

The January 14, 2020 meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Pequannock, Morris County, New Jersey was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Meeting Room located at 530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike; Mayor Ryan Herd presiding.

Township Clerk Carol Marsh read the following statement for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

*"In accordance with the requirements of New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was included in the Annual Meeting Notice which was filed in the Office of the Township Clerk; posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building; published as legal notice in the Suburban Trends newspaper; and distributed to all persons requesting notice in accordance with Township policy."*

Mayor Herd led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a prayer and a moment of thanks for those individuals serving our nation.

Present:

- Mayor Ryan Herd
- Deputy Mayor Kyle Russell
- Councilwoman Melissa Florance-Lynch
- Councilman David Kohle
- Councilman Richard Phelan

Absent: None

Also Attending:

- Adam Brewer, Township Manager
- Robert Oostdyk, Esq., Township Attorney
- Jennifer McCulloch, Twp Flood Resiliency Officer
- Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

**PRESENTATIONS.** There were no presentations.

**REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.**

- Frank Spizzirri, Open Space Advisory Committee Vice Chair, congratulated new Mayor Ryan Herd, and Deputy Mayor Kyle Russell, reported the officers of the Open Space Committee are the same for next year are the same and questioned the reason for changing the date of the Hoe Down. Mr. Spizzirri also commented the committee is short two members and would appreciate applications from the public. The committee would like to turn sections of the Riverwalk over to Parks and Rec as official parts of Parks and Recreation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** There were no public comments.

**MANAGER’S REPORT.** Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager’s report for the meeting, noting:

- Recent water testing results were received and have been posted on the website. The second round of testing, initiated in November, showed only one location exceeded the limits for lead, none exceeded for copper and no public notice was required. Another testing will be scheduled prior to June of 2020. Recent testing for trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids shows the levels are well lower than in previous tests. All information regarding the testing can be obtained online through WaterWatch.
- A tentative schedule for budget meetings based on prior experience was distributed. The schedule was tentatively agreed on by the Council.
- Ranger’s report was included in the report.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS.** There were no public hearings.

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS.** There were no ordinances presented for introduction.

**RESOLUTIONS.**

- **R2020-51**, authorizing the use of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for the Hillview Road Improvements Project in the amount of \$274,138.00.
- **R2020-52**, authorizing Change Order NJDOT-1 modifying the approved quantities and fee consistent with use of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for the West Parkway Improvements Project to the amount of \$357,602.02.
- **R2020-53**, appointing members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (William Hart).
- **R2020-54**, authorizing participation in an Electronic Tax Sale Program in 2020.
- **R2020-55**; authorizing Utility Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2020-56**, naming DMC Associates as Township Surveyors for the year 2020.
- **R2020-57**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **January 10, 2020** Bill List, list of additional previously disbursed checks and 2015 FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, **Resolutions R2020-51 through R2020-57** were adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mr. Phelan, Mrs. Russell, Mayor Herd

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.**

- FEMA preliminary FIRM appeal:  
Mr. Brewer provided status on the FEMA preliminary FIRM appeal.  
Township Resiliency Officer Jennifer McCulloch provided additional information noting the FEMA is far behind their tentative schedule and Senator Booker has intervened on the Township's behalf. Members of the Council requested a letter or email be sent thanking Mr. Booker. Ms. McCulloch also noted the adverse effect of the maps on affected homeowners.
- Shade Tree Commission draft ordinance:  
Mr. Brewer reviewed the terms of an ordinance recommended by the Shade Tree Commission. Members of the Council agreed to have the ordinance scheduled for introduction at the next meeting.

**REPORTS AND NOTICES.** There were no reports or notices.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS.**

##### ***Ms. Florance-Lynch***

- There were three reappointments to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Officers for the year are Lorelle Laub as Chair, Jean Powers as Co-Chair and Bette Valle as Secretary. Next Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 is the Committee's regular meeting and soup luncheon at the Senior House. Pequannock Police Captain Dan Comune will attend for Q&A and a representative of "Take a Breath" will do a presentation on relaxation techniques. The committee will have a Corn Beef and Cabbage luncheon March 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3; members reported a productive meeting with the Township Manager, and the next regular committee meeting is Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.
- Four appointments were made to the Flood Advisory Committee. 2020 officers are Dave Hollberg, Chair, Nick DiStefano, Vice Chair and Louise Marchese, Secretary. The Committee is discussing community outreach and the need to move forward on de-snagging permits. Status was requested for the Flood App and requirements for open foundations. Both were provided by Ms. McCulloch.
- Received official notice the Mayor's River Cleanup will be held Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00

a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Grains of Hope meal packing event is scheduled for Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12 to 7. Volunteers can register at [peq.gohnj.org](http://peq.gohnj.org)

**Mr. Kohle:**

- First Aid and Rescue Squad reported 53 calls in December, held Girl Scout events on December 16<sup>th</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup>, assisted with the Polar Plunge on January 5<sup>th</sup>, responded to the Butler New Year's Eve fire for fire rehab. The squad thanked the township mechanic for repair work on the squad's ambulances.
- Congratulated the students who ran the Polar Plunge and to Parks and Recreation on the event's success.
- There is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Requested status on questions regarding the Sewer Master Plan.

**Mr. Phelan:**

- This Saturday is the Fire Company's Installation Dinner.

**Mrs. Russell:**

- Environmental Commission is holding a trash bag challenge. There will be a drop off at the library and possibly one other location. If 500 pounds are collected, a Trex bench will be donated to the Township.

**Mayor Herd:**

- Open Space discussed the Hoe Down date change.
- May be able to locate door hangers previously used by the Flood Control Advisory Committee.
- Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> is the Mayor's River Cleanup from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers should meet at Senior House.
- Grains of Hope Grains of Hope is Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Commended the success of the Polar Plunge.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** There were no minutes presented for approval.

**EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.**

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell **Resolution R2020-58**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss matters of Attorney Client Privilege related to the Route 23 Sewer Ordinance, Contract Negotiations related to property acquisition, and Litigation regarding tax appeals was unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 7:38 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

- The Council discussed the Route 23 Sewer Project where they were provided with an update from the Manager on the easement acquisition and assessment process.
- The Council discussed a potential property acquisition on Madison Avenue and direction was given to the Township Manager regarding the negotiations on that property.
- The Council was updated on the Tax Appeal decision on the Plaza 23 property.

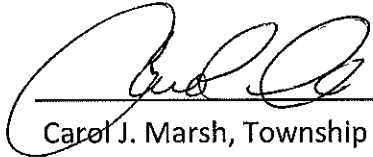
The closed session was completed at 8:00 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

Township Attorney Oostdyk summarized the Executive Session discussion. No formal action was taken.

The Council requested a discussion of the Sewer Master plan be listed on the next agenda.

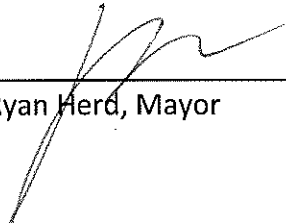
**ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. without objection.



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Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk



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Ryan Herd, Mayor