

The Shamong Township Committee held a virtual **Committee Meeting** (via Zoom audio conferencing) on the above date.

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 waived.

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| Roll Call (absentees noted) | 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

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time there were none, so he closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION:

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, approval of the April 7, 2020 Regular Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

John Lyons, OEM Coordinator, gave a COVID-19 update report – which included a summary of details from the OEM situational report; current case metrics and testing; welfare of residents; PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) update; readiness and mitigation of response agencies and Shamong’s request for, and acknowledgement of, public assistance from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) which will be submitted for FEMA review once completed.

John Lyons briefed the Committee on the Battelle program, a no cost service being provided by the State OEM through FEMA reimbursement, for bulk sanitizing of the N95 Masks (2020R-52).

John Lyons presented his update on the 2020 Emergency Operations Plan, advising a Statement of Approval letter needs to be submitted to the County and State; as well as a Promulgation letter authorizing the plan to be the authoritative document on how emergency operations within the district will be conducted. Mr. Lyons touched on the key updates.

On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to formally submit the 2020 Emergency Operations Plan for Shamong Township to the County and State for the period 2020-2024. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Dan Guzzi, the Engineer, summarized the Phase I and II grants for Grassy Lake Road and advised that the next round of funding is out with applications due beginning of July. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Guzzi Engineering to submit NJ Department (DOT) 2021 Grant Application for Grassy Lake Phase III. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the need to reschedule the June and July Committee meeting dates due to the June Primary Election being moved to July 7, 2020; as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve rescheduling as follows:**

- Reschedule June 9th Committee Meeting to June 2nd.
- Reschedule July 7th Committee Meeting to July 14th.

A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Clerk reported Mr. Greco has done this service several times before and has supplied all required documents. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Nick Greco to cut dead or fallen trees on Block 23.01, Lot 26 and Block 8.01, Lot 12.62 through May 31, 2020. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this action is to follow up on the State directive; the late fee date is currently in effect after April 30, 2020. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve to extend annual dog license due date to June 30th due to COVID-19. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the Burlington County Board of Taxation is planning to extend the due date to file tax appeals. A final due date is not currently set, but Jay Renwick, Township Tax Assessor, will continue to monitor and advise. The Solicitor stated it would be no less than May 1, 2020, but it is actually thirty days after the Governor's Executive Order that declared a State of Emergency expires – when that actually happens.

RESOLUTIONS:

The Clerk reported there are four (4) outstanding Municipal Court checks totaling \$6.00 that need to be cancelled out. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-50 to cancel outstanding checks from the Municipal Checks. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the Joint Land Use Board has reviewed the draft resolution and agreed that the area did qualify as an area in need of rehabilitation; the Board did not recommend any changes be made to the draft. The Solicitor advised a Planners report, that was done for the record to explain how the qualifications are met, was supplied to the Board along with the draft Resolution; documents have been reviewed and ready for Committee to proceed. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-51 Resolution of the Township of Shamong, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, designating lot 24.01 and 24.02 in block 10 within the Township as an "AREA IN NEED OF REHABILITATION". (JLUB reviewed on 4/21/2020). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

Committeeman Cooney inquired how often the masks can be sent in for cleaning. Mr. Lyons, OEM Coordinator, advised it depended on the condition of the mask, but he felt it would be less than ten (10) times. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-52 Authorizing John Lyons to sign agreement contract for cleaning of N95 masks. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-53 Designating the Big horn Sand Pit Solar Farm, LLC as the "Redeveloper" of lot 24.01 in block 10, in accordance with the local redevelopment and housing law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, Et. Seq. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-54 Designating the Big horn Sand Pit Solar Farm, LLC as the "Redeveloper" of lot 24.02 in block 10, in accordance with the local redevelopment and housing law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, Et. Seq. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Mayor advised this Resolution would allow residents additional time for the second-quarter tax payment; if not paid by June 1, 2020, there would be a penalty going back to the original May 1, 2020 due date. The Clerk advised a special Committee meeting was held on April 30, 2020 to act on a version of this Resolution as required by the State; this current Resolution would be the final approval if passed. The Solicitor reported originally there was confusion at the State level regarding the deadline date to act on this grace period, either by May 1 or May 11, 2020. The Solicitor commented the Township decided to act before May 1, 2020 and again at this May 5th meeting to cover all fronts. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-56 Instituting a grace period concluding on June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

ORDINANCES:

The Solicitor reported the JLUB and Zoning Officer are recommending these changes with regards to ground mount solar systems on residential uses - an accessory use to residential use. Current code requires all parties to come before the Board for a site plan review. This Ordinance would revise this requirement making the process more time and cost efficient. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2020-4 (Introduction) Amending Chapter 110.38.5-4 of the Township Code Governing "Accessory Use – Solar Energy". A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

BILL LIST:

The Clerk reported the bill list total as \$1,337,559.15; of that approx. \$97,000 goes to the Township, \$808,000 to the local Board of Education and \$432,000 to the Regional High School.

The Mayor advised reaching out to State officials to explore considering the opportunity to think about a new law; one that essential says most towns in New Jersey would be able to pay the same percentage of the amount we receive in property taxes to the school taxes and to the County. The Mayor broached to topic to the Governor's office who indicated it would be required to go through legislation.

The Mayor requested any questions or comments; as there were none, **on motion of Committeeman Gimbel, 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:

- Grassy Lake Road Phase I preconstruction meeting set for May 19, 2020 with awarded contractor American Asphalt.
- Grassy Lake Road Phase II - everything is ready for submission to DOT (Department of Transportation) -- waiting to hear back on method of submission for review.

The Solicitor Reported:

- Gave a brief overview on the items regarding Murphy's Pit as related to the solar project proposal.
- Advised the need for Executive Session for attorney client privilege.

The Administrator Reported:

- 2018 Recycling Tonnage report desk audit completed.
- 2019 Annual Tonnage Grant due April 30th - due date extended to July 1, 2020.
- 2019 Stormwater Management – Annual Report completed and filed.
- Annual Carranza Memorial Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, July 11th at 1pm.

- Atlantic City Electric and Comcast have expressed their dedication to maintaining services throughout the COVID-19 epidemic.
- Adopt-A-Road Clean-Ups that usually take in April, will be rescheduled.
- Public Works maintenance issues: Turbo unit replaced on a smaller dump truck at \$2,850 through State contract; Jet Vac in for seal replacement at estimated \$5,000.
- Building Code Report through March shows a reduced revenue due to COVID-19 scenario and restrictions on non-essential projects.
- Municipal Court report delayed due to COVID-19.
- March Finance Report shows total deposits of \$9,352,558.00.
- Tax Office Report previously submitted.

The OEM Coordinator Reported: submitted earlier

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Steve Soppe – Shamong – thanked the Committee for approving Resolutions 2020R-53 and 2020R-54 related to Murphy’s Pit.

Megan Mozitis – Shamong – inquired about the process for a dog license with the office closed to the public. The Clerk advised the documents and payment can be mailed in for processing and license/tags will be returned by mail.

Andy Milone – Pine Barrens Tribune – inquired about the designation of “Need of Rehabilitation”. The Solicitor advised rehabilitation is being undertaken for these properties as they meet a few criteria under State statute and will help the solar provider when they apply under certain State programs when they go for approvals.

Andy Milone – Pine Barrens Tribune – inquired if the Mayor had any other support with his tax reform thoughts. The Mayor advised speaking with Assemblyman Ryan Peters who expressed interest as well as some local Mayors.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the employees of the Township and the members of the Committee for jobs well done during this challenging time.

As there were no more comments, this portion of the meeting was closed to the public.

On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, by Resolution 2020R-57, the Committee went into Executive Session for matters of Attorney Client privilege.

The Committee reconvened their regular meeting and the Solicitor stated a developer had requested an interpretation relative to bonding requirements. The options were explained as relative to the governing body. The Governing body gave direction to the Engineer and Solicitor in order to communicate back with the developer with how they will proceed. The Solicitor advised the development is the Decker development on the corner of Grassy Lake and Atsion Roads. No formal action required.

The Mayor opened this portion of the meeting to questions or comments, as there were none and there being no further business, **on motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest:



Susan D. Onorato
Municipal Clerk