

**TOWNSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2018**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Oxford was held on November 7, 2018 in the Township Municipal Building, at 11 Green Street, Oxford, New Jersey.

In attendance were Robert Nyland, Bill Ryan, Doug Ort, James Moscagiuri, Township Attorney and Sheila L. Oberly. Michael Finelli was absent.

The flag salute was recited.

Mayor Nyland called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Meeting Minutes:

On motion by Mr. Ort, seconded by Mr. Ryan and passed unanimously on roll call vote to approve the September 19th and October 17th meeting minutes.

Ordinances:

No Ordinances scheduled

Resolutions:

Resolution 2018-55 Dog Licensing Official was tabled from the October 17th meeting to the November 7th meeting.

Mayor Ryan stated at the January 16th meeting, that he wanted a revision made to the RICE Notice section of the November 7th meeting minutes with a more accurate description of the actual conversation. He said a lot was left out and asked that the tape be reviewed, and more details of the conversation be included in the minutes. He said he never discussed any salary increase except a flat increase and did not discuss a salary for dog licensing. He asked that the minutes be retyped to be more accurate and objective.

At the January 16th meeting a motion was made by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously roll call vote, to table the November 7th minutes.

RICE Portion of the November 7th meeting minutes were retyped for approval at the March 20, 2019 meeting.

Conversation verbatim on November 7th between Mr. Ryan and Ms. Oberly in reference to the **Resolution 2018-55 Dog Licensing Official.**

Mayor Nyland: Do we vote on the resolution or do we bring up any questions or any grievances there might be.

Ryan: "I don't see how this got on the agenda. (He asked the Committee) "Did you put it on the agenda?" Mr. Nyland and Mr. Ort said no. "How did it get on the agenda without at least the courtesy to the Mayor telling him it was going to be on the agenda?"

Oberly: "I put resolutions on the agenda all the time." Back in February, Bill and I had a meeting. He asked me to wait to get paid for doing dog licenses until 2019." "I have done this job since I started"

Ryan: "We met in February and I have an e-mail that says I heard what you said, and I don't agree."

Oberly: "I have an e-mail that says you agreed to the \$4,000.00 next year for dog licensing. I will find it for you."

Ryan: "Everything was off the table."

Oberly: "At that time, we discussed, and I asked for compensation for the jobs of Registrar and Dog Licensing." You agreed to pay me for Registrar in 2018 and at that time you asked me to wait until next year (2019) to get paid for dog licensing. I agreed."

Ryan: "I don't recall that." We had a conversation with the auditor and the dog license doesn't generate \$4,000.00 a year in revenue."

Oberly: "Dog Licenses-Animal Control Fund is like the Lake Trust. As of today, there is a balance of \$13,189.89 plus a \$340.00 deposit in transit. This trust must be used for only dog expenses."

Ryan: "I did not agree to this last year."

Oberly: "Let me find the e-mail. I talked to both Committee people separately and was told there was no problem."

Mayor Nyland: "Doesn't this have to be brought up in the 2019 Budget, that's what we did last year."

Oberly: "If you remember last year-you changed your DPW Supervisor from hourly to salary and in October (2017), you passed a resolution that started in January, so I did the same thing."

Ort: "This salary would start in 2019?"

Oberly: "Yes, that's what the agreement was when I talked to Bill back in February. He asked me if I would wait till 2019 and I said okay."

Ryan: "I never agreed to a dog salary."

Oberly: "Oh Bill, yes you did."

Ryan: "Sheila, I did not."

Oberly: "As soon as I find the e-mail, I will give it to you to read, I know I have it."

Ryan: "It says in the e-mail-You asked for \$5,000.00 for Registrar and \$4,000.00 for dog Licensing."

Oberly: "Correct"

Ryan: "And I didn't agree-same e-mail that says I heard what you said, but I don't agree so as far as I am concerned, I am not voting for it."

Oberly: "You didn't agree with the \$5,000.00 for Registrar, I only got \$4,500.00. I even asked at that time if you would sign something because in the past, I was promised by former committees and it never came to be. I asked if you would sign a paper and you said no problem."

Ryan: "After we met, I got this e-mail. You didn't agree with what was talked about."

Attorney: "There's a motion pending whether to accept the resolution. Any salary increases or anything must come before the full Committee and officially acted on, must be required by official action of the Committee."

Oberly: "I agree." (Gave e-mail to Bill) "Here's your agreement."

Ryan: "And here is your response."

Oberly: "Yes, because you did not agree with the \$5,000.00 for Registrar but I agreed to the \$4,000.00 for dog licensing."

Ryan: "I never agreed to a dog stipend or salary"

Oberly: "I don't believe that you are actually saying that. I really don't! We had a meeting here, Bob walked in at the end of the meeting. I asked both of you if you would sign something and then it was discussed in Executive Session."

Ryan: "All we talked about is a \$4,000.00 salary last year and a \$4,000.00 raise in salary this year. Nothing about dog licensing."

Oberly: "Then what is the \$4,000.00 for this year?"

Ryan: "I don't know." You were looking for a raise in your base salary."

Oberly: "For jobs that I am doing and asked for \$5,000.00- for Registrar."

Ryan: "You said you didn't agree with that."

