Shamong, NJ 08088 January 7, 2020

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

Mayor Di Croce called the second portion of the January 7, 2020 meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM

Please note both the Sunshine Statement and Roll Call carried over from the earlier 7:00 PM Reorganization Meeting.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Di Croce read into the minutes a Proclamation honoring Patrick Worrell for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Patrick expressed his thanks and recommended everyone who has an opportunity to walk this scenic trail at the YMCA camp.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time there were none, so he closed the meeting to the public.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION:

On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, approval of the December 3, 2019 Regular Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes except Committeeman Gimbel who abstained.

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, approval of the December 17, 2019 Close Out Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes except Committeeman Gray and Committeeman Mozitis who abstained.

Rick Worrell, Assistant Scout Master, requested residents to have their trees out at the road by 8:00 AM Saturday morning. Mr. Worrell advised the service is free of charge, but donations are welcomed and appreciated. The Mayor then expressed his thanks to both the Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops for their efforts with the recent food collection drive at the Indian Mills Methodist Church, as well as his thanks to Pastor Jack. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Boy Scout Troop 47 to collect Christmas trees as day of service project to Community on Saturday, January 18, 2020 with a rain date of Sunday, January 19, 2020. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

RESOLUTIONS:

The Clerk reported this is the third year the Township will be applying for this $10,000 grant and thanked John Lyons, OEM Coordinator for his efforts. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-25 Authorizing Township of Shamong to apply for and accept a subgrant award of the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 of Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant Program Funding. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported if approved, there would be a refund of $774.50 for the fourth quarter taxes that were already paid to this Veteran and cancellation of taxes going forward. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-26 Authorizing the refund and cancellation of property taxes on block 8.01, lot 12.46 for a 100% totally and permanently disabled Veteran. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this resolution would give Township employees; who can provide proof of insurance from their spouse's employer, the option to opt-out of the State plan, receive a waiver payment while saving the Township money. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-27 Waiver Payments for Eligible Employees that opt-out of the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits, State Health Benefits Plan. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this would be a second appointment for Mr. Holroyd awarding him tenure. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-28 Appoint John Holroyd for a 4-Year term as Electrical Inspector expiring 12/28/2023. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the property owner is a totally disabled Veteran and the $467.07 rebate has been verified with the State of New Jersey. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-29 Authorizing the refund of Homestead Rebate on block 35.02, Lot 2. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported that as a result of duties being shifted in the UCC office for Mr. Toussaint and Mr. Holroyd, this resolution assures that neither are overpaid or underpaid. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-30 Salary resolution – UCC Office. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

ORDINANCES:

The Clerk reported this annual resolution extends the budget cap to 3.5% and allows a cap bank for surplus purposes benefiting the Township. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2020-1 Calendar Year 2020 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4045.14). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the salary ranges provide for no more then 2.5% increases as held to this year for COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) and accommodates the twenty-seven pay periods in 2020. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2020-2 An Ordinance of the Township of Shamong Fixing Annual Salary Ranges of the Members of the Township Committee and Certain Designated Officers of Said Township. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

BILL LIST:

The Clerk reported the total bill list amount is $1,396,183.97 pointing out a few items such as the $44K lease payment; Lenape Regional approx. $432K; Shamong Board of Education about $809K and payments to the Burlington County JIF (Joint Insurance Fund). The Mayor requested any questions or comments; as there were none, **on motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve the attached Bill List. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

REPORTS:

The Engineer Reported:

- Grassy Lake Road Phase I has been advertised/out to bid – DOT grant received last year.
- Working on a second grant received for Phase II of Grassy Lake Road.

The Solicitor Reported:

- Expressed his thoughts on the Committee authorizing the Joint Land Use Board (JLUB) the ability to appoint a Board Planner, as needed, for significant applications that require a specific type of analysis. The Solicitor recommended they be allowed to do this and it was his belief that costs would not likely exceed the threshold of $17,500. The Solicitor advised that more likely than not, the time spent by the Planner providing services to the JLUB will be paid out of the Escrows of the applicants. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve the Joint Land Use Board the ability to appoint a Board Planner, as needed, for significant applications. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Administrator Reported:

- 2020 Census counts will begin in March /April
- Atlantic City Electric may continue with tree trimming project through April 2020
- Ethics seminar approved for December 11th was rescheduled to January 15th, 2020
- Workshop/Budget meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm, January 28, 2020.
- 2020 Budget Update:
  a. Introduction date moved from February 10th to March 30, 2020 (Or next scheduled meeting on April 7th).
  b. Adoption date moved from March 20th to April 30, 2020 (Or next scheduled meeting on May 5th).
  c. Reduction in Health Benefits cost of approximately $4,000.
  d. 27 Bi-weekly pay cycles will reflect additional salary expense
- Annual Building Code report submitted showing total revenue of approx. $111,000
- Available Finance and Municipal Court reports submitted through November 2019

The OEM Coordinator Reported:

- Emergency Management Plan Update is in the Works and will be ready for review shortly.

The Mayor reported that on January 28, 2020, President Trump will be at the Wildwood, NJ Convention Center. The Mayor also reviewed some of the special events that occurred in Shamong in 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time the following responded:

Jeanne Clayton – 362 Holly Road, Marlton – inquired about the quantity of dogs recently surrendered at the Roberts house. The Solicitor advised a final count of dogs taken from the property was not determined – initial indication was more than twenty. The Solicitor advised an arraignment is scheduled January 13, 2020. The Solicitor suggested if a resident is interested in attending the arraignment, they should reach out to the Court Prosecutor's office for details. The Mayor commented that criminal charges are pending; advised the police are concerned and responsive to the best of their ability and stated comments need to be limited. The Solicitor stated the Prosecutor's office and State Police are aware of the Township Ordinance, however, violation of a State statute carries more serious offenses and are the higher level of pursuit. The Clerk stated that Shamong Township is doing everything legally that we can do while working with the County and NJSP.

Ernie Lazos – 6 Kingswood Road, Shamong – expressed he would not be intimidated by this difficult situation and would continue to fight the puppy mill business next door. Mr. Lazos expressed his frustrations inquiring if the Township could do more. The Solicitor advised the issues expressed are Zoning issues and the Zoning Officer has been doing inspections to compile information on other issues that are Zoning violations – in draft. The Solicitor will coordinate these with the County Prosecutors office. Mr. Lazos feels the ordinance needs to be revisited. The Solicitor advised it was on Executive Session.

Aldyth Keith – 83 Springers Brook Road – advised to be temperate in all things and utilize what the Township already has in place.

Bill Lampman – Manitoba Trail – suggested more info regarding the dog issues be posted on the website. The Solicitor advised the info can be put out there, but we have no control on the scheduling of the proceedings. The Mayor suggested to call the Prosecutors office as well.

Denise Tollefson – Oak Shade Road – expressed that it comes down to a quality of life thing and advised that Donna is there.

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

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, by Resolution 2020R-31, the Committee went into Executive Session for matters of Attorney Client privilege.

The Committee reconvened their regular meeting and the Solicitor reported two issues – one relative to an employee matter – no action to be taken. The other was attorney client privilege discussion on existing animal ordinance and potential revisions – direction was given – no action to be taken at this time.

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

Attest:

Susan D. Onorato
Municipal Clerk