

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 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.

**COMMUNITY MOMENT:** Indian Mills Brownie Troop 24713 – Take Action Badge Presentation

Mayor Di Croce welcomed Troop 24713 and introduced Melissa Durham inquiring about the highlights on their Community Center Survey project. At this time, the following girls introduced themselves to the Committee: Kaitlyn, Nina, Vivian, Hope, Giada, Aihblinn, Emily, Abby, Lily and Charlotte.

The girls took turns addressing the Committee directly and reporting facts determined from their study as well as their personal thoughts.

Below are some of the topics addressed:

- Eighty-one (81) Shamong households (326 residents) responded to the survey with 83% of the responses interested in a Community Center being developed in Shamong Township.
- Six potential sample uses were provided in the survey for citizens to vote on – 82%-84% of responses felt a Community Center would be a great resource for events such as holiday celebrations; would serve the youth in our community as a place to go for movie nights or games; would be a rental option available for birthday parties, showers and non-profit fund raisers. Other positive responses included having a center available to host sports events such as youth and adult basketball and team practices; hosting Senior activities such as bingo, educational seminars and arts/crafts, cooking and exercise classes for all ages. Additional comments included local businesses using the building for events; adding a community pool with membership fees to cover costs and having a parking lot big enough to hold a car show.
- There were also comments that included not wanting money spent on this idea; using local churches or schools instead and a comment that the Wharton State Forest and Dingtletown were sufficient.

At the end of the presentation, the girls thanked the Committee and asked if there were any questions. The Mayor first commented on what a great job they all did and what a special group they were. The Mayor then opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments, at which time Committeeman Cooney asked how the survey was conducted and was advised it was done on Facebook. The Mayor stated it was a good idea that would bring the community together mentioning one of the big issues would be funding. Committeeman Gimbel suggested perhaps doing an article to make more people aware for additional responses. As there were no additional questions or comments, the Mayor then closed this portion of the meeting.

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

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

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.

**ORDINANCES:**

The Solicitor stated Ordinance 2019-4 referenced larger solar uses as a principle use; a permitted use under certain conditions. The Solicitor advised the interested solar applicant and their attorney were present for any questions. The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments, and there were none from the public or Committee. The applicant thanked the Committee and the Mayor then closed this portion of the meeting to the public. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-4 Second reading and public hearing: Amending Township Code at Chapter 110-122 governing zoning of Rural Development Area. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Solicitor reported Ordinance 2019-5 puts the parameters around the use of the conditions associated with Ordinance 2019-4. The Solicitor then mentioned some key parameters - minimum lot size of 20 acres; maximum height of 12 feet of system; 75-foot set-back from front property line; a fence enclosure requirement; removal if abandoned requirement; and storm water rules and environmental considerations. The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments; as there were none, the Mayor then closed this portion of the meeting to the public. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-5 Second reading and public hearing: 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 property owner, referenced in Ordinance 2019-6, was interested in unloading this piece of land-locked property which is approximately 15 acres – purchase price is \$10,000 and the Township will use some Open Space funds to acquire. The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments, at which time Steve Horovitz inquired if the property was near the ball field. The Mayor advised yes. As there were no additional questions or comments, the Mayor then closed this portion of the meeting to the public. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-6 Second reading and public hearing: 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.**

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

**On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, approval of the April 2, 2019 Regular and Executive Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes except Committeeman Di Croce who abstained.**

