

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 12, 2021

Mayor Brantley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in-person in the Township Meeting Room. The Mayor requested the Clerk to call the roll. The following members were present: Keith Cafferty, Robert Lane, Jr., Nicholas Williams, and Mayor Michael Brantley.

Carol Rizzo resigned from the Township Committee effective April 1, 2021

Also present were Richard J. Cuttrell, Municipal Clerk; Vito D. Gadaleta, Business Administrator; and Gene Anthony, Township Attorney.

The Mayor announced that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 7, 2021 and March 25, 2021 posting the Notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda, resolutions and ordinance are posted online at www.neptunetownship.org.

The following items were discussed in open session:

Michael Beson and Brianne Callahan, NJ Future, made a presentation on the creation of a Stormwater Utility. Ms. Callahan stated that state legislation enables municipalities to establish a Stormwater Utility to help with infrastructure needs. NJ Future is a non-profit organization that assists municipalities in establishing a Stormwater Utility. The northeast U.S. has experienced a 71% increase in heavy rain events. A Stormwater utility collects money from property owners based on the amount of storm water the property generates. Funds must be used solely for stormwater management. Residential customers pay less than non-residential property owners and the fee applies to all properties regarding of tax exempt status. NJ Futures provides pro bono engineers to investigate the idea of establishing a utility. Mr. Beson added that a feasibility study is and NJ Futures has matching grants to cover the cost. A Stormwater utility helps pay for stormwater infrastructure that would normally be paid via the municipal budget. Mr. Cafferty asked if this will lower the tax burden. Mr. Beson replied that it is equitable because all property owners pay, including hospitals. Mr. Cafferty asked if the funds could be used for dredging. Mr. Beson was not sure but would check. Mayor Brantley asked Mr. Gadaleta to look into the possibility of a feasibility study.

Mr. Anthony reviewed a draft amendment to the solicitor ordinance and a new no-knock ordinance. He stated the existing ordinance requires a registration process for non-profits such as religious organizations, but does not list political organizations which needs to be included. The proposed amendment eliminates the registration requirements for non-profits and lists the non-profits and activities that would be exempted. It also amends the times for which solicitation is permitted. Under the provisions of the no-knock ordinance, a resident sign up on the no knock registry, pay a \$5.00 fee, and receive a sticker to be placed on your home. The exceptions to the no-knock ordinance would be the same as the solicitation ordinance. The Committee asked that both ordinances be placed on the next regular meeting for introduction.

The Committee will consider a resolution to support June as Pride Month at the next regular meeting. In addition, the rainbow flag will fly at the Municipal Building for the month of June.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the Township has certified at the bronze level through the Sustainable NJ Program. The Township is up for renewal, for which an extension can be requested. He wants to restart the Green Team and include citizen members. He will work with Mr. Anthony on the framework of the Green Team. Mr. Cafferty stated that Mr. Williams took the lead to get to the bronze level and he would like to work towards achieving the silver level. Mr. Williams recommended the involvement of Leanne Hoffmann, Township Engineer, who is a great asset.

Mr. Lane stated that Vivian Stein, mother of Don Stine, Reporter for the Coaster, passed away at 104 years old.

Mr. Cafferty announced that Asbury Park is organizing a clean-up of Wesley Lake on April 24th at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Gadaleta announced a ribbon cutting ceremony for Zen-Leaf on April 16th at 9:00 a.m. at the site of the former Smashburger.

AUTHORIZE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mr. Williams offered the following resolution, moved and seconded by Mr. Lane, that it be adopted:

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune, County of Monmouth, as follows:

1. The Public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters.

2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Real Estate negotiations - Sale of undersized Township owned lot at 1324 10th Avenue
Personnel – Recommendations for hiring full-time EMTs
Litigation – Update on on-going litigation

3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matters will be made public when matters are resolved.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The resolution was adopted on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Rizzo, aye; Williams, aye; and Brantley, aye.

The Committee entered executive session for discussion on closed session matters.

