

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 p.m.

The Clerk stated to 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.

The Mayor requested all to stand and observe a moment of silence in honor of former President Bush.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Di Croce read into the minutes a Proclamation recognizing Theodore D. Shinske for his years of service as a member of the Lenape Regional High School District Board of Education.

The Mayor read an opening message he comprised beginning with the statement "Out of Bad Comes Good". He continued by advising we are not going to let one bad situation ruin the towns reputation; then spoke, encouraging all present to make a positive difference by helping not just animals, but people too. The Mayor apologized, advising he was shocked and saddened by what was recently discovered on the local property were dogs were kept in deplorable conditions. The Mayor thanked Dr. & Mrs. Lazos and the many others who had the courage and interest to see this process through. He also thanked the Burlington County Prosecutors Office,

the New Jersey State Police, along with the many others involved, for their positive and thoughtful actions. The Mayor stated that one of the things he has learned in life is “do not make assumptions” advising those in attendance to hear all the facts first; and although many are angry and appalled, he encouraged everyone to continue to be first class citizens letting the legal process play out. He stated that passing a bad law takes 60 days and passing a new good law, a constitutional law, sometimes takes more time. The Mayor then gave a brief background summary explaining the process of this ordinance including proper publication; first introductions; second readings and public hearings; additional publications and public comments – thus explaining some of the reasons why it was unable to be passed sooner. The Mayor closed by asking “how can we make this better now?”. He encouraged those who could, to adopt a dog or send a donation. The Mayor stated that in a State where there’s a law for everything, the goal of the Committee is to value and protect individual liberty and responsibility over more laws. The Mayor again apologized to everyone in the community.

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

Michael O’Connor (131 Meeting House Lane) stated he still did not understand why the process took so long. The Mayor reiterated some of his previous statements explaining the process again for Mr. O’Connor. Mrs. Onorato, the Clerk, also advised the investigation had been multi-level for some time including inspections by the Burlington County Board of Health which reported satisfactory findings. The Mayor advised Mr. O’Connor the Township was just as appalled at the findings on this property as everyone else.

Rebecca Voigt (183 Indian Mills Road) inquired if additional steps were taken to make sure the same thing wasn’t happening at the residences of Donna Roberts daughters. The Mayor confirmed yes, stating any credible complaints should be made to the State Police.

Frank Locantore (39 Wheatsheaf Road) suggested the Committee and Solicitor urge the County Prosecutor to move forward with forfeiture proceedings on the property; perhaps using the money to offset the Township costs. He also suggested the Township step up Code Enforcement for improvement of quality of life in the town.

Michael Kogelman (22 Meetinghouse Court) expressed his dismay that the name of this great town has been damaged, hopefully short-term and not irreparably, by one of its citizens. Mr. Kogelman continued by offering the Committee some

constructive criticism regarding some of the actions taken during the process, and then thanked the Committee for actions taken.

Aldyth Keith (Springers Brook Road) stated how neighbors used to talk about problems and try to help each other, but now, it seems society has forgotten about common sense and neighbors rarely make eye contact. She feels taking the time to know and communicate with your neighbors is worth the effort; advising to stop the blaming, look inside and know what's going on in your neighborhood; defend and respect what we have here.

Denise Tollefson (524 Oakshade Road) thanked the community for their support of the ordinance; thanked Dr. & Mrs. Lazos for their dedication and heroic efforts and expressed her thankfulness that this horror was over on November 13, 2018.

Jeanne Clayton (Marlton) advised she was bothered by the fact this situation had not been previously dealt with citing opportunities going back to 2009. She additionally expressed her displeasure with the actions it took to get this addressed stating it should have been done 10 years ago.

Marni Mitchell (198 Stokes Road) thanked the Committee acknowledging all the behind the scenes work that was done.

Barbara Valenzano (Forked Neck Road) stated that when she worked for the Township, some barking complaints were received and letters were sent to Donna Roberts to address the situation. She felt the Committee has helped the town and took things in hand when they knew there was a real problem stating they do a good job for the residents.

Laura King (Atsion Road) advised she had been to some of the meetings that Donna Roberts attended with her daughter. Mrs. King came to one meeting where many of those in attendance were non-residents and many holding up "No Ordinance" signs. Mrs. King spoke about inaccurate statements that were posted on Facebook, hung up at Murphy's Market, put out by the media and spoken by Mrs. Roberts herself. Mrs. King advised she does not blame the Committee, but those who did not want an ordinance, believing the lies and incorrect information put out there instead.

Catherine Spence (Stokes Road) thanked the Committee, understanding they needed to go through the process – correcting the original ordinance – and for taking the time and for listening and working through to make it a decent ordinance.

Frank Locantore (Wheatsheaf Road) stated living in this town because we enjoy a certain quality of life; other towns are different, some even with a local purpose tax. If strict code enforcement and other things are wanted, that's fine, but somebody has to pay for it and it will change our quality of life.