The Mayor reported having a meeting with the Burlington County Roads Department (BCRD) and stated it is the opinion of BCRD that the intersection of Stokes and Willow Grove warrants a round-a-bout. BCRD believes a round-a-bout will reduce or eliminate any major accidents at this intersection by slowing traffic down. The Mayor stated the County advised the funds for the round-a-bout will be paid out of a Federal Grant. The Mayor stated the pictures he viewed of the round-a-bout look attractive, but expressed his concerns if any money should be spent on the round-a-bout if not necessary. The Mayor commented that with the recent addition of signage, blinking lights/signs and the awareness factor, he feels a round-a-bout may not be warranted. Mrs. Onorato, the Clerk, stated the County advised if the Township decided against the round-a-bout, that this decision would need to be documented for potential liability issues in the future. The Mayor agreed that the potential liability issue was a consideration and stated the desire of the Committee is to do the safest thing for our residents. The Clerk reported that findings do show a round-a-bout does reduce speeds which will then stay reduced; as opposed to added signage/lights which reduce speeds for a period of time before drivers become desensitized. The Clerk advised there have been 31 recent crashes in the vicinity of this intersection. Committeeman Gimbel stated being advised this intersection is in the top ten list of dangerous intersections in the County. The Mayor made a few additional comments then opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments. *Steve Horovitz* inquired if a traffic study had been done. The Mayor replied yes, adding the he actually did one himself reporting an estimated 1,200-1,300 cars passed through a day. The Clerk advised the County report states roughly 2,300 cars passing through daily via both ways. Committeeman Gimbel stated a majority of the accidents involved people that were not from the area and that slowing traffic down may be the only action that can be taken. *Laura King* (Atsion Road) stated she was surprised this intersection was found to be one of the worst intersections, as there are several other dangerous intersections in the area and not all accidents may be reported.

A resident inquired about wider speed bumps; the Engineer replied that the County won't allow them. The Engineer also advised, in response to *Neil Wilkenson* (Shamong), that the speed limits are determined by the County and the Department of Transportation (DOT) - they are based on certain criteria and speed surveys. Additionally, the Engineer advised that the County track record for round-a-bouts do show they have literally eliminated accidents since installed. *John Lyons* (Shamong) inquired about eminent domain issues. The Engineer advised the County would have to obtain easements from some of the affected property owners. The Mayor added they (BCRD) could be relocating a septic system and an additional road is proposed leaving the Township parking lot and entering onto Stokes Road. *Neil Wilkenson* inquired regarding the construction time frame. The Clerk replied the construction time will probably be about 4-5 months. The Mayor commented that the round-a-bout will be designed to accommodate fire trucks, tractors, etc. without a problem. The Mayor also stated the main goal of the round-a-bout is to slow traffic and reduce accidents. The Engineer advised the Clerk he thought the County was looking for a decision by end of May. Committeeman Cooney advised his decision was to follow the advice of the County. Committeeman Mozitis stated he feels it's probably not necessary to have a round-a-bout, but agrees it has to be done due to the potential lawsuit issue. Committeeman Mozitis stated he does not agree with the driveway road idea from the Township building to Stokes as he feels this would become a cut-through. A brief discussion followed regarding the potential driveway. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve the round-a-bout be installed per the plans developed by the County. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes except Committeeman Di Croce who voted no.**

The Clerk reported on the County's push for Shamong Township to go to the Carts program with the initial buy in amount of \$60,000 and maintenance costs going forward. The County reported they estimate approximately 700 households would need a second Cart and advised the Township they would be willing to pay for that second Cart with County money. The Clerk reported the County would also be willing to fund 50% of the cost (\$60,000). The Clerk stated this amount was previously going to be spread out over 10 years, but that has now been revised to 6 years – just under \$10,000 per year to our local budget and just under \$5.00 per household. Life expectancy of a Cart is about 10 years. The Clerk reported there is about \$7,000 available in the recycling grant fund and also reminded the Committee the amount of the grant fund has been trickling down over past years. The Clerk stated she has requested more details regarding this decrease in funding. The Clerk stated this grant is running out of time and the County is looking for a decision tonight. The Committee discussed potential issues and funding challenges for the Carts/Cart program and options for the current yellow recycling buckets. The Mayor then opened the meeting up to the public for questions or comments, at which time *Laura King* (Shamong) asked for clarification on the first Cart charge/second Cart free information. The Clerk replied the County will fund and supply 700 Carts free to the Township for houses that can substantiate the need for a second bucket. The Clerk clarified that under this program, the Township is going to pay for the initial Cart at the average of \$5.00/year per household with the County funding. There was some discussion regarding the current state of taxation in New Jersey and the effects to residents. *John Lyons* (Shamong) inquired if the recycling dumpsters in the Municipal lot would still be maintained. The Clerk advised yes and additionally stated there would be still be several roads the County won't go down that would continue to be serviced by our Public Works which would still have to use the current buckets. Committeeman Gimbel stated the Township is being forced to go into the Cart business as we will be responsible for fixing wheels and lids.

*Neil Wilkenson* (Shamong) inquired if anyone knew the percentage of households that had trash pickup commenting he has and pays for a dumpster. The Mayor did not know the answer but felt it was a substantial number and clarified that trash pickup is paid for by residents; recycling is part of and subsidized by the County. *Andrew Turco* (reporter for the Sun paper) inquired when the Cart program would start. The Clerk advised there was no set date as the Carts would be ordered once the County is advised of a decision. Committeeman Cooney commented his concerns are found in Ann Moore's October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 letter stating, "there have been multiple studies demonstrating the benefits of standardized recycling containers and there's no basis to exempt Shamong Township and its residents from compliance" further stating "curbside Carts do reduce the demand on municipal drop offs". Committeeman Cooney feels at some point down the road the County could make us go to the Carts anyway and we would have wasted money in the interim. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve the Burlington County recycling Carts program. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes except Committeeman Mozitis who voted no.**

The Clerk reported this Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant of \$21,240.05 was submitted for and approved - the money was received on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. The grant money was used to fund 25% of purchase of 2019 New Holland Backhoe. The Clerk advised that as part of the grant requirements, the old backhoe had to be scrapped which was done through Wade's Salvage in Atco, New Jersey. The Clerk advised that per the guidelines, no money was to be received for the scrapping or, if so, the grant amount would be reduced.

The Clerk reported the 2018 Recycling Tonnage report was submitted on April 26, 2019 (April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline) and goes to Tabernacle Township because they have a Certified Recycling Coordinator. The Clerk advised it is more cost effective to send this report to Tabernacle for review rather than incurring the significant costs involved to train a Certified Recycling Coordinator for our Township.

The Clerk reported the 2018 Stormwater Management Annual Report, submitted on April 30, 2019 (May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline), is being made much more cumbersome each year. The Clerk stated reaching out to the Engineer for a cost of getting this report put together and finalized for next year. The Engineer stated most towns are handling the report this way as there is too much information to gather and too much is at risk due to the added report requirements.

The Mayor reported on his EWAN site visit on April 24, 2019 with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where pollution was found in the late 70's; the privately-owned site is located just off Tuckerton Road. The Mayor advised the current status of the site looks great and the property has now been certified as clean. The Clerk advised the wells located on the site are monitored on a regular basis and continue to be clean.

The Clerk reported a 2018 Department of Transportation Grant for \$255,000 has been granted to the Township to assist with storm water management issues on Grassy Lake Road. The Engineer reported working on a cost estimate for repairs starting at Indian Mills Road and working towards Stokes Road. The Engineer advised the grant money would take care of approximately 1500 feet and the remaining repairs would cost an approximate \$150-\$160,000 in local dollars.

The Mayor opened the meeting up to the public for comments, at which time *Steve Horovitz* inquired how many acres the EWAN site was and if it could become a solar field or cell tower location. The Mayor replied the site was about 45 acres and usage options were briefly discussed.

There were no additional questions regarding Grassy Lake Road from the public. The Clerk advised there were sufficient Township funds to complete Grassy Lake Road up to Stokes Road. After Committee discussion it was determined to have the Engineer break the work out and get alternate bid options for the whole project. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve the Engineer the authorizing to prepare plan specifications. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on bid quotes for road re-striping the Township roads, noting three of six bid requests were replied to, with the low bid going to Traffic Lines, Inc. at .11/linear foot plus \$100 for a 25MPH legend. The Clerk also reported a resident request for a "No Passing Zone" between Indian Mills and Tuckerton, which upon research is in fact a no passing zone, but has not been stiped that way; it would be included in this project. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the bid award to Traffic Lines, Inc. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported on the 2018 Safety Incentive Program Awards advising that Shamong Township has earned \$2,650.00 as a result of employees' outstanding performance in the 2018 BURLCO JIF Safety Incentive Program. The Clerk acknowledged both the Safety Coordinator and Fund Commissioner for their work and efforts. The Mayor acknowledged the members of the Board and the Administrator for attending the JIF training dinner additionally saving the Township \$1,250.00.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that the June meeting will be on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> due to the Primary Election being on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and reminded all regarding the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting as well.

The Clerk reported on the public hearing of the 2019 Township Budget advising every third year the State will review the budget which cannot be officially passed until the Township receives the State review back. The State is behind in their review, but advised that the Public Hearing still needs to occur; a vote cannot be taken on the budget until the State review has been received. The Clerk reported the budget notice had been published, posted on the website and copies made available to the public. The Mayor then opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments; as there were none, the Mayor then closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

The Clerk reported this property is less than 20 acres and meets the four (4) major conditions for inclusion in this agricultural development area. The Clerk advised this is a land-locked 15.75-acre parcel buried between Route 206 and East Stokes Road. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-51 Authorize preservation through the Burlington County Farm Preservation program of Block 33, Lot 12 (Whalen Farm) at no cost to Township. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

**On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-52 Authorizing refund of overpayment of taxes on Block 4.07, Lot 7 (Columbo – 6 Minisink Trail). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

### **BILL LIST:**

The Clerk reported the bill list total was \$2,008,453.87 and confirmed the assessment cards mailed out are what the Tax Assessor sends to confirm what the assessed value is on the books. The Mayor requested any questions or comments; as there were none, **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:

- Milling is complete on Oakshade Road, base repairs scheduled for tomorrow and top paving should occur on Thursday.

The Solicitor Reported:

- Will discussing a potential litigation matter in Executive Session.

The Administrator Reported:

- Atsion day was cancelled due to the weather.
- Police Unity Tour (bike ride) is scheduled to come through Shamong on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. This is the first day of a four-day ride and they are stopping at the IMVFC for lunch with approximately 40 – 50 support vehicles. Special Event Permit Application and COI received.
- Atlantic Trailer scheduled to pick-up Goodwill trailer on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor DiCroce represented Shamong Township at the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Burlington County Veteran's Memorial in Burlington Township on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Indian Mills Memorial 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation is Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM at Seneca – Mayor Di Croce will be handing out the certificates.
- Office reports included in the packet and Building Code report handed out.

The OEM Coordinator Reported:

- Peddle for Urban Promise bike ride has an approved event on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> starting and stopping at the Valenzano Winery.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time Committeeman Gimbel inquired if OEM was involved during the IMAA (Indian Mills Athletic Association) tournaments. John Lyons, the OEM Coordinator, advised he has received the IMAA schedule and has circulated that out to the response agencies. Mr. Lyons also commented how the Special Events Permit has helped a lot with the facilitation of information.

*Megan Mozitis* inquired about an update to the Donna Roberts case. The Solicitor reported there were no updates at this time, further stating the woman initially assigned to the case was out on maternity leave and he has not had the same success getting updates in her absence. The Solicitor stated that does not mean they are not doing their job, but that there may not be a point person to get back on inquires. The Clerk confirmed that residents are advised they can contact the BC Prosecutor's office directly with questions as well as it is all public record.

*Megan Mozitis* then inquired about the Marissa Corbett case. The Solicitor stated he has not seen or heard anything from the County Prosecutor's office to suggest there has been a specific defense that's been asserted. The Solicitor advised though he was not out to the site, it was his understanding as part of the on-going response to complaints to the Robert's property, it became aware that there were potential concerns for this property as well.

As there were no additional questions or comments, the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

**On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, by Resolution 2019R-53, the Committee went into Executive Session for matters of Attorney Client privilege.**

The Committee reconvened their regular meeting and the Solicitor reported on the Pinelands Cemetery project advising there is a drainage problem associated with the final construction. We have worked with the Engineer that designed the initial project and we're proposing a Resolution to enter into a settlement agreement were by they're paying half the costs associated with improvements. The Solicitor stated the cost to the Township will be a little under \$15,000.00. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-54 Authorizing execution of settlement agreement with Consulting Engineer Services, Inc. for drainage repairs and improvements at Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

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