The Committee discussed the private sale of Township owned property at 1324 10th Avenue due to interest from an adjoining property owner. The Committee asked that the appropriate ordinance be placed on the next meeting for introduction to authorize the sale at a minimum bid of \$52,600.

The Committee reviewed recommendations for the hiring of four full-time and one part-time EMTs. The Committee took action by resolution at the regular meeting. The Committee also asked that a resolution be placed on the next regular meeting to hire Melanie Manning as a part-time EMT.

The Committee returned to the Meeting Room for the regular portion of the meeting.

Mayor Brantley called the regular meeting to order and requested the Clerk to call the roll. The following members were present: Keith Cafferty, Robert Lane, Jr., Nicholas Williams, and Mayor Michael Brantley.

Also present at the dais were Richard J. Cuttrell, Municipal Clerk; Vito D. Gadaleta, Business Administrator; and Gene Anthony, Township Attorney.

The Mayor led a moment of Silent Prayer and the Flag Salute.

The Mayor announced that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 7, 2021 and March 25, 2021 posting the Notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda, resolutions and ordinance are posted online at www.neptunetownship.org.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lane offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Cafferty, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 22, 2021. All were in favor.

MOTION TO CHANGE ORDER OF AGENDA

Mr. Cafferty offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Lane, to change the order of the agenda and consider a resolution to appoint a member to the Township Committee at this time. All were in favor.

APPOINT MEMBER TO THE NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr. Cafferty offered the following resolution to appoint Tassie York to the Township Committee and commented that Ms. York loves Neptune Township and knows and cares for

everyone, Mr. Lane moved and seconded the resolution by stating that Ms. York is a Neptune graduate, knows the heart of the community, and is a Pastor, social worker, and friend.

WHEREAS, Township Committeewoman Carol Rizzo resigned as a member of the Neptune Township Committee effective April 1, 2021, thereby creating a vacancy on the Committee; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:16-11, the Neptune Township Democratic Municipal Committee has submitted the names of three nominees for the section of a successor to fill the vacancy; and,

WHEREAS, the remaining members of the Township Committee desire to appoint one of the nominees to serve as a member of the Township Committee in accordance with said statute,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that Tassie D. York be and is hereby appointed to serve as a member of the Neptune Township Committee, effective upon adoption of this resolution, for the remainder of the year 2021; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the balance of Ms. Rizzo's unexpired term from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 shall be filled at the General Election on November 2, 2021; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Monmouth County Clerk.

The Mayor asked for public comments on the resolution and they were as follows:

Beverly Holland, expressed thanks to the Township Committee for their swift action in making this appointment. She stated that Ms. York is an excellent candidate and congratulated the Committee on the choice.

There being no further comments, the Mayor asked the Clerk to call the roll:

The resolution was adopted on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Lane, aye; Williams, aye; and Brantley, aye.

Mayor Brantley administered the Oath of Office to Ms. York. Ms. York was assisted by Beverly Holland. After the Oath, Ms. York took a seat on the dais.

Ms. York expressed thanks for the confidence in her. She grew up in Neptune and looks forward to working with the other four members of the Committee. She stated she is overwhelmed by the appointment and will give all that she can give. Her family comes first, but because so, she has to do what is best for Neptune and looks forward to working for the community.

COMMENTS FROM THE DAIS

Mr. Lane extended congratulations to Ms. York on her appointment to the Township Committee. He thanked Carol Rizzo for her service as a Committee member. He and Mr. Cafferty have met and are working on updating the tree ordinance. There is a resolution on this agenda to authorize a new phone system for the Senior Center. The Center is one of the most active in the state and is viewed as a model by other communities in the area. The Center hosted a vaccine clinic on April 7th and over 100 vaccinations were given. The Veterans Park Committee met and there will not be a Hometown Hero event this year. The Memorial Day Parade Committee will provide two scholarships to Neptune High School NJROTC students. He attended a 93rd birthday party for Dorothy Argyros. He announced that Don Stine's mother passed away at 104 years of age. Finally, the Jersey Shore Dream Center will hold an open house on May 2nd at its new location at the former Hamilton First Aid Squad building.

