

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.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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.

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

Also, in attendance: S. Raymond, Solicitor and D. Guzzi, Engineer

**PROCLAMATION:** National Poison Prevention Week – the Mayor advised this proclamation is designated by Congress to be the third full week in March and the entire proclamation would be posted on the Shamong website.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** In recognition of Adam Tait, a local reporter for the Pine Barrens Tribune, who passed away on March 25, 2018. After a few comments from Mayor Di Croce, a moment of silence was observed.

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time Ernie Lazos and his fiancée Bridget Bruno (6 Kingswood Road) reported recently moving into Shamong - October 2017. Mr. Lazos reported about a week after moving in, they began hearing a lot of loud noise coming from the backdoor neighbor (the noise turned out to be dogs). Mr. Lazos reported the barking continued throughout the day and night which affected their sleeping and he expressed his concern for the condition of dogs that were heard crying/weeping. Mr. Lazos reported this to animal welfare; also filing a noise complaint with the Township.

Additionally, Mr. Lazos reported he filed a complaint with the then Southampton/now Medford Lakes Municipal Court system and again expressed his concern for the welfare of the dogs (based on his findings on-line regarding a past animal cruelty conviction and finding out the owner has 76 dogs on the property).

Denise Tollefson (524 Oak Shade Road) then spoke up reporting she lives directly across from the home in question and she is also concerned about the welfare of the dogs; as well as the barking and odors coming from the property.

Mayor Di Croce expressed his appreciation for their attendance and information presented; advising he was aware of the situation and the Committee will review the Ordinance. After a brief discussion, the Mayor asked if there were any additional comments, as there were none, he then closed the meeting to the public.

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION:**

**On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gray, approval of the March 6, 2018 Regular and Executive Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

**On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, approval of the March 13, 2018 Special Meeting minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

Mrs. Onorato, the Clerk, reported on the 2018 budget introduction advising it calls for no local tax increase (copies available to the public) and tonight's vote would move it forward; a public hearing (advertised) and possible final adoption would be at the May 1, 2018 meeting. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the 2018 Budget Introduction. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk, reported on the 2019 DOT (Department of Transportation) grant application and briefly reviewed possible projects that were previously discussed. The Engineer, Mr. Guzzi, reported on the road evaluation sheet and confirmed that DOT grants are mostly used for main roads. A brief discussion regarding Grassy Lake Road followed. Mr. Guzzi reported on a list of inlet repairs that need attention; two will be covered by the grant application on Oakshade and the balance of repairs is estimated at \$100,000. The Clerk advised the road repair list will be reviewed/updated with the Public Works foreman.

The Mayor reported that he and the Clerk met with the Mayor of Tabernacle to ride and discuss Carranza Road repair. The Mayor reported he also reached out to the Administrator of the juvenile school (Juvenile Justice Commission – Costello Prep) on Carranza Road to see if there could be assistance from the State. There was a brief discussion on road repair timing, State/Local funding and Grassy Lake Road. No action was taken at this meeting, but the Engineer advised some decisions should be made at the May 1, 2018 meeting.

The Mayor then opened the meeting back up to the public at which time he welcomed and introduced Balvir Singh, a Burlington County Freeholder. The Mayor advised Freeholder Singh that approximately 60% of Shamong land is owned by the State, Federal or Local Government; that Shamong, being in the Pinelands, is controlled by the Pinelands Commission; that Shamong is a rural community (population approx. 6,500) with some small-town challenges. Additionally, later stating Shamong has private on-site well and septic; State (not local) police; volunteer Fire/EMS/OEM services; private trash pick-up and that Shamong is a caring community.

Freeholder Singh then spoke advising he was making the effort to meet with all the Townships to become familiar with their issues. Freeholder Singh stated his top three goals are; job growth and better paying jobs (river towns); preserve the quality of life and open spaces (push back on the pipe lines and leveling of trees); and the drug/opioid crisis. A brief discussion followed regarding the up rise in foreclosures, taxes, road improvements, thoughts on legalizing marijuana in New Jersey and the duties of a Freeholder.

The Clerk reported on the Burlington County Park Grant stating the Township applied for \$250,000 and received \$150,000. The Clerk reported the projects under review for this grant money were a septic field and field house (large shed) at Stoney Creek; lightning detection systems at the Dingtletown and Stoney Creek ballfields; extended fencing to prevent field damage from ATVs; repair to the boat ramp area by the gristmill at Indian Mills Lake and a public announcement system to use for Township events. The Clerk reported she will be working with the Engineer on the drainage and regrading issues at Dingtletown and the large pipe that is a tripping hazard (put underground).

The Clerk reported reaching out to the Seneca Art Department regarding a project to create a sculpture, representing our community and its heritage, for the Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery. Principal Jeff Spector responded they would be unable to do take on this project with the current curriculum but suggested if the Township created a flier with the proposal, he would see if there were students interested in participating on a volunteer basis. The Mayor additionally suggested perhaps marketing this project to local businesses to be funded by donations.

The Clerk reported regarding solar powered street signs (speeding) for Grassy Lake Road advising the approximate cost for each would be \$2,000-\$2,500 (needing one for each direction). The Clerk expressed concern for the placement of the signs since the area has numerous trees and therefore no direct sun. The Engineer is reaching out for additional information on the product specifications and the possibility of the signs being powered electrically instead. No action taken, just for Council knowledge.

The Clerk reported on the installation of an above ground storage tank (gasoline only) advising the additional findings meet all the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection. The Clerk reported the lower quote (Allen's Oil) included the tank with electric pump at \$3,000; Public Works would install the cement pad at approximately \$1,000. The Clerk reported Public Works would secure access to this pump by turning off the power when not in use. The Clerk advised the pump installation would be a cost saving measure. After Committee discussion, it was decided to table this issue until further cost saving research could be done.

The Clerk reported on the CFO's request to attend the Spring conference. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the CFO's request to attend the Spring conference; May 15-16, 2018 at a cost of \$330.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on the Tax Assessor's request to attend a seminar on April 17, 2018. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the Tax Assessor's request to attend a seminar on April 17, 2018 at a cost of \$50.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Mayor advised he will volunteer to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> annual Captain Emilio Carranza Memorial held on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm. The Clerk advised a wreath for presentation will be arranged.

The Clerk reported on the request for approval to complete Cemetery contract administration and site inspection and advised she reached out to both Mr. Guzzi's office and Consulting Engineer Services/CSI (Engineer used to prepare cemetery plans). CSI came back with a quote of \$17,250 and Guzzi Engineering \$8,000.00 for the cemetery site work. The Clerk confirmed to the Mayor this was under the bid threshold. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve to have Dante Guzzi Engineering complete the Cemetery contract administration and site inspection at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

The Clerk reported the land was purchased last year and put out to bid. Only one bid was received for the minimum of \$1,500 to farm for one year. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-43 Award use and occupancy agreement to farm approximately 20 acres of Township owned land at 73 Willow Grove Road (Block 27.01, Lot 3.02) in 2018 to Abrams Homestead Farms, LLC. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on a refund in permit fees as the owners changed their mind regarding the service applied for previously. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-44 Refund of \$112.00 in permit fees for 6 Wallingford Way. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on a tax cancellation and refund request for a totally disabled veteran. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-45 Cancellation of \$3,427.22 and refund of \$500 in taxes on Block 9.03, Lot 4 due to totally disabled veteran status. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the CFO requested amending the temporary budget by \$74,164.76 to the employee retirement system – this amount was previously not known at the time of the temporary budget. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-46 Amendment to the 2018 Temporary Budget. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

### **ORDINANCES:**

The Engineer reported that due to recent changes made by the State; modifications were made to how private site plans are handled reducing the onus on the developer. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2018-6 Introduction: Amending the Township Code at Chapter 110 Governing “Land Development” regarding performance, maintenance and related guarantees. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

### **BILL LIST:**

The Mayor requested any questions or comments from the Committee; as there were none, **on motion of Committeeman Mozitis, 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: nothing additional to report

The Solicitor Reported: nothing additional to report

The Administrator Reported:

- Seneca Senior Day of Service will be held on May 31, 2018.
- Two AED’s (Automated External Defibrillator) were donated to IMAA with thanks to John Lyons, OEM Coordinator.
- Annual rabies clinic that was held Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – 48 dogs and 22 cats received rabies shots.
- Elected Officials Liability Seminar attended on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, generated \$1,000 credit earned against premiums.

- Annual Clock Run Endoro Ride will be on April 15, 2018.
- 2017 Recycling Tonnage/2017 Stormwater Management reports will be worked on this month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time Gail Roberts (22 Princeton Drive, Concord Ridge Development) reported concerns with Flyatt Road as it does not show up on the 10-Year Road Program schedule. The Clerk reported that within the road program, roads are looked at every year to determine road conditions and that the plan is reviewed and updated as needed. The Mayor confirmed and advised if there are pending issues such as pot holes, please advise the Township and they will address as quickly as possible. Mrs. Roberts also advised her concern for speeding issues in their residential section and the Clerk commented a speed guard trailer might be an option.

John Lyons inquired which Township was Costello Prep (previously mentioned) located – the Clerk advised that it was Shamong.

Committeeman Mozitis inquired on damaged fencing at the Dingtletown complex – the Clerk advised repair plans were in process.

Committeeman Gray inquired on the status of the Township brush pick-up – the Clerk advised Public Works began this week and the outside contractor is scheduled to assist for a few days as well. John Lyons also commented on the County threshold for damage assessments with regards to the high level of debris removal and the Clerk advised Public Works is keeping track.

The Mayor complimented Public Works and John Lyons for all their work during the recent storms.

There were no additional questions or comments.

The Clerk advised **Resolution 2018R-47** for Executive Session would be tabled to the next meeting.

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