

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

Deputy Mayor Gimbel 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 recited.

Roll Call (absentees noted)	Mr. Michael Cooney	P
	Mr. Michael Di Croce	A
	Mr. Timothy Gimbel	P
	Mr. Sean Gray	P
	Mr. Martin Mozitis	P

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

Deputy Mayor Gimbel opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time *Megan Mozitis* (Shamong, NJ) inquired if the Donna Roberts house on Oakshade Road had been approved for occupancy yet. The Deputy Mayor advised yes. The Solicitor reported details advising that Donna Roberts was originally ordered out of the house; the family asked for a reinspection; the County complied and advised that still no one was allowed back into the house. The family further remediated the conditions of the County Board of Health violation, notified the County again requesting another inspection; they were then granted occupancy at this point.

The Solicitor reported on recent complaints that were received from neighbors about barking noise coming from the property. This triggered another round of inspections were completed by the County Health Department, the Shamong Animal Control Officer and the State Police; this was carried out on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Solicitor advised there are signs posted stating that Donna Roberts does not live at the house anymore. The Solicitor reported being in contact with the County Prosecutor's office regarding the current restrictions that are in place and was advised that the County is still waiting on evidence to come back.

*Ernie Lazos* (Kingswood Road) commented on vandalism to his new pool and vehicle tires and his resulting frustration. *Bridget Lazos* commented feeling like they are being harassed.

*Denise Tollefson* (Oakshade Road) commented on a day the police tried for an hour to get Donna Roberts to come out and talk after reports of golden retrievers being spotted. Denise also mentioned turning over surveillance footage of Donna Roberts outside of the house 5 minutes after the police left; also advising Donna is there on a daily basis. Denise commented on her concern for the dogs at this property and requesting Township assistance.

The Deputy Mayor inquired to the Solicitor regarding the intent of Donna Robert's next court appearance. The Solicitor commented he does not do criminal law, but his understanding is that in a criminal case, the Judge will come in with both sides and ask for the status of the case to make sure due process is happening and the case is moving forward. The idea is to get it positioned to be ready to try. The Solicitor confirmed the proceedings happen in an open court room. The Deputy Mayor commented to the public advising the intent is for them to be aware of the proceedings so they could be present and included so the story could be told. The Solicitor advised they are doing everything they can, relying on the State Police and County Prosecutor's office and stated to please keep sharing their information and videos with the State Police and Burlington County Prosecutor's office.

*Martha Bohi* (Shawnee Lane) inquired about the growing of marijuana in the town and when the times comes, will it be voted on by the community. The Solicitor stated there was another roadblock and State approval has been postponed. There was some discussion on the issue and how it may or could be addressed within the Township, with the intent of making good decisions for the residents. *Martha* advised her main comments on the issue – if legalized: Shamong has and likes its anonymity, and if lost, we would not get that back in this day and age with Google; her concerns with crimes of convenience; stating we have no local police force; and she also questioned the local jobs it would bring.

The Deputy Mayor thanked her for her comments and offered to have Mayor Di Croce reach out to her.

As there were no further questions or comments, the Deputy Mayor then 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 February 5, 2019 Regular and Executive Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes with the exception of Committeeman Gray who abstained.**

**On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, approval of the March 5, 2019 Regular and Executive Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes with the exception of Committeeman Gray and Committeeman Mozitis who abstained.**

Mrs. Onorato, the Clerk, reported that the list of proposed Fire Police appointments has been reviewed and approved by the Indian Mills Volunteer Fire Department. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve appointment of Fire Police to a five-year term expiring 4/1/2024. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this 2005 trailer was originally received from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) at no cost. The Clerk advised that various options for removal of the trailer had been researched; some included a charge to the Township. The Clerk reported that Wade's Salvage in Atco offered \$300.00 to take it away. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve to sell the 2005 Cavalier Trailer to Wade's Salvage for \$300.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported reaching out for irrigation quotes including A & T Sprinklers in Sicklerville, Quality Irrigation in Medford and Rainmaker Lawn Service in Shamong. The Clerk advised A & T provided the lowest overall quote holding their prices from 2018. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve to hire A&T Sprinklers, Inc. to repair and maintain sprinkler systems on the recreation complexes for 2019. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported reaching out for lawn care quotes to service the Pinelands Memorial cemetery and advised MVP was the lowest bid received; two of the companies declined to bid. The Clerk stated the cuttings would begin after the cemetery property project is released to the Township and tasks would include mowing approximately every ten days; removal of flowers after holidays; periodic clean-up; fertilizing as needed. The Clerk inquired about the release of the cemetery property and Mr. Guzzi, the Engineer, advised he was still waiting for CES to come up with the revised plan and quotes. There was brief discussion regarding the issue. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve to hire MVP Lawn Service to maintain the Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery grounds for 2019. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on the Tax Collectors request to attend a conference to help attain the required CEUs (Continued Education Unit) for the year. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Tax Collector to attend Tax Collector/Tax Assessor Association of NJ Spring Conference in Atlantic City – May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> at a total estimated cost of \$420.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported that Mr. Hart has helped out during a past snow event. The Clerk advised the part-time snow plow operator position has been posted on the website for some time. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve to hire Len Hart as a part-time equipment operator for snow plow operations at \$24.06 per hour effective 2/11/19.**

The Clerk reported she has not yet been able to get together with Ann Moore regarding the Burlington Recycling Carts to get more information. The Clerk advised she will request an extension on final decisions until the Carts options can be discussed further.

The Clerk advised that the Township was awarded the 2019 DOT Municipal Aid Program Grant for Grassy Lake Road - \$255,000. The Engineer reported the grant application was submitted for Indian Mills Road to Atsion Road giving the flexibility to decide on which section to do. The Engineer stated that addressing the lower section of Indian Mills for the drainage problems has previously been discussed. The Engineer reported on preliminary work that had been done several years ago during a road program, but advising it was pulled out when applying for grants. The Engineer reported that a DOT grant for drainage issues has also been applied for, but he has not heard anything on that one yet and guesses that grant has died. The Engineer stated the \$255,000 grant amount will take the project about 1,500 feet; which will not resolve the situation, but will improve the situation greatly. The Engineer advised the option of finishing paving the whole road to Stokes would be about another \$160,000. The Clerk confirmed to the Deputy Mayor there was enough in the 2019 budget to cover the \$160,000. The Deputy Mayor stated it would be discussed further once all details are known. There was brief additional discussion regarding the repairs needed to improve area roads and the best way to utilize the grant funds.

The Clerk advised electronic copies of the 2019 Budget introduction had been previously sent to the Committee and reported the total budget for this year comes out to \$3,423,118.59. The Clerk reported speaking to the Shamong Board of Education and was advised they have a 2.17% increase in the tax rate - roughly \$96.00 per average assessed home. The Clerk additionally reported Lenape District has a 1.42% increase - roughly \$33.75 per home and that there was no increase in the Shamong local purpose tax. The Clerk stated that tax details were not yet confirmed on the County website, but assuming there would be a 2% budget increase with the exception of the Open Space - based on the 2%, the average assessed home at \$308,498 would receive about a \$154.00 increase in tax per home. The Clerk reported the 2019 Shamong budget increased \$165,000 overall as a result of the addition of a \$44,000 yearly plow truck payment; debt service on the cemetery of \$39,000; back-hoe purchase using roughly \$58,000 of Township money after \$23,000 grant applied; increase in pension expenses and proposed improvements to the Public Works building. The Clerk reported that OEM (Office of Emergency Management) has a \$22,000 increase in their budget for potential radio purchases - radio changes that are mandated by the County. The Deputy Mayor commented on a good job managing that number. The Clerk stated that a benefit to the Shamong taxpayers is that because we budget, doesn't mean we spend it; and what isn't spent goes back into the bank account for future budgets. The Deputy Mayor advised the public that copies of the 2019 Budget introduction were available for review. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve the 2019 Budget introduction. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

The Clerk reported a fund-raising event hosted by the NJ Widows Sons, to benefit Make-A-Wish, is planned at the Pic-A-Lilli on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with a rain date of May 12<sup>th</sup>. All required documentation and fees have been submitted and the NJ State Police will be made aware as well. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-42 Granting Raffle License to New Jersey Widows Sons. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported there are three outstanding checks tied into the Municipal Court for a total of \$3.00. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-43 Cancel outstanding checks. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported Mr. Dunlap was granted by Resolution on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, temporary approval to live on-site in a mobile home during the construction phase of his home. The Clerk advised reaching out to Mr. Dunlap to inform him he was coming to the end of his approval period and to inform him the Township would be willing to give a one-time 6-month extension. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-44 Authorizing temporary trailer as residency during construction (575 Atsion Road). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the PMP (Pinelands Memorial Park) Cemetery Advisory Board is recommending to the Township Committee that we seek advertisement on the Cemetery website for revenue - \$125.00/year for a business and \$50.00/year to a non-profit organization. This would be an amendment to the previously approved PMP fee schedule. The Clerk reported that local businesses and organizations were initially listed, at no charge, on the PMP website as a convenience to the public. If resolution is approved, a packet will go out to each of these businesses/organizations offering continued advertisement for a yearly fee and requesting a decision by end of June 2019. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-45 Adopting fee schedule amendment for Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this resolution is in response to the Governor's stormwater/rain tax and his direction that Municipalities can also charge this tax to its residents. The Clerk advised that Mayor Di Croce reached out to lawmakers and was forwarded this resolution basically stating that Shamong already has stormwater management in place and does not intend to impose a rain tax to the residents/community. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-46 Proclaiming to local residents and businesses that the municipality will not collect new stormwater management or rain taxes. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

**On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-47 Cancellation of \$2,778.71 taxes and refund of \$802 taxes on Block 12.01, Lot 37 (7 Shadow Lake Lane) for a 100% Disabled Veteran (D. Williams). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Engineer reported the job was from a couple years ago and all work was satisfactory. There was brief discussion on the pending inlet repair list. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-48 Release of Maintenance Bond associated with the Inlet Rehabilitation project. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this Act allows Shamong residents to participate in programs such as home improvement loans or emergency home repairs. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-49 Authorizing the execution of an agreement with Burlington County for Cooperative Participation in the Community Development Act of 1974. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

#### **ORDINANCES:**

The Solicitor reported Ord. 2019-4 and 2019-5 are associated with changes to zoning and solar regulations. The Solicitor stated Big Horn Solar is interested in developing a solar project on the Murphy's Pit site on Atsion Road. The Solicitor stated based upon that, amendments and restrictions are being put into place. The Solicitor confirmed that both should be referred to the Joint Land Use Board for consistency determination. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-4 Introduction: Amending Township Code at Chapter 110-122 governing zoning of Rural Development Area. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

**On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-5 Introduction: Amending township code at Chapter 110-38.1 governing "solar and alternative energy". A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Solicitor reported the Township was contacted a few years ago with respect to this property; it's a little over 15 acres and connects into the Dingtowntown Field complex. The Township initially offered \$10,000, which was declined, but they've now come back and accepted. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-6 Introduction: Authorizing acquisition of property at block 23.01, lot 31 (off Forked Neck Road) within the Township of Shamong for Open Space purposes. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

#### **BILL LIST:**

The Clerk advised one change on the bill list since sent out in the meeting packet; the dog license trust account was increased to \$207.40 – checks to kids who worked the Rabies Clinic. The Clerk stated there were 61 dogs and 37 cats processed through this year's Rabies Clinic. The Deputy Mayor requested any questions or comments; as there were none, **on motion of Committeeman Cooney, 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: no reports

The Solicitor Reported: property acquisition discussion for Executive Session

The Administrator Reported:

- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeep Jamboree has been rescheduled to November 1-2, 2019.
- Curly Fern Enduro Ride postponed – will advise when rescheduled.
- Atsion Day sponsored by the Indian Mills Historical Society is scheduled for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Atsion Lake.
- Police Unity Tour bike ride scheduled to come through Shamong on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. It's the 1<sup>st</sup> day of a 4-day ride and they will be stopping by the Fire Company for lunch. Special Event Permit application received.
- Received a resident request on Oakshade Road – between Wawa and Tuckerton – inquiring as to why this area cannot be a no passing zone. The Committee discussed and the Clerk will review further.

The OEM Coordinator Reported: the Clerk reported on his behalf

- EMAA Fiscal Year 2019 qualifications questionnaire being submitted this week - \$10,000 – will help off-set costs for OEM.
- OEM Staff on EMAA grant completed over 200 hours of classroom and online training.
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) activity – 30 training events and over 1850 hours of volunteer time amounting to over \$45,000 in volunteer time.
- American Red Cross is requesting Shamong OEM for renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Still negotiating for any proposed changes prior to Township review.
- County Health is asking for participation in a multijurisdictional POD (Point of Dispensing) event in 2019 – target date is November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 for a morning drive-through flu clinic held in Tabernacle.
- Public notice request to “Call before you dig”.
- Spring Hill Wildfire fully contained on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – 11,638 acres.

The Deputy Mayor commented briefly reminding everyone on the importance of being sure to “Call before you dig”. The Deputy Mayor also mentioned a local accident on Tuckerton Road advising all to spread the word on safe driving.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Deputy Mayor Gimbel opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time *Megan Mozitis* (Shamong) advised that the State Police released information they will be cracking down on distracted driving commenting briefly on the subject. As there were no further comments, The Deputy Mayor then closed the meeting to the public.

**On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, by Resolution 2019R-50, the Committee went into Executive Session for matters of Attorney Client privilege.**

The Committee reconvened their regular meeting and the Solicitor reported discussing potential land acquisitions; attorney client and personnel matters there would be no formal action taken at this time.

There being no further business, **on motion of Committeeman Gray, 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