Melissa McGrass (Mt. Holly) advised Board of Health violations are public record. She advised understanding it takes time to pass laws the right way, but expressed concern regarding the licensing of over seventy dogs while this situation was going on.

Karen Froberg-Fejko (369 Forked Neck Road) commended the Council Members for what was accomplished. She mentioned that animal issues are emotional and create polarity, but there is a process that must play out. She asked all to be patient stating justice will prevail. She applauded the Council Members for listening and changing the original ordinance.

Rebecca Voigt (183 Indian Mills Road) questioned the camping trailers, motor cycles, etc. that Mrs. Roberts has and are all required taxes being paid by Mrs. Roberts. The Clerk advised that if this question was referring to IRS taxation, the Township does not be involved in this issue.

Bill Lampman (Manitoba Trail) posed a comment suggesting if someone in town was breeding dogs for profit, they should be required to get a license.

Ernie Lazos (6 Kingswood Road) – prior to Mr. Lazos speaking, the Mayor thanked him on behalf of himself and the Committee. Mr. Lazos commented on the bad situation he moved in to; how the yelping/cries of dogs and an encounter with Mrs. Roberts prompted him to do some research and go into action. Mr. Lazos also commented positively on the ordinance and hoping it would be enforceable in other situations if necessary. Mr. Lazos inquired if the house was condemned, to which the Solicitor responded stating the County Health Department has issued an order that the house is uninhabitable in its current condition and a list was given by the Health Department of what needs to be done to reoccupy the property. The Solicitor also advised that complaints received regarding Mrs. Roberts still living at the property have been relayed to the County Prosecutor's office and the State Police and he also clarified that the County orders say Mrs. Roberts can be there during the day, dawn to dusk.

As there were no more questions or comments, the Mayor then recessed the meeting for five-minute.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION:

As there were no questions or comments from the Committee, **on motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, approval of the November 7, 2018 Special, Regular and two (2) Executive Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes except Committeeman Gray who abstained.**

The Mayor reported there would be a Christmas tree lighting ceremony hosted by the Crossroads Community Church on December 8, 2018 starting at 5:00 PM and invited the community to attend.

The Clerk reported the 2nd Annual Holiday Lights contest was on 12/14/18 and a map of participating homes is on the Shamong website. The Clerk advised that Melissa Durham was doing the event again this year; activities will start at 6:30 PM at the Dingtletown Sports Complex.

Mrs. Onorato, the Clerk, reported on the 2019 RFP/RFQ (Request for Proposal/Request for Position) sub-committee report for the professional staff hired with abilities anticipated being more than \$17,500 for the year. All submissions were received prior to the deadline of November 14, 2018 @ noon. The Clerk reported briefly on each position: Two submissions received for Solicitor: Doug Heinold/Raymond Coleman Heinold and Grace Romero Associates – continuance with Mr. Heinold is recommended. One submission for Engineer from Dante Guzzi Engineering Associates – continuance with Mr. Guzzi is recommended. Inverso & Stewart is recommended for continuance as Auditor. The Clerk reported any awards would take place at the reorganization meeting in January 2019. The Mayor thanked the current Solicitor and Engineer for the jobs they do and for holding their fees at the same level helping decrease taxes this year.

John Lyons, the Township OEM (Office of Emergency Management) Coordinator, gave an update on the 2017 Emergency Management Assistance Agency Grant advising all was accomplished that was needed and the grant was now closed. He reported the final paperwork was in process and should be filed by year-end granting \$10,000 in salary reimbursement to Shamong Township. Mr. Lyons advised he is actively working on the 2018 grant now. Mr. Lyons reported on FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding for the March Winter Storms advising he

was working on getting recovery costs for the disaster assistance that resulted in required debris clearing due to these storms. Mr. Lyons reported on a County Department of Health (DOH) practice drill that was carried out in 2016 for distribution/dosing of counter medications, advising the drill is part of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) program. Mr. Lyons reported the DOH is requesting another practice drill in 2019 – possibly a drive-through flu clinic in Tabernacle – and Shamong would be a participating supporting agency. Mr. Lyons reported the County OEM has requested Shamong to look into multi-jurisdictional sheltering. He advised there currently is a shelter agreement with Red Cross in the town for the schools that is geared toward our municipality; there is a desire, just in the talking stage, to pick a regional/multi-jurisdictional location that could be shared and staffed together.

Mr. Lyons reported on an OEM grant application advising the Wal-Mart Foundation offers money to public safety and community assistance agencies for times of emergencies and preparedness materials.

Mr. Lyons thanked the Committee for putting an ordinance in place requiring the notification/registration of special events within the Township which allows better OEM planning and awareness.

Mr. Lyons concluded with a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) update on a successful Fire Prevention activity that occurred in October.

The Clerk, acknowledged Mr. Lyons, thanking him for his countless hours behind the scenes and for seeking out grants and/or donations in an effort to do a better supply his OEM department.

The Mayor then acknowledged and the two State Troopers present thanking them for their presence at the meeting.

The Clerk requested a motion for the OEM grant application request Mr. Lyons mentioned in his report. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the Office of Emergency Grant application request. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Engineer reported the Park Projects are expected to be completed by the end of the week. The Engineer reported on the Oakshade Road program advising that Arawak Paving is scheduled for December 17, 2018; if there was any issue with weather, he would hold them off until after the holiday. The Engineer advised he is waiting to hear back details on the three grant applications that are currently pending with the Department of Transportation (DOT). There was a brief discussion regarding drainage issues within the Township and the Engineer advised he was looking into and evaluating the issues.

The Clerk advised on the Rent Control Board (RCB) report submitted by Mr. Christopher Zehnder, the Chair, advising the RCB memorialized by resolution, Oak View Parks request for a full rent increase. The Clerk requested Mr. Heinold, Township Solicitor to reach out to Chris Norman, RCB Solicitor, for further clarification regarding correct anniversary dates.

The Clerk gave an update on the Township request for traffic control at the Willow Grove and Stokes Road intersection reporting the County has advised they are still collecting and reviewing data.

The Clerk advised the recent receipt of the the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) Loss Control report from the August survey. The Clerk reported there were no significant deficiencies and no new suggestions.

The Clerk advised that two family plots have already been sold at the Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery. The Clerk also reported Sandy Fritzsche of Springer's Brook Nursery would like to donate a Weeping Beech Tree, in honor of her late husband, to the Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve acceptance of the donation of a Weeping Beech Tree. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Mayor mentioned the Township was considering a nice piece of appropriate artwork for the front of the cemetery.

The Clerk advised the State just came out with a local finance notice on the 2019 budget moving the Introduction from 2/10/19 to 3/29/19 and moving the Adoption from 3/20/19 to 4/30/19. The Clerk reported the Township Historical Society has

submitted their request for a budget including assistance for planned repairs, over three (3) years, of the recent 354 Oakshade Road property purchase which is estimated at approximately \$50,000.

Laura King, a member of the Historical Society, made brief comments regarding funding; the Historical Society reaching out to the Burlington County Freeholders and the Historical Society's hope for more interest and members.

RESOLUTIONS:

The Clerk reported regarding a tax refund request for taxes that had been paid in advance on property the Township purchased from Janet Bowers. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-104 Tax refund block 27.01, lot 3 for \$2,807.52 to Janet Bowers. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

ORDINANCES:

The Solicitor confirmed the Joint Lane Use Board (JLUB) has reviewed and there was a resolution to accept it as is. The Solicitor reported the ordinance is mandated by changes from the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, some being beneficial to the residents and briefly commented on some of the programs.

The Mayor opened the meeting up to the public for questions or comments at which time a woman resident inquired about details on the new septic system. The Engineer advised it was nothing new, but basically just the alternative septic system for a compact treatment plan system used on smaller lots confirming it would impact residents with new construction on a new lot or change in flow use situations.

On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2018-13 Second reading; Shamong Township Joint Land Use Board review; and public hearing: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 110, LAND DEVELOPMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SHAMONG, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

BILL LIST:

The Clerk advise the bill list was for \$1,447,275.34 advising approximately \$1.1 million goes to the schools. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve the attached Bill List. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

REPORTS:

The Engineer Reported:

- Reached out to Atlantic City Electric regarding getting power to Stoney Creek Recreation Complex and was advised by them that underground electric would be a lot costlier. He is reaching out to get on their schedule. The Clerk advised this is being funded through a grant.

The Solicitor Reported:

- Advised he has been working with the Clerk and the Engineer regarding the rain condition issues along the street by the cemetery. The Solicitor reported he is sending a letter requesting a time line to the contracted engineers to get back to him with a solution.

The Administrator Reported:

- Advised that Santa Claus will be coming to town on Sunday, December 16th beginning at 10:00 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time *Bill Lampman* asked for an update regarding a snow fence. The Clerk reported reaching out to the County who controls that part of Indian Mills Road, stating she was advised by the County that the Township could put a snow fence up – however the Township would have to purchase snow fencing, which was previously supplied by the County for County Roads.

Katherine Spence inquired what rent increase does the Township control to which the Clerk advised the two (2) mobile home parks in Shamong are Fawn Lake Village and Oak View Village. The Clerk advised the rent is for the pads the mobile homes are sitting on, septic, trash pick-up, etc. which is paid to the company that owns the land then giving a brief summary of the process.

Mrs. Mozitis congratulated the Committee on a good job and also commented that the Municipal building and grounds could use some sprucing up.

Aldyth Keith commented on the mis-use of the complex recycle trash bins.

Laura King suggested a security camera at the complex.

Frank Schoen (5 Burr Trail) complimented the Committee on a job well done tonight.

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

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