

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, Susan Onorato, 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 recited.

The Mayor invited the Township Construction Official, Ed Toussaint, to report on a proposed program agreement related to Ordinance 2019-11 on tonight’s agenda. Mr. Toussaint gave an overview of the Prochamps program called “Community Champions” – a County wide organization in direct contact with major banks and lienholders of Township properties. Their program assists municipalities in maintaining their vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties – helping to keep these properties in Township compliance utilizing in-State representatives. Mr. Toussaint reported he has been working with this company in multiple Townships successfully for three years. Mr. Toussaint advised this program has the availability of on-line access for individuals to register property complaints directly. Once a complaint is registered in the Prochamps program, the Construction office and the resident who entered the complaint, can monitor the entire process through this system. Mr. Toussaint reported this program saves time and frustration also advising the fees for this program are no cost to taxpayers. Fees collected from bank and/or mortgage company will cover all costs and generate revenue to the Township.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on Ordinance 2019-11, as there were none, the Mayor then closed this portion of the meeting. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-11 Second reading and public hearing: Amending the Township code of Shamong by repealing, in its entirety, Chapter 137 entitled “PROPERTY, VACANT AND ABANDONED” and replacing it, in its entirety with Chapter 137 to be entitled, “REGISTRATION OF FORECLOSURE MORTGAGES AND VACANT PROPERTY”; providing for purpose, intent and applicability of the ordinance requiring the registration and maintenance of certain real property by mortgages and vacant property by owners; providing for penalties and enforcement, as well as the regulation, limitation and reduction of registrable real property within the township; providing for severability, repealer, codification and an effective date. (Published 11/11/19 – BCT) A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

Roll Call Report absentees noted)

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

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

The Mayor took a few moments to voice his thoughts on our system of government and the importance of practicing civility - which is the glue that holds our Republic and Town together. Civility is not accomplished by acts that disrupt and waste taxpayer time and money, but instead by good manners and how we respectfully speak and act in each other's company. The Mayor commented that Shamong spirit is on the rise, evidenced by neighbors helping neighbors and increased community events.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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 Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, approval of the November 6, 2019 Regular and Executive Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes except for Committeeman Gray who abstained.

The Mayor reported the Food Drive held at Indian Mills Church raised a huge amount of food and was a spectacular event. He expressed his thanks to the Church, the Scouts and parents involved. The Clerk advised the Scouts logged over 82 volunteer hours for this event and approximately 3,434 items were collected.

The Clerk reported receiving quotes from Pitney Bowes, Jersey Mail Systems and 360 Business Solutions for a postage meter lease – Pitney Bowes was the least expensive option, maintaining our current machine and offering a loyalty program at a reduced rate. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve renewal of 5-year lease on the postage meter with Pitney Bowes. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk gave a brief update on the Cooperative purchasing agreement with Burlington County for rock salt and sodium/calcium chloride solution for Dec. 1, 2019 – Nov. 30, 2021.

The Clerk advised the \$6,237 net cost for the annual software/hardware maintenance contract for Edmunds software reflects a \$1,350 discount if this agreement is approved early and paid by January 2020 due date. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve annual software and hardware maintenance contract on the Edmunds software for the Finance and Tax office at a cost of \$6,237. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Mayor reported details on two current Special events permits as follows:

- a. December 7, 2019 – 5p – 7p Annual tree lighting ceremony at Crossroads Church
- b. December 13, 2019 – 6:30 – 9 Holiday lights award ceremony @ Atsion Lake

The Clerk advised all paperwork is in order thanks to John Lyons, Office of Emergency Management Coordinator.

The Clerk summarized the RFP/RFQ (Request for Proposal/Request for Qualification) sub-committee report for 2020 annual professional contracts recommending the following Professionals: Douglas Heinold/Solicitor, Inverso & Stewart/Auditor and Dante Guzzi Engineering/Engineer. All three firms currently serving the Township – Solicitor fees have remained unchanged since 2016; Auditor fees increased 1.8% since 2019; Engineer fees have remained unchanged since 2017. The Committee extended thanks to the Solicitor and Engineer for the support and continued great service to Shamong Township.

The Clerk reported on the Burlington County Recycling market update advising how current types of recycling bans are affecting County recycling costs due to market value and contaminants found in recycling. The Clerk advised the Township receives notices from County Recycling on resident recycling rejections and at the request of the County, will send a reminder letter with County brochure.

