

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 8, 2014

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

97

Roll Call

Present	Absent
Mr. Dunham	
Mrs. Merz	
Mr. Sanchelli	
Vice President Birmingham	
President Yocum	
Lori Harvin, Township Clerk	
Township Attorney, Lawrence Cohen	

Mrs. Harvin said, "Let the record show that Administrator James Leach is present."

Salute to the Flag

President Yocum asked every to rise for the salute to the flag.

Notice of Presiding Officer

Yocum said, "This Regular Council meeting for October 8, 2014, commencing at 7:00 p.m. has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by notice to the official newspapers of the Township on October 2, 2014."

Proclamation and Resolution Recognizing the Retirement of Zoning Officer, Bruce Decker

(97-A)

President Yocum read the Resolution and Proclamation honoring Township Employee, Bruce Decker, on the occasion of his retirement.

Lake Hopatcong Foundation

(97-B)

- Presentation by Recreational Trails Team
- Bicycling Event to be Held on October 12, 2014

Lee Moreau and Donna Macalle of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation came forward and presented the Recreation and Trails Initiatives. Moreau explained that the Foundation is seeking to improve and enhance recreational opportunities, more specifically with regard to hiking, kayaking, swimming and biking around Lake Hopatcong. The Foundation's Trails Team has a long term goal to have a trail system for hikers and bikers to enjoy around Lake Hopatcong.

Moreau announced the October 12 Lake Loop with 20, 40 mile bike routes and a 3 mile walk. The proceeds for the event will support the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. Yocum said he appreciates the Lake Hopatcong App that has been created. Merz asked about the trails being stroller and dog friendly and Macalle said they will take that into consideration. Yocum commented on the Foundation's dedication and passion to volunteer and work on what is important to them.

Walter Wurster presented the maps with the route for the Bicycling Event to be held on October 12 and explained the steps that have been taken with the towns around the lake to ensure a safe event.

Yocum stepped out of the room at 7:19 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

September 17, 2014	Regular	All Members Present
September 17, 2014	Executive	All Members Present

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Absent

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 8, 2014

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

98

Council Reports

Merz reported that her granddaughter, Trina, gave birth to her great-granddaughter, Juliette Rose last week. Merz said she is happy to report that mother and daughter are both doing well and she is looking forward to visiting.

Merz reported that CONNECT walked this past week in the WROBO run and was the recipient of funds from the WROBO run. The next event will be the 13th of November at the Legion Post 245 for a Program on PTSD and it is open to everyone. The Morris County Clerk's Office will be at the event to do Identification Cards.

Yocum re-entered the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Merz said that CONNECT will be walking at an event in Waterloo Village for Suicide Awareness Week.

Merz commented that with regard to the Best Practices Inventory, that list seems to be growing and as the list continues to grow it is important that the Council and Administration stays ahead of the curve. Merz said that is one of the reasons why there are two of the items on the Agenda this evening.

Sanchelli reported that the Jefferson Township Haunted House will be held on October 18 and 19. There will be a non-scary version for the younger children. Last year 1400 people went through the Haunted House.

Sanchelli reported that the Jefferson Township 5K Walk with Your Dog to raise funds for the Dog Park will be held on November 1. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. with check in at 7:45 a.m. There will be water stops for people and dogs. One human and one dog team is \$20, additional dogs and humans are \$5.00 each. Sanchelli said that all the information is on the Facebook page.

Merz added that she will be at the 50th Anniversary of the Jefferson Township High School and the Dedication of the new Turf Field.

Birmingham commented that the Council President had brought the issue of abandoned properties to the attention of the Administration and Council a few months ago. Birmingham said he spoke to Hopkins about a Tax Abatement Program for housing stock over 50 years old. There is a program that would allow an improvement to the home without having to suffer the increased assessment for 5 years. There are qualifications that must be met, including that the house must be 50 years or older. Birmingham said this will also help with the building trades. Yocum asked the Administration to obtain a copy of the Program so the Council can understand the qualifiers. Cohen said that he is familiar with the Statute.

Birmingham said he would like to thank the Administration for doing such a great job completing the turf field. It is a gem.

Dunham reported that on October 7 he was able to attend the committee meeting for the Veterans' Day Celebration. Dunham said he would like to thank Tom McGrath for all the work he does at the Recycling Center which is a huge resource for the residents of the Township. Dunham commented that the 3 dumpsters that are provided for the construction waste are very unique.

Dunham asked the newspapers to advertise the upcoming referendum for the Open Space Trust Fund and he asked the residents to vote yes. Dunham said that he will be writing some articles about that referendum.

Birmingham commented that the SLAP volunteers at the Recycling Center are very cordial and helpful.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 8, 2014

99

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Yocum said that he would like to applaud the Administration in pursuing that type of vehicle for the new Dial-A-Ride van. It will be very economical on fuel and work nicely in the program.

Yocum said that he would like the Administration to consider embracing a TNR Program for feral cats. A Trap Neuter and Release Program is being used in Mount Olive and if properly managed a TNR Program over time manages and reduces the number of feral cats. Leach asked Yocum for more information. Yocum said that economically, TNR is by far the best.

Yocum said that he attended a Jefferson Township Rotary event at Waterloo Village which was a weekend walk/run event to benefit wounded soldiers.

Administrative Reports of Mayor and Administrator

Leach reported that the flooring and new ceiling tiles have been installed in the Council Chambers.

Yocum commented that he has had conversations with the Administration regarding the Budget presentation to the Council. An effort is being made in 2015 to present the Budget at the Reorganization Meeting as it had been done historically. This should expedite the approval process.

Leach reported that the Abenacki Trail Water System bid package was completed today and this will be advertised. Construction should begin by the end of the year. Everyone on the system will be sent a letter to inform them of the construction and informing them to make arrangements for connection.

Leach said that Friday is the dedication of the new turf field which will take place at half time. Leach commented that the DPW received praise from the contractor and the manufacturer for the work that they did preparing the field for the turf.

Leach informed the Council that the exit interview was held on Monday for the 2013 Audit and the Audit will be presented to the Council next week.

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

New Business

- **Proposed Pay to Play Ordinance**

The sample Pay to Play Ordinance was presented to the Council and Leach commented that this Ordinance is an item on the Best Practice Inventory. Cohen reviewed the sample ordinance and commented that the ordinance is overly burdensome. The Council agreed to have Cohen prepare some amendments to the sample ordinance and present a Pay to Play Ordinance for Introduction at the November 12 meeting.

- **Proposed Resolution: Establishing a Policy for Members of the Governing Body to Attend An Instructional Course On Their Responsibilities and Obligations in Local Government On An Annual Basis**

The Council reviewed the proposed Resolution and discussed the types of seminars that would qualify as instructional courses under this Resolution. Leach commented that the courses given at the League and courses that the Council already attends for their employment may apply. Cohen said that the town has professionals that present seminars or the Joint Insurance Fund seminars would apply. Dunham said these can be just a training session. The Council agreed on the form of the Resolution.

Motion: Dunham, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 8, 2014

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

100

President Yocum

Aye

- Request Street Name Change in Sandy Point Park & Marina, LLC: Sierra Lane

Sharon Leek of Sandy Point Park & Marina, LLC came forward regarding the request for the name change of Sierra Lane to Sharon Lane. Leek said that the street was named after the previous owner's dog and she is not fond of the name.

Merz asked how many residents would be affected by this street name change. Leek said that there are 3 privately owned residences. Leek said she is trying to find out what is involved. Leach said that the 911 system would have to be changed along with the Township Map. Leek said that her address has changed numerous times. Cohen commented that the deeds would not have to be changed, when the residence is sold it would be updated. Cohen said the mailing addresses would have to be changed. Cohen said if this is going to be considered, then the residents of Sierra Lane have to be notified.

Yocum said that if more than one person is going to be impacted, than the Council needs to understand why the request is being made. If there is a request to honor someone who has given their life in the service to their Country, than that is something that is a considerable reason to change the name of a road. Yocum said that in this instance, the adverse impacts on everyone affected by this fall overwhelming on the other side of the reason why the request is being made. Yocum said that based on this, he is not in favor. Leek said that this is a private road and she pays for the salting and paving. Leek said that it is her property.

Merz said she can change the name of the trailer park. Merz said that even when a brand new development came up and the developer wanted a street named after his wife, she was not in favor of it because the personalization of things that do not have something linked to it bring up issues.

Cohen asked if this is one piece of property and Leek said yes. Cohen said the town has this for 911 and emergency purposes. Cohen said there is also an expense and this has to be done by Ordinance. If the Township Council is not in favor of this, there is no taking this any further. Leach said he will find out what is involved with changing the 911 system. Yocum said that this type of issue for a Senior Citizen is very large. Dunham said that he would not be able to vote for this change.

Yocum said that currently, there are 3 Council members that are not in favor of this name change so this will not go any further this evening. Yocum asked Leach to provide the Council with the information on changing the 911 system so this can be placed on a future agenda.

Resolutions

Resolution #14-95: Approval of Bills dated 10/1/14

(100-A)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Merz

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Motion to Approve:

PO No. 14-02846 Headley Lumber - \$801.24

PO No. 14-01152 Headley Lumber - \$54.25

PO No. 14-02877 Headley Lumber - \$441.17

PO No. 14-02847 Headley lumber - \$391.10

Motion: Merz, second Sanchelli

Mr. Dunham	Not Voting
Mrs. Merz	Aye

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 8, 2014

101

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #14-96: Approval of Bills dated 10/8/14

(101-A)

Motion: Merz, second Sanchelli

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Motion to Approve:

PO No. 14-02845 Headley Lumber \$1,424.93

PO No. 14-02233 Headley Lumber \$123.50

Motion: Merz, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Not Voting
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #14-97: Authorize Passage of Consent Agenda

(101-B)

Motion: Birmingham, second Sanchelli

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

Adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

Motion: Merz, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Dated: October 8, 2014

Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Richard W. Yocum, Council President