

Meeting audio can be found at lebanontownship.net.

**Lebanon Township Committee
May 6, 2020**

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 our EMS, Police and Firemen and for the individuals who have died from COVID-19 particularly Officer Frank Scorpo, who was the son-in-law of our CFO, Greg DellaPia. Officer Scorpo worked for the Paterson Police Department and passed on Easter Sunday at the age of 34, leaving two small children.

ROLL CALL

Present -	Mike Schmidt	Thomas McKee	Brian Wunder
	Marc Laul	Beverly Koehler	

Absent-

Also Present - Attorney Matt Lyons, Administrator James Barberio, Police Chief Erik Rautenberg (Via Teleconference) CFO Greg DellaPia and Clerk Karen Sandorse

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Special and Special Executive Session Meetings of April 1, 2020

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the Special and Executive Session meetings of April 1, 2020.

Minutes of the Regular and Executive Session Meetings of April 1, 2020

Motion by Mr. Wunder seconded by Mr. Laul and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the Regular and Executive Session meetings of April 1, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – for agenda items only.

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

POLICE SERGEANT PROMOTIONS

Police Chief Rautenberg stated that he recommends the promotion of Patrolman Jason Cronce to Police Sergeant. Officer Cronce has 21 years of experience in law enforcement and has been with Lebanon Township for approximately 15 of those years. Chief Rautenberg stated that Officer Cronce is well respected by himself and the Department. He is technically competent and a good policy person which is what the Chief needs at this time. If the Chief puts out a directive Office Cronce follows through as he is a good follower.

Motion by Mr. Laul seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee promoted Jason Cronce to Police Sergeant.

Mayor Schmidt provided the Oath of Office to Sergeant Cronce.

2020 BUDGET – Public Hearing

Mayor Schmidt provided a summary of the 2020 proposed budget.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the public hearing on the proposed 2020 Budget.

Mr. Bob Dannhauser asked if there were any non-fulltime employees who were receiving health benefits as it is a large part of the budget. Mr. Dannhauser also asked about the sizeable increase in the Mayor/Committee line item. The Mayor and CFO provided a response to each of Mr. Dannhauser's questions.

Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Mr. Laul and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public hearing.

Resolution No. 37a-2020 – Amending Approved 2020 Budget

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 37a-2020, as attached.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION 37a-2020

2020 Budget Adoption

Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee adopted the 2020 Municipal Budget, as amended.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2020-04 – Acquisition of a Portion of 661 Woodglen Road

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2020-04 was opened.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2020-04 was closed.

Motion by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Laul and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee adopted Ordinance No. 2020-04 as written below.

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE NO. 2020-04

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A PORTION OF 661 WOODGLEN ROAD (BLOCK 36, LOT 17) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, *et. seq.*, a municipality may acquire any real property for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lebanon (the “Township”) wishes to acquire approximately two (2) acres of land that is a portion of property designated as Block 36, Lot 17 on the Township Tax Map, more commonly known as 661 Woodglen Road (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the portion of the Property to be acquired is triangular in shape and adjacent to other publicly owned land, specifically land jointly owned by the Township and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and land known as the Hunterdon County Park Miquin Woods; and

WHEREAS, the Property offers attractive recreational uses and environmental preservation benefits, including trail connectivity, water quality and supply protection, and habitat conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined that the aforementioned real property is needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Township has dedicated fund balances from previously collected Open Space taxes that can be used to purchase the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township of Lebanon authorizes the acquisition of purchase of a two (2) acre portion of real property known and designated as Tax Block 36, Lot 17 on the Tax Map of the Township of Lebanon in accordance with the provisions of the Local Lands and Buildings Law pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, *et. seq. at a price of \$8800*
2. The appropriate Township Officials, the Township Attorney, the Township Clerk and such other Township Officials and/or professionals are authorized and directed to execute any and all documents on behalf of the Township of Lebanon in regard to this matter.
3. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.
4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 38-2020 - Authorizing the Tax Collector to Process Third Quarter "Estimated" Tax Bills, Due August 1, 2020

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 38-2020 as written below.

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION NO. 38-2020

AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO PROCESS THIRD QUARTER "ESTIMATED"
TAX BILLS, DUE AUGUST 1, 2020

WHEREAS, in light of the disruption caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the State delayed the adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) cannot certify State Aid allocations to municipal budgets until State Aid Appropriations are known; and

WHEREAS, the DLGS cannot approve municipal budgets and the County Board of Taxation cannot certify taxes until long after the June 30, 2020 deadline to process third quarter tax bills due August 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, without an adopted 2020 Municipal Budget and without a 2020 Certified Tax Rate, the Tax Collector cannot process the final 2020 Tax Levy; and

WHEREAS, the DLGS "strongly recommends" under Local Finance Notice 2020-07 "that municipalities prepare to issue estimated property tax bills for 2020;" and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, computed and certified an estimated Tax Levy necessary to bill third quarter taxes due August 1, 2020

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey on this 6th day of May, 2020 that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to process estimated tax bills for the third quarterly installment of 2020 taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the third quarterly installment of 2020 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10, 2020 or the twenty-fifth (25) calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.

Resolution No. 39-2020 - Extending May 1 Property Tax Grace Period

Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Mr. Laul and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 39-2020 as written below.

RESOLUTION NO. 39-2020
TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON,
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
INSTITUTING A GRACE PERIOD CONCLUDING ON JUNE 1, 2020,
FOR THE PAYMENT OF SECOND-QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Jersey issued Executive Order 103 on March 9, 2020, declaring a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, said Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency continue to exist; and

WHEREAS, property taxpayers may be suffering from financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic including, but not limited to, loss or drop of income or unexpected expenses due to necessary health care; and

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), a municipality may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges, on or before the date when they would become delinquent, and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became delinquent, thereby establishing a grace period running through May 11, 2020, for the second-quarter property taxes, as to Lebanon's budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 130 (2020) was issued on April 28, 2020, which authorized municipalities to establish a grace period extension no later than June 1, 2020, for payment of second-quarter property taxes, and any payment received after close of business on June 1, 2020, will be subject to interest and penalties from May 1, 2020, and that any provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(a), N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.1(a) and N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a) inconsistent with Executive Order 130 (2020) were suspended for the duration of the Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the governing body to adopt a resolution instituting a grace period of June 1, 2020, for the payment of second-quarter property taxes, to help the property taxpayers of the Township of Lebanon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the governing body does hereby institute a grace period of June 1, 2020, for the payment of second-quarter property taxes for properties in the Township, and any payment received after close of business on June 1, 2020, will be subject to interest and penalties from May 1, 2020, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 130 (2020).
2. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Municipal Clerk to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs within three (3) business days of the adoption of this Resolution.
3. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Collector, Chief Financial Officer, and the Acting Township Administrator.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Update

Mayor Schmidt said that the County has been providing updates on cases by Municipality. Lebanon Township's cases have stayed flat for a few days but increased from 12 to 13 cases yesterday with no reported deaths. The Municipal Building is still closed to the public. The Administrative staff is working from home with one employee in the office daily. The Department of Public Works is working staggered shifts and are on call. The Police are working above and beyond with a lot of activity and no breaks in their schedules.

Mayor Schmidt said that the Spring Cleanup Day has been changed to June 27th.

Mayor Schmidt stated that with the advantage of low activity in the Municipal Building it was a good time to have the interior painted. It has been many years since the office was painted. The work was done by a resident professional painter.

Mr. Laul informed the Committee that the recycling dumpster, behind the Municipal Office, has been overflowing. This may be a result of the residents being home due to the pandemic. Mr. Laul suggested getting an additional dumpster to place next to the current one for the next few months. Discussion was held on the size of the dumpster needed.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved an additional recycling dumpster to be placed at the Municipal Building and gave discretion to Mr. Laul on the size of the dumpster, based on the valued price.

Mayor Schmidt stated that the closing of Route 513 for the bridge repair happened on Monday. Chief Rautenberg informed the Committee that people are adjusting to the closure but there is no easy way to travel around the Township at this time. The County has put up additional signage near Bunnvale, however, there have been issues because trucks are not able to turn around in that area. The Chief said that it would be better if signs were positioned by Voorhees High School. Additional signs have been placed in other locations in the Township to try and help with the problem. Chief Rautenberg said that the signs are for information initially but enforcement of motor vehicle laws will then be in place.

Mr. McKee reported that there are no illnesses reported in the Fire/EMS Department. Their training has gone virtual. They are working with remote seminars and power point to keep basic training in place. All of their requests through OEM, for PPE, have been answered. Mr. McKee thanked Mr. Maurizio for his efforts. One of the ambulances had an accident with a deer but the damage was minimal and it will continue to run. The second ambulance continues to run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday which has been a huge benefit to the Township. This ambulance will continue to run until the pandemic ends. Mr. McKee said that the Township owes a great deal of gratitude to the Police, Fire and EMS for all of their efforts.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Mr. Barberio stated that the Policy and Procedure Manual is virtually done and he will be sending it to the Township Attorney and then to the Committee for approval.

Mr. Barberio said that the CWA negotiations are on hold until the pandemic is over.

The Employee Evaluation Forms are completed with one minor change needed. Mr. Barberio will be sending the form to each of the Committee members for approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Barberio informed that Committee that the Tax Collector Kris Boxwell has resigned.

Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee authorized the Administrator to advertise for the Tax Collector's position.

Mr. Barberio said that he spoke to the DPW Manager about the possibility of extending the 2019 Road Materials quote into the 2020 year. Mr. Barberio reached out to the QPA today and he is awaiting an answer.

Mr. Barberio said that he contacted the Township Engineer with regard to the Anthony and Sliker Road Bid. The QPA reviewed the bid and confirmed that everything that is required is included; however, the procedure in receiving bids during the COVID-19 pandemic needs to be outlined.

Mr. Barberio discussed advertising for summer help with the DPW Manager and he recommended putting to it on hold for now.

Mr. Barberio said that he is reviewing the Police Regulations and Policy Procedures. When done he will meet with the Chief and forward on to the Township Attorney for his review.

Mr. Barberio said that he will be waiting for guidance from the State and County with regard to opening up the Township Offices. This is for further review.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Brian Mack - Request to Place Camper on Property - 1231 Califon Cokesbury Rd

Mr. Brian Mack is requesting for his family to live in a camper on his property while his home is being built. Mayor Schmidt said that two residents have submitted email comments and would like to address the Committee with their concerns this evening.

Mr. Ron Yaniero stated that concerns arose when a camper arrived on the property last Friday night. There are five people living in the camper. Mr. Yaniero and his wife are concerned over where the waste is going as there is no septic or useable well on the property. Mr. Yaniero said that there was digging in the woods one evening and is hoping that the waste is not being placed on the property. There are a lot of vehicles, including a backhoe and an unregistered box truck. There is also a trailer with possible construction debris located in it. Mr. Yaniero said that it appears that the property will house construction equipment and he is worried about oil and hydraulic fluid leaking from it. Mr. Yaniero stated that last Saturday night there were dirt bikes and ATVs riding around the property. He said that they are afraid of the noise scaring their horses and possibly causing injury to the rider. Mr. Yaniero said that the entire complexity of the area changed once the camper arrived.

Ms. Diane Berry said that their main concerns are the change in the nature of the community, the waste and the dirt bikes riding up and down the driveway.

Mr. JB McCollum read a letter to the Committee. He and his wife have concerns with the camper being on the property. Mr. McCollum said that when they purchased their home, they did so with the understanding that the adjacent property could not be built on as it was in the wetlands. Mr. McCollum said that the neighbors were not given the right of first refusal when the property was put on the market. He would have purchased it. Mr. McCollum said that since the camper arrived at the property, he and his family have experienced disturbances that they never thought imaginable. Earth movers have been running, there is a full-sized container and a trailer on the property. An unmarked box truck, with no license plates, has been located on the border of his property also. Mr. McCollum has concerns with what is happening on property and the effect it is having on the wetlands that they are destroying. A rusty container has been placed in close proximity to a small creek. Mr. McCollum also noted that his home is on the downhill side of the camper and he is very concerned about the sewage. An excavator was being driven around the camper, late last evening, which makes Mr. McCollum wonder where the sewage is going. Mr. McCollum said that there has been daily and excessive use of ATV's and motor bikes. They are also inconvenienced by the noise of the generator, chainsaws and equipment on the property. Mr. McCollum noted that he is shocked and saddened to see this happening on wetlands and in the Highlands Area and feels that it is disrespectful to his family.

Mr. Brian Mack joined the meeting via teleconference.

Mayor Schmidt informed Mr. Mack that the Committee has received emails from two of his neighbors. The emails outline concerns that they have with the activity on his property. In addition, the neighbors just provided comments to the Committee.

Mayor Schmidt noted that Mr. Mack was provided with a copy of the camper approval that was granted to another family in the Township. The Township has an ordinance which permits the Committee to grant approval for individuals to live in a trailer, during times of hardship, while they are constructing or reconstructing their home.

There are items however, that cannot be waived, such as the need for potable water, a septic system and satisfactory electric service. These items are required for safety and to avoid disturbing the neighbors with generators.

Mr. Mack read a statement to the Committee informing them that they sold their home in Whitehouse Station last Friday during pandemic. Living with others or a rental was not an option due to COVID-19 guidelines put into place by the Governor. The Mack's have a 14-year-old daughter who suffers from anxiety. She has a miniature pot belly pig which indicates when an attack is coming on and provides comfort to her during the attack. The support animal also makes housing difficult. Mr. Mack said that he and his wife are self-employed and the pandemic has had a financial impact on them. They have planned for a modular home as it can be built in a quicker amount of time. Mr. Mack stated that a few months ago they went through the extensive Highlands Exemption application process and last week received approval to build under Exemption #4. Mr. Mack stated that they are seeking approval to live in their 38 ft. travel trailer for approximately 8 months. Mr. Mack noted that they are hoping for 6 months but with the impact of COVID-19 things are moving much slower at this time.

Mr. Mack stated that there will be 5 people living in the travel trailer. He spoke with Russel Reid and they will be pumping the trailer waste. Electric was restored to the property today and the camper is connected to the electric in the barn. Mr. Mack said that they are filling potable water containers at a friend's home which is two houses away. There is a well on their property that was drilled by the previous owner. The Mack's will be having a well test done and are hoping to be pumping from the well within a month. They will provide the well test results to the Township once received.

Mr. Mack said that they will be building a modest 3-bedroom home and are looking to be a part of the Township community.

Mayor Schmidt asked Mr. Mack if there are unregistered vehicles on the property. Mr. Mack said that there is one unregistered vehicle on the property that is storing their household items. Mayor Schmidt informed Mr. Mack that by ordinance the unregistered vehicle must be indoors and not in view of the neighbors. Mr. Mack said that there is a storage container on the property also which is where their household items are stored. Mayor Schmidt said that the container must comply with the Township's Zoning Ordinance.

Attorney Lyons said that having a well and septic is a prerequisite for the trailer approval along with building permits being in hand. Attorney Lyons noted that the Mack's request is for hardship relief and the burden is on the applicant to meet all of the requirements. These items need to be in place before the Committee can consider or grant approval.

Mr. Mack stated that he has approved septic design plans from the previous owner. He will work on the well matter tomorrow and will look into permits. He will do it quickly.

Mr. Mack said that the design plan and permits from the construction of the house have not been done as they just received the approval from the Highlands.

Mayor Schmidt said that the laws are in place to protect the homeowners in a hardship and for the neighbors.

Mayor Schmidt said that the Mack's need to solve the issue with the well as the Committee does not have the ability to waive the potable water requirement for the property. Attorney Lyons noted that it is a jurisdictional matter and not waivable by the Township.

Discussion was held on if it was acceptable to have the sewage pumped by a company.

Attorney Lyons said that there needs to be some assemblance on how long the process will take. The Township uses the permits, being in hand, as a benchmark for how long it will take for construction completion. There needs to be a reasonable agreement of commencement.

Mayor Schmidt stated that the Committee can only grant relief for someone to live on their property during construction. Currently, the Mack's are well ahead of the process to begin building.

Mrs. Lisa Mack stated that we are all in a state of crisis and they have no where to go. She said that they fully plan to build a house on the property. If everyone works together it can be worked out. The Mack's said that if the Township provides them with a timeline they will do whatever is required of them.

Mr. McKee asked how the electric is being brought to the camper. Mr. Mack said that it is being brought with a 110v extension cord.

Attorney Lyons said that the requirement for water, septic and electric on the property is not meant to be onerous on the property owner. The requirements relate to public health and safety issues. The Township does not have the ability to waiver the requirements, primarily for the safety of the occupants. The Township has the duty to ensure that all steps have been taken before relief is granted.

