was any discussion about the agenda from the committee.

Committeeman Trotta said he wanted to apologize to everyone regarding last month about the bond ordinance. When it was originally brought up by him last year or the year before, he was told differently and that is what he was saying last month about the amount we would be able to borrow. What is here in the ordinance is correct. Trotta just wanted to apologize that this was how it was explained to him a year or year and a half ago, whatever it was. Mayor Marinari said there was no need to apologize.

Committeeman Grilletto spoke about the 2019 audit. He said it came back clean. There is a new single audit section in the audit that concerns a grant from the federal government. He described what is reviewed in the single audit. He said everything came out fine. He thanked the employees in the finance office for their abilities and knowledge for the audit.

Grilletto talked about bond counsel Matthew Jessup and the closing for the \$34 million grant for the sewer project in September or October. He spoke about saving money by having the auditors eliminate bank confirmations on the audit.

Marinari thanked the finance committee and township professionals for their work on the audit.

Marinari asked Chief Meroney to speak about police radios. Meroney said he first wanted to thank Randy Priest for his assistance during yesterday's storm. He then spoke about the need for the police radio system to be upgraded because of Ocean County's switch to a "700" system. The price quote he received to upgrade the system for the entire police department was approximately \$80,000. There is a yearly finance option of about \$18,000 per year with the first payment due a year after execution of the contract. There is no confirmed date as to when the radios need to be switched over. There is no funding from the county. Each town is responsible for the cost of its own radios. He spoke about the problems the police are having transmitting on the 500 system, which he believes is near the end of its life cycle. He requested the utilization of funds from the off-duty trust to pay for radios.

There was a discussion about the possibility of getting a cheaper price if the police negotiated along with the fire department. Meroney said he discussed it with the fire chief but never really got an answer. He said the police department cannot wait much longer for a new radio system. Deputy Mayor Sorchik asked how long it will take for installation of the new radios. There was a discussion about how the installation would proceed. Meroney said before COVID, the official transfer was going to be in 2021. He said some departments have already switched over.

Committeeman Trotta said he has two thoughts about it. The first is that the township has to get these radios for the police department. They have been talked about for years. They are eligible to be purchased with the bond ordinance that is on tonight's agenda. The township can compare the vendor's financing with the financing that the township can get and then go with the one that is better for the township. Trotta asked about the possible need for a new antenna on the cell tower for the updated system. Meroney said the county indicated that no additional antennas would be needed because of the antenna at the county garage.

Committeeman Bowen asked if the quote updates everything that needs to be updated. Meroney said that it does.

There was a discussion about the purchase of body cams due to possible upcoming legislation that all officers have to have a body cam. Meroney spoke about financing and pricing for body cams. Marinari asked Sorchik and Meroney to work together regarding the procurement of body cams.

Marinari thanked Meroney, the police officers, and the fire department for all they did during yesterday's storm for the safety of the community. He said the work was exceptional. Sorchik said OEM Coordinator Ken Hagen and Deputy Emergency Manager Alex Tkacenko spent the entire day at OEM Emergency Operations Center. Their help was invaluable. The committee also thanked Sorchik for the work he did during the storm. Leutwyler thanked the fire department for their help on behalf of buildings and grounds. The committee also thanked Leutwyler and Randy Priest.

Marinari said Al from the sign shop is moving his business to south Jersey. Al said he would like to update the township sign in front of the building as a thank you to the township for everything the township has done for him, his wife and their business.

Marinari asked Trotta to talk about his proposal for a mercantile license. Trotta said he copied the Manchester license ordinance and made a few changes to it. Most towns charge businesses for their mercantile license. There is no fee in Plumsted ordinance for a mercantile license. There is a penalty for not getting a license. He said there are multiple reasons why the township would want to know which businesses are in town. For example, there is aid available from the federal and state governments due to the coronavirus. The township does not have email addresses for any of the businesses and has no way of getting information out to businesses in town, except by mail. A registry would allow the township to get in touch with those businesses. He suggested the license be issued at no cost. It is more important to just get the list. Marinari thanked Trotta for putting the proposal together and asked for comments from the committee.

Grilletto said he would have to review the proposal before making any comments.

Bowen said he has reviewed the proposal. In addition to the points that have been mentioned, there is an educational element to it. It would help people who are not in the trades to understand the different licenses, what they can or cannot do in your house, what needs permitting, what does not need permitting. Most people rely on whoever they hire to tell them whether or not they can do it, if it needs a permit, etc. He thinks there is a benefit to a mercantile license, particularly on the educational side. It helps residents to make good decisions as to who to hire. He emphasized that the township requirement for a mercantile license does not mean the township is endorsing a business.

Marinari said he is hesitant to discuss the issue. He said he thinks it will be more important to have a requirement for a mercantile license after the adult community is built and people start moving in. He has always said that the license is for the protection of the community, and businesses should have those credentials.

Sorchik said he will talk about it more when the committee decides to enact an ordinance.

Marinari asked that the proposal be moved forward and a final ordinance be ready for the next meeting. Witham said she will work on preparing the ordinance.

Marinari asked the committee to discuss resumes that have been received for openings in the Land Use Board and the MUA. Witham said that the committee questioned if the resumes should be reviewed by the Land Use Board. The Chairman of the Land Use Board has said he would prefer that

the committee appoint somebody. Marinari asked committee members to review the resumes and provide their recommendations to him before next month's meeting so the openings can be filled.

Marinari asked the Chairman of the MUA, Walter Bronson, about his recommendation. Bronson said the MUA has one person they are considering and that they would take any recommendation the committee has into consideration.

Marinari spoke about the invocation. He said that there is a point in time when the committee has to make a decision about it. He asked Grilletto how he felt about the information that was provided by Bowen. Grilletto said he has no problem with Bowen being the liaison and picking the people who will give the invocation. He spoke about the history of the invocation at township meetings and how it ended without any discussion on the matter. He thinks the committee should continue with an invocation in the manner proposed by Bowen.

Bowen said his proposal takes everyone's concerns into consideration. Legally, the invocation is recognized as part of a public meeting but it is not blanket permission to do anything you want, any way you want. The goal is to recognize the legal precedents and those parameters that the court has upheld to come up with a format that the committee is comfortable with. He said some of the cases mention that you have to guard against having a policy that deteriorates over time into something different.

You also have to guard against politicizing. The invocation is not supposed to be something that is the "property" of one entity in the community. It is supposed to be reflective of the entire community. It is also not supposed to be used to punish or alienate anyone. An invocation that becomes politicized is outside of the scope of what the courts have allowed.

There should be no requirement, either officially or unofficially, that a person participate. A person can stand quietly and not participate if he or she so chooses. Those are things that the committee needs to be sensitive about.

An invocation can drift into something that it was never intended to do. He thinks that is what has happened in the past. That it started out as one thing and drifted off course over time. He said he is still waiting to hear from some other organizations. He wanted to make a proposal that addressed all the concerns that were raised. He does not know if it can be done by the committee or if the idea of an invocation is too politically charged at this point in time, and needs to be tabled and revisited. He leaves that up to the individual members of the committee.

Marinari thanked Bowen for his proposal. He asked for any comments from the committee. Trotta said he wants to add that one thing that has been left out by Grilletto is that when the committee agreed to have the prayer, it said that if it became a problem, for whatever reason, it would be stopped and the committee would go back to doing a moment of silence. That is exactly where the committee is today.

Grilletto said he agrees with Trotta, but he did not see where the committee had a problem with anything other than choosing the right person. He does not think anyone made a statement at any of the meetings that was not in compliance with what was said by Bowen. It just ended without any resolution, vote or discussion. He then asked for a vote to continue with the invocation in accordance with Bowen's proposal. Marinari said he is not in favor of Grilletto doing that. This is an issue that has been extended way beyond what it should have been. Marinari asked Grilletto to spend another thirty days examining the issue and come back with a recommendation for the September meeting. Marinari said he would like to take a vote on it at that point. The committee agreed with Marinari to leave it to the September meeting.

Marinari said that when there was an attempt to do something about it last year. At that time, he said he would step away from it if it did not work. He believes there is an opportunity here. Bowen is willing to do this, and he asks that the committee allow him to do that.

Marinari spoke about the damage to the municipal building from yesterday's storm. He said Witham reached out to the JIF and an adjuster came out today and will provide us with their recommendation. Witham said they recommended that the township call a local contractor to get an estimate and send it to them. The adjuster thought it was definitely over the deductible. Witham described the damage that occurred and said that the township will be getting an estimate from a local contractor.

Marinari asked Walter Bronson for the engineer's report. Bronson spoke about the Lepky Avenue issue that needs to be resolved when there is funding available. He said the same is true for the Kuzyk culvert and the culvert at the Police Station. The Venue at Crosswicks is currently doing paving and sidewalk work. Site work is close to being completed in the first three phases of the project. Storm drainage basin and sanitary sewer work still needs to be done. He described the work that Lennar will

be doing on Provinceline and Jacobstown Roads. Meadowbrook Lane erosion is another item the township will need to address in the future.

Bronson talked about the paving that was done on Loveman Road by Earle Asphalt and final work that still needs to be done. There is additional money available to use on another project. Grilletto asked if it could be used for stabilization of the shoulder on Loveman Road. Bronson said that is part of the work that still needs to be done by Earle. Bronson talked about the change order resolution on tonight's agenda.

Bronson said the 2021 NJDOT Municipal Aid grants will probably be announced in late August or the beginning of September. The township has submitted an application for Hopkins Road construction. The 2020 Tower Road application has been approved and is waiting for funding to pay for the engineering work so the project can go out to bid.

Bronson spoke about the curbing and sidewalk issues on Lakeview Drive. The township has been working with the county to unclog the blocked storm sewers in that area. The sewer contractor replaced a crossing that was damaged during sewer work. There is another culvert that will be replaced under the emergency repair on-call contract when funds are available. He said Lakewood Drive would be a good street to put into the township's next application.

Marinari asked whose responsibility it is to keep an eye on the drains. Bronson said it is the township's responsibility if it is a local street. Marinari asked if there is a system in place for the township to check the drains. Bronson said there is not. The township relies on the public to make it aware of any problems. There was a discussion about the township setting up a system to check the drains, particularly since many of the drains are coming to the end of their useful life. Bronson and Grilletto discussed funding available from I-Bank.

The final item that Bronson spoke about was the NJDEP Tier B Municipal Stormwater program. Witham said the stormwater ordinance is on the agenda tonight for introduction.

Marinari asked if there were any comments.

Sorchik said that the recycle yard will be open at EME temporarily for extended hours for residents to bring brush and leaves from yesterday's storm.

Grilletto spoke about the new traffic from the construction project on Route 537 in Jackson Township. He said that he believes the project will be a positive development for housing in Plumsted Township, and will eventually improve the ratables in Plumsted. He also spoke about the Pinelands Commission. He said they are trying to reduce nitrogen in less than one-acre lots. They are experimenting with a new type of septic system on commercial properties. He said Joint Base contacted him about GIS and the redevelopment plan. They are planning to have fuel planes based here. It will also be a training base for them.

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

Marinari requested that there be a short executive session now and then another executive session after tonight's Regular Session.

Attorney Zabarsky read Resolution No. 2020-239, authorizing the convening of an executive session. The following matters will be discussed: personnel; contractual, redevelopment litigation with regard to Block 43, Lot 103.01, Block 58, Lot 13 and Block 19, Lot 13, MVN Homes.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-239, AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The committee returned from Executive Session. Mayor Marinari called the Regular Session to order. The committee will be going back into Executive Session after the end of the Regular Session of this meeting.

MINUTES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL:

There are no minutes up for approval tonight.

There are no correspondence, proclamations or presentations at this time.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION:

Marinari said there was an ordinance up for second reading and public hearing tonight. The ordinance amounts are correct as advised by the CFO.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-07 - BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$2,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,375,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY

Marinari asked for any public comment. Not hearing any comment, he asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-07 - BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$2,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,375,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Marinari asked if there was any discussion among the committee. There was none.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, ORDINANCE NO. 2020-07 - BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$2,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,375,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ORDINANCE - INTRODUCTION:

There are two ordinances up for introduction tonight.

The DEP developed new requirements for stormwater ordinances for municipalities. We are required to update our ordinance accordingly.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, ORDINANCE NO. 2020-08 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 14 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT," SECTION 14-7.4.1, ENTITLED "STORM DRAINAGE" WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Clerk Witham advised that the second reading and public hearing will be on September 2, 2020.

