

## MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held in the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 and as called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, Chris Stracco.

### SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT:

Under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by posting notice on the Township bulletin board and by e mailing notice to the New Jersey Herald and The Express-Times.

### ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Mayor Chris Stracco, Deputy Mayor Keith Ramos, Committeeman David Boynton, Committeeman Frank Desiderio, Committeeman Todd McPeek, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

### MINUTES:

#### All meeting minutes were held until the February 19, 2020 meeting

1. January 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. January 15, 2020 Executive Session Meeting Minutes
3. January 30, 2020 Budget Session Minutes
4. February 6, 2020 Reorg Meeting Minutes

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Stracco let the committee know that the Deputy Mayor and himself have a meeting on the 13th with service electric and will report at the regular meeting on the 19th.
- Deputy Mayor Ramos – nothing to report
- Committeeman Boynton let the committee know there is a resident at 350 Kerrs Corner Road who has issues with tree cutting and has left messages for the property owner.
- Committeeman Desiderio – nothing to report
- Committeeman McPeek – nothing to report
- Municipal Clerk Zilberfarb – nothing to report

### OLD BUSINESS:

- The court services were discussed with regard to paying \$23,000.00 this year. Discussion was made and Mr. Stracco asked the committee if they wanted to increase our payment that Knowlton had discussed at the previous meeting. Mr. Stracco stated that our contract runs out at the end of the year and that we will most likely be looking for another court for next year. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Stracco to pay Knowlton court system \$23,000 this year pursuant to Bob McNiches request on 2/6/2020, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Roll call vote: Mr. Boynton-No; Mr. Desiderio-No; Mr. McPeek-No; Mr. Ramos-No; Mr. Stracco-No. Frelinghuysen Township will pay what our contract stands and continue for the remainder of the year.
- Standpipe - Ms. Zilberfarb will send another letter to the homeowner.
- Barn at FFP - Held until the regular meeting.
- Salt shed and subdivision of property is in Paul Sterbenz, Maser consulting, report in new business.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- The budget was discussed with Anthony Ardito, Municipal Auditor and Danette Dyer, CFO. Mr. Ardito discussed the surplus and recommended that the township not dip into the surplus to satisfy the budget. At this time, there is a need to cut approximately \$80,000.00 to stay under the levy CAP. \$25,000 will come out of surplus for this year. All budgets were looked at again and the following cuts were made to various budgets:
  - Fire and Ambulance donations were cut \$1,500.00 each this year. Note that Blairstown Hose Company does not ask for a donation, only capital request.
    - Hope Fire Department - \$6,500.00
    - Green Township Fire Department - \$6,000.00
    - Green Allamuchy Ambulance squad - \$7,500.00
    - Blairstown Ambulance squad - \$6,000.00
  - Buildings and Grounds budget was cut and final budget will be \$10,000.00
  - Land Use Board was cut an additional \$1,000 and the final budget will be \$1,000.00
  - Environmental Commission was cut and the final budget will be \$600.00

- Recreation Committee was cut \$200.00 for the salary for the recreation secretary. The final budget will be \$6,300.00
- OEM budget was discussed and was cut to make the final budget \$2,450.00
- DPW budget was cut \$14,050.00 to make the final budget \$141,950.00
- Mr. Stracco asked what the average for salaries were in other towns and Mr. Ardito and Ms. Dyer both agreed about 2-3% increase or higher. The town will stay at a 2% increase for salary and wages this year after looking at 1%, 1.5%, and 2% numbers.

Waiting on the FAST system to be able to introduce the budget. The introduction will be on March 18th at the regular meeting. Budget Adoption will be held on April 22nd at the regular meeting. Note that the meeting date for the regular meeting will be changed from April 15th to the 22nd. Ms. Zilberfarb will advertise the date change and thanked the committee for allowing the date change.

Capital completion will be done at the work session held on March 12. We will need to change to the Thursday as Danette Dyer cannot be at the meeting if held on Wednesday, March 11th. Ms. Zilberfarb will advertise that date change as well.

Mr. Ardito also discussed school realization and using surplus and what it would mean to the town if a consolation were to take place.

- Paul Sterbenz discussed the salt shed and placement for both Route 94 and behind the town hall. The site for Route 94 would need a new DOT permit for access to Route 94 as the current one has expired. This property has no infrastructure and is not close in proximity. The municipal complex has the infrastructure and is cost effective to remain with it at this location. Mr. Sterbenz stated that moving forward the town would need to get an architect for plans at the municipal complex and will need to meet with SHIPO to determine if allowed in the area wanted. Mr. Ramos asked about SHIPOs consideration for a pole barn since there is already a pole barn in existence on the site. After discussion, motion was made by Mr. Desiderio for drawings by Maser Consulting to see cost to draw salt shed and send to SHIPO and see what the cost will be, seconded by Mr. McPeek. Roll Call vote: Mr. Boynton-yes; Mr. Desiderio-yes; Mr. McPeek-Yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes. Mr. Sterbenz will move forward with drawings and SHIPO.

Mr. Sterbenz also discussed the subdivision of the Route 94 property. It was asked by Mr. Stracco if we sell as one parcel or subdivide it. Mr. Sterbenz advised to sell as entire parcel and let the buyer subdivide it. Mr. Stracco will discuss with legal the COAH issues.

Mr. Sterbenz discussed the road paving for Greendell Road and explained the grants that were awarded and explained that there was not enough with both grants to pave entire road because of the guiderail that would have to be replaced as well. He discussed that he would use the \$140,000 this year and that would take the paving from Dark Moon Road (Route 519) to approximately 6,000 feet and that phase would include some guiderail work. He would apply for another discretionary grant this year, like he did with Kerrs Corner final phase, and then combine those grants and finish the road in 2021. He also discussed Stillwater Road and finishing the piece that is remaining. That cost would be \$127,500.00. Ms. Zilberfarb asked for quotes on just the hill, from Lincoln Laurel to the curve at the bottom. He will come out and walk the roads with Ms. Zilberfarb and get pricing for the committee.

- Mr. Stracco explained that Mr. Conner would like to step down as the Chair to Environmental but will stay on the board and with Mr. Conner stepping down, Mr. Stracco appointed Christopher Kuhn to Chair of the Environmental Commission. Motion to concur was made by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
- Mr. Stracco asked Mr. Desiderio if he would like to be the Township Committee Liaison for the Environmental Commission and he asked to stay on as a member.
- Mr. Stracco appointed Michael Tudor to the Environmental Commission. Motion to concur was made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. McPeek. all were in favor.
- Motion was made by Mr. Ramos, to accept Erik Arfken's letter of resignation with regrets from the Recreation Committee, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
- Motion was made by Mr. Boynton to accept Mark Saalfeld's letter of resignation with regrets from the Recreation Committee, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor.

- Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to accept Alan Eitner's letter of resignation with regrets from the Recreation Committee, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
- Mr. Stracco let the committee know that he would be stepping down as the personnel committee liaison. Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to appoint Mr. McPeek, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

**OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

Motion was made by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Ramos limiting it to 15 minutes to open meeting to the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

- Debra Natyzak asked what the amount used for the debt service was. Mr. Stracco will find out and get back to her. Ms. Dyer and Mr. Ardito had left after their portion.
- Ms. Natyzak also discussed the ambulance donations for Allamuchy Green and that they get less than last year and that Allamuchy and Green give \$20,000 each year as their donation. She also mentioned that the calls have increased for the past year for Frelinghuysen Township.
- Robert Chayka, Turf Pro's asked if now was the time to submit quotes for field maintenance. He was told to submit his quote to the clerk.

Motion was made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. Boynton to close to the public. All were in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. McPeek to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC