

Meeting audio can be found at lebanontownship.net.

**Lebanon Township Committee
March 17, 2021**

Minutes of Regular Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mike Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the “Open Public Meeting Act” this is a Regular Meeting of the Township Committee as published in the Hunterdon Review, the agenda has been posted at the Municipal Building and distributed to the Hunterdon Review, Courier News, the Express Times, the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Star Ledger.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Schmidt asked everyone to please stand for the Flag Salute and for a moment of silence in honor of the First Responders, Health Care Heroes and Servicemen and Women

Committeewoman Koehler announced with sorrow the passing of one of Lebanon Township’s finest, Retired Detective Lieutenant Stephen Jordon. He worked for the Township from 1971-1991. The Township would like to extend condolences to his family.

ROLL CALL

Present - Mike Schmidt Tomas McKee Abe Abuchowski (via telecom)

 Beverly Koehler Marc Laul

Absent-

Also Present - Administrator James Barberio, Deputy Clerk Kimberly Jacobus, Attorney Matt Lyons and Engineer Ted Bayer

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the January 6, 2021 Reorganization Meeting

Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Laul and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee adopted the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 6, 2021.

Minutes of the March 3, 2021 Regular Meeting (Tabled)

PUBLIC COMMENTS – for agenda items only.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Laul and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

PRESENTATION - Musconetcong River Pipeline Removal-Chevron

Plans were discussed regarding the Chevron pipeline removal from the Musconetcong River. Ellen Haggerty from Arcadia gave site history, location of pipelines, the plans for removing them and the permitting considerations that affects the site. She stated that this site is the first viable pipeline, from the oil fields in Pennsylvania to the Bayonne refinery. The site first started operations in 1887. The National Park Service had requested the removal of the pipes crossing the river from the property that Chevron owns. Work will begin around August, 2021 when the river is generally at its lowest.

ORDINANCE – Stormwater Management

Introduction-Tabled

Township Engineer Bayer was present to discuss Stormwater Management Ordinance. Discussion was held. The Township Committee tabled the ordinance. There are several revisions that need to be made before it is introduced.

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04
ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
ENTITLED “STORMWATER MANAGEMENT” TO REFLECT AMENDMENTS TO
THE NEW JERSEY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RULES AT N.J.A.C. 7:8.
ADOPTED MARCH 2, 2020**

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 36-2021 – Budget Transfer

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 36-2021 as attached.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Chief's Succession Process

The Mayor stated that the Police Chief has given the Committee April 30 as his retirement date. Mr. Laul stated that the posting for Chief interviews has been posted in the police department. Interview meetings need to be scheduled. The new Chief will be announced at the April 7 Township meeting.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved March 31, April 1 and April 6 at 5p.m. for Special Meetings for the purpose of interviewing Police Chief Candidates and any other business that comes before the Committee.

Marijuana Zoning Regulations

Mayor Schmidt stated that the State has implemented legislation regarding legalization of Cannabis. The Township Attorney has put together a memo for the Committee informing them of their options; they have 180 days, or until August 22, 2021, for them to decide if they want to have any local restrictions, any local zoning restrictions or if no action is to be taken by then, the Township will fall completely under the State requirements.

Attorney Lyons stated that there are 6 distinct classes of cannabis activity. The Townships first issue is the right to prohibit any or all of the classes. Attorney Lyons stated that if the Township takes no action they are then locked into the permissive position for 5 years.

Discussion was held regarding the different classes. The Committee also discussed having s Special Meeting with the Planning Board as this will be a Land Use Ordinance. Ms. Koehler suggested that Mayor Schmidt and Mr. Abuchowski be on a sub-committee to work on the Marijuana ordinance

Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Mayor Schmidt and Mr. Abuchowski working together as a sub-committee.

Residential Lighting

There has been numerous phone calls to the Township regarding lighting issues. Since this falls under Land Use which is the Planning Board, they would be the ones to put the ordinance together. Ms. Koehler and Mr. Abuchowski will by working on the lighting ordnance on a Planning Board sub-committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 35-2021

LTCM

03/17/2021

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Mr. Abuchowski asked for procedural information regarding going back to Resolution #35-2021. He stated that the Resolution is now a public document and he would like it to be sent to

Erik Peterson, Mike Doherty, John DiMaio and Commissioner Susan Soloway. He stated that an individual could send it to them but he would like a vote from the Township Committee to have it sent from the Township. Attorney Lyons stated that anyone individually on the Committee could send the resolution. Correspondence from the Committee would be subject to a motion. Mayor Schmidt purposed that it be on the next agenda. Mr. Abuchowski asked if they could make a motion.

Motion was made and seconded. Discussion was briefly held on the matter.

Motion by Mr. Abuchowski, seconded by Ms. Koehler, and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved having the Clerk send the resolution to the following: Assemblyman Erik Peterson, Senator Mike Doherty, Assemblyman John DiMaio and Commissioner Director Susan Soloway. AYES: McKee, Koehler, Abuchowski NAYES: Laul, Schmidt

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ETHICS TRAINING

Mr. Barberio stated that he was looking at April 21 for Ethics Training for the Township Committee. It would start at 6 pm, before the regular meeting.

Mr. Barberio informed the Committee that the IT Company did an assessment of the Municipal Office and Police Department. The Municipal office has 11 computers of which 8 need to be upgraded to Windows 10 and the Police have 8 computers and 2 need to be updated. The Township is in the process of getting Microsoft License for emails.

The Township Engineer answered all related questions for the Hazardous Mitigation Plan, as well as the OEM Coordinator and Administrator. The only questions left are for the Township Planner and the CFO. Once all are completed, Mr. Barberio will review the Hazardous Mitigation Plan with the OEM Coordinator.

Mr. Barberio stated that the Zoning Officer had a difficult complaint, so they did a Zoom meeting with the resident and the meeting went well.

Mr. Barberio also stated that he will be completing the Table of Organization shortly and then to the Committee for their review.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Chief's Request to Purchase E Ticket Software

Chief Rautenberg wants to upgrade software in the police cars for the safety of the police officers while writing tickets.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. Abuchowski and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee authorized the purchase of the GTBM E-Ticket Software, State Contract #89980, a 5-year contract, for 5 licenses, at a cost of \$2336.40 each year conditioned upon the certification of funds by the CFO.

Hunterdon Land Trust – Request for Contribution

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. Abuchowski and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved a \$500 contribution to the Hunterdon Land Trust.

Raritan Headwaters – Request for Donation

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. Abuchowski and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved a \$500 donation for the 31st Annual Stream Cleanup to the Raritan Headwaters.

VOUCHERS

Committee Members provided a description of vouchers exceeding \$1,000.00.

Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Abuchowski, and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the March 17, 2021 bill list in the amount of \$90,432.12.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. American Tower Request for Consent to Sublease
- b. Tax Collector's Report for the Month of January 2021
- c. Curator's Report
- d. Fire Department's Report
- e. Historian's February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Several residents had comments regarding Resolution No. 35-2021, items not being on the agenda and will the Budget Work Session be public.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Committee a motion was made by Mr. McKee seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly S. Jacobus
Deputy Clerk

Approved: May 5, 2021

Mike Schmidt, Mayor