

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

Mayor Gimbel called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The Clerk stated please be advised that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act in the following manner. Written notice has been sent to and published in the Burlington County Times and sent to the Central Record and posted as required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call and)	Mr. Michael Cooney	A
Absentees)	Mr. Michael Di Croce	P
Noted)	Mr. Timothy Gimbel	P
	Mr. Sean Gray	A
	Mr. Martin Mozitis	P

Also in attendance: D. Heinold, Solicitor and D. Guzzi, Engineer

Mayor Gimbel 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;

Mrs. Onorato, the Clerk, reported speaking with Jay Renwick, the Tax Assessor, regarding added, omitted and rollback taxes for 2017, for improvements or new homes, which will net the Township \$47,329.00. The Clerk reported, per the Tax Assessor, the new average ratio changed from 94.64% to 94.81% for the upcoming year.

The Clerk reported a resident request for permission to remove dead and or fallen trees from Township land which has been an annual request for several years. Proof of insurance and a Hold Harmless agreement has been submitted. **On motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the resident request for permission to remove dead and or fallen trees from Township land (block 23.01, lot 26 and block 8.01, lot 12.62). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on the Tax Collector's request to attend a seminar on October 5, 2017 and to attend the League of Municipalities Conference on November 14, 2017 and suggested a blanket motion. **On a blanket motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committee Mozitis, it was moved to approve both the Tax Collector's request to attend a seminar on October 5, 2017 at a total cost of \$21.20 and to attend the League of Municipalities Conference on November 14, 2017 at a total cost of \$100.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported regarding a request to conduct potential archaeological work on block 27.01/lot 3 – this was tabled pending receipt of additional information.

The Clerk reported regarding an update on Oakshade Road – Phase I and turned the meeting over to the Engineer. The Engineer reported that Giberson has set the pipe; the lining should be finished by end of week and they will then follow up with the final road repair. The Engineer reported they continue to reach out to Arawak with regards to completing the repair punch list and have a follow up meeting scheduled.

The Clerk reported on the 2018 RFP/RFQ sub-committee appointment. The Clerk reported this can either be two (2) members of the Committee or one (1) Committee and the Clerk. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Mayor Gimbel, it was moved to approve the 2018 RFP/RFQ sub-committee appointment of Committeeman Di Croce. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk reported on the cancellation of \$132.49 in taxes (block 27.01, lot 3). **On motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-97 Authorizing the cancellation of \$132.49 in taxes on block 27.01, lot 3 (q-farm) for the remainder of the years as the property was purchased by the Township of Shamong. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on granting the 2017 License of Operation of Fawn Lake Village for the remainder of 2017. The Clerk reported it was recommended by the Rent Control Board (RCB), pursuant to their meeting on September 3, 2017, to allow the extension to February 2018. The Clerk reported the RCB feels this should give Fawn Lake Village the time to complete the work on the septic systems, as well as provide the RCB time to go through the reorganization and review for recommendations in February 2018. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Di Croce, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-98 Granting 2017 License for Operation of Fawn Lake Village until February 2018. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on the submission of a grant application with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Oakshade Road repaving Phase II project and then the Clerk turned the meeting over to the Engineer. The Engineer reported the grant application will be submitted this week and would then need to be followed up with an executed resolution from the Township within thirty (30) days to complete the process. **On motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-99 Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Oakshade Road Repaving Phase II project. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on expressing opposition to legislative proposals regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act. The Clerk reported the NJ State Budget and Appropriations Committee took action on June 29, 2017 on Senate Bill #145 and #146 which amends these bills without recommendation. The Clerk reported these Bills are unpopular and unnecessary and would result in significant financial and administrative burdens to the municipalities. The Solicitor reported that statistics show most open public records requests are commercial in nature and additionally, a percentage of requests are used improperly. The Solicitor agreed this legislature would indeed be a burden, especially to smaller municipalities. The Mayor commented on his agreement to expressing opposition. **On motion of Committeeman Di Croce seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-100 Expressing opposition to legislative proposals regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on the Division of Local Government Services CY 2016/SFY 2017 Best Practice Inventory Program – Best Practice Public Meeting Certification Form that is a requirement of the State and must be reviewed, completed and submitted for State funding purposes. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Di Croce, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-101 Division of Local Government Services CY 2016/SFY 2017 Best Practice Inventory Program – Best Practice Public Meeting Certification Form. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on urging Congress, as Federal Income Tax Reform Advances, to Protect the Deductibility of State and Local Taxes with the intent to preserve the deduction, also known as the SALT program. The Clerk reported that eliminating the SALT deduction would raise taxes on middle class homeowners. **On motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-102 Urging Congress, as Federal Income Tax Reform Advances, to Protect the Deductibility of State and Local Taxes. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on authorizing award of sale on property on Atsion and Grassy Lake Roads. The Clerk reported this property went out to bid, per 2017R-85, with a minimum bid of \$60,000. The bid was received by Patrick Decker who met all requirements. The Solicitor reported the bid award has a condition included requiring the owner to prove to the Pinelands that the property will be used for the intended purposes; before the closing date. **On motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Mayor Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-103 Authorizing award of sale of property on Atsion and Grassy Lake Roads (Block 8.01, Lot 9). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes with the exception of Committee Mozitis who voted no.**

