**OXFORD TOWNSHIP MEETING**

**August 18, 2021**

The meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on August 18, 2021 in the Oxford Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, NJ.

Notice of time, date, location and agenda of this meeting, to the extent then known was provided at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of this meeting in the following manner pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the law of 1975 “the Open Public Meetings Act”:

* Emailing to the Express Times / Warren County NJ Zoned Edition
* Posting on the Township web-site and Facebook page

In attendance was Gerald Norton, Georgette Miller and Linda Koufodontes, Township Committee, Matthew Hall, Township Administrator, James Moscaguiri, Attorney, Michael Finelli, Township Engineer, and Susan Turner, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Norton opened the meeting at 7:01 PM

**Meeting Minutes:**

Georgette Miller moved to accept the August 4, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

**Public Comment on Agenda items:** - No comments

**Ordinances-1st Reading/Public Hearing:**

* **Ordinance 2021-16** Feeding of Cats and Dogs

**ORDINANCE 2021-16**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 118, *ANIMALS*, SECTION 31, *FEEDING OF CATS AND DOGS*, IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE PROHIBITION ON FEEDING ANIMALS OUTSIDE OF THE PRIMARY STRUCTURE**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Chapter 118, *Animals*, Section 31, *Feeding of Cats and Dogs*, Subsection A is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

Section 1.

§118-31. **Feeding of cats and dogs outside of primary structures prohibited; responsibility of owner.**

1. **No person, agency or institution shall at any time cause, suffer or allow any person, agency, or institution to make food available for the purposes of feeding dogs or cats in any location other than inside the primary structure located on the property owned or leased by the person, agency, or institution thereon**.

**Section 2:**

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder off this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 3:**

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

**Section 4:**

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

**Resolutions:**

* **Resolution 2021-54** Opposing Mask Mandate in Schools

**RESOLUTION 2021-54**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY OPPOSING EXECUTIVE ORDER 251, ANNOUNCED AUGUST 6, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of New Jersey, Phillip Murphy, has enacted a new mask mandate

(EO 251) for New Jersey school children announced on August 6, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor has decreed that all New Jersey school children will wear a mask upon

the return to school in September 2021, unless specific exemption criteria is met; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Oxford acknowledges potential risks to children from Covid 19, the Governing Body also acknowledges that it is the right and responsibility of individual parents and caregivers to make appropriate healthcare decisions for their own children including the right to assess both the costs and benefits of mask wearing.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Governing Body endorses the fundamental rights of parents and guardians to make the decision of whether to send their children to school in a mask based on the parents and individual child’s healthcare needs and potential risks to others.

**NOW, THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED** this in no way detracts from the potential seriousness of Covid-19 but rather affirms parental autonomy and authority in making appropriate decisions for their own children.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee acknowledges that parents and guardians along with their healthcare providers are in the best position and authority to make this determination for their own children.

Linda Koufodontes moved to accept Resolution 2021-54. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

* **Resolution 2021-55 –** Cell Tower Lease Award Unison

**RESOLUTION 2021-55**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AWARDING AN ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE TO UNISON**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14 authorizes the lease by municipalities of any real property, capital improvements or personal property or interests therein, not needed for public use to the highest bidder by open public bidding at auction or by submission of sealed bids after the required newspaper advertisements; and

**WHEREAS,** the Township of Oxford is the owner of certain real property known as Block 31.01, Lot 21.01 (street address: Pequest Road) on which is situated a cellular tower with arrays; and

**WHEREAS**, said property is currently leased for the operation of a wireless communications tower and related facilities (the “Leasehold”); and

**WHEREAS,** the Township is the Lessor as defined in that certain lease dated December 21, 2000 (“Lease”) setting forth the terms and conditions of the Leasehold in which Omnipoint Communications is the Lessee and which copy of the Lease, along with other documents regarding the existing Lease, is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township advertised for the submission of bids for the assignment of the Lease to the highest bidder and a recommendation was made to award said assignment to Unison Management, LLC and/or its successors and assigns (“Unison”) and to enter into a wireless communication easement and assignment agreement (“Easement Agreement”) with Unison, subject to verification of contract documents and due diligence.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee that the assignment of the Lease is awarded to Unison and the Township will enter into the Easement Agreement with Unison based upon Unison’s agreement to pay the Township (i) five (5) installment payments over four (4) years of $346,408.80 per installment for a $1,732,044 total payment over time, with the initial payment due at Closing, and (ii) contingent payments of five (5) installment payments of $68,383.00 per installment for a $341,915 total payment over time, such contingent payments being payable if additional due diligence completed by Unison within one (1) year following the assignment of the Lease confirms the revenue share amounts and reveals license 342176 is attributable to Sprint (not license 522111).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor is authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the assignment.

Mayor Norton moved to accept Resolution 2021-55. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

* **Resolution 2021-56** – Mine Hill Resurfacing

**RESOLUTION 2021-56**

**OXFORD TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY/STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**A RESOLUTION OF AWARD, RESURFACING OF MINE HILL ROAD**

Be it resolved, that on August 18, 2021 the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford adopted this resolution to award unit bid prices for individual construction items to perform the necessary construction to complete the Resurfacing of Mine Hill Road, a New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid funded project with a total project grant award in the amount of $136,700.

