

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**October 17, 2017
Regular Meeting**

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Chamings at 7:00 p.m. noting the meeting date, time and place were duly published in the New Jersey Herald and posted at the Town Hall and advised those present that this meeting was being held in compliance with provisions of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13.

Roll Call was taken and the flag was saluted.

PRESENT: Committeeman Morrison, Deputy Mayor Gross, Committeeman Fisher, Committeeman Scott, Mayor Chamings, Municipal Clerk Lynda Knott, Attorney Angelo Bolcato

REGULAR SESSION:

DISCUSSION: CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL SYSTEM – Mayor Wayne F. Levante, Newton, NJ

Mayor Levante was present to provide information on a resolution he and the Newton Town Council are supporting for a consolidated school system in Sussex County. He provided his background information and stated since being elected to the Newton Council he has been asked by constituents to address the school system. He spoke about decreasing administrative staff ultimately lowering property taxes. The plan would include one County Superintendent and one County Business Office, with all schools within the County being overseen by one County Office. Mayor Levante would like to see a study done to see if there would be a substantial savings. He compared the proposed system to ones already in place in Paterson and Jersey City based on the number of students (approx. 24,000) of each city being that of our entire County. He also referred to a study completed in Illinois which projected huge increases in annual savings numbers. The presentation was an open forum with question and answer period with the Committee and public. Public concern was expressed with respect to taking on the debt of other school districts and there being only minimal savings. The quality of education and effect on student performance in states already using the proposed system were questioned.

Mayor Levante asked the Committee for their support of the resolution or to conduct a study. He noted seven municipalities have passed resolutions in Sussex County at this point.

Mayor Chamings would like to see the Committee liaison work with the school boards to determine what is best for the district. Mr. Morrison felt concerns should be directed to the school board, and legislators should be conducting the study as a responsibility to the taxpayers. He felt the governing body was not the place for this proposal. Mr. Scott agreed and felt views were different in our small district compared to a city district. Mr. Fisher felt the proposal should be directed at the State level and they should be conducting the study and research. He was in favor of one Superintendent to oversee each high school and its sending districts, with each district having their own principal. The Committee agreed if they felt the resolution should be discussed further it would be added to the next agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ALL MATTERS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE IN NATURE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THE ITEMS. IF ANY DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT PARTICULAR ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY ON THE REGULAR AGENDA.

MINUTES: Regular Minutes September 19, 2017

RESOLUTIONS:

2017-109 Authorizing the Refund of Court Collections

REPORTS:

Recreation Commission Minutes from September 11, 2017

DPW Monthly Report for September 2017

Tax Collector's Report for September 2017
QPA Report for September 2017
Building Department Report for September 2017
Zoning Officer Report for September 2017

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Morrison, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Scott, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mayor Chammings, yes

BILLS LIST #13: \$101,273.84

RESOLUTION 2017-110 PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-110, removing PO #6843 for separate consideration, seconded by Mr. Morrison.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Morrison, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Scott, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mayor Chammings, yes

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to pay PO #6843, seconded by Mr. Morrison.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Morrison, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Scott, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mayor Chammings, abstain

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2017-12: Public Hearing and Adoption

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE #2017-12

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER
COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 304
ENTITLED "REGISTRATION OF VACANT PROPERTIES"
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER
SUBSECTION 304-4 - FEE SCHEDULE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater, Sussex County, New Jersey that existing Section 304-4 of the Code of the Township of Stillwater, the "Fee Schedule" for the registration of vacant properties is amended as follows:

Section 1.

Section 304-2 "General Requirements" is amended as follows:

- A. The last sentence is repealed and replaced as follows: "The property owner may request in writing that the current year's renewal fee be prorated and/or a prorated refund issued for the year in which the property becomes legally occupied in compliance with all applicable ordinances and state statutes".

Section 2.

Section 304-4 "Fee Schedule" is hereby repealed and replaced with the following:

The initial registration fee for each building shall be \$250 for the period from the date of registration through December 31st of the initial registration year and shall not be refundable in the event that the property should subsequently become legally occupied during the initial registration year. The fee for the first renewal is \$500. The fee for any subsequent renewal is \$1,000. After five years, the registration fee shall be \$5,000. After the initial registration year or any subsequent renewal year, the owner may apply, in writing, for a prorated refund of the current year's registration fee based upon the date of

legal occupancy of the registered property in the event that any property shall become legally occupied.

Vacant and Abandoned Property Registration Fee Schedule

<u>Registration</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Initial registration	\$250
First renewal	\$500
Any subsequent renewal up to five years	\$1,000
After five years	\$5,000

Section 3 - When Effective

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to open the meeting for public comment on Ordinance 2017-12, seconded by Mr. Gross.

There being no public comment on Ordinance 2017-12, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to adopt Ordinance 2017-12, seconded by Mr. Morrison.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Morrison, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Scott, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mayor Chammings, yes

RESOLUTION 2017-111

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP,
SUSSEX COUNTY, NJ
RESOLUTION
2017-111**

**TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE FOR THE SERVICES OF A
QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater and the Township of Montague have agreed to enter into a Shared Services Agreement by which the Township of Stillwater shall provide Qualified Purchasing Agent services to the Township of Montague pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., and

WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater and the Township of Montague agree to enter into the attached Shared Services Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stillwater Township Committee, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Shared Services Agreement between the Township of Stillwater and the Township of Montague is approved pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. The terms and conditions of the Agreement (Exhibit "A") are made a part of this Resolution.

2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Township.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately, however, it shall be void and of no effect in the event that the Township of Montague fails or refuses to adopt a similar resolution and/or execute the Shared Services Agreement.

4. A copy of this Agreement shall be filed, for informational purposes, with the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-4.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-111, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Morrison, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Scott, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mayor Chammings, yes

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Field Use Form and Regulations: This item is still before the Recreation Commission.

Website Update: Ms. Knott reported the website should be up and running in the next two weeks. The website will include information on many aspects of the township including lake communities, sports, photos, etc. and will be mobile and include maps. There will also be links to the local schools, fire

department, Rescue Squad, Recreation League, etc. Residents will be able to sign up for Swift 9-1-1 alerts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Scott reported the DPW will power wash the Municipal Building, flowers have been planted and a flagpole installed. They are currently seeking solar lighting to illuminate the flag. The DPW purchase of a loader will be discussed during budget review. They are also interested in purchasing a used bucket truck for trimming trees, etc. Mr. Raff will contact the Risk Manager for an insurance viewpoint. Certification to operate will be required. Signage has been installed at the township fields.

Mr. Gross reported the fire department monthly report was provided at the last meeting. The Rescue Squad reported 212 calls year to date; 24 calls for the month of September; running at 98.2 percent for the year.

Mayor Chamings was unable to attend the last Environmental Commission meeting due to a conflict. Matt Cleaver would like to do an Eagle Scout project at the Municipal Building; reflection and memorial area at the flagpole including a garden, and a plaque at the well casing. Rescue Squad member Casey Cleaver is attending the firefighter academy in Arlington.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Ordinance Amendments for 2018: Noise, Lighting, Potentially Dangerous Dog, Speed Limits, Hazardous Material Clean-Up/Recovery Costs

Mayor Chamings asked the Committee to review the ordinances for updating and consideration, focusing on potentially dangerous dog and lighting for 2017.

Budget Meeting Dates:

The Committee discussed tentatively scheduling a budget meeting for Saturday, January 13, 2018. Two additional budget meetings would be held during regular Committee meeting nights.

Attorney Report:

The co-borrower agreement for Plymouth Lake will be discussed under Executive Session tonight. Recommendations were received from the Labor Attorney for revisions to the Employee Manual. This item can be discussed at the next meeting under Executive Session.

Open Public Session:

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

After the reading of the following Resolution to enter into Executive Session, a **motion** was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Fisher and carried by roll call vote to adopt the resolution permitting the Committee to go into Executive Session at 8 p.m.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Attorney Client
3. As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

There being no further business to attend to, a **motion** was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Fisher to conclude the Executive Session at 8:15 p.m., unanimously carried by roll call vote.

There being no further business, Mr. Scott made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fisher. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder