

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 Deputy 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	P
	Mr. Sean Gray	A
	Mr. Martin Mozitis	P

Also, in attendance: D. Heinold, Solicitor, D. Guzzi, Engineer and J. Robertson, Deputy Clerk

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Di Croce read into the minutes a Proclamation Recognizing the donation of AED devices for the Dingtletown and Stoney Creek recreation complexes.

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time Ernie Lazos (6 Kingswood Road) spoke regarding his continuation concern with issues at 539 Oakshade Road and the pending Township animal ordinance. Mr. Lazos reported regarding an email received from Mr. Hackett, who is the Director of the NJ Humane Society and the offer from Township Committee members to hear the barking situation in person (which had been respectfully declined by the resident). The Mayor advised this offer was not to challenge the complaint, but to experience the reported issue in person.

Mr. Lazos also reported on several issues regarding on-going barking (multiple recordings); reaching out to the NJ State Police who came out to investigate; some results from his own personal research including an email from Senator Addiego; his OPRA (Open Public Records Act) request to the Township requesting the number of dog licenses issued to Donna Roberts (73); the Pet Waste Pollutes Our Waters hand-out and information on an SPCA investigation.

Donna Roberts (539 Oakshade Road) reported moving to the Township twelve years ago and being advised there was no issue with having a home businesses. Mrs. Roberts also advised the Committee that the dogs have boxes on the inside; kennels on the outside with wood chips; feces are picked up twice daily and the Township Animal Control Officer has visited the property four (4) times with no issues being cited. She also advised that doors have been added to the kennels so that the dogs can be kept inside at night and reported that some barking was a result of coyotes in the area. The Clerk advised she would confirm the actual number of site visits by Animal Control.

The following neighboring residents also made comments regarding the constant barking/noise issue, the condition/treatment of the dogs and the large quantity of dogs at 569 Oakshade Road – petitioning the Committee for the urgent need of an ordinance:

Thomas Welch (8 Meadowbrook Drive); Richard Dinsmore (6 Meadowbrook Drive); Denise Tollefson (524 Oakshade Road); Kathleen Zuchak (533 Oakshade road); Bridget Bruno (6 Kingswood Road); Valentine (4 Meadowbrook Drive) and Suzanne Dunn (5 Kingswood Drive).

Mrs. Roberts responded reporting that her dogs are taken care of, not left outside and that she keeps them inside on Wednesdays and weekends to be neighborly. Mrs. Roberts also advised that she lives in an agricultural zone (not residential) and is in the process of putting up a fence for 100 pigs. The Clerk advised Mrs. Roberts her need to apply for a zoning permit for a fence.

Mr. Lazos stated that a puppy mill is not agricultural and per the Department of Agriculture, not considered farming

The Solicitor reported on his ongoing research regarding possible animal ordinance regulations and the potential for town wide implications of any amendments that would be made. The Solicitor advised he submitted a draft (to the Committee) based upon his findings and what would be valid regarding health, safety and welfare.

The Solicitor also advised there would be further discussion with the Committee in tonight's Executive Session. The Solicitor then explained the ordinance process, first stating that a draft document (a document under consideration) is not a public record until introduced; after introduction, there is a first reading; followed by notice in the paper; and then there would be a public hearing and second reading.

The Mayor concluded with the following points – an ordinance will affect everyone in town and the intent of the Committee/Solicitor is to craft something that is fair to all. The Mayor advised the latest revisions will be reviewed in Executive Session and the Committee may or may not act (the public will be asked to step out during the Executive Session). Upon completion of Executive Session, the public will be invited back in to be advised of action, if any, was taken.

The Mayor asked if there were any additional public comments, at which time Richard Woodhull (44 Wheatsheaf Road) reported on two (2) abandoned properties giving brief descriptions on each and requesting Township follow-up (62 Grassy Lake Road and 37 Wheatsheaf Road). Mr. Woodhull expressed his concern regarding abandoned properties in the Township and the potential for crime at these locations.

The Mayor reported on the Committee's awareness of the abandoned/vacant property issues in Shamong and advised Mr. Woodhull he would have the Zoning inspector follow-up on these locations. Mrs. Onorato advised the Township does have a vacant property ordinance and there is follow-up once a vacancy is confirmed. Mrs. Onorato also requested residents to please call the Township directly regarding any abandoned properties of concern, so the issue can be addressed immediately.

Frank Locantore (39 Wheatsheaf Road) also commented on conditions at 37 Wheatsheaf Road citing high grass, downed trees, feral cats and other issues. Mr. Locantore additionally made brief comments on the Townships ordinance for vacant and abandoned properties and how these properties can impact property values.

Suzanne Dunn (5 Kingswood Road) reported on 120 Nanticoke Court stating it had been broken into and that disturbing pictures of the vandalism had been posted on Facebook. Ms. Dunn also requested some clarification regarding the potential animal ordinance which the Solicitor clarified.

The Mayor thanked the public and then closed this portion of the meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION:

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

Mr. Guzzi, the Engineer reported authorization was received from DOT (Department of Transportation) to go out to bid for the 2018 Road Program (inlets/drainage repairs, Oakshade Road work and Grassy Lake Road Phase I). The Engineer discussed another available 2018 DOT Grant Application that could be used for Grassy Lake Road drainage repairs but advised pulling the Grassy Lake Road portion in the previously mentioned bid be removed. After brief Committee discussion, it was decided to move forward with the bid for inlet/drainage repairs and Oakshade Road and address the submission for the 2018 DOT Transportation Alternative Grant application (Grassy Lake Road work) at the August meeting. **No motion was needed, only direction for the Engineer regarding the Road Programs.**

Susan Onorato, the Clerk, reported receiving notification through the Tax Office of an interested party wanting to purchase tax liens, some at significant reductions. The Clerk advised the next tax sale is in October. Upon brief discussion, it was decided that no action would be taken at this time and to reject the offer. The Solicitor suggested each property be reviewed with the Tax Assessor to determine what is best for the Township prior to the October tax sale.

The Clerk reported on the proposed donation of a .28 acre of property submitted (98 Tuckerton Road, Block 4.01/Lot 9) referring to the tax map (included with the meeting packet). The Clerk reported portions of the property are against State DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) land and showing up as all "wet" on the Map of Wetlands. Upon discussion, no action was taken, and the Township decided to decline the offer. The Clerk will reach out to the owner and recommend they contact the State instead.

The Deputy Clerk reported Valenzano Winery and Delaware Valley Urology have organized a 5K run/walk on November 4, 2018 and are expecting 400-500+ participants. The Deputy Clerk advised a Special Events permit has been emailed and Township approval was needed for their request to close the road for this event.

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committee Mozitis, it was moved to approve the request to close Forked Neck Road for 5K run/walk on November 4, 2018. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Deputy Clerk and Clerk gave a brief report on behalf of John Lyons, OEM Coordinator advising the following:

- The 2018 Burlington County Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft is complete and Shamong will be included in the County Plan covering the next four (4) years. Shamong would be eligible to apply for any grant funding as outlined in the plan should those grant funding programs become available.
- The American Red Cross, Indian Mills Memorial School and Shamong Township OEM have an agreement for the official use of the school should emergency sheltering arise.
- The American Red Cross (ARC) facilitated the donation of a portable generator for use in Shamong Emergency operations during temporary outages. ARC also provided 25 cots for temporary sheltering.
- Shamong OEM participated in the Emergency Management Agency Assistance Grant (EMAA) 2017 matching \$10,000 that goes towards OEM staff salary reimbursement. Shamong was also granted approval to apply for the 2018 EMAA grant.
- Shamong is also seeking assistance through FEMA for the March winter storms which had an estimated damage of \$43,611.04. If FEMA includes Burlington County we could receive up to a 75% refund from the Federal Government.
- FEMA offers an Advanced Professional Series – 5 base required courses and 5 electives – John Lyons earned the FEMA APS designation on June 2018.
- Several new members have joined the Pinelands Regional CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) after completing the basic CERT training program in Burlington County (i.e., hurricane readiness, tornado response, basic hazmat, K9 search and rescue and Suffolk Stables equine awareness).

RESOLUTIONS:

The Deputy Clerk reported Mr. Paetow has requested a reimbursement of permit fees. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-63 Refund of \$203.40 in permit fees associated 8 Rutland Court (Block 7, Lot 17.04 – Paetow) for a finished basement permit cancelled as a Continued Certificate of Occupancy (CCO) has been requested. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this project was contracted to Arawak Paving for the Oakshade Road Paving Phase I for \$203,900. Change order number 1 increased the amount by \$13,261.69 making the total \$217,161.69. The availability of funds has been verified by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The Engineer advised this was for additional work needed and reported the grant money was not exceeded. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-64 Authorizing approval of change order number 1 for Oak Shade Road Repaving Project. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this was the grant mentioned earlier in John Lyon's report which has a 50% match and caps at \$10,000 – a total of \$20,120.60 was submitted. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-65 Authorizing Township of Shamong to apply for and accept a subgrant award of the federal fiscal year 2018 of Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant Program funding and for the Township Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget and certify the availability of funds. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported certification of the annual audit requires the governing body of the municipality to certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all member have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections entitled "Comments and Recommendations" as evidenced by a group affidavit. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-66 Governing Body Certification of the 2017 Annual Audit (BCT 6/25/18). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Deputy Clerk reported this resolution is for the insertion of a special item of revenue in the budget for \$18,705.76 which will go against a notice of award from the Clean Communities Grant Program for the same amount. Thus, having a zero effect on the budget. Committeeman Mozitis commented on his desire for a portion of any Clean Communities Grant be used to upgrade the Municipal complex area if possible. The Clerk will review available options and advise. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R- 67 Requesting the Director of the division of local Government Services grant permission for the insertion of an item of special revenue in the 2018 budget entitled “2018 Clean Communities Grant Program”.** A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Clerk reported the original contract for the shared service of the Construction Code Official’s vehicle was for one year; mutually working well for both Shamong and Waterford Townships. The Clerk reported going forward, the contract renewal would be for a period of three years. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-68 Renewal of Shared Service Agreement with Waterford Township for the use of the Construction Code Official’s vehicle.**

The Engineer reported the change order addresses the sub-grading under the access road due to clay issues in the soil compound. The Clerk advised the project is under budget and that the CFO has confirmed funds are available. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-69 Approval of change order number 1 on the Pinelands Memorial Park at an original contracted cost of \$142,519.00. The change order for additional costs of \$20,478.00 for total amended costs of \$162,997.00 for this project.**

The Engineer reported this was separate grant for a joint application (along with Tabernacle Township) filed for discretionary funding for the paving of Carranza Road. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2018R-70 Submission of 2019 grant application to the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation for Carranza Road or Grassy Lake Road.**

ORDINANCES:

The was a brief Committee discussion on recommended amendments to the Township Code regarding the Rent Control Board (RCB) application process involving timing and inspections. The Solicitor suggested review and follow-up with the RCB Solicitor Chris Norman and Member-Chairperson Chris Zehnder.

BILL LIST:

The Mayor requested any questions or comments; as there were none, **on motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve the attached Bill List. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

REPORTS:

The Engineer Reported:

- The Park Project contracts have all been sent out and the pre-construction meeting should be next week.

The Solicitor Reported: None

The Administrator Reported:

- The Pine Barrens Festival Shamong Night is Friday, July 27, 2018 and Michelle Wells is being recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Committeeman Gimbel volunteered to attend and present to Michelle Wells.
- The NJ State Police are assisting with a traffic study relative to the submitted request to reduce the speed limit on Indian Mills Road between Stokes and Oak Shade Roads.
- PSE&G notified the Township of their upcoming plans for vegetation work on portions of the access roadway and towers.
- Burlington County Freeholders notified the Township regarding their 2018 Overlay Program on Indian Mills Road between Stokes and Oakshade Roads with work occurring in 2019.
- All department reports have been submitted to the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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.

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, by Resolution 2018R-71 the Committee went into Executive Session for matters of Attorney Client privilege and potential purchase of property.

The Committee reconvened their regular meeting and the Solicitor reported being given direction on how to proceed on the cell tower litigation. The Solicitor also reported the animal ordinance has made some progress, but additional provisions are being discussed regarding the financial aspect (licensing and inspection fees). The Solicitor was given direction by the Committee to submit information on those provisions and forward details to the Committee for further review.

At the request of Donna Roberts (539 Oakshade Road), the Mayor opened the meeting to public comments, at which time she advised not being aware of any pending changes. The Solicitor advised the ordinance has a public process of two readings with the introduction being published in the newspaper. The second reading will have a public comment portion as well. There were no further comments.

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