

April 25, 2019
Municipal Building
121 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Special Meeting of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Trotta at 7:00 pm.

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

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT:

DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI MAYOR TROTTA
COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO ATTORNEY KELLY CLERK WITHAM

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

Mayor Trotta announced the purpose of this special meeting was to consider filling the vacancy of Township Committeeman Larry Jones as he stepped down. Deputy Mayor Sorchik, municipal chair of the Republican County Committee discussed the process. Potential candidates were screened as to their interest in serving the remainder of Jones’ term. The potential candidates were told if they were appointed to this position, they would run again in November for one year as Jones’ term ends in 2020. Three individuals expressed an interest; they were interviewed by the county committee. Nine members interviewed all three potential candidates. All three were found to be acceptable. A letter was sent to the municipal clerk, county clerk and chairman of the Ocean County Board of Elections with the recommendations. The three candidates are: Mr. Len Grilletto of 41C Highbridge Rd, Mr. Robert O’Donnell of 64 Evergreen Rd and Ms. Kathleen Sucharski of 911 Monmouth Rd.

All three candidates were interviewed individually in public and then the committee will deliberate and hopefully select someone tonight. The candidates will be interviewed in alphabetical order. O’Donnell and Sucharski left the room and went to the conference room while Grilletto was questioned. Committeeman Marinari prepared a list of questions that will be asked of all three candidates.

Mr. Len Grilletto came forward. Attorney Kelly read the questions aloud. Grilletto is seeking nomination on this committee as he has always been involved in politics, ever since his early school days. His philosophy is to be part of government by attending many township meetings, Land Use Board meetings, etc. His career has been as a real estate broker for 38 years and he has worked 33 years for the state in the auditing department. He also served in the military, part of the Republican club, county committee, and welfare board. Grilletto said that he has retired from the state and has the time now to devote to being on the committee. He has been active in many meetings and knows what is going on in the town.

Mayor Trotta asked a question about if all committee members don’t agree on an issue and the issue is decided upon the opposite way of his view, will he be able to proceed? Grilletto said that he is a man of principle but if he loses out, he will be in it 100%. Committeeman Lotito asked a question, what is his availability? He is easing out of his real estate business so he has the time now. Marinari said that this is not a one meeting a month job. There are several sub-committees and several meetings to attend weekly and monthly.

Committeeman Lotito asked Grilletto about balance. He is a taxpayer and understands there is a need for balance. That’s why he played a part in having the committee switch from a three person to a five person years ago.

Mr. Robert O’Donnell came forward to answer the same questions. O’Donnell is seeking the position because he has interest in this town, he has a business in this town and moved here to raise a family. He gets involved in things close to him. He is self-employed and makes his own schedule but he would make it a point to get there. He gives his best effort. O’Donnell is familiar with most projects in our town. He feels the township is headed in the right direction; he would focus on educating people and telling people where to find information. O’Donnell has attended a few township meetings in the past year and has attended most of the Land Use Board meetings as the Mayor’s Designee.

Mayor Trotta asked the same about issues and if he doesn’t agree. O’Donnell said that he is part of a team and no one person knows everything; he would respect other members. Committeeman Marinari also spoke of the commitment this will require. O’Donnell said that shouldn’t be a problem.

Lotito mentioned that anything the committee works on is public knowledge; nothing is done privately. Lotito discussed the recent proposed amendment to the redevelopment project and his involvement with social media. O'Donnell said that he follows standard news and police, fire departments but doesn't make any comment. His involvement with residents that might be upset has sitting up there on the Land Use Board.

Kathleen Sucharski then came forward for an interview. She said that she is seeking nomination to the township committee to try and help the township and keep the community. Her availability is not very good as her mother is ill. She may not be available until the fall. She is not familiar with projects in the town except the one with Lennar. Marinari explained that many don't understand what is involved with being on the committee. Sucharski understands that everything that happens in this town goes thru this office. She knows it is a lot of work and it's a serious job. Sucharski attends the meetings when she finds out about them, by word of mouth. Recently she has been dealing with family. Sucharski is on the Farmland Preservation Committee and the Republican Club.

Mayor Trotta asked about issues on the committee that are voted upon. Sucharski said that is the whole point of the democratic decision. Everyone has a different opinion and there is always give and take.

Committeeman Lotito asked about the redevelopment plan amendment. Sucharski's opinion wishes it wasn't ok'd as she feels it will be too much for Evergreen Rd. She would like to see the people get back involved in the township. She was active in Main Streets, Business Merchants, the fire house, Oyster Dinner, etc. She feels everything somehow fell apart, the same time her family did. She is hoping to see it all come back together. She was extremely active and is hoping to bring it back.

Committeeman Marinari thanked everyone for stepping forward tonight. Deputy Mayor Sorchik also thanked the members and he would be happy to work with any of them. Committeeman Lotito asked that all stay involved in this process. He believes in term limits and that is why he decided not to seek reelection. He thanked all for coming out.

Sucharski said that they have all spoken throughout this process and he is glad Mr. Grilletto will be in that seat and he can count on them for support.

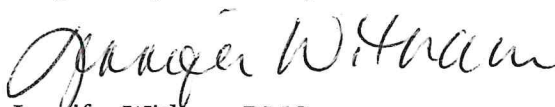
ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, A NOMINATION FOR LEN GRILLETTO WAS MADE, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Mayor Trotta asked for any public comment; there was none.

An Oath of Office was administered to Leonard Grilletto while his wife held the Bible. Committeeman Grilletto thanked everyone for the nomination.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Witham, RMC
Municipal Clerk