The Clerk reported on the award of bid for the purchase of a snow plow truck via a lease purchase program along with a trade in vehicle. The Clerk reported additionally, funds from the property sale of Block 8.01, Lot 9 are intended to contribute to this purchase. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Di Croce, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-104 Award of bid to Robert H. Hoover and Sons, Inc. for the purchase of 2018 Western Star snow plow truck at a cost of \$153,239. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

ORDINANCES:

The Clerk reported on the continuance of public hearing on amending the code to create chapter 144 governing “Special Events”. The Solicitor commented advising this ordinance would require some basic reporting on Special Events, where the public is invited, so that emergency services are aware and could respond properly if necessary. A brief Committee discussion followed with regards to the number of people attending that would require submitting a notification permit.

The Mayor then opened the meeting to the public at which time, John Lyons, the OEM (Office of Emergency Management) Coordinator, commented on a draft permit application presented to the Committee which had no attendance quantifications, but if there is a flame or a tent, a permit was required for the event. Mr. Lyons suggested the ordinance and permit language make reference to the Department of Health, local Fire Marshall and local Building Codes standards. Donna Nixon, from Arrow Head Road, commented there may have been some confusion in previous meetings with regards to what is considered to be a special event (vs. normal business practice). The Mayor expressed thanks for the clarification and comments expressed. There being no more comments, the Mayor then closed this portion of the meeting to the public. **On motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to carry Ordinance 2017-7 Continuation of public hearing – Amending the code to chapter 144 governing “Special Events” to the November 8, 2017 meeting. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on **Ordinance 2017-9** the Introduction of the Flood Damage Prevention ordinance; (60.3) D Section 1.0 Statutory Authorization, Findings of Fact, Purpose and Objectives and that it was sent to the NJ State Dept. of Environmental Protection for review. The Solicitor reported this ordinance is to adopt the FEMA flood maps which have not changed much and suggested it be tabled until the November 8, 2017 meeting pending further Dept. of Environmental Protection review.

The Clerk reported on the Code of Chapter 136 Governing “Property Maintenance” and Chapter 147 Governing “Streets and Sidewalks” and turned the meeting over to the Solicitor. The Solicitor reported these were fairly standard provisions and stated the typical rule is that the abutting property owner has the responsibility for the maintenance. The Clerk reported the Township receives calls throughout the year from residents requesting maintenance on a tree in the right-of-way that was actually planted there by a property owner (not the Township). The Township will only do maintenance on branches overhanging the roads that would inhibit snowplow service. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Di Croce, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2017-10 Introduction of ordinance Amending the Code at Chapter 136 Governing “Property Maintenance” and Chapter 147 Governing “Streets and Sidewalks”. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on a draft ordinance regarding cat colony regulation and turned the meeting over to the Solicitor for review. The Solicitor reported the County is proposing a program that would amend the existing code provisions governing feral cats and community cat care givers. The Solicitor reported he is reviewing the County proposals and the Townships existing codes with regards to retaining the Townships existing provisions within the County proposals and will create an ordinance accordingly.

BILL LIST:

The Mayor requested any questions or comments; as there were none, **on motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the attached Bill List. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

REPORTS:

The Engineer reported:

- The bi-annual Indian Mills dam inspection is scheduled for next week.
- Tabernacle Township applied to the DOT for funding to repave Carranza Road and is requesting a Resolution from Shamong Township that if the funding is approved it will include the Shamong portion of Carranza Road (with no financial obligation to Shamong).

On motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2017R-107 Consent to Tabernacle Township for Carranza Road Project. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Administrator reported:

- One More Bar & Grill has informed the Township of revisions they are making to their catering permit applied for a function on October 28th at V&V Adventure Farm.

The OEM Coordinator reported:

- Turned over FEMA material from a recent workshop.
- AED staff training for the donated defibrillator is scheduled for next week.
- The County mitigation plan (overall County emergency operations plan) is expiring and the County is asking that each municipality have two (2) representatives to attend meetings. He would be one and is recommending the Construction Official be the other.
- The CERT team had training from Cooper Hospital on bleeding control.
- Storm damage assessment software will be available through the County.
- The CERT team will be involved in three (3) upcoming fire prevention activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Gimbel opened the meeting to the public for comments at which time Steve Horowitz commented on the need for a trashcan at the ballfield. The Clerk reported it is in the works. As there were no other comments, the Mayor closed the meeting to the public.

On motion of Committeeman Di Croce, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, by Resolution 2017R-105 the Committee went into Executive Session for matters of Attorney Client privilege.

The Committee reconvened their regular meeting and the Clerk reported there was no action to be taken at this time.

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

Attest:

Susan D. Onorato
Municipal Clerk