

Township of Mantua
November 16, 2020
Mantua Township Municipal Building
6:00 P.M.

On the above date the Township Committee of the Township of Mantua held a Committee Meeting in the Mantua Township Municipal Building, 401 Main Street, Mantua, New Jersey 08051.

Mayor Scirrotto called the meeting to order. The time was 6:00 p.m. Mayor Scirrotto asked everyone to rise for the Flag Salute and remain standing to observe a moment of silence.

Mayor Scirrotto delivered the Sunshine Notice as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

Mr. Shawn Layton, Mr. John Legge, Mrs. Eileen Lukens, Mr. Robert Zimmerman, Mr. Peter Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk, Mr. Glen deMers, Mr. Jon Bryson, Mr. James Pierson, Chief Darren White

Approval of Minutes: October 19, 2020 - Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. Committeeman Layton Abstained All in Favor

Approval of Closed Session Minutes October 19, 2020- Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. Committeeman Layton Abstained All in Favor

Approval of Minutes October 26, 2020, - Committeeman Legge made a motion to approve; it was 2nd by Committeewoman Lukens. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman Abstained All in Favor

Engineering Report: Mr. Bryson noted that the bids came in for the Senior Center Roof Replacement and that the lowest bid was \$516,000.00 and has been given to the Administrator. Mr. Bryson also discussed that the Paving Plus has just about completed the 2020 Local Road Program except for stripping, signage and their final punch list, and that the same goes for the work that was done on West Warren.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made mention regarding the tennis courts that this has been an ongoing discussion for a year and half and that originally it was intended to make redo the tennis courts and have them for multiple uses. However, after finding out the cost that was excessive to do that, the Committee decided that it would be better to remove the courts and have this as a passive recreation area.

Department of Public Works Report: Mr. deMers noted that the Public Works has received their TCO for the new garage and that they are beginning to move equipment into the building. In addition, Glenn noted that the clock on Main Street in front of the Municipal Building has been repaired both with the time and the lighting. In addition,

Mr. deMers discussed that the leaf season has officially begun, and the department has made their way through almost all of the town. In addition, Glenn noted that the department had cleaned up and mulched the Veterans Memorial and around the Municipal Building in time for the Veterans day Ceremony.

Mr. deMers discussed that our IT people are working on the new truck camera system and hopefully will have an answer within the week. In addition, the department is still waiting for the contractor for Schaub Rd to remove the tree that's almost in the road.

Mr. deMers advised that he had received several quotes; one for the Phase 3 South cleanup of the Public Works yard, one to replace the two broken Mantua Township signs, and one to upgrade the Public Works building from oil to gas and give the building heat. All the quotes have been given to the Administrator for review.

Glenn made mention that he has planned to purchase a Rear loader from Wenonah at a reasonable cost to add to our existing fleet.

Police Department Report:

Chief White noted that the speed signs have been consistently out. The Chief noted that the lieutenants attended an internal affairs class offered by the prosecutor's office that is required for all internal affairs officers. The state made some significant changes recently, so even those who had previously been to the training had to attend again.

Darren discussed that the department had its second mobile inspection checkpoint and that they are considering doing this quarterly.

Darren noted that the department has been looking into organizing an employee assistance program. In doing the research it was we found that most programs require an annual fee for their services, however, the psychiatrist that the department normally uses as part of our background investigations has a program where we you would only need to pay if/when we use her. The Chief noted that the details still need to be worked out, but it seems like it would be a good idea. Darren also noted that EAPs are strongly recommending this for municipalities in order to help the internal affairs process as a step to be taken prior to sending an employee for a fitness for duty evaluation.

The Chief mentioned that all officers have completed their required recertification classes, and that an active shooter training should be taking place throughout the next couple of weeks, however with the current COVID-19 matter this may not happen as there is o way to socially distance the officers.

The Chief discussed that the response to the vote on legalizing marijuana, the AG put out interim guidance to make it clear that marijuana is not currently legalized. Darren noted that the concerns for the department is enforcing marijuana statutes the police do not have discretion when enforcing drug laws, so we are trying to get better clarification.

The Chief noted that at this time they do not have any Class I Officers as the last remaining class 1 officer is out of work due to an accident that was not work related. These officers are extremely helpful in the enforcement of nuisance complaints, traffic complaints, etc.

Darren noted that the officers are again participating in “Movember”. He noted that they normally donate the funds to a men’s health charity, this year they will be donating to breast cancer research due to an officer’s wife going through difficulties with this type of cancer.

The Chief noted that he has just received the grant packets for their Safe and Secure grant for 2021 and he will be completing these.

Darren discussed that he was contacted by a resident of Wenonah regarding possibly setting up a “Take Me Home” program. This program is based on ideas from the Autism Society. It would generate a registry including personal identifying information and a photo that can be accessed by officers. It was Darren’s understating that this is already in place in at least one Gloucester County department, therefore, Darren noted that he feels that it should not be difficult to establish in Mantua. Training would have to be done with the officers on recognizing and interacting with those with autism. In addition, the Chief mentioned the he and the lieutenants will be attending the new “Handle With Care” symposium. This is a new upcoming program beginning at the end of the year for easy notification from law enforcement to the schools if we respond to a call that may be hard for a students to handle so that the department would be able to assist with this type of incident.

Pursuant to Resolution R-32-2020, there is a time limit of five (5) minutes per person

Public Participation: Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to open; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

Deb Baldassare – 522 Main St., Mantua – Thank whomever repaired the clock on Main Street. Ms, Baldassarre inquired as to when the last pick up for leaves will be. Mr, deMers noted that it would be the end of the year as long as the weather holds out. Ms. Baldassare also inquired if the Township could put some sort of covering at the bus stop outside the front of the Municipal Bldg. as there are several people that wait for the bus there and if the weather is bad, they are out in the elements. Administrator Bileci noted that this would have to be approved by the NJ Transit as it is their bus stop, but she would look into it.

Melanie Vignola – Firth Drive – Ms, Vignola noted that there have been several gun shots in her neighborhood and she would like to know how the police will be handling this. She noted that this is a residential area and she is familiar with the sounds of gun shots as her family had guns. Ms. Vignola also noted that that she has contacted the Police department and fees that there is more that they could be doing. Chief White noted that the police officers would have to have probable cause to search a home and since there is no definitive information as to where the gun shots are coming from he would not be able to search homes. Ms. Vignola also noted that when the po lice came to her home, there was only one officer and she thought that was off. Chief White noted that there are usually more than one officer at a scene and that the other officers were probably around the area to see what they could see. The Chief also noted that of late, there have been

quarter stick fireworks. Chief White advised Ms. Vignola to stop in and speak with Lt. Grady regarding this matter. In addition, Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that he recommends that she speak with the Lieutenant as well in order to get more specific information.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-160-2020: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLIANCE TO PREVENT ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-161-2020: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING MECHANICS LIEN ON REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA KNOWN AS 25 STREET FOR MAINTENANCE WORK AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor.

RESOLUTION R-162-2020: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor.

RESOLUTION R-163-2020: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPROVING THE FINDINGS OF THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020 BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY PROCEDURE

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor.

RESOLUTION R-164-2020: A RESOLUTION AWARDED A BID IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$32,930.00 TO NERI'S CONSTRUCTION & RENTALS, INC. FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS DEMOLITION OF TENNIS COURTS AT CHESNUT BRANCH PARK

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor.

RESOLUTION R-165-2020 A RESOLUTION RELEASING THE STREET OPENING BOND, PERMIT NO. L-2016002 FOR 392 BOODY MILL ROAD, HELEN KRAMER TRUST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$360.00

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor.

RESOLUTION R-166-2020: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA TO MAKE CERTAIN BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.38

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor.

RESOLUTION R-167-2020: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A 1990 INTERNATIONAL 4900 REAR LOADER FROM THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor.

RESOLUTION R-168-2020: RESOLUTION OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ADOPTING REMOTE PUBLIC MEETING PROCEDURES DURING A DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor.

Remarks from the Township Committee:

Committeeman Legge thanked the V.F.W. as well as the committee or supporting the VFW Run that was had last weekend. It was well attended. In addition Committeeman Legge noted that the Veterans Day ceremony will be had with social distancing.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that Trick or Treating is on and the we asked everyone to use common senses and wear a mask and continue to social distance. In addition, the Deputy Mayor noted that there is a Senior Citizen dinner being delivered tomorrow night as we have been doing this since COVID-19 does not allow us to have them in the Community Center. Tomorrow evening we will be delivering 184 dinners to the seniors of the Township.

Remarks from the Township Administrator:

Administrator Bileci reminded everyone hat the last day to register to vote would be October 13, 2020 and that there is a ballot drop boxes alongside the drive thru window of the municipal building.

Approval of the Bill List:

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to pay the bills; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. Committeeman Layton Abstained. All in Favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge.
All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela LeVine, Deputy Clerk