

The Shamong Township Committee held a **Committee Meeting** on the above date at the Municipal Building.

Mayor Di Croce called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM

The Clerk stated the Sunshine Statement advising that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Pledge of Allegiance was waived.

Roll Call	Mr. Michael Cooney	P
	Mr. Michael Di Croce	P
	Mr. Timothy Gimbel	P
	Mr. Sean Gray	P
	Mr. Martin Mozitis	P

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time *Mr. William Humphries* (130 Willow Grove Road) addressed the Committee regarding the unsightly conditions at the municipal complex; he provided pictures showing the issues. Some items of concern discussed by Mr. Humphries and the Committee were: dumpsters that attract illegal dumping; relocation of a dumpster; surveillance/monitoring of the area; rusty storage trailer; painting the Public Works building; and the need to better maintain the general appearance at the municipal building/complex. *Mr. Humphries* additionally commented regarding the recycle bins located at the Township complex advising the lids are always open; this often creates an issue with him having to clean up trash in front of his house.

Mr. Humphries also felt that if the Township decided to go with the proposed CART recycle program, people would be inclined to use their CARTS and bring less recycling to the Township. There was brief Committee discussion regarding the CARTS and planned improvements to and around the municipal complex. The Clerk spoke briefly regarding budgeting these items for the coming year.

There was also Committee discussion, including Mr. Humphries, regarding the intersection of Willow Grove and Stokes Road.

As there were no additional questions or comments, the Mayor closed the meeting to the public.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION:

On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, approval of the December 18, 2018 Regular Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes with the exception of Mr. Di Croce who abstained.

The Mayor advised that due to the absence of a public participant, the Cannabis discussion would be tabled until the March 5, 2019 meeting.

Mrs. Onorato, the Clerk, reported the \$459 monthly charge for the armored car service, for bank deposit pick-ups, is billed to the Township, but is paid by Investors Bank. The Clerk advised this cost covered three pick-ups per week and also every day for two weeks during each tax quarter. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved for approval of the 2019 contract for services from Eastern Armored Services, Inc. for year ending 12/31/19. The Township Administrator is authorized to execute all necessary documents related to this contract. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve the Clerk to attend a half-day seminar, at no cost, on February 21, 2019. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Clerk reported being advised without warning that the Goodwill drop off service for electronics, that has been a free and well used service to residents, is scheduled to be pulled from the complex on February 15, 2019. The Clerk advised needing to determine if the service should be continued and subsidized or removed altogether. The Clerk stated that although it is for electronics only, many unwanted items are left such as clothing and furniture. Goodwill has been kind about taking these items in the past, but this may become a challenge going forward if the service becomes Township operated. The Clerk also stated this is a County-wide issue. There was Committee discussion regarding the issue and advising the residents. The Clerk stated more details and options should be available at the next meeting.

The Clerk reported meeting with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Forest Service early January 2019. The Clerk advised a map was provided by the Forest Service highlighting the White Cedar Restoration areas in Shamong they would like to treat. This process is done by going into these areas, cutting down the hard woods and replacing them with the indigenous White Cedars. The Clerk reported some of the work would be done at the end of East Stokes Road where cranberry/blueberry farming takes place. The Clerk advised reaching out to the farmer and he advised her that he would be in favor of this White Cedar planting project. The Clerk spoke regarding other issues such as temporary road closures; thinning out the hard woods; cleaning up of the fallen, damaged and diseased trees and the benefit of indigenous trees to water quality. The Clerk advised this project is being funded by a grant and the cost is being handled through the NJ State Forest Service. The Committee discussed some thoughts on the project and Clerk reported the State is seeking the Township's support or non-support of this project. No final decisions were determined at this time.

The Clerk reported on the 2018 budget advising we are still waiting to receive State numbers. The State Budget address is March 5th, 2019. The Clerk advised working on the expenditure portion – adding UCC (Universal Construction Code) Office numbers and updating PWD (Public Works Department) numbers.

The Clerk touched on such topics as: budget differences due to grants awarded last year that were not awarded this year; plow truck payment; Township driveway repaving; capitol purchase of backhoe; increased pension expense; OEM (Office of Emergency Management) communication equipment updates now needed that are due to County changes which may also affect the Public Works Department communication and the Township is feeling the pinch of lost State aid of over \$500K per year and is prioritizing the needs.

The Committee discussed the Municipal Court numbers and the Clerk advised that in past years, there have been losses of \$30-\$50,000 per year. The Clerk reported in 2018, there was a profit of \$8,000 – the Township has consistently made money as a result of shared service agreements.

The Clerk reported on the Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery advising seventeen (17) plots have been sold and one burial has taken place – bringing approximately \$18,000 revenue to the town and \$8,500 in Preservation Fees. The Clerk stated that Preservation Fees are for the maintenance and upkeep of the Cemetery when revenue has finally been depleted and these fees will be kept in an interest bearing restricted fund until needed. The Clerk advised there is continued interest in the Cemetery. The Mayor additionally commented on the goal of selling 500 plots by end of 2019 and also getting good press and advertising. The Clerk reported on resolving the drainage issue along with the Solicitor and Engineer.

The Clerk stated that although a budget is set, Township Staff have consistently tried to cut cost so that unspent budget dollars can go back into surplus. Lack of funding from the State over the years has affected that surplus amount.

The Clerk gave an update of the Road Program - Phase I & II are history as well as most of Phase III. Regarding Phase IV, a number of estimates have been given for work on Grassy Lake Road - widening vs. not widening; concerns with Atsion Road; completing Oakshade Road; Concord Ridge and Manitoba Trail were mentioned. The Clerk advised that the Township continually seeks grant funding to accomplish these proposed road projects. The Clerk advised she will follow-up and provide more details to the Committee for further discussion.

RESOLUTIONS:

The Clerk reported this request was from the Auditor and to be done in a resolution format. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R- 30 the approval to transfer \$107,625.44 in tax overpayments received in 2018 to the 1st quarter of 2019 taxes. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

ORDINANCES: None

REPORTS:

The Administrator Reported:

- Resident address reassigned due to safety concerns for response time by first responders.
- Received preliminary notice of Zero Prostate 5K event to be held on November 3, 2019 at Valenzano Winery.
- Recycling Tonnage grant award is \$1,255.12 (down from previous year's grant over \$3K)
- Awaiting schedule from Atlantic City Electric to install power to Stoney Creek Recreation Complex.
- Elected Officials Liability Seminar required by BurlCo JIF (Joint Insurance Fund) is on March 21, 2019.
- The report on the traffic study for the Willow Grove/Stokes Road intersection is planned for review at the March 5, 2019 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time *Mr. William Humphries* inquired the Committee's thoughts on the Willow Grove/Stokes Road intersection. The Mayor advised that the Township reached out requesting a solution with blinking lights. The Clerk reported the County did a traffic study and advised the intersection was in the top twenty worst in the State and top four in the County. The Clerk advised the County is planning to put two round-a-bouts in Tabernacle. The Clerk advised the need for the Township to reach out to the Engineer and Solicitor for potential liability issues as part of the decision as well. The Clerk also reported this was a preliminary conceptual plan from the County; the State did traffic studies and there is Federal funding for the potential project.

As there were no more questions of comments, the Mayor then closed the meeting to the public.

There being no further business, **on motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest:



Susan D. Onorato
Municipal Clerk