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of $94,339.05. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, South State Inc., which included the following items and unit prices:

ITEM DESCRIPTION UNIT QUANTITY UNIT UNIT TOTAL

NO. PRICE EXTENSION

1 2” Hot Mix Asphalt 1077 TN $66.25 $71,351.25

(HMA) 12.5M64

2 HMA Milling 0-2” 8514 SY $2.70 $22,987.80

TOTAL $94,339.05

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of $19,739.00. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Road Safety Systems, LLC, which included the following items and unit prices:

ITEM DESCRIPTION UNIT QUANTITY UNIT UNIT TOTAL

NO. PRICE EXTENSION

3 Galvanized Steel Beam, 54 LF $35.00 $1,890.00

Guide Rail

4 Removal of Existing 207 LF $7.00 $1,449.00

Beam Guide Rail

5 Tangent Guide Rail 4 EA $3,100.00 $12,400.00

Terminals (50’)

6 Beam Guide Rail Bridge 2 EA $2,000.00 $4,000.00

Attachment

TOTAL $19,739.00

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of $1,872.06. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Denville Line Painting, Inc., which included the following items and unit prices:

ITEM DESCRIPTION UNIT QUANTITY UNIT UNIT TOTAL

NO. PRICE EXTENSION

7 Traffic Striping, Epoxy 4” 5,964 LF $0.29 $1,729.56

8 Traffic Markings 30 SF $4.75 $142.50

Thermoplastic

TOTAL $1,872.06

Michael Finelli stated because of a typographically error, a corrected resolution awarding the bid has to be submitted to the State DOT.

Georgette Miller moved to accept Resolution 2021-56. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

**Appointments:**

-Land Use Board Class III member – Georgette Miller moved to appoint Linda Koufodontes as Land Use Board Class III member. Seconded by Mayor Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

-DPW – Linda Koufodontes moved to appoint Gerald Norton liaison to the DPW. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

-Public Safety –Georgette Miller moved to appoint Gerald Norton the Public Safety & Police liaison. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

-Board of Education – Mayor Norton moved to appoint Linda Koufodontes liaison to the Board of Education. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

-Board of Chosen Commissioners – Mayor Norton moved to appoint Linda Koufodontes liaison to the Board of Chosen Commissioners. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

**New Business:**

-Letter to residents re: vacated Axford Avenue alley – Mayor Norton asked Matt Hall and Susan Turner to compose a letter of explanation to residents whose property was affected by the Ordinance.

-Mold Remediation – The surface mold was removed and the basement moisture abated. Lou Accetturo contacted 3 environmental companies for quotes to complete the clean up. RK Environmental quoted $22,166.00. Green Home Solutions quoted $7,475.00. The third company did not show up to their appointment. Mayor Norton moved to accept the quote from Green Home Solutions for mold remediation. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

-League of Municipalities – Mayor Norton stated the annual League of Municipalities convention will begin November 18, 2021. He and Lou Accetturo will attend. He asked the Commissioners to advise Matt Hall if they plan to attend. He will send the info to the Clerk for registration.

**Old Business**:

* Verizon bill – Matt Hall stated the phone number questioned is an active communications, non-emergency line and recommended posting it on the website.
* Matt Hall has not heard back from JCP&L regarding dead ash trees. He will contact another person there for information.
* Cigars and Bourbon Night – Georgette Miller stated the event has been moved to October 2, 2021.
* Triangle – Mayor Norton stated LSRP emails with the NJDEP now indicate only a cursory review of the property clean up has been done and the full review will be started in March 2022. He asked if there are alternatives that would move this along more quickly. Discussion included contacting Assemblymen and Senators and the Township handling the clean up.

**Township Committee Reports and Correspondence**

* Dog Park – Georgette Miller is waiting for information from the DPW.
* Christmas Tree Lighting – Georgette Miller would like to schedule the lighting for Saturday, Nov 27, 2021. A full day of festivities will be held downtown which would require some streets to be closed.
* Sign – One family has agreed to be in the picture. Mr. Magnuson is reaching out to some other families.

**Township Administrator** –No additional information to report.

**Township Engineer Report:**

* Mike Finelli stated the Mine Hill Road project is in the Co-op queue and is expected to start mid to late September.
* The 2022 DOT grants may be announced in October or November.
* His office had a pre-construction meeting with the Spring Meadows contractor. The contractor will handle traffic control during the project. They have an aggressive schedule that allows a little more than a month for completing the project. It is expected to start mid to late September.
* Mike has Co-op quotes for 3 roads: Buckley Avenue, Snyders Lane and Henry Street. Funds for Snyders Lane were part of the original bond, Buckley is a smaller project and Henry will be done next year. Matt Hall and the CFO will review the DPW budget for funds to complete Buckley.
* Georgette Miller asked for a progress report on 119 Belvidere Ave. Mike stated there was a virtual hearing last week at which the current Judge stated he is moving the zoning portion of the violations to the Hackettstown Court since he prosecuted them last year. The police citations will be heard in his court. Mayor Norton stated the Township has received approval for our attorney to prosecute the zoning violations.

**Township Attorney’s Report:** No report

**Motion To Pay Bills:**

Georgette Miller moved to pay all bills presented to and approved by the Committee. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

**Reports:** Deputy Police Chief Jones stated the Belvidere Avenue property court date has been moved to September 28, 2021.

Regarding the grass cuttings in the road on Shippen Ridge, he has been in contact with the property maintenance company.

He discussed with the Animal Control Officer the ordinance for feeding feral cats.

The Mine Hill Speed Reader, over 4 days, recorded 4200 vehicles at an average speed of 35.5 mph. The Police Department would like to set it up on the top of the hill for a longer period of time.

**Public Comment**: Bob Magnuson, Superintendent Oxford Central School, asked about the NJDOT Route 31 bridge project. Mike Finelli and Matt Hall stated they have not received any updates and it would take place during the 2022-23 school year. They will keep him updated.

Mr. Magnuson requested a copy of the Spring Meadows project schedule. Mike Finelli will send it to him once it has been finalized.

**Meeting Recap:**

Matt Hall will contact Bob Flynn at JCP&L.

Matt Hall will review the DPW budget with the CFO.

**Executive Session**- No Executive Session

Mayor Norton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. Seconded by Georgette Miller. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

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