TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2019

Mayor Joseph Barton called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Flag Salute.

Sunshine Notice:  This meeting was called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting of April 8, 2019 was sent to the Central Record, Burlington County Times and Courier Post. Posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public, and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Roll Call - Governing Body - Present
Kimberly A. Brown, Deputy Mayor
Stephen V. Lee, IV, Township Committee
Samuel R. Moore, III, Township Committee
Joseph Yates, IV, Township Committee
Joseph W. Barton, Mayor

Administrative Team
Douglas A. Cramer, CPWM, Administrator
Rodney R. Haines, CMFO, Chief Finance Officer
Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer
Peter C. Lange, Jr., Township Solicitor
La Shawn R. Barber, RMC, CMR, Municipal Clerk

Discussion: Township Meeting adjustments
- On a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Lee, to change the meeting dates of Monday, April 22, to Monday, April 29, 2019 and Monday, May 20, 2019 to Tuesday, May 28, 2019 was adopted.

Roll Call: Brown, Lee, Moore, Yates, Barton  Ayes: 5  Nays: 0  Carried

Budget Discussions
Mr. Haines responded to Kathy Burger’s questions that she submitted by email.

Mr. Haines discussed the dropping the tax increase down to 2 a cent increase and use additional surplus.
1. Mayor and Committee: The possibility of purchasing electronics for Committee Members to reduce paper.
2. Clerk’s Office: Increase for additional clerical staff and digitizing records.
3. Financial Office: Increases in salary amounts for the financial office as Tax Collector is currently in Qualified Purchasing Agent class (QPA) and will expect a pay increase; and a pay increase for the Certified Chief Financial Officer.
4. Legal Services: $13,000.00 increase for the possibility of special legal support for OPRA matters.
5. Engineering: Increase 26,500.00 additional funds for NJ DOT grants along with Community Development. Some engineering requirements are not covered under the Grants issued.
6. Public Safety Director: At present, the PSD will not be replaced. The line item was left in, should the need for a PSD arise.
7. Ambulance: Justification is what is required for the balance billing.
8. Garbage and Trash: Appropriates are the same; however only $373,00.00 was expended. (December 2018’s bill was submitted in January 2019).
9. Recreation: $1,500 increase. TAA does not receive any money from the Township. These are to include the Senior Holiday Dinner; Bus Trips, Tree Lighting and Memorial Day festivities.
10. Electric has increased is an incorrect statement.
11. Court: Proposed shared service with Woodland Township includes the entire year for rent. The other items are expectations of having a second location; equipping which the AOC will not provide. Revenue is expected; however, the expected amount is unknown.
12. Construction: 2% increase and the need for a part time fire inspector.
13. The Capital improvement fund budget has $65,000.00 which is the amount required for 5% down payment.

Covering anticipated costs for projects that are moving forward such as fire inspector; the court move; appointing of a Deputy Court Administrator. Mr. Haines spoke of budgeting the court expenses at $150,000.00 for 2019 ($91,000.00 - 2018); budgeting the increase of rates from State Police.
• On a motion made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Yates to offer employment and appointment for Deputy Court Administrator; list for the shared service agreement according to all of the County requirements.

**Roll Call:** Brown, Lee, Moore, Yates, Barton  
**Ayes:** 5  
**Nays:** 0  
**Carried**

**Budget: Tabernacle Fire Company #1**
Mayor Barton met with TFC#1 to review and recognize their Budget increases, such as utilities, attorney fees for OPRA and miscellaneous items. Mr. Haines stated that he is comfortable with the $75,000.00 allocation to TFC#1.

**Public Works**
Equipment budgeted in 2018 was $55,000.00. The requested amount for 2019 is $92,000.00, which is appropriate, especially when drivable equipment has a life span of approximately 5 years maximum.

**Discussion**
Mr. Lee stated that he is concerned with debt service; wants to know of the operational costs for Sequoia; find a use for the building and a line item in the budget.

Mr. Moore agrees with Mr. Lee for open dialogue with the school board to find uses for the building.

Mr. Moore expressed his interest in moving all offices under one roof, but would like to know what building modifications would be the approximate rehabilitation and modification costs if it is purchased. Mayor Barton stated that he spoke with the superintendent of the school and it is the wish to market and sell the building.

Mr. Lee expressed that the present Town Hall is not a suitable building for the public / residents that have special needs. The annex building can be eliminated and place all the township offices under one roof. We have an excellent opportunity to take an asset that belongs to the tax payers and maximize its use. He also expressed that he would be interested in again being the liaison for the Committee to discuss ongoing matters with the School Board of Education. All Committee Members agree to form a School Board Sub-Committee for year 2019; Mr. Lee will serve as a Liaison Member along with Mayor Barton.

Mr. Haines confirmed with Committee that it is not increasing the budget or changing numbers, it’s moving $12,000.00 (s/w of PSD) line item to another; for 2019 is a 2-cent tax rate increase; cut money out of line items or use surplus; reminded committee that this is a budgeted plan. If the money is not used, the amount goes back into surplus. He will have all documents available at April 29, 2019 meeting for introduction.

**Surplus Property: Community Center**
Mayor Barton asked if the Community Center could be added to the surplus list since it has already been appraised; what is the existing zoning use of this property and to state in the advertisement that it is contingent upon the change of use. Mr. Yates asked the status of actual use of the Community Center. Mr. Cramer stated that in its present use it is only good for storage; it is not fruitful if we choose to use it as a public facility. A substantial amount of money would have to be spent, (ex: the air conditioner).


**Report: Township Engineer** - Grant received for Oak Shade Road.

**Construction Office: Proposed Revised GVW Ordinance**
Thomas Boyd - spoke about the current Ordinance regarding the 12,000 GVW. It is proposed as to keep up with updates and the advances in technology and to acknowledge that the gross vehicle weight have increased. This Ordinance is not the intent to allow commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods. But also, to allow for our farming residents to be in compliance with capacity vehicles which are purchased.

**Fee Ordinance**
The reason for this fee Ordinance is that Township has not revised its fees since 2012 and want to follow the State’s recommendation at minimum.

**Updates**
TAA’s Opening Day is Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at Patty Bowker Field.

**Report: Township Administrator**
Aaron and Cheryl Moore – 453 Carranza Road
The existing structure are encroaching on the Tabernacle Township’s portion of the right-of-way. Shamong Township requests $1,000.00 for their fee to abandon their right-of-way (Shamong Township – Carranza Road). Mr. Cramer will send a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Moore regarding this matter and informing them that they must purchase the 50-foot easement. All monetary
remedies, including any engineering costs to correct this encroachment will vest solely and be the responsibility of Mr. and Mrs. Moore.

The steel gazebo for Town Hall has been ordered.

**Carranza Road**

Supplemental Grant with the State for Carranza Road – in the process of scheduling a meeting with Shamong Township to discuss their position regarding their portion of the Grant Application. The grant awards are proposed toward the end of the fiscal year.

**Fire Inspector**

The proposed Ordinance for Part Time Fire Inspector will be reviewed at the next meeting and finalized at the May meeting. No objections.

**Reports: Township Committee**

Mr. Lee gave an update on the Verizon, reaching approximately 893 homes. Asked if Township wanted to continue census track and fight for the other residents that already have broad band. The choice is to use Verizon Rate Counsel who has been very helpful or a different attorney.

Mayor Barton stated the Resolution for the school funding was prepared and signed. A joint proposed letter with the school will be drafted on behalf of Committee and School to support funding. No objections.

**Report: Township Solicitor**

Gave an update on Irick’s Causeway. Solicitor would like to get a more beneficial proposal; does not have enough information for the exact proposal. There will be no closed session needed on this matter.

**Public Comment**

Mark LeMire, Washington Way, spoke that he likes the meeting table format; it is more engaging.

Stuart Brooks, Moore’s Meadow Road, spoke of the proposed budget item for anticipated iPad purchase; would like to know the amount of funding given to TAA. The capital items of $65,000 is unclear what the numbers for budget; format of committee is hard to hear for him.

Fran Brooks, Moore’s Meadow Road, questioned need for another Township office hire, as there is a tenured clerk and an attorney for OPRA matters; stated that more training is needed for employees and spoke that Mr. Lange should do a better job regarding OPRA issues; boasted about her litigation record for winning OPRA matters against Township is 0-8. Township pays for items for TAA; however, feels it is time for TAA to be self-supportive. Spoke of having a “needs” analysis for Sequoia. Spoke of not understanding TRS’ increase for the balance billing. Spoke of not understanding why the GVW was not listed on the agenda but discussed. Upset that meeting minutes were tabled unnecessarily from January; it is Mr. Lange’s responsibility to advise Committee properly.

**Tabernacle Rescue Squad: George Jackson, Chief**

January 2019 to March 2019 TRS responded to 245 emergency calls, such as provided mutual aid to several towns. Special Events – chartered organization for the Boy Scouts / Eagle Scouts. Provided tours for Girl Scout troops. The personal vehicles it is easy to exceed the GVW. Suggested limiting one commercial vehicle on your property.

Mayor Barton thanked TRS for keeping the community safe; Mr. Lee thanked TFC#1 and TRS for coverage at the forest fires this past weekend.

Mr. Haines responded to Mr. and Mrs. Brooks’ questions regarding the TAA; clarified that nothing is paid to TAA from a specific line and yes, the Township pays for the insurance. TAA does make a contribution to the Township for non-Tabernacle residents. The capital improvement plan is the amount of a down payment that would be required for a capital Ordinance which covers 1.3 million worth of capital appropriations.

Mayor Barton explained that the iPads are being considered as an option as form of communication.

Mayor Barton explained mediation procedure for OPRA rather than filing a law suit, which would reduce costs. The key to reduce costs for OPRA is to go through the mediation. All members of the Committee agreed that the mediation through GRC is the best avenue. Solicitor Lange reiterated that mediation is key for those who are dissatisfied with any particular response the
Township and be given the opportunity to address the matter rather than invoke litigation. It is never the desire to hold back any documents.

Approval of Bills
- On a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Yates to the bills were ordered paid.

Roll Call: Brown, Lee, Moore, Yates, Barton
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Carried

Adjournment
Seeing no further business members of the Township Committee adjourned this meeting of April 8, 2019 at 9:52 p.m. The motion was made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Moore.

Roll Call: Brown, Moore, Yates, Barton
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Carried

Respectfully submitted,

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: 04/29/2019