

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

JANUARY 9, 2020

The Special Budget meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 6:04 p.m. Present were Mayor Richard Wolfe, Deputy Mayor Chris Sobieski, Committee members Tim Mathews and Mark Castellano. Margaret Pasqua, CFO, was also in attendance.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Acting Municipal Clerk Krista Parsons announced that this is a regularly scheduled meeting, pursuant to the resolution adopted on January 2, 2020, with a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of December 12, 2019. A copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, Star Ledger, Courier News, posted on the bulletin board, and filed in the Clerk’s Office on January 8, 2020.

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING (6:05:40)

Margaret Pasqua, CFO, provided the committee with a first draft of the proposed budget. CFO Pasqua stated the rateables dictate how taxes are determined. CFO Pasqua stated that she would like to have the budget completed by March. Mayor Wolfe stated he feels the committee can meet that deadline. After reviewing the draft budget, it was determined \$1,410,000 would need to be raised compared to last year’s \$1,363,000, which is an increase of 3.3%. CFO Pasqua noted, however, that this draft of the budget is the “wish list” of the various departments.

Mayor Wolfe said that he anticipated reducing the 3.3% as the Committee went through the draft budget in detail, but due to rising costs, it might not be feasible to have a “flat” budget this year. CFO Pasqua stated keeping a flat tax rate on a yearly basis is not a good financial trend. CFO Pasqua advised the committee that spending 95% of the budget is tight and that must be taken into consideration. CFO Pasqua also advised the Committee that the Township’s debt service costs will go down in 2022, as certain debt is paid off.

The Township Committee and CFO Pasqua reviewed certain line items in the budget. Not all line items were able to be reviewed and a consensus was made for Mayor Wolfe and Mark Castellano to hold a budget meeting with CFO Pasqua.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- (7:02:47)

RESOLUTION # 27-20

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, East Amwell Township Committee is of the opinion that circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of East Amwell wishes to discuss personnel, litigation, and to receive advice from the Township Attorney; and

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then minutes can be made public; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the public be excluded from this meeting.

I, Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of The Township of East Amwell at a regular and duly convened meeting held on January 9, 2020.

Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Tim Mathews to enter into Executive Session was unanimously approved.

Executive Session took place from 7:02 pm-7:45pm.
A consensus was carried to exit Executive Session.

(7:45:21)

Mayor Wolfe welcomed the public and led those present in saluting the American Flag.

AGENDA REVIEW BY CLERK (7:46:05)

Addition under Special Discussion, Proposal for indoor/outdoor tennis facility Hillsborough Country Club, Wertsville Road.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:46:25)

- A. The East Amwell Township Committee encourages all interested residents to volunteer for available positions on Boards and Committees. Information forms are available on the website and in the Clerk's Office.
- B. East Amwell Township's Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Municipal Garage.
- C. The 2020 "Images of East Amwell" calendar, a joint effort of the Historic Preservation Committee and the East Amwell Historical Society, ~~will be~~ is available at the Municipal Building.
- D. **CHRISTMAS TREE CHIPPING:** Trees should be dropped off at the Grit Yard any weekday in January. The yard will be open an additional Saturday for drop off on January 11th from 8am- 3pm. All decorations should be removed.
- E. Reminder, all Township Committee Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

- F. A correction regarding the announcement made at the January 2, 2020 Reorganization Meeting for Ordinances #20-01 and #20-02. The public hearing will be held at the next regular Township Committee meeting on February 13, 2020.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION (7:48:59)

Request for Approval of the Sourland Semi-Classic Bicycle Ride held on Sunday, February 23, 2020 and the Hell of Hunterdon Bicycle Ride held on Sunday, April 5, 2020.

RESOLUTION #28-20

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby support the Sourland Semi-Classic Bicycle Ride and the Hell of Hunterdon Bicycle Ride cycling fund-raising efforts; and

WHEREAS, the organization has made application for an even notification for a cycling event for February 23, 2020 and April 5, 2020, where cyclists will be passing through East Amwell Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, the Sourland Semi-Classic Bicycle Ride and the Hell of Hunterdon cycling fund-raising event be approved and processed.

I, Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell at a regular and duly convened meeting held on January 9, 2020.

Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Tim Mathews to approve the cycling events was unanimously approved.

Proposal For indoor/outdoor tennis facility Hillsborough Country Club, Wertsville Road.

Mayor Wolfe discussed the proposed 90,000 square foot indoor/outdoor tennis facility that is being proposed to the Hillsborough Board of Adjustment. Mayor Wolfe discussed the adverse impact it would have on the environment and habitats of species, as well on the East Amwell residents who live near the proposed facility.

John Seramba, 111 John Ringo Road, Ringoes, NJ- Mr. Seramba stated that the proposed facility is contrary to the Master Plan of Hillsborough.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (8:02:05)

Resignation of FOSPC Committee Member , Pete Fick.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Mark Castellano was approved with regret and unanimously approved.

Resignation of Parks & Recreation Committee Member, Pete Fick.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Mark Castellano was approved with regret and unanimously approved.

Appointment of John Seramba to the Historic Preservation Committee.

Motion made by Mark Castellano, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sobieski was unanimously approved.

Appointment of Sara Monus as the Environmental Commission and Ringoes Village Advisory Committee Administrator, Effective January 1, 2020.

RESOLUTION #29-20

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that Resolution #29-20, appointing Sara Monus, Administrator for Ringoes Village Advisory Committee and Environmental Commission effective January 1, 2020. Salary for the Administrator Monus is \$500.00 per year for each position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2020 Salary and Wage Resolution also include salary as follows:

Administrator of the Ringoes Village Advisory Committee	\$500/yr
Administrator of the Environmental Commission	\$500/yr

I, Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell at a regular and duly convened meeting held on February 13, 2020.

Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Tim Mathews to approve the resolution was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (8:07:15)

The minutes were tabled to the February 13, 2020 Township Committee meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (8:07:59)

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Tim Mathews to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved.

Scott Berger, 172 Mountain Road, Ringoes, NJ- Mr. Berger extended his appreciation to the Township for paving Linvale Road. Mr. Berger discussed the frequent power outages that occurred on Mountain Road in the past six months and are lasting 6+ hours at a time.

Seeing no other members of the public, motion made by Tim Mathews, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sobieski to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (8:21:25)

Township Committee Liaisons- Mayor Wolfe stated the liaison positions are still being adjusted and to carry to the February meeting to finalize.

NEW BUSINESS (8:22:59)

Resolution for Renewal of Municipal Alliance Application for Grant Year: July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

RESOLUTIONJ #30-20

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2021 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$31,271.00
Cash Match	\$ 7,817.75
In-Kind	\$23,453.25

2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

3. The Township Council further acknowledges that the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission shall act as Fiscal Agent to all Hunterdon County Municipal Alliance Consortiums to provide a streamlined process for the reimbursement of expenditures.

CERTIFICATION

I, Krista Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell at a regular and duly convened meeting held on January 9, 2020.

Krista Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk

 Motion made by Tim Mathews, seconded by Mark Castellano to approve the resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution of Thanks to Highway Hot Dogs

Resolution Thanking Highway Hot Dogs

RESOLUTION #31-19

WHEREAS, Highway Hot Dogs, a local business located at 79 Route 202/31 South, in Ringoes, New Jersey, donated employee time, hot chocolate, and delicious bread pudding to the 2019 East Amwell Township Christmas tree lighting ceremony and reception; and

WHEREAS, this generous donation by Highway Hot Dogs helped make the 2019 East Amwell Township Christmas tree lighting ceremony and reception a memorable and wonderful experience.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell extends its sincere gratitude to Highway Hot Dogs for its generous donation to the 2019 East Amwell Township Christmas tree lighting ceremony; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution will be presented to Highway Hot Dogs.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Richard A. Wolfe, Mayor

Attest: _____
Krista M. Parsons, Acting Clerk

ADOPTED: JANUARY 9, 2020

Deputy Mayor Sobieski read the Resolution aloud to recognize the contribution in which Highway Hot Dogs made to the East Amwell tree lighting in December and the reception that followed.

Mayor Wolfe extended his appreciation for this and all donations to the Township.

Mayor Wolfe mentioned a local business will be donating the volleyball net for Clawson Park.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Tim Mathews, to approve the resolution was unanimously approved.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (8:31:05)

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Mark Castellano to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved.

Seeing no members of the public come forward, motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Tim Mathews to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (8:31:22)

Bills of the Evening - 12/12/2019

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Mark Castellano to approve the bills of the evening was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Deputy Mayor Sobieski, seconded by Mark Castellano and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk