

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	Mr. Michael Cooney	P (via phone)
	Mr. Michael Di Croce	P
	Mr. Timothy Gimbel	P
	Mr. Sean Gray	P (via phone)
	Mr. Martin Mozitis	P

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

The Mayor thanked the public for coming out to the meeting. The Mayor reported that Lt. Richard Gilman from the Red Lion State Police is retiring. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the resident in Stoney Creek that reached out to the State Police regarding a missing child that had been living in the woods for almost two weeks and thanked the EMS who responded immediately to the call.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for questions/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 Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gray, approval of the August 11, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes except Deputy Mayor Gimbel and Committeeman Cooney who abstained.

COVID-19 Update – The Clerk advised Shamong is still holding at 61 total cases reported and sadly 1 death. The Clerk stated that out of the 61 positive cases, approximately half of those cases were migrant workers. The Clerk reported that John Lyons, OEM Coordinator, has acquired additional protective equipment through the County.

The Mayor encouraged all to actively support our local restaurants.

The Mayor advised the 2020/2021 Tax bills will be mailed out by the end of September. The Clerk commented that the estimated bills previously sent were approximately \$40.00 higher; the reduction will be spread out during the course of the year.

The Solicitor gave an update on 539 Oak Shade Road advising court cases to have slowed down due to the COVID issues, as well as the restricted access to the courts. The Solicitor commented it will be some time before anything happens. The Solicitor advised a reminder that if you hear anything, to call the State Police as that is the best avenue if there is anything still happening with regards to this property.

The Clerk reported the Open Space Tax Rate was started approximately in 2004. It is a .2 cent on tax which funds our Open Space preservation. Coming through this season of COVID, the effect on the budget and funding is unknown going forward. The Clerk advised one option that can be done is to temporarily reduce the .2 cents Open Space Tax rate to off-set shortages coming from other areas of State funding. This would need to be done by ordinance and would have parameters. The Solicitor recommended that if we were headed in that direction, he advised an ordinance should be put in place prior to doing the main budget process. Options on ways to proceed and the current overall percentage and status of tax collections year-to-date were briefly discussed.

RESOLUTIONS:

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R- 81 Refund of duplicate payment on Block 12.07 Lot 1 (119 Mohawk Trail) of \$2,673.53. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-82 Refund of taxes to 100% totally disabled veterans:

- Block 20.05, Lot 17 (818 McKendimen Road) for \$2,172.24
- Block 5.07, Lot 14 (2 Cragmoor Drive) for \$1,583.30

A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Clerk reported premiums are routinely paid at tax sales on desirable properties by multiple investors. When the tax lien is satisfied, the premium is reimbursed. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-83 Refund of premium paid on tax lien for Block 5.04, Lot 5 (18 Cobblestone Lane) for \$8,500.00. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Engineer reported on the next phase of septic replacement at Fawn Lake Village. He stated the resolution would authorize the Mayor or Clerk to sign the applications on behalf of the Township. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-84 Authorizing treatment works approval (“TWA”) application from Fawn Lake Village. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this resolution verifies that the Committee has personally reviewed and are familiar with the minimum sections of the Annual Report audited. The Clerk advised it was a clean audit with no comments or recommendations. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-85 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-86 Refund of duplicate payment on Block 19.02, Lot 5.10 (3 Quebec Court) of \$1,501.77. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

The Clerk reported the amount includes \$76,600 for a NJ Department of Transportation (DOT) grant and \$787.87 NJ Clean Construction Off Diesel Replacement grant. The Clerk advised these grant balances need Committee approval to cancel/remove from the books. **On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-87 Canceling prior years grants receivable and reserve. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Clerk reported this is a five-year agreement for the 9-1-1 Central Communication System. The Solicitor requested this resolution be subject to his final review of the content of the agreement so he can reach out if any issues. There was a question regarding coverage in the Atco area and the Mayor advised he was reaching out regarding that issue. **On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, seconded by Committeeman Mozitis, it was moved to approve Resolution 2020R-88 Authorize the Shared Services Agreement between the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington and Shamong Township Central Communications, subject to the Solicitor's final review. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

ORDINANCES:

The Solicitor reported the square footage limitations on accessory buildings has been recently increased up to 865 square feet and some previous variables have been removed.

Mayor Di Croce opened the meeting to the public for questions/comments on Ordinance 2020-7, at which time there were none, so he closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

On motion of Committeeman Mozitis, seconded by Committeeman Gimbel, it was moved to approve Ordinance 2020-7 Second reading and public hearing on: Amending Chapter 110 of the Township Code Governing various zones and "Schedule of Limitations" to set new square footage maximum of accessory structure and remove limitation of square footage of accessory structure in relation to square footage of principal residence (BCT 8/16/2020). A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.

BILL LIST:

On motion of Committeeman Gimbel, 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:

- Grassy Lake Road update – there was significant rain after top work was done in which the contractor had left silk fabric in the inlets preventing the water from draining fast enough resulting in some flooding; that has been resolved. Signage, striping and punch list items still to be addressed. Edges to be backfilled and exposed dirt areas will all be cleaned up. The Clerk commented that the section where it comes off of Indian Mills Road and going towards Stokes Road does not transition very well. The Engineer confirmed he will make sure it's on the punch list.
- Next phase of Grassy Lake has been approved and the plans/specs have to go to DOT for review and approval before it goes out to bid.

The Solicitor Reported:

- Had Tax Board hearings along with Jay Renwick, Tax Assessor, the case load was non-substantial and should not have much affect on income budget issues.
- Still trying to finalize the Gardner transaction regarding the 6 acre donation off Springer's Brook Road.

The Administrator Reported:

- Building Code, Municipal Court and Tax Office reports pending – other reports in meeting packet.
- The Committee Members accessing tonight's meeting via phone, have done so in an effort to leave as many seats as possible available to the public since current regulations only allow twenty-two (22) people in the meeting room.
- Valenzano Winery submitted a Press Release on August 17, 2020 regretfully announcing that the September 2020 Wine Fest has been officially cancelled.
- The \$500 JIF Cyber reimbursement was received on August 19th; the \$500 JIF Wellness voucher has been submitted for reimbursement; and the \$995 Optional Safety reimbursement is being finalized for submission.
- The Pinelands Memorial Park Cemetery Board has approved the placement of headstones as an option along the back six rows of the recently completed sections 2, 3 and 4. Press release to local papers and will be included in tax bill mailers.
- NJ League of Municipalities Conference will be held virtually November 16 – 20, 2020.
- Employee Policy Manual Review as required by JIF is in process.
- The Township Meeting Room will be reviewed for the upcoming November General Election for placement of tables, ten (10) poll workers, one voting machine and a ballot drop off box; while adhering to social distance practices and requirements.

Committeeman Mozitis commented on a resident's idea regarding having the polling places include other buildings such as the fire hall or a local church.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Neil Wilkinson (Oakshade Road) – inquired why a premium on a tax lien would be refunded. The Solicitor commented that during a tax sale, the people who come in to bid on a lien are paying the taxes that are owed on the property. The bidder will start out bidding at 18% interest on what they've paid on those taxes if it's redeemed. When the bidder thinks they can actually hold the lien and then eventually foreclose and own the property, the bidding between the parties goes from 18% down to maybe 5% or 0%. At 0% you start bidding up premiums. So that bidder is saying not only will they pay the taxes due and get no interest off it, they'll put \$8,500 on the table because they want the lien so much. In the case voted on this evening, the person who owned the property ended up clearing up the tax lien so the premium is refunded.

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

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