

February 20, 2020
Municipal Building
121 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Special Meeting Budget Workshop of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Marinari.

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 BOWEN COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA
DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK MAYOR MARINARI BA ELLEN PRIVETT
ATTORNEY STIEBER DAVID LEUTWYLER, CDC MUNICIPAL CLERK WITHAM

CFO Madden was also in attendance.

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

Marinari opened the workshop portion of the meeting. He asked Dave Leutwyler to comment on the All-Boards Meeting.

Leutwyler said there was a good turnout. Most of the groups were represented. He sent a follow-up email to everyone. He thought it went well.

Marinari said he asked individual entities who were there to say a few words about issues they had. He saw some interchange after the meeting, i.e. representatives of the Municipal Alliance talking to representatives of the Recreation Committee. He said he hopes that these meetings will open up conversation within the groups.

Marinari said he attended the Board of Education meeting last week. They had a pre-budget meeting by Mr. Gately. The school is in dire need of funding, as are most schools in New Jersey. Assemblyman Dancer was at meet-the-mayor last night. He indicated that there is discussion within the Legislature of possible extra funding for school districts. Hopefully that will happen. The school is looking at major cuts in teaching staff and 25+ students in a classroom. There has to be some help somewhere down the line for all of the schools. The equity is not there in all of the districts.

Marinari asked for comments from the committee members.

Committeeman Trotta said he attended the Jackson Township council meeting last week concerning development on the 537 corridor near Great Adventure. In addition to a plan to build two sports facilities, they are adding the ability to build multi-family homes in the area between 195 and Hurricane Harbor. He said he spoke out against the new homes, as did most people who spoke that night, but ultimately it was passed.

He believes that the development of multi-family homes is not appropriate in that area. The estimate he heard was up to 600 multi-family homes. He did have a conversation with some of the council members after the meeting and they said they do not believe it will be anywhere near 600 homes. Their intention is that the housing is to be used for people utilizing the sports facility and those working at the medical research facility that is being built.

Trotta said that local representatives need to ensure that development is appropriate for the area. He agrees that owners have the right to develop their property, but it is up to township officials to control that growth by ordinances and master plans, etc.

Trotta has reached out to the county many times about the traffic issues that will be caused in the area by the development. He has seen how the road gets clogged after people leave Great Adventure. He is concerned because that road is the main route to a major medical facility for the Plumsted Township area. It could also increase traffic on the roads in our area.

He thinks Plumsted Township should be involved with that. He asked that our business administrator contact the business administrator in Jackson Township, who is working with Monmouth and Ocean Counties on a plan for the roads.

Marinari commented on the high amount of traffic and the number of accidents in that area and thanked Trotta for staying actively involved in the situation.

Marinari asked for any other comments from the committee members. There were none.

Marinari introduced the budget meeting.

CFO Madden spoke about the 2020 budget packet. The first item is revenue. She said anticipated revenue cannot exceed revenue received from the previous year.

She spoke about the amount to be raised by taxes, anticipated surplus and local revenues: i.e. alcoholic beverage licenses, mobile home fees, Municipal Court, interest on deposits; cable television franchise fee; towing fees; cell tower revenue, anticipated state aid, the Uniform Construction Code and rental inspections; grants, including recycling tonnage, Municipal Alliance, the Plumsted Senior Center, body armor, and the NJDOT grant. She said it is unknown when we will receive the Safe and Secure grant, so it is not in the budget. She has been checking weekly on it. She spoke about the matching funds for the grant.

Madden talked about the funds for the off-duty trust fund and the battery storage facility. There was a discussion about payments to the township from the battery storage facility and payment of their taxes. They have not been making their payments to the township and their taxes are delinquent. The finance office has been in contact with them about their payments. There has been a change in personnel at the facility, which may be the reason for the lapsed payments. Trotta asked that he be advised when the township receives their payment.

She then spoke about the Annual Fund balance.

Madden said the next page is the CAP calculation workflow. This is used to determine how much money the township has in the bank. She spoke about exceptions to the 2% levy CAP; i.e. grants, debt service, Uniform Construction Code (if it is a debt service). She said the amounts in the CAP are dwindling. This affects salaries and wages and operating expenses. There was a question about whether to bank 2020 rather than 2019 to give the township an extra year.

She explained that the reason the township is doing the COLA ordinance is because the state allows the township to go up to 2½% and COLA allows the township to go up to 3½%. It is banked if it is not used.

Cuts had to be made to each department's budget because the amounts requested were more than the funds that were available in the CAP bank.

Madden said she will only go through items in the 2020 budget that have been changed since the budget workshop, the amount of the adjustment, and the reason for the adjustment. She named the departments and amounts that their budgets were reduced. Salaries and wages need to be discussed in executive session. She spoke about payment of holiday pay for police officers. There was a discussion about overtime for the police department and changes to the recycling grant.

Madden spoke about the shared services agreement with the school for courtesy busing. There was a discussion about changes that can be made to decrease costs for courtesy busing.

Madden talked about the Capital Improvement Fund, capital outlay money, and capital ordinance. The deadline for the annual financial statement has been extended. The last date the budget can be introduced is March 30, 2020, and April 30, 2020 is the date for budget adoption. We will not be ready for the March meeting because the budget documents came out so late. Madden suggested that a special budget meeting be scheduled in mid-March for introduction of the budget and in mid-April for budget adoption.

Madden spoke about vehicles. She said the letter of intent went out for the police vehicle on Tuesday. The money is coming out of the off-duty trust. The police department will give the Tahoe they are no longer using to the construction department for their use. Sorchik said there is grant money available for the purchase of electric vehicles and a charging station. There was a discussion about the possible purchase next year of an electric vehicle. Grilletto said that the state and the Pinelands Commission are pushing for electric vehicles.

The next item Madden spoke about was the 2020 Open Space Trust. She said the township's open space tax is based on the net valuation for 2020.

Madden asked the committee about hiring a part-time person in the finance office starting in July.

Madden talked about the capital bond listing. She spoke about the changes that have been made—the Tower Road reconstruction numbers; the air conditioning units in the municipal building; lighting; town signage; improvements to 31 Main Street; a new server; laptops for the governing body; 5% down payment for the capital bond ordinance. There was a discussion about the financial breakdown of the categories for the bond ordinance; road reconstruction; the municipal building; electronics; vehicles and the purchase of a generator. There was a question about when the capital funds would be available.

Madden asked if there were any comments or questions about the budget. There were none.

Attorney Stieber read Resolution 2020-140 for Executive session. The following matters will be discussed – personnel matters.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-140 - 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 WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The committee returned from Executive session.

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

MINUTES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL:

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE WORKSHOP/EXECUTIVE/REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2019, WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES, EXCEPT COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA ABSTAINED.

ORDINANCES: Second Reading and Public Hearing

Marinari said the next item on the agenda is the second reading and public hearing on two ordinances.

Marinari opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2020-03. There were no public comments.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2020-03 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF THE FEE SIMPLE INTEREST IN BLOCK 19, LOT 10, A/K/A 6 EVERGREEN ROAD WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2020-03 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF THE FEE SIMPLE INTEREST IN BLOCK 19, LOT 10, A/K/A 6 EVERGREEN ROAD WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Marinari opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2020-04. There were no public comments.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2020-04 – ACCEPTING A 20 FOOT WIDE WATER AND SEWER DEED OF EASEMENT IN BLOCK 40, LOT 1, FROM THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2020-04 – ACCEPTING A 20 FOOT WIDE WATER AND SEWER DEED OF EASEMENT IN BLOCK 40, LOT 1, FROM THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ORDINANCES: Introduction - 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. 2020-116 – APPOINTING OFFICERS TO THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS FOR THE YEAR 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-141 - SUPPORTING DISTRICT 12 LEGISLATORS' REJECTION OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE OF NEW JERSEYAMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS (RESOLUTION NO. 2020-116 AND RESOLUTION 2020-141) ON PAGE 2 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION TO CONSIDER:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE FOLLOWING RAFFLES AND BINGO LICENSES WERE APPROVED: RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2020-12 – CALENDAR RAFFLE, 4/6/20-6/26/20 FOR WARRIOR BOOSTER CLUB, INC.; RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2020-13 – OFF-PREMISE 50/50, 6/20/20 FOR NEW EGYPT BPO ELKS #2457

Marinari asked for any old or new business from the committee. There was none.

Marinari asked for any public comment. There was none.

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