Oberly: "Because you offered me \$4,000.00 for Registrar and I didn't agree with that because I asked for \$5,000.00. I was given \$4,500.00 the beginning of this year for Registrar but you did agree to \$4,000.00 next year."

Ryan: "Registrar came up in Executive Session, we talked about adding it to your salary."

Oberly: "I get a salary for Registrar - You agreed to \$4,000.00 next year and asked me to wait another year, you wouldn't give it to me all in the same year."

Ryan: "As far as I am concerned, you didn't agree, it was off the table, so it's a moot point, I didn't agree-you didn't agree."

Oberly: "It is in writing, I agreed to \$4,000.00 next year, that's exactly what you put, \$4,000.00 next year. I didn't agree to \$4,000.00 for Registrar because I asked for \$5,000.00."

Ryan: "You said you didn't agree. I make a motion to remove the resolution from the agenda."

Oberly: "And I am going to say this is discrimination."

Attorney: "Don't have to make a motion to remove from the agenda, its tabled so you can leave it tabled unless someone makes a motion to untable it-just no action will be taken and move on."

Ryan: "I rescind the motion."

Oberly: "Also I want to say that I was RICE noticed and no other employee that has received any raises, received a RICE Notice."

Ryan: "Talk to our attorney."

Attorney: "Nothing to talk about, this is the proper procedure."

Oberly: "Why was I singled out-I feel like I have been targeted and discriminated against. I don't understand why, since it was agreed upon. I understand a motion wasn't made, but I took him at his word, he wrote it down and now he is saying he didn't say it!"

Mayor Nyland: "Do you want to ask anything else? I want to ponder this a little more, so I am closing the debate and the resolution remains tabled until next meeting, December 12, 2018."

New Business:

The Committee reviewed the 2018/2019 Best Practices Worksheet that the Clerk sent to The New Jersey Division of Local Government Services on November 5, 2018.

Mayor Nyland informed the Committee that he has been speaking with Belvidere about a Shared Municipal Court. He stated that it should save the Township \$20,000.00. Mayor Nyland will move forward and ask for a written contract from Belvidere for Committee review at the December 12th meeting.

Robert Magnuson, Superintendent of Oxford Central School stated that the school will hold a Special Election on January 22, 2019, on a referendum regarding the debt service.

He stated that meetings will be held before the January election, with dates and times of the meetings posted on the school website, Facebook and the Township's website.

Township Committee Reports and Correspondences:

Mayor Nyland stated that a letter was sent out to Oxford residents from the Sussex, Warren Area Energy Cooperative Program, containing information explaining the "Community Aggregation Program." This program is to provide lower electric generation rates that residents would currently pay to JCP&L. This new rate will begin March 2019 and continue through December 2020.

The Committee reviewed the DynaTech Generators Preventative Maintenance Agreement, to reduce additional service calls and extend the life of the generator.

Mr. Ort stated that the generator at the sewer pump station on Vista Rossi is completely down and needs to be fixed as soon as possible. He said it would cost the Township \$2,500.00 per load to call someone to pump out.

On motion by Mr. Ort, seconded by Mr. Ryan and passed unanimously on roll call vote to approve the DynaTech Agreement's annual plan that includes one major inspection, engine oil, oil filters, coolant filters, and fuel filters for \$700.00 per year.

Mr. Ort said that the pipe with water flowing from it, is still across the sidewalk at Green Street. He will contact Mr. Finelli.

Mayor Nyland discussed the property at 45 Bush Street that needs to be cleaned up. He stated that the Department of Public Works is authorized to clean-up the property and a bill will be sent to the Mortgage Company as per the fees on the addendum of the vacant property ordinance.

Mayor Nyland informed everyone that the Oxford Annual Tree Lighting will be held on December 1st - 4-6 PM.

- 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM-Enjoy Music by DJ Doug and Singing by the Oxford Daisy's, Brownies and Girl Scout Troops.
- Cookies and Hot Chocolate will be Served
- Soup will be available at the Methodist Church on Belvidere Avenue
- Crafts for Kids on Wall Street
- 4:30 PM Santa Arrives
- 4:30-6:00 PM-Hayrides- (starting at the Downtown Monument to the Methodist Church)
- 5:15 PM Official Tree Lighting

** Kids for Kids Christmas will also be held-Kids can bring a new unwrapped toy to give to Santa to support local Oxford Families.

Mr. Ryan will attend the Covanta meeting on November 16th to discuss Covanta's closing.

Township Engineer:

Mr. Finelli was absent

Attorney's Report:

Mr. Moscagiuri stated he had nothing to report.

Motion to Pay Bills:

On motion by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Ort and passed unanimously on roll call vote to pay all the bills presented and approved at the meeting.

Public Comment:

Mayor Nyland said that the Committee received a letter from a resident that has concerns about people residing at 76 Belvidere Avenue known as the “Ministry if Salvation Fellowship”

He stated in the letter that at this current time, there are two vehicles, a man and a dog living and residing at this location.

Mayor Nyland gave the complaint to the attorney to review.

Public Comment was closed.

On motion by Mr. Ort, seconded by Mr. Ryan and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM.

Sheila L. Oberly, RMC