Mr. Cafferty welcomed Ms. York to the dais. He announced a Wesley Lake clean-up on April 24th. He discussed the Township's finances adding that it was a difficult year due to the pandemic; however, the surplus is increasing, the tax rate is lowering, and there are no cuts in services due to great work by the professionals and the governing body. The Easter Egg Hunt was held on a nice day and everyone had a fun time. He is working on the tree ordinance with Mr. Lane. He is revitalizing the Green Team and asked for citizen volunteers to join.

Mr. Williams stated that Public Works is switching to spring clean-up and summer mode. He met with Mr. Gadaleta at the marina and noted repairs that are needed. There is only one slip still available for summer rental and the kayak rack rentals are very popular this year. He visited the North End site and took pictures. He noticed things that need to be addressed and also noted improvement at the site during a follow-up visit. Further clean-up of the site prior to the start of construction will be started in May.

Ms. York thanked the Committee members for appointing her as a member of the Township Committee. She intends to work with the community and make enhancements whenever possible.

Mayor Brantley assigned Township departments to Ms. York that were formally assigned to Carol Rizzo. The Police Committee met and is hopeful to recommend the third citizen member by the April 26th meeting. He added that Mr. Gadaleta will be giving a status of the community center project at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Brantley asked for public comments regarding resolutions presented on this agenda only. The public was permitted to speak one time with a limit of five minutes.

Barbara Burns, asked for the name of the Special Counsel being appointed to perform legal work in connection with the community center and why this appointment is being made since there is nothing to do at this point since a site has not been chosen. The Mayor responded that Michael Celli, Assistant Township Attorney is the Special Counsel in this matter and he will only be paid when he performs work. Mr. Anthony added that Mr. Celli is not salaried but is paid hourly for work performed.

Nancy Clarke, 47 Embury Avenue, congratulated Tassie York on her appointment to the Township Committee. She asked for the process in the selection of Ms. York. Mr. Anthony stated the local Democratic Party has to submit three names within fifteen days of the vacancy and the Township Committee

ORDINANCE NO. 21-12 - APPROVED

Mr. Lane offered the following ordinance, moved and seconded by Mr. Cafferty, that it be approved:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-12

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VOLUME I, CHAPTER VII OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEPTUNE BY ADDING A RESIDENT ONLY HANDICAPPED PARKING ZONE ON HECK AVENUE AND REMOVING RESIDENT ONLY HANDICAPPED PARKING ZONES ON BENSON AVENUE AND COOKMAN AVENUE

The ordinance was approved on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Lane, aye; Williams, aye; York, aye; and Brantley, aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-13 - APPROVED

Mr. Cafferty offered the following ordinance, moved and seconded by Mr. Williams, that it be approved:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-13

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF BODY WORN CAMERAS, VEHICLE MOUNTED CAMERAS, AND RELATED COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, BY AND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NEPTUNE, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$380,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$361,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

The ordinance was approved on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Lane, aye; Williams, aye; York, aye; and Brantley, aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-14 - APPROVED

Mr. Lane offered the following ordinance, moved and seconded by Mr. Cafferty, that it be approved:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-14

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 18-06 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEPTUNE, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON MARCH 12, 2018 IN ITS ENTIRETY TO INCREASE THE TOTAL DEBT APPROPRIATION THEREIN FROM \$1,200,000 TO \$1,400,000, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE NJDOT TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND GRANT, TO INCREASE SECTION 20 COSTS, AND TO AMEND AND RESTATE OTHER PROVISIONS THEREIN

The ordinance was approved on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Lane, aye; Williams, aye; York, aye; and Brantley, aye.

Mr. Cuttrell stated that the public hearings on Ordinances 21-12, 21-13, and 21-14 will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Williams offered the following resolutions of the Consent Agenda, moved and seconded by Mr. Cafferty, that they be adopted:

ASSIGN SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR ALL LEGAL MATTERS CONCERNING THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY CENTER

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2021, the Township Committee adopted Resolution #21-146, which authorized the establishment of a General Capital account designated "Reserve for Preliminary Expenses for the Development of a Community Center" in the amount of \$40,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee desires to assign Michael Celli, Esq, as Special Counsel for all legal matters concerning the planning, development, and construction of a Community Center,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that Michael Celli, Esq, be and is hereby assigned as Special Counsel for all legal matters concerning the planning, development, and construction of a Community Center; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Township Attorney, Special Counsel, Chief Financial Officer, Business Administrator and Township Engineer.

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A RECIPROCAL MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Neptune desires to enter into a reciprocal Mutual Aid Agreement between Neptune Township Emergency Medical Services and Belmar Emergency Medical Services; and,

WHEREAS, mutual aid assistance agreements between municipalities for police, fire and emergency medical services are permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:14-26; and,

WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the residents of the Township of Neptune to enter into a reciprocal mutual aid and assistance agreement with the Borough of Belmar to provide emergency medical services if and when necessary; and,

WHEREAS, this Mutual Aid Agreement may be renewed on an annual basis and shall remain in effect for an unlimited timeframe unless cancelled by either entity in accordance with the notification requirements contained in the Agreement,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune hereby authorizes the execution of a reciprocal Mutual Aid Agreement with the Borough of Belmar, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk, for emergency medical services; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the EMS Manager, OEM Director and the Borough of Belmar.

ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE HAZARDOUS DISCHARGE SITE REMEDIATION FUND PUBLIC ENTITY PROGRAM THROUGH THE NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (SHARK RIVER MUNICIPAL MARINA – REMEDIAL ACTION)

WHEREAS, the Township of Neptune has applied for and has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,813.62 from the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund Municipal Grant Program through the Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for the Remedial Action of the Shark River Municipal Marina property,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that the above referenced grant is hereby accepted and the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute grant documents as an authorized representative thereunder, as the representative for the Township of Neptune; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a comprehensive plan exists specifically for the development or redevelopment of contaminated or partially contaminated real property in the host municipality or that a realistic opportunity exists that the Project Site will be developed or redeveloped within a three-year period from the completion of the remediation,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the Chief Financial Officer, Business Administrator and Administrative Assistant to the C.F.O.

RELEASE MAINTENANCE BOND POSTED FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT 168 & 170 HILLSIDE DRIVE (BLOCK 4916, LOTS 1.01 & 1.02)

WHEREAS, GVC Construction, LLC filed a maintenance bond written by First Indemnity of America Insurance Company in the amount of \$4,906.80, guaranteeing the maintenance of site improvements for two years at approved minor subdivision located at 168 & 170 Hillside Drive (Block 4916, Lots 1.02 and 1.02); and,

WHEREAS, the two year maintenance period has expired and the Township Engineer has conducted an inspection; and,

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2021, the Township Engineer certified that all site work has been completed and said maintenance bond may be released,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune hereby authorizes the release of the maintenance bond as stated herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Developer, Township Engineer, and Construction Official.

RELEASE ROAD OPENING BOND POSTED FOR 10 HAMPTON COURT

WHEREAS, GVF Construction, LLC posted a Road Opening Bond written by First Indemnity of America Insurance Company in the amount of \$4,000.00 guaranteeing roadway restoration at 10 Hampton Court; and,

WHEREAS, the required five year maintenance period has passed and the road opening has been restored and maintained,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune hereby authorizes the release of the Road Opening Bond for 10 Hampton Court as stated herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township Engineer.

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF AN AVAYA IP PHONE SYSTEM FOR THE SENIOR CENTER THROUGH THE STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Senior Center Director has recommended the purchase of an Avaya IP phone system through an authorized vendor under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program 1-NJCP; and,

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by

the Local Public Contracts Laws, N.J.S. 40A:11-12; and,

WHEREAS, OSI Technology has been awarded New Jersey State Contract No. A80802 for this equipment; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer recommends the utilization of this contract on the grounds that the price reflects a substantial savings; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of the equipment shall not exceed \$25,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available through the Senior Citizens Title III Grant and the Chief Financial Officer has so certified in writing,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that the purchase of an Avaya IP phone system through New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract No. A80802 be and is hereby authorized at an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer, Senior Center Director, Assistant C.F.O. and Auditor.

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A FORD F-250 TRUCK FOR THE MARINA UTILITY THROUGH THE STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Harbor Master has recommended the purchase of a 2021 Ford F-250 SRW XL 4WD truck through an authorized vendor under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program 1-NJCP; and,

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by the Local Public Contracts Laws, N.J.S. 40A:11-12; and,

WHEREAS, Beyer Ford has been awarded New Jersey State Contract No. A88727 for this vehicle; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer recommends the utilization of this contract on the grounds that the price reflects a substantial savings; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of the equipment shall not exceed \$27,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the Marina Capital Outlay and the Chief Financial Officer has so certified in writing,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that the purchase of a 2021 Ford F-250 SRW XL 4WD truck through New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract No. A88727 be and is hereby authorized at an amount not to exceed \$27,000.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer, Harbor Master, Assistant C.F.O. and Auditor.

AUTHORIZE THE REFUND OF TAXES AS A RESULT OF AN OVERPAYMENT

WHEREAS, the properties listed below reflect overpayments; and,

WHEREAS, they have furnished the necessary documentation and have requested a refund; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to refund the taxes as stated herein; and,

BLOCK	LOT	ASSESSED TO	ADDRESS	YEAR	AMOUNT
2303	6	Staples	4 Frederick Ave	2020	1,650.94
214	13	McMeeking	49 Embury Ave	2020	4,155.83
5012	14	Johnston	523 Lakewood Rd	2020	1,868.65

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector, Assistant C.F.O. and Auditor.

EMPLOY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN IN THE EMS DEPARTMENT ON A PART-TIME BASIS

WHEREAS, there is a need for an additional Emergency Medical Technician on a part-time hourly basis; and,

WHEREAS, the position was duly posted and applicants interviewed; and,

WHEREAS, the EMS Manager and Human Resources Director have made their recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, funds will be provided for the first four months of 2021 in the 2021 Temporary Budget, when adopted, and funds for the balance of 2021 will be provided in the 2021 Municipal Budget in the appropriation entitled Emergency Medical Services S&W, and the Chief Financial Officer has so certified in writing,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that Timothy Kortenhaus be and is hereby employed as a part-time Emergency Medical Technician, effective April 19, 2021, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation and medical evaluation, at an hourly rate of \$21.22; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the EMS Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant C.F.O., and Human Resources Director.

AUTHORIZE TOWNSHIP PLANNER TO PREPARE A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 3903, LOTS 12 AND 13 HAVING BEEN MERGED INTO A SINGLE LOT KNOWN AS LOT 12 (CORNER OF HIGHWAY 66 AND GREEN GROVE ROAD)

WHEREAS, Jennifer C. Beahm, Township Planner, conducted an investigation and prepared a report entitled "Area in Need of Redevelopment Investigation Report" (the "Study") pertaining to those certain areas along Route 66 identified as Block 3903, Lots 12 and 13 on the Tax Map of the Township of Neptune, having been merged into a single Lot known as Lot 12 and informally referred to as the Continental Data Building Site Study Area; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2021, the Planning Board adopted Resolution No. 21-05 recommending that Block 3903, Lots 12 and 13 on the Tax Map of the Township of Neptune, having been merged into a single Lot known as Lot 12, be designated as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2021, the Township Committee adopted Resolution #21-144 which designated said property as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Planner has submitted a proposal for professional planning services to prepare a Redevelopment Plan for said property; and,

WHEREAS, funds will be provided for the first four months of 2021 in the 2021 Temporary Budget, when adopted, and funds for the balance of 2021 will be provided in the 2021 Municipal Budget in the appropriation entitled Engineering O.E., and the Chief Financial Officer has so certified in writing,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that the Township Planner be and is hereby authorized and directed to prepare a Redevelopment Plan for Block 3903, Lots 12 & 13 (having been merged into a single lot known as Lot 12), located at the corner of Highway 66 and Green Grove Road, pursuant to the proposal for professional planning services dated April 7, 2021 at an amount not to exceed \$8,785.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township Engineer, Business Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant C.F.O., and Township Planner.

The resolutions of the Consent Agenda were adopted on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Lane, aye; Williams, aye; York, aye; and Brantley, aye.

EXTEND OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR POSITION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN IN THE EMS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Lane offered the following resolution, moved and seconded by Mr. Cafferty, that it be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Township desires to hire four full-time Emergency Medical Technicians in the EMS Department; and,

WHEREAS, the position was advertised and applicants were interviewed by the EMS Director and Human Resources Director; and,

WHEREAS, the EMS Director and Human Resources Director have made their recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, funds will be provided for the first four months of 2021 in the 2021 Temporary Budget, when adopted, and funds for the balance of 2021 will be provided in the 2021 Municipal Budget in the appropriation entitled Emergency Medical Services S&W, and the Chief Financial Officer has so certified in writing,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that four offers of employment be and are hereby extended the following individuals for the position of Emergency Medical Technician at an annual salary of \$45,000.00, on a probationary basis for a period of not less than 90 days and not exceeding one year, contingent upon favorable results of the required pre-employment testing, effective April 19, 2021:

Bryan Wartel
Brian Herczeg
Cristian Sevilla
Patrick Troy

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the EMS Director, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant C.F.O, Human Resources Director.

The resolution was adopted on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Lane, aye; Williams, aye; York, aye; and Brantley, aye.

AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Cafferty offered the following resolution, moved and seconded by Ms. York, that it be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that the following bills be paid if properly certified:

CURRENT FUND	4,402,835.75
GRANT FUND	486.00
TRUST FUND	56,313.78
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	26,745.34
SEWER OPERATING FUND	91,975.33
SEWER CAPITAL FUND	19,947.38
MARINA OPERATING FUND	2,895.00
MARINA CAPITAL FUND	1,035.68
DOG TRUST	461.40
LIBRARY TRUST	3,959.45
BILL LIST TOTAL	\$4,606,655.11

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Assistant C.F.O.

The resolution was adopted on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Lane, aye; Williams, aye; York, aye; and Brantley, aye.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Brantley asked for public comments regarding resolutions presented on this agenda only. The public was permitted to speak one time with a limit of five minutes. Comments were as follows:

Dr. James Chenitz, Shark River Hills, stated there is a rising number of covid cases in the area and he has serious concerns regarding everyone's health and well-being and the end to local transparency by holding live in-person Committee meetings. With Zoom format meetings, many residents participated. He asked the Committee to stop the abuse and treat townspeople with respect. He also stated that the West Lake Redevelopment Project should be finished before a community center is considered.

Larry Sims, 1802 Bradford Avenue, stated that trucks and trailers from construction companies in other municipalities come to his neighborhood and dump trash. This issue needs to be addressed. Mr. Gadaleta replied this is an on-going issue in his neighborhood. Zoning and Code Enforcement have been there. The problem stops for a while and then resumes. The Township will continue to look into the matter and try to identify where the equipment is coming from.

Eileen Michaels, 15 Seaview Avenue, stated she is a former nurse and people should stay away from public places. The Township did not provide enough time for people to make other arrangements so they could attend this meeting. The weather is also poor making it difficult to attend. The Mayor replied that the Committee wants to do what we can to hold in-person meetings and will adjust as necessary. There is no intention to cut people out from attending meetings.

Ms. Michaels stated there is no advantage to doing it this way and the public should be given the choice to attend in-person or remotely. Mr. Cafferty asked her opinion if the meetings have to be via Zoom, or livestream with texting. Ms. Michaels stated she wants the ability to communicate visually via Zoom. The Mayor stated that he wanted to start back in the live in-person format only and adjust as needed which will be discussed as we move forward.

Connie Holmes, 33 Winding Ridge Drive, congratulated Ms. York on her appointment to the Committee. She stated that at the last meeting, the Mayor told her to take up a matter with the Democratic Party. She said that she did not know the Party was running the town. The Mayor replied that the matter involving Kevin McMillan was political and the Party makes that decision. Ms. Holmes stated what was done was unfair and the Township Code says it is the Mayor and the Township Committee that decide who gets appointed to Committees. When she was removed, she was never notified. The Township Committee makes the final decision and that is not what was done.

Richard Williams, 1 Abbott Avenue, stated that he feels like Tammany Hall is in Neptune. The Committee owes Ms. Holmes an explanation as to why she was removed and not refer her to the Democratic organization. The Committee should use a hybrid model for its public meetings so that people can participate from home. He asked for a status on the review of the Ocean Grove Parking Study. The Mayor stated that a meeting date will be finalized shortly and the format of the meeting will be discussed. Mr. Williams stated that Carol Rizzo should be recognized in the near future. He asked if electric charging stations can be added to the North End project. Mr. Cafferty replied that the North End is private property and the approvals have been granted. The Developer can be asked to install charging stations, but not required to do so.

Joyce Klein, Mt. Hermon Way, encouraged the hybrid meeting format. Some are reluctant to come to public meetings. She is glad the Committee is looking into the parking situation in Ocean Grove. She asked for that meeting to occur in the evening via Zoom. She is also happy that Mr. Cafferty is restoring the Green Team. She read comments submitted to her by Joan Venezia. She wants to at least be able to watch the Committee meetings. Participation rose during the pandemic due to Zoom. She asked if the rooftop on the proposed hotel at the North End would be accessible to guests and have a bar. Mr. Cafferty replied that concept was not discussed at the Planning Board level.

Barbara Burns, Ocean Avenue, stated that she contacted neighboring towns and they hold their Committee meetings via Zoom. She questioned the ability of the Committee to be credible. With Zoom, the people can see the Committee and know what is going on.

Luisa Paster, 82 Broadway, congratulated Ms. York on her appointment. She stated that more engagement and more participation makes for a stronger Township and democracy. The Committee should be a hybrid format and continue that format beyond the pandemic. People have considerations that prevent them from attending meetings in-person.

Dianna Harris, 17 Willow Drive, congratulated Ms. York on her appointment. She asked if the position of Redevelopment Attorney still exists. The Mayor stated Joe Maraziti is still the Attorney and is active. The Township has been working on acquiring property on West Lake Avenue to control the site. Since the Township has done that, hopefully it will be easier to attract a Redeveloper. Ms. Harris stated that the role of MURC has diminished. If the Committee is still using the Redevelopment Agreement, the role of MURC is included in the Agreement and she hopes MURC will be recognized and involved. She stated that there is a greenhouse being added to the community garden so electric service is needed. Mr. Gadaleta replied that there is not enough amperage to bring power in easily. There is a significant cost involved, but there may be grant funding available. Mr. Cafferty stated there may be options to place a layer of compost at the bottom of the greenhouse which retains heat. Ms. Harris asked for further insight on the Green Team. Mr. Cafferty stated that Sustainable New Jersey encourages investment into green initiatives. The Township is currently at the bronze level. Mr. Williams replied the Township is within reach of the silver level and Joe Grillo is very involved in this initiative.

Nancy Clarke, Embury Avenue, played an audio of a portion of "Fanfare for the Common Man" written in World War II to celebrate everyday citizens and the importance of transparency. New Jersey has the second highest covid infection rate in the country. In-person meetings are endangering the lives of people. The Committee and citizens should be discussing other important issues, not the format of a meeting. She urged the Committee to broadcast meetings over the internet and not endanger the lives of the citizens.

Mr. Lane offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Williams, to adjourn. All were in favor.

Richard J. Cuttrell,
Municipal Clerk