

TOWNSHIP MEETING

October 16, 2019

The Township meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on October 16, 2019 in the Oxford Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, New Jersey

In attendance were Gerald Norton, Robert Nyland, Bill Ryan, Township Committee, Michael Lavery, Attorney, Michael Finelli, Engineer and Sheila L. Oberly, Municipal Clerk.

The flag salute was recited.

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:03

Meeting Minutes:

Mayor Ryan stated that there are changes to be made on the September 25th meeting minutes-on page 5, under Township Committee Reports and Correspondences, paragraph two, paragraph five and paragraph seven as stated.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to approve the September 4th and the September 25th with the changes Mayor Ryan stipulated.

Ordinances:

No Ordinances

Resolutions:

No Resolutions

New Business:

The Committee agreed to table the discussion of 2020 RFPs for all Professionals until the November 6, 2019 Township meeting.

Township Committee Reports and Correspondences:

Mayor Ryan stated that he received an e-mail from Debbie Hartman about funding for NJ Pedestrian/Bicycle Infrastructure Projects and funding for Safe Routes to School. (SRTS).

Mayor Ryan will forward the information about the funding for SRTS to Bob Magnuson, Superintendent of Oxford Central School.

The Committee asked Mr. Lavery about the class action notice associated with the manufacture, distribution, etc. of opiates.

Mr. Lavery will research the Opioid Negotiation Class Action Notice and report back to the Committee.

Mayor Ryan gave the Clerk the Warren County Recycling Plan Update and Resolution sent by the Warren County Planning Department and approved on August 28, 2019 by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The WC Planning Board sent this document to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for certification. The update was prepared in response to the letter from NJDEP dated March 8, 2018 certifying the September 27, 2017 Warren County District Solid Waste Management Plan.

Mr. Norton announced that there will be meetings in the Oxford Central School Library to discuss the referendum question that's on the ballot on November 5th. The meetings will be held on October 17th, 22nd, 28th and 30th at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Nyland suggested that the Township should look for a Community Event Planner to possibly have an apple festival, food trucks, etc. at the Oxford Lake. Also, to have a festival on the Oxwall property-ice carvings, snow cones, etc.

He stated that a few events could be held each year to advertise the Township. He asked that if anyone has ideas or is interested, to contact the Committee.

Township Engineer:

- The Scope Modification for Kauffman Road has been approved, which gives the Township more opportunity to cut the project in half and stay in the budget.
- 2020 Application for Kauffman Road-waiting for a response from NJDOT
- Discuss Soil Testing in Executive Session

Township Attorney:

Mr. Lavery will research the request from The Ministry of Salvation if churches are exempt from getting charged for garbage pick-up.

Motion to Pay Bills:

Mr. Nyland stated that he has a problem paying Brennan, LLC. Bill. He stated that the fee was a lot of money to do a summary of the project and to come to the Township Meeting to explain the Oxwall project. Also, there is no money left in the grant for the Oxwall project.

Mr. Finelli said he called Jeff Brennan and relayed the message and the questions that the Committee had about the bill. Mr. Brennan said he will check with his supervisors and get back to Mr. Finelli.

The Committee agreed to hold the bill for Brennan LLC in the amount of \$2,063.36.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to pay the bills approved at the meeting.

Public Comment:

Dana McGuire asked the status of the NJDOT bridge repair on Route 31 and Wall Street.

Mr. Nyland stated that it will probably be another year before the Township receives any information.

Public Comment was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting 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. The public shall be excluded from the discussion of any action upon the hereinafter-specific subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is: Soil Samples, Shared Services for Municipal Court and Shared Services for Municipal Clerk.

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public at the conclusion of the litigation.

The motion carried with the following roll call vote.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to enter Executive Session at 7:35 PM to discuss Soil Sample Testing, Shared Services with Belvidere Court and Shared Services for the Clerk.

Michael Lavery, Township Attorney stated:

Entering Executive Session to discuss Shared Services. We had to send the Clerk a RICE Notice because anytime you are going to discuss performance or somebody's employment status, you

have to send something called a RICE Notice, So it is to protect the employee so they can sit there and listen to whatever is being said about them. In this case we had to send a RICE Notice, because the Township Committee is considering entering into a shared service with another municipality for services of the Clerk. If that was to occur obviously then the Clerk would not be employed with the Township of Oxford if they enter into such an agreement. So the Clerk has requested that the discussion be held in public so we can't discuss-obviously the contract has to be discussed in closed session because someone can telegraph to another town what position we are taking in the negotiations, so I just want to make that explanation in public because the Clerk asked that the discussion be held in public. There is really no discussion about her job performance. The discussion is about the contract but because of the way the law is written, we had to send a RICE Notice saying-hey this could affect your employment. Whatever happens with the negotiations, if the town decides to go forward with it, yes it would obviously have an impact on that. But if that was to occur, there is a statutory process in place where if the towns come to an agreement, there has to be a public hearing. The Clerk and public get two weeks in advance to review the contract-the proposed agreement and then that's prior to the public hearing. And you can voice any concerns you might have at the public hearing. So that is the extent of the discussion we will have in public. Now we are going into private to discuss the terms of the contract. If in fact the town goes into that, you will be notified there will be a public hearing and then the document will be on file two weeks prior and anyone can come in and look at it. And we have to provide one to the Clerk and any other affected employee.

The Attorney asked the Clerk to leave Executive Session at 8:12 PM to discuss the potential shared service with Washington Borough for the position of Clerk. The Executive Session minutes will be prepared by Mr. Lavery on the discussion of Shared Service with Washington Borough for the position of Clerk.

Mayor Ryan asked the Clerk to return to the meeting at 8:24 PM.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to enter open session at 8:25 PM.

Mr. Lavery stated "In Executive Session, we discussed Soil Samples, Shared Service with Belvidere Court and potential Shared Services with Washington Borough for the position of Clerk."

Mr. Lavery stated: "A motion is needed to authorize Mayor Ryan to negotiate the terms discussed in Executive Session with Washington Borough."

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the terms with Washington Borough that was discussed in Executive Session for the Clerk's position.

Sharon Cooper, Risk Management Consultant for PAIC attended the meeting and presented to the Township a surplus check in the amount of \$4,795.00 for the following years 2001, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Sheila L. Oberly, RMC