The second ordinance up for introduction is:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDED AND RESTATED FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW EGYPT REDEVELOPMENT AREA WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Clerk Witham advised that the second reading and public hearing will be on September 2, 2020.

Per Matt Jessup, Redevelopment Counsel: Under our current Financial Agreement the Township gets to charge a PILOT on each Unit for 30 years. However, the Agreement also terminates 35 years after its execution. Based on the Redeveloper's build schedule of 50 Units per year, over half the Units may not pay a PILOT for the full 30 years before the 35-year clock runs out, to the financial detriment of the Township. This issue may only be exacerbated by the Project delays resulting from the pandemic.

So, as a result of an amendment to the law, we can now have the Financial Agreement last for 50 years from its signature. This will ensure that all of the Units pay a PILOT for the full 30 year term, to the significant financial benefit of the Township.

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. 2020-240- AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF ELECTION DAY FLEX TIME FOR THE MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-241 - RAISING THE BID THRESHOLD TO \$44,000 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020 PER N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(c)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-242 – AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF CERTAIN CLUB LICENSES, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION AND PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-243 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2020-237 AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL ENDORSEMENT FOR THE OCEAN COUNTY NATURAL LANDS PRESERVATION PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-244 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN FROM LINCOLN RETIREMENT SERVICES, LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-245 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT FOR THE 2020 NEW EGYPT HIGH SCHOOL BANNER

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-246 – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE OCEAN COUNTY LEAF AND VEGETATIVE WASTE COMPOSTING PROGRAM (SEPTEMBER 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 2025)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-247 – AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO DISPOSE OF OR RECYCLE OBSOLETE ITEMS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-248 – AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATES

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-249 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR THE OCEAN COUNTY CARES GRANT

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-250 – AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 2020 STATE BODY ARMOR REPLACEMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-251 – AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF OVER BILLED TAXES (BLOCK 55, LOT 132, 133 & 134)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-252 – AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH UPPER FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP FOR THE UNION TRANSPORTATION TRAIL UNDERPASS LIGHTING ON ROUTE 537

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-253 - ACKNOWLEDGING THE RECEIPT OF THE 2019 AUDIT

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-254 - AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN AN ELECTRONIC TAX SALE

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-257 - AUTHORIZING WOMENS/MENS HEALTH HOURS FOR CANCER SCREENING

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-258 - APPOINTING CYNTHIA MACREYNOLDS AS CLERK TYPIST FOR ABANDONED PROPERTIES

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-259 - APPOINTING SHARON GOWER AS CLEAN COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-260 – AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL DOWNTOWN MAINTENANCE DUTIES FOR RANDY PRIEST

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-261 - AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH EARLE ASPHALT COMPANY FOR FY2019 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO LOVEMAN ROAD

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN BOWEN THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS 2020-240 THROUGH 2020-254 and RESOLUTION 2020-257 THROUGH 261 ON PAGES 1 AND 2 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Committeeman Bowen made a motion to pull Resolutions 2020-255 and 2020-256. Bowen said he had questions about some of the language in the resolutions. He asked for clarification of the meaning of language in Section 1 of Resolution 2020-255 about “indirectly” and “a failure to act.” He also questioned the meaning of “using the Township’s facilities or property.” His concern about Resolution 2020-256 is the use of the word “ensuring.” Attorney Zabarsky responded to Bowen’s questions about the language.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-255 - TO AFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED’S CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ALL OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES, EMPLOYEES, PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTERS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT COME INTO CONTACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-256 - IN SUPPORT OF RACIAL EQUALITY WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Marinari said there is an add-on resolution.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-262 – APPOINTING KATE TALLON AS A PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

MOTION TO CONSIDER: ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE FOLLOWING RAFFLES LICENSE WAS APPROVED: RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2020-20: NEW EGYPT BPO ELKS #2457 FOR INSTANT RAFFLES 7/1/2020-6/30/2021

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS:

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

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE BILL LIST OF AUGUST 5, 2020 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW: TOWNSHIP ENGINEER REPORT – August 5, 2020; CONSTRUCTION REPORT – June 2020; TAX COLLECTOR REPORT – May 2020; FINANCIAL REPORTS –Revenue Summary by Month June 2020; Abbreviated Summary Budget Account Status June 2020; Treasurer’s Report June 2020; POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – June 2020; PLUMSTED BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT #1 MEETING MINUTES – June 1, 2020; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUA MINUTES –none

Marinari asked if there were any questions or comments about the reports; there were none.

Marinari asked if there was any old business from the committee.

Sorchik said the sidewalk and sewer hookup at 27 Magnolia has been completed. Now there is a sidewalk all the way down to the police station. He spoke about the meeting he had with the Fire Commissioners on Monday night. They discussed having quarterly meetings with 2 fire commissioners and 2 representatives. He said the meetings are important to ensure that everyone is on the same track and there is no duplication of services. Sorchik said the phone and cable service from 31 Main Street will be transferred to the Fire/EMS building. The OEM number will remain the same. In other old business, Sorchik said he has contacted the contractor about employees who would like to be tested for COVID. He will keep everyone informed about the status. He would like it to be done in one day.

Marinari asked if there was any other old business. There was none.

Marinari asked if there was any new business from the committee.

Sorchik spoke about how he appreciates the help that was provided to the OEM from the paid and volunteer firefighters during yesterday's storm. OEM was allowed to operate the EOC in their facility. OEM is currently in transition. He said that the process to move OEM needs to be facilitated. He understands that everything has been slowed down by COVID, but yesterday's storm turned out to be a test run. He requested the purchase of three laptop computers for the Office of Emergency Management. EOC communication and data transfer with the state and county is all done via the Internet. The same thing that happened to the police department radios during the storm also occurred in the fire department.

Sorchik said it is important for the township, police, fire, and EMS to coordinate support for the school system in the COVID environment. Right now every OEM person is using their own personal computer to communicate, which means that personal computers could be confiscated in case of a court case. The township can request reimbursement during an emergency either through the CARES Act or the Stafford Act. He would like to proceed with the purchase of new computers for OEM so that the township can communicate with the county and state during an emergency. Marinari said that he does not think there are any objections to moving forward with the computer purchase.

Under old business, Sorchik said the public assistance grant application is underway and he hopes to have it submitted to FEMA by next week.

Sorchik said there is a link on our website for people to get water and ice from JCP&L. It will be updated periodically until the power comes on. There was a discussion about having a facility closer to Plumsted during an emergency. The last time, the Sheriff brought a truckload of ice to the township. Trotta provided background as to why the township received the ice last year. He was asking JCP&L and the county for the electricity to come back on so people could utilize their showers, etc. Instead, they sent a truckload of ice and water to the township. There was a discussion about the number of residents whose electricity is still out due to yesterday's storm and the need for water and ice.

Marinari asked if there was any other new business.

Leutwyler spoke about the status of the PSE&G energy grant. He said the township will be getting it sometime in September. School systems need to be done first. All lights will be changed to LEDs. They will all be one color. It should only take a week to install them.

Bowen asked if it would be appropriate for the township to have discussions with Ocean County about the concerns of the committee with the traffic related to the Jackson development on Route 537. How it impacts Plumsted Township on Route 528 and Route 537, etc. There has been nothing in their hearings about expanding the on and off ramps to 195. People have mixed feelings about the development itself. What is it going to look like as far the day-to-day in and out on the roads?

Marinari said they will be using some township roads to divert around that situation so the amount of traffic on our roads will increase. Marinari asked Trotta and Bowen to work together on the issue. Leutwyler reminded everyone that while the township can talk to Ocean County, it is actually a Monmouth County plan. Bowen said the township has no standing in Jackson. The only place the township has standing is in Ocean County. That seems like it would be the best approach. To have county to county communication.

Bowen spoke about the electricity brown-outs that are occurring on the 539 corridor. He said the instability of electricity has been the worst, by far, this summer. The battery farm was supposed to help stabilize the electricity. He suggested that the township approach JCP&L to express concern about the unstable grid in our community. Brown-outs are a near daily event on 539.

Mayor Marinari opened up the meeting for public comment.

Anthony Plaag, 189 Hemlock Drive, Plumsted, said he has lived in New Egypt all of his life and used to work for the township. He is a member of the New Egypt Warriors Against Racism Group. They had a demonstration on June 14th in Plumsted. They meet weekly to discuss community-based solutions regarding racism and racial justice. Some members are on here tonight to find out what the township is doing regarding racism.

Plaag asked about the township's civil rights policy—what it is and where it can be found. Marinari said Resolution 2020-256 specifically talks about racial equality. Plaag said their organization meets

to discuss racism as it exists in the United States and in this community. They look for ways to help educate people and create change within the Plumsted Township community. He invited committee members to attend one of their meetings and work with them on these community-based solutions. Marinari thanked Plaag for his comments.

Chelsea Wenn, 112 Archertown Road, Plumsted, asked if committee members were aware of the negative comments that are being made about racial equality on the Facebook group "New Egypt Happenings." Marinari said he does not look at those sites. Wenn said she wanted to make the committee aware that there were some violent comments in regard to the rally they held. She knows that the police department is aware of the comments. She thinks it would be good for the committee to have a conversation about it since they are issuing resolutions supporting racial equality. Marinari thanked her for her comment.

Kiyomi Locker, 6 Inman Road, Plumsted, asked the committee members if they had any thoughts about their organization. She has been a resident of New Egypt her entire life. She said she would like to see the community become more inclusive. She asked the committee if they had any comments or suggestions about how the community can be more inclusive of all its members.

Bowen said that the only thing he would say is if they have a concern to please let the committee know. If the township does not know there is an issue, it cannot be addressed. He is always a little dispirited when he talks to someone who is unhappy about something and when he asks them who they have told and they say they have not told anyone. When the mayor or other people say "please let me know how we can help or what your concerns are" they mean it. Bowen said he attended their rally and was pleased that it went off as well as it did and that they had a good turnout. He would encourage her to let the committee know if she has any concerns so they can be addressed.

Locker said that one of the major issues they found was that people did not feel comfortable coming forward because they felt ostracized and isolated. They heard a lot of stories about people who felt like they were alone. She thinks their group has done a great job of providing an outlet for people so that they feel comfortable and welcome and to share stories and experiences that they have had. She would like to see more involvement from all community members. Marinari thanked Locker for her comments.

John Torrano Jacobs, 1 Ivins Drive, Plumsted, said he has been a resident of New Egypt for about 16 years. Growing up in New Egypt, he experienced some bigotry and witnessed a lot of racism amongst the students in high school, as well as amongst other community members, online and in person. At the rally it became clear to him that changes need to be made in our community to allow black and indigenous people of color in our community feel more welcome here.

Torrano Jacobs went to a Juneteenth celebration in Jackson a few weeks ago where he interacted with members of the black community. It was very disheartening for him to hear their concerns about coming to Plumsted. Some have expressed fear about shopping here and needing someone else to come with them in order to feel safe just getting groceries...or they avoid our town entirely. For him, it crystalized the idea that Plumsted is not perceived to be a welcoming community to black members of the Jackson community. He thinks that their demonstration did a lot to send a message of inclusion. They have also started an LGBTQ group that meets every other week.

Torrano Jacobs said he wanted to bring these concerns to the attention of the committee and make them aware of them. He asked the committee how the township committee plans to make our community a more welcoming environment.

Marinari said that he thinks that the present group of speakers are doing exactly that. They are presenting their thoughts and concerns. Communication is a vital, important thing. Attending this meeting is doing exactly that. He thinks the only way any issue can be resolved is by each individual knowing exactly what they are discussing. You need to know what another person's thought pattern is, and by doing that, you improve your situation as an individual, but also of any community that you may be in.

Marinari asked Torrano Jacobs if he brought his issues to the school. Torrano Jacobs said no, but that was mainly because there were no other students who were out, or any teachers or other representation in the education system, so he did not feel comfortable coming forward. Marinari said he is sorry to hear that. He has been in the school district many years and that is something that he does not like to hear. He hopes their group discussions will reduce that in any school district. Marinari thanked him for bringing it forward.

Torrano Jacobs asked if the township committee has made an official statement that black lives matter. Marinari said Resolution 2020-256 clearly states the committee's opinion about it. Marinari

said he believes Resolution 2020-256 is representative of his feelings toward any issue about equality or racism and gender. Marinari said all lives matter to him.

Torrano Jacobs invited the mayor to come to one of their meetings so they could talk about it on a personal basis. Marinari said he is always open to the public. He appreciates the group coming forward and presenting a professional, realistic and important message to those who are viewing this meeting. Marinari thanked him for that.

Ellie Witham, 22 Holly Drive, Plumsted, thanked the committee for passing the resolution in support of racial equality. She has some comments and concerns about having an invocation at the beginning of each meeting. She appreciates the fact that the committee is currently doing a moment of silence. She does not think that needs to change.

The First Amendment of our Constitution prohibits the establishment of religion by the government. She believes that having a moment of silence and not an invocation or prayer before each meeting is better. If the committee were to have a non-denominational or non-sectarian prayer before each meeting, it runs the risk of prohibiting people's free speech. She does not want the committee to be put in a situation where it would have to monitor and censor someone's speech if they want to talk about a certain god, or their god. We do not want to establish religion before meetings and she does not want the committee to be put in that situation.

Witham said that even though people have freedom of religion to preach and practice whatever they want, she thinks that the invocation runs a thin line of endorsing religion by the committee. A moment of silence is a good way for each individual to practice their own religion in their own mind. The public comment portion of the meeting is when people can say whatever they want and the committee does not have to restrict their speech.

With the invocation at the beginning of each meeting, the committee might get into a situation where everyone has the right to practice whatever religion they want and say whatever prayers they want, but if only certain religions are the ones who are showing up at the beginning of each meeting and giving their invocation. The Supreme Court acknowledged that after a time it may make other people believe that they do not want to come forward and say their prayers. It implies an establishment of religion.

Witham said she thinks the moment of silence allows people to have that second to pray if they want to, but does not force someone to pray. The moment of silence is making prayer optional and is not establishing any religion from the state. She said she wanted to make the committee aware of her concerns.

Marinari said that it makes him very happy to have comments like those they have received tonight from young individuals. It is a wonderful example. Witham thanked the committee for listening to everyone's comments, as well as hers, and said she hopes that the committee will take them into consideration. She thinks the solution the committee has right now works completely and includes everyone of all religions, races and ethnicities.

Marinari thanked everyone who has been part of tonight's comments.

Plaag said he would like to make one more comment. He said there are no solutions posited in Resolution 2020-256 to address inequality and discrimination. How do you actually prevent discrimination? What are the things that are being done to address bias, other than putting out a resolution that says these things are going to be done? He asked about viable solutions to prevent discrimination within this community.

Chief Meroney was asked to answer his question. Meroney said the police department receives bias training. Officers are trained to treat everyone equally, because that is their duty. They have to be neutral and treat everybody equally.

Plaag said it answered his question as far as the police department is concerned. It is a pretty big question. When addressing racism all different facets have to be addressed in the community. Part of it is about law enforcement. Another part of it is legislation and education. Their group plans to attend the Board of Education meeting next week to talk about what they are doing. Their organization is trying to create community-based solutions. They would like to see something larger from the township. They are open to discussion about it and that is why they invited the members of the committee to come to one of their meetings. The last thing he has to say that black lives do matter and he appreciates the committee giving him their time. Marinari thanked Plaag for his comments.

Pastor Zoon, Plumsted Presbyterian Church said Resolution 2020-256 provides a framework for further actions that can be taken. She likes it very much. The committee thanked the Pastor for her comments.

Marinari asked if there were any other public comments. There were none. Public comments were closed.

Meroney said he has an answer to the question about the police antenna during the workshop session. He said he spoke to the person who is in charge of the county radio system. He said the only antenna that would need to be changed is the one right next to the police department. Meroney said he also spoke to the sales representative who told him that the antenna outside the police department would only be used for a base radio inside the building. Portable radios would use the county's antenna. The township also got a discount under the county radio system.

The committee will return to executive session as they were not able to complete their discussions. No further action will be taken when they return.

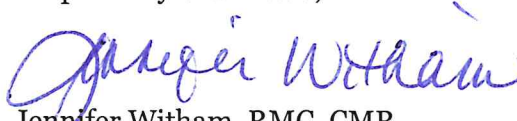
ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE RETURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The committee returned from Executive Session.

Sorchik said the township needs a new cell tower due to spotty service. In addition, it is needed for the school which is conducting distance learning, and for the new development that is being built. He asked the committee for permission to go out to bid to build a cell tower by the new sewer plant. It was agreed by the committee that the township could go out to bid for a new cell tower.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE AUGUST 5, 2020 MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk