

MINUTES OF WORK/BUDGET MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2020 - AMENDED

The work/budget meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held in the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, March 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 McPeck, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

PROCLAMATIONS:

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially dangerous medicines, household products and chemicals, environmental contaminants, and other substances; and WHEREAS, poison centers across the country will focus the public's attention on the free, lifesaving services provided by poison centers, as well as, educating the public on ways to prevent poisoning exposures; and WHEREAS, the New Jersey Poison Control Center, a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School provides 24/7 expert poisoning treatment advice, drug information, and prevention education at no cost to the public accessing center services through the Poison Help number at 1-800-222-1222, chat (www.njpies.org), or text 973-339-0712; and WHEREAS, specialized medical professionals (doctors, pharmacists, and nurses) provide accessible, free, and confidential healthcare to all; and WHEREAS, poison center services save healthcare dollars by eliminating thousands of unnecessary emergency department/room visits and decreasing lengths of stays for patients hospitalized for poisoning through telemedicine services/capabilities; and WHEREAS, the poison center is instrumental in the surveillance and management of poisoning exposures across the state, including the use, misuse, and abuse of; medications, legal and illicit drugs, environmental contaminants, bioterrorism agents, and common household products and chemicals; and WHEREAS, the state's poison control center is involved in New Jersey's efforts in homeland defense, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness and response, and biosurveillance; and WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey outnumbering deaths by motor vehicles and firearms; and WHEREAS, a poison is defined as anything that can cause harm if taken in the wrong amount, in the wrong way or by the wrong person; and WHEREAS, although most reported poison exposures involve children five (5) years old and younger; most poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20 to 59; and WHEREAS, overdose deaths from prescription opioids, over-the-counter medications, and illegal drugs remain at epidemic proportions for both New Jersey and the United States; and WHEREAS, lead exposure and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning remain major public health concerns; and WHEREAS, vaping and e-cigarette devices pose a serious risk of nicotine poisoning, as well as serious potentially deadly vaping associated lung illnesses, also referred to as EVALI; and WHEREAS, poison center experts encourage the public not to guess, wait for symptoms, or waste time looking up medical information online when potential poisoning exposures occur; and WHEREAS, all residents should save the Poison Control Center's number, 1-800-222-1222, in their cell, home, and office phones because a fast response can make all the difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives; ***NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christopher Stracco, Mayor, of the Township of Frelinghuysen do hereby proclaim the week of March 15-21, 2020 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families, and their community.*** Motion was made by Mr. Boynton to accept, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Ms. Zilberfarb will forward a signed copy to the NJPIES at Rutgers.

MINUTES:

1. February 12, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor.
2. February 19, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

3. February 19, 2020 Executive Session Meeting Minutes were approved with one correction of Darlene Green's last name, on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor.

ORDINANCES:

1. 2020-02 Town Administrator – discussion only not for adoption. Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to hold until the March 18, 2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Stracco let the committee discussed COVID-19 and let everyone know that he is in contact with Warren County and read what was sent out. At the present time all events with 250 or more participants are to cancel. The State is allowing under OPMA electronic and telecommunication for meetings or the alternative is to cancel. OEM states no cases in Warren or Sussex Counties as of today. Mr. Ramos said all indoor sports are cancelled and tournaments as well.
- Deputy Mayor Ramos – nothing to report
- Committeeman Boynton let the committee know that the thermostats have been reinstalled and cover guards are on and will reprogram them again.
- Committeeman Desiderio – nothing to report
- Committeeman McPeek – nothing to report
- Municipal Clerk Zilberfarb – nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to hold all old business until the next meeting, March 18, 2020, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

1. Service Electric Cable
2. Barn at FFP
3. Standpipe on Ramsey Road
4. Knowlton court services
5. Subdivision and sale of property
6. Salt Shed
7. Greendell Road paving

NEW BUSINESS:

- The capital budget was discussed and questions were asked regarding a chipper for the dpw. Mr. Ramos asked if we could allocate some this year and add next year and purchase. Mr. Boynton felt it was needed haven't had one in over 8 years and the roads are bad. Ms. Dyer explained that monies could be reallocated throughout the old ordinances to put towards the chipper. After discussion, monies that had been allocated toward the generator and air conditioner for the rec center, Kerrs corner road monies allocated could be moved and remaining unused fire department monies could be reallocated. After discussion it was determined approximately \$50,000 could be reallocated from older ordinances to use for the purchase of the chipper.

The fire departments requests were discussed and determined that for this year the committee would like to keep them the same as last year with no increases. Green Fire Department - \$17,500.00; Blairstown Hose company - \$20,000.00 and Hope Fire Department - \$16,000.00. Ms. Dyer explained the debt and that the committee should try to keep capital under \$200,000.00 each year. She also stated that if the route 94 property sells that can also help to knock down the debt.

Mr. Ramos asked about the school tax and how the town should be preparing for that in the future. He felt that this needs to be part of the budget process each year to address the deferred school tax and noted that if the deferred school tax was called in for reason such as consolidation then the town would essentially be in a very bad fiscal position in regards to the surplus balance. Ms. Dyer explained that you look at the surplus and maintain at least that amount in surplus. She said that Wharton and Hackettstown are municipalities that are debt free and she explained how staying on plan can get Frelinghuysen there as well. Look at your needs and not necessarily your wants. Ms. Dyer also explained that the surplus is discussed each year during budget meetings and we just need to stay on plan. Ms. Dyer will get the information to bond counsel to have the capital ordinance ready for next weeks meeting.

- Mr. Ramos will get Ms. Zilberfarb information on field maintenance and mowing of the fields so quotes can be asked for.
- Each year a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) needs to be appointed. This was not on the reorg agenda. Mr. Stracco appointed Ms. Zilberfarb as the PACO. Motion was made by Mr. Desiderio to concur, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Roll call vote: Mr. Boynton-yes; Mr. Desiderio-yes; Mr. McPeek-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes. Ms. Zilberfarb will forward all necessary paperwork to the State.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion was made by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. McPeek to open meeting to the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

Waclaw Hein spoke regarding the chipper and asked if possible to have the county or state do it. Mr. Desiderio explained that those monies then would come out of o/e. Mr. Stracco explained that during a state of emergency, those costs would be reimbursed to us. Mr. Hein asked if a landscaper could do the chipping? Ms. Dyer explained that those monies would come out of o/e.

Mr. Kohuth asked about rental of chipper and/or consider a long term lease on one. It was explained that those monies would come out of o/e and Mr. Kohuth asked why we can't put money aside for that. Ms. Dyer explained that we don't have the levy cap and we already had to cut a significant amount to mee the state cap. Mr. Greco stated although a good idea to rent, during a storm when it is really needed there will be none available.

Mr. Connor inquired about the tar and chip job last year on Lincoln Laurel Road and how it has come up and looks like it wasn't done. Ms. Zilberfarb explained that it was done so late in the season last year and that she has reached out to Morris Asphalt and will have the Director follow up.

Mr. Kohuth asked about the monies from the sale of the property on Route 94 and why debt wasn't paid down. Ms. Dyer explained that \$100,000 went into the Open Space trust fund, \$35,000 went to surplus and that debt is only paid once a year.

Mr. Hein asked about the Corona virus and that even though there are no symptoms currently here, he asked if the township would be issuing some type of statement for reassurance. Mr. Stracco stated that OEM will be on the meeting next week and discuss everything at that time.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session

COORESPONDENCE:

- Governor of New Jersey - State of Emergency COVID-19
- Warren County Public Safety – COVID-19 safety tips

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. McPeek to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC