

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, 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 recited.

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

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

COMMUNITY MOMENT: NJ State Police/Red Lion Station – Lt. Richard Gilman

Mayor Di Croce welcomed Lt. Richard Gilman, from the New Jersey State Police, expressing gratitude for the professional and courteous service the Township receives from the Red Lion State Police.

Lt. Gilman advised the Mayor’s sentiments will be relayed back to the forty-five plus members currently at the station. Lt. Gilman advised that since coming to Red Lion his approach has been to bring back “a piece of humanity” to law enforcement, treating people with respect and dignity. Lt. Gilman gave an update on the recent Willis/Layton fugitive situation, advising they were no longer at large and Detectives from the Red Lion Station were part of the apprehension process. Lt. Gilman reported the Red Lion Station is responsible for over 500 square miles; they serve several Townships in both primary and secondary areas; they handle an average of 600 calls per month and that their response time to calls has been greatly reduced. Lt. Gilman advised the Station is preparing for the upcoming school season and expressed his goal for Troopers to be more involved with the Community. The desired result is so residents can see the Troopers on a different level other than just responding to calls. Lt. Gilman closed by stating he takes great pride in his Troopers and expressed confidence in their ability to do their job.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Di Croce read into the minutes a Proclamation Recognizing the New Jersey State Police Red Lion Station presenting it to Lt. Richard Gilman.

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time –

Bill Lampman (Manitoba Trail) first thanked the Committee for the snow fence. Mr. Lampman then presented pictures of certain homes on Manitoba Trail expressing his concerns regarding potential zoning issues such as debris, high weeds and property maintenance. He advised he had researched Township Ordinances and requested something to be done. The Mayor advised the Zoning Officer would be asked to check on these issues.

James Gaskill (Stokes Road) concurred regarding the property maintenance issues on Manitoba Trail.

Martha Bohi (Shawnee Lane) requested clarification of Resolution 2019R-66 EXPRESSING INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF CANNABIS. The Mayor advised the item has not come up for a vote yet; the only thing that came up for a vote was the Resolution Expressing Intent; this so the facts could be looked at seriously for potential Ordinance adoption and for the purpose of resident awareness. The Mayor stated that it doesn't mean anything is legal or that there is going to be a vote one way or the other from the Committee when and if discussed. The Mayor briefly spoke about the basis of the Resolution and potential for the Township. He mentioned to his surprise, the majority of residents he's spoken to have been in favor – 80-90%. *Ms. Bohi* inquired regarding the percentage statistic and if it comes up for a vote, how will that be determined and stated she would vote no. The Mayor advised many people stop and speak to him, and a vote would go on the ballot in the State of New Jersey first; if not passed, a moot point. If passed, the Township would present it as an Ordinance which provides public review and comment.

Bill Lampman stated he felt it was a great idea to get in on the ground floor regarding the cannabis issue.

Eileen Carlos (Indian Mills Road) inquired if there was data on how much revenue would be granted to the community regarding cannabis. The Mayor replied it would depend on the operation and how the State of New Jersey sets it up; it would also depend on the rulings of the Pinelands Commission. The Mayor advised an ordinance would not be done unless it was a benefit to Shamong citizens and the town itself. The Mayor stated that the concept is for the revenue to go towards reducing property taxes or to utilize existing costs to run the Township government. The Mayor commented that the Township is run on less than 5 cents of each dollar – most going to the schools, about 92%. *Ms. Carlos* expressed concern with the fear implemented in the community of this issue going forward. *Ms. Carlos* does not disagree with the revenue intent for the community, but questioned the offset; available data and residents figuring this is a done deal. The Mayor stated the intent of the non-binding cannabis Resolution, is a mechanism to be crystal clear that the Committee is taking a look at the issue to allow people to come out and voice their opinions. The Mayor stated the data is going to be controlled by the State of New Jersey. The Mayor commented he is not saying people should smoke the product and he is aware there are negatives, but if this becomes a legalized/regulated product in New Jersey, he would like Shamong to be in the forefront of this business opportunity. *Ms. Carlos* inquired if the Mayor has been in communication with anyone from the State and/or County in preparation of this issue. The Mayor advised he has spoken with Governor Murphy and has also made comments before the State Legislators in Trenton.

Bill Lampman commented again that if cannabis is legalized, someone will be growing it and agrees we should be on the ground floor.

Martha Bohi commented that she felt this issue would put Shamong on the map and she prefers her nice little anonymous town. There is no local police and she questions if the State Police will be able to handle the additional issues and crimes of opportunity.

Neil Wilkenson (Oakshade Road) commented that the Committee would be negligent if they didn't even look at the issue. It's not a done deal and he's feels the Committee should at least look at the issue.

Laura King (Atsion Road) who has been a resident for almost 55 years, advised pot has been grown in this town all of those years and it's not a new issue.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION:

On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, approval of the July 2, 2019 Regular and Executive Session minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Clerk reported on the Tax Abatement/Re-Development Zone - the first application has successfully gone through the process. Sod Services, whose application was approved by Tax Assessor, will receive the benefit of over \$16,000 in deferred taxes helping them to enhance the lot with improvements.

The Mayor inquired about the pending Robbins Well application. The Clerk advised the application is expected to come in by the end of the year.

The Clerk gave an update on the Burlington County (BC) Recycling Cart program advising that members of BC Recycling were taken on a drive throughout Shamong; including review of seven roadway sections where recycling is currently collected by Township Public Works. An agreement was made for BC Recycling to begin pick up/service for these roadways as well. The Clerk reported one (1) Cart per household is scheduled to be delivered between mid-September to early-October for immediate use by residents. The Clerk advised the current yellow buckets can be kept by residents for trash or other non-recycling uses. Once more information is received and finalized, the Township will work together with BC Recycling to get the info out to residents.

The Clerk reported on the NJ Animal Rabies YTD June 30, 2019 report advising there were ninety-eight (98) Terrestrial cases and fifteen (15) bats throughout the counties. Cats have accounted for 90% of the domestic animal cases in NJ since 1989 – an average of eighteen (18) cats infected annually for the last five (5) years. Other wild species within the counties included coyotes, otters, opossums, beavers, bobcat and bear. The Clerk reminded the public to take advantage of the free rabies clinics at the County Animal Shelter and at Shamong Township as well.

The Clerk reported that Nationwide, who handles the 403B Fund for Township employees, advised there are certain funds not performing well. Nationwide would like to swap out these funds. The Clerk advised receiving confirmation from Nationwide that no employees are using these funds. Committee determined to let these funds expire as suggested and no action was required.

The Clerk advised the State requires a formal Dam inspection to be filed by the Township Engineer's office bi-annually. The Clerk advised that internal Dam inspections are also performed by Township Public Works on the off years. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to authorize Dante Guzzi Engineering to complete the bi-annual Indian Mills Dam report for 2019 at a cost of \$1,100.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk first thanked Public Works for finding the most cost-effective option to repair and/or replace the bay doors; saving the Township significant dollars. Overhead Door of Burlington County came in with the lowest bid of \$7,895.00 with the second lowest from NJ Pines Overhead Door of Tabernacle at just over \$10,000.00. The Clerk reported this project was budgeted, the funds certified and it will take about 4-5 weeks to complete. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the award of contract to Overhead Door of Burlington County, Inc., Burlington, NJ for \$7,895.00 to repair &/or replace overhead doors in the Public Works Garage and Office of Emergency Management bays. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported proof of all required training has been submitted for both Fire Police appointees. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the appointment of Raymond Morgan and Joshua Davenport as Fire Police for the balance of a 5-year term expiring April 1, 2024 at the request of Charles Burgin, President of the Indian Mills Volunteer Fire Company. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported regarding power washing and spray-painting Public Works building advising the three quotes received - Painting & Wall Covering Co. in Tabernacle quoted \$13,091.89; Revive Painting in Medford quoted \$14,250 and Peter Sherlock Painting Contractor in Clearwater, SC quoted \$10,250. The Clerk advised that Peter Sherlock Painting has not yet provided the requested Certificate of Insurance and NJ Business Certification Registration. The Clerk advised the Painting & Wall Covering Company is providing 100% satisfaction guarantee along with a three-year warranty and is fully licensed/bonded. The Clerk confirmed to the Committee that \$30,000 is budgeted for these repairs. The Mayor thanked Public Works for all their clean-up efforts thus far. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve the award of contract for the power washing and spray-painting of doors, trim and roof of Public Works/Office of Emergency Management building; PWD shed and storage container to the Painting & Wall Covering Company in Tabernacle. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Solicitor gave an update on the Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery grading project advising notification was received from Norm Rogers of CES that more soil was needed to be brought in to complete the project. The Solicitor advised the Township had already settled for up to \$17,500 in costs and reported that CES has already stepped up and addressed the issue. The Engineer advised the project was pretty much wrapped up and looked good. The Mayor advised the public that plots are available for sale.

The Clerk asked the Engineer if Atsion Road would qualify for the NJ Department of Transportation's (NJ DOT) Fiscal Year 2020 Local Freight Impact Fund application; due October 16, 2019. The Engineer replied he would review further and advise if there was anything that would appropriately qualify.

The Clerk stated the Township building is 40 years old this year and most, if not all, lighting fixtures are the original fixtures. The Clerk researched LED fixture replacement options for the entire building and compared the repair/replacement of all current existing lighting issues. The Clerk reported the low cost to repair a fixture is \$75.00 each and the low cost to replace with a cost-efficient LED lighting fixture is \$135.00 each. The Clerk advised there are 39 fixtures that need to be fixed and approximately 53 fixtures in the building. The Clerk stated there are sufficient funds in the building budget for this year. The Clerk reported looking into State or Federal grants, but did not find availability at this time. The Mayor stated he agreed it made sense to switch over to the LED lighting and inquired on the estimated savings. The Engineer advised he would review the savings potential for further discussion at the next meeting.

The Clerk reported the CFO was able to find a lower cost seminar that would still achieve the CEU credits needed for her licensing. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve the CFO to attend seminar on September 19, 2019 at a cost of \$125.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

RESOLUTIONS:

The Clerk reported the third quarter tax bills went out late, by no fault of ours, and the grace period would extend the payment date to 8/26/19 at 3:00 PM without any interest. **On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-75 Establish a grace period for payment of third quarter taxes. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the original bond of \$18,354 will be released and replaced with a performance bond of \$2,294.25. The Clerk stated all has been reviewed and approved by the Engineering office. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-76 Authorizing release of performance bond on Block 9.09, Lot 27.01 (15 Park Drive). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported the bid options were processed through our Qualified Purchasing Agent, Donna Condo. The low bid was 12.4 cents per linear foot, \$24,684.93 total, followed by a second quote of 16 cents per linear foot. The Clerk advised the CFO has reviewed and confirmed there is a Certification of Funds.

On motion of Committeeman Cooney, seconded by Committeeman Gray, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-77 Authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract for road restriping to Zone Striping, Inc. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Clerk reported all documentation for this event has been submitted, including NJ State Police approval, and advised Valenzano Winery is working with John Lyons, OEM Coordinator, who also has approved. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney, it was moved to approve Resolution 2019R-78 Authorizing issuance of a social affairs permit to permit a beer garden at the Valenzano Winery 2019 WineFest on September 21 & 22, 2019. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

ORDINANCES:

The Solicitor reported when this development was built, a portion was set-aside as an Open Space plot. The Solicitor stated this plot was made into the primary soccer complex with the application going to the Pinelands. Ordinance 2019-9 covers the final condition required by the Pinelands Commission. **On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2019-9 Introduction: Authorizing a deed restriction on Township land (Stony Creek Recreation Complex) which is on the Recreation Open Space Inventory (ROSI). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

BILL LIST:

The Clerk reported the bill list total is \$1,416,691.49. The 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:

- 2018 Road Program Oakshade Road completed. Core samples required for DOT funding received and final estimates are being prepared; as well as the final DOT close out documentation for balance of funding
- Grassy Lake Road bid documents completed and submitted to DOT for approval. Once approved it will be advertised and go out to bid.

The Mayor publicly thanked the Burlington County roads department and the paving company for their work and wonderful job done on Grassy Lake Road. The Mayor also thanked the Engineer for getting the award for the project.

The Solicitor Reported:

- Taylor property, about 15 acres off Forked Neck Road, is closing this month at a cost of \$10,000. This will add to the total overall Open Space acreage.

- Working together with the Clerk on old tax sale certificate assigned to the wrong block/lot relating to the Big Horn Solar project – clearing up to prevent title issues.
- The assigned County Prosecutor for the dog cases, Nicole Handy, is back and advised the State lab reports for the Donna Roberts case are due in about a week. The evidence review will be submitted to the Grand Jury to determine if there will be additional charges.
- The Melissa Corbett dog case – still waiting for lab results which could be a number of months.

The Mayor inquired if there was any updates on the proposed County roundabout. The Clerk replied there were no updates from the County at this time. The Mayor reminded the public to be careful at this intersection.

The Administrator Reported:

- Received notice from Burlington County Board of Health of wells which test positive for arsenic or mercury as a result of water test completed relative to sale of home. Residents within the immediate area are notified by the BCBOH. The BCBOH also provides the residents with information on the affects and where additional information can be accessed.
- Federal census is currently scheduled to take place in our community from August – October 2019.
- Christine Chambers, CFO returned from medical leave on July 23, 2019.
- Tax Office report submitted separately.
- Building Code office on target – waived two Township Schools permit fees.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for comments, at which time *Eileen Carlos* (Indian Mills Road) inquired about the location of the mercury/arsenic findings. The Clerk advised that testing is automatically done on a well, by the Burlington County Board of Health Department, whenever a house is sold. The Clerk stated the Township receives notification regarding the area of the testing for awareness purposes, but is not advised of the specific address. The Clerk reported that the Board of Health is the one who directly monitors and maintains this information.

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

On motion of Committeeman Gray, seconded by Committeeman Cooney and a roll call vote showing all members present voting yes, by Resolution 2019R-79, the Committee went into Executive Session for matters of Attorney Client privilege.

The Committee reconvened their regular meeting and the Solicitor reported the Committee met under attorney client privilege to discuss the following: revisions of letter from the Mayor; discussion on a potential property sale that no action will be taken at this time and discussion on a potential zoning issue in which a meeting will convene with the property owner and their council.

There being no further business and no public present, **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