The Mayor advised that the Township has received a 2020 NJ DOT grant award from the State towards Grassy Lake Road. The Engineer, Dan Guzzi, reported the grant is for the next phase of Grassy Lake Road repair working towards Atsion Road. The Engineer advised these grants are funded through the gas tax. The Mayor encouraged being mindful of speed and safety.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 1019-10: The Solicitor reported this ordinance will put a \$10 fee in place for anyone needing a recycle CART delivered to their home and a fee for residents who wish to purchase additional CARTS - \$55 for 95 gallon and \$50 for 65 gallon.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this ordinance, as there were none, the Mayor then closed this portion of the meeting. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-10 Second reading and public hearing: Amending Chapter 5 of the Township Code Governing “Fees”.** (Published 11/18/19 – BCT) **A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Solicitor reported the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) recently circulated a model Ordinance having to do with ensuring only clean fill dirt is brought into the Municipality and he suggested further research be completed prior to moving forward with any required permit process. The Clerk stated having reached out to Mr. Toussaint, the Building Code Officer, who advised not having run across this with other Townships. The Engineer advised other Townships have similar ordinances in place on importing soil usually related to developments or for single family homes requiring a certain quantity of fill that certifies the fill is clean and appropriate.

The Solicitor briefly spoke on experiences with ordinances stating we don't have an issue until someone does something against common sense. The Solicitor advised it was worth while looking into further. The Mayor tabled until further research is completed.

RESOLUTIONS:

The Clerk reported Ordinance 2019-11 set the fees and put the Prochamps program in place and this resolution will authorize execution of the agreement. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-104 Authorize Mayor and/or Clerk to execute agreement with Prochamps (Community Champions) for vacant property management. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this is cancellation of taxes on properties purchased by the Township. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-105 Cancellation of \$218.63 in taxes on Block 23.01, Lot 31. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-106 Refund of \$392.40 in Net permit fees on Block 12.02, Lot 10 (13 Meadowbrook Drive) as the property owner cancelled permit. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

BILL LIST:

The Mayor requested any questions or comments; the Clerk advised the total was \$1,375,172.27 and there were repairs/inspection to a PWD truck totaling just over \$11,000 – which was less then the \$15-\$30,000 anticipated repair/replace cost discussed in the beginning of the year. The Clerk reported \$808,633.83 was Shamong Board of Education and Lenape Board of Education was \$431,935.49. As there were no further comments, **on motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve the attached Bill List. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

REPORTS:

The Engineer Reported:

- Updated details on options for installing solar powered speed limit signs for Grassy Lake Road advising two options are being reviewed - \$9,400 for 2 signs and \$5,400 for 2 signs. The area is heavily wooded and would need to be sited properly first for optimum placement. Committee decided to table at this time.
- NJ DOT approved 2018 road program close out – final reimbursement should be received shortly.
- First Phase of Grassy Lake Road just waiting for NJ DOT approval and should go out to bid beginning of 2020.

The Solicitor Reported:

- Monitoring the Cell Tower issue and anticipates that is headed back to court.
- Oakshade Road animal cases are checked monthly with Burlington County Prosecutors office – both cases are moving forward – no specific information can be released at this time.

The Solicitor commented out Township ordinance lead to the inspections which lead to the charges in both cases. The Solicitor stated we are a small municipality relying on State Police and the County Health Department – we can set the stage to implement things and then have to rely on other agencies. He commented that Sue Onorato, the Clerk, has been instrumental in putting together communications systems to process complaints when they arise.

The Administrator Reported:

- November 16, 2019 – Veteran’s Day ceremony at Pineland Memorial Park Cemetery was well attended!
- December 5th elected official’s liability seminar at 5:30
- December 11th – annual volunteer holiday dinner
- Re-organization meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM on January 7, 2020, regular meeting starts immediately after re-org meeting.
- Workshop/Budget meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on January 28, 2020.
- Submitted to participate in the 2020 Burlington County cooperative pricing program for stone and diesel fuel.

The OEM Coordinator Reported: no report

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time *Eileen Carlos* (109 Indian Mills Road) thanked the Mayor for his opening comments; thanked Committeeman Cooney and Susan Onorato for the input/efforts at the Joint Land Use Board meeting regarding the cell tower so there would be no miscommunication. Ms. Carlos also commented her concern for the importance of the conditional use of the proposed cell tower and her concerns for issues/mis-represented information that was omitted in Verizon documentation. She stated Verizon is being an uncooperative entity and did not do their due diligence. Ms. Carlos stated her views, feelings and observations on how the cell tower process has been handled so far commenting all pieces of information should be looked at to protect yourself. Ms. Carlos thanked the Board for their hard work and advised she will be meeting with the Pinelands as well.

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

The Clerk advised the annual close out Committee meeting will be December 17, 2019 beginning at 6:30 PM.

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

Attest:



Susan D. Onorato
Municipal Clerk