Mayor Schmidt informed the Mack's that the Township cannot grant relief due to all of the reasons presented to them. The laws regarding camping versus living should be looked at. Mayor Schmidt stated that tonight it can be considered that the Mack family is camping on their property. They should make appointments with the Zoning Officer and the Construction Office promptly. The Mack's are to provide a status update at the next Committee meeting.

Mayor Schmidt stated that he will forward the emails received from the neighbors, to the Mack's, so they are aware of their concerns. The Mack family needs to demonstrate that they are being a good neighbor, that they are working with the Zoning Office and making progress on the well. Once all is in place, the Committee can consider granting relief. In the meantime, it may be found that camping has some sort of restriction which may need to be addressed as well.

The Mack's will need to show compliance with all Zoning Ordinances in the Township. They need to provide an update on their progress at the next meeting. If, in the interim, any legal issues are discovered the Township will reach out to the Mack's.

Attorney Lyons said that to provide the relief that they are seeking, the well, septic, electric issues and building permits need to be addressed presently. The Township needs to be certain that the family has access to these items. It is not going to bring the Mack's to where they want to be if they report back that the items are not going to be taken care of for three months. The Committee is saying that they need to ensure the safety of the family and the three issues need to be handled promptly. Construction permits need to be pulled to show that construction is to commence shortly.

Mr. McKee recapped that the Mack's need a well installed with a positive well test, electric service installed, septic design and approval from the Hunterdon County Health Department as well as building permits. This all needs to be done now.

Mayor Schmidt said that the neighbors also have concerns about the wetlands on the property. Mayor Schmidt urged the Mack's to be conscious of the designated wetland area on the property and that nothing should be located in those areas.

Parking on Raritan River Road

Mr. McKee said that with the closure of State and County Parks the Ken Lockwood Gorge remained open. Raritan River Road was inundated with traffic and ingress and egress became a problem. Cars were turning around on the roadway, on soft ground and in the resident's driveways. The Police Chief came up with Patrol Policy but did not declare an emergency. A week or two later and the problem was still occurring. A Park Ranger has since put up paper "No Parking" signs and the complainant is now satisfied. Mr. McKee said that he does not think we need permanent signs at this time. Chief Rautenberg stated that with parks closing the wildlife management areas were missed by the Governor and became an issue. The Police Chief suggested that the Committee may want to consider an ordinance similar to the one the Township has for the northern end of the Gorge. The Chief said that it may be best to restrict parking on the resident's side of the roadway. The Police Chief and Committee will monitor the situation for possible future action.

Mr. Laul informed the Committee that Matt Avallone would like to work on the Goracy Trail for his Boy Scout service hours.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Matt Avallone as a volunteer who will work on the Goracy Trail for his Boy Scout service hours.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

Committee Members provided a description of vouchers exceeding \$1000.00.

Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the May 6, 2020 bill list in the amount \$1,319,706.54.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Curator's Reports (2)
- b. Animal Control Report
- c. Cathy Lavorgna – Noise Complaint

Ms. Kathy Lavorgna sent correspondence to the Committee with questions about noise ordinances and if they would assist her in her situation. Mayor Schmidt stated the he spoke with Ms. Lavorgna about noise problems that she is having on Farrell Lane. Mayor Schmidt said that noise issues are regulated by the NJEPA and pertain to commercial noise complaints only. The Township's ordinances do not apply to resident to resident matters at this time. If the Township were to adopt an ordinance that relates to such it would be regulated by the Hunterdon County Health Department. It was determined that a noise ordinance does not provide the tools that are needed to address the concerns that Ms. Lavorgna has. Mayor Schmidt said that he spoke to Chief Rautenberg and the Committee can possibly look into an ordinance for disorderly conduct. The ordinance would give the Police another tool to use when addressing these sorts of issues.

Ms. Lavorgna informed the Committee of problems that she is having with target shooting occurring on her neighbor's property. Ms. Lavorgna asked why after all of this time, when a police officer went to her neighbor's property, the shooting did not happen this past weekend. Ms. Lavorgna inquired on the soil that is being used to build the berms for the shooting practices. Ms. Lavorgna also asked at what point it becomes a shooting range.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Mayor Schmidt said that he received an email from Ms. Jeanne Lang which she asked him to read into the record.

Although I do not think your statement that schools take up "only" 75% of our property taxes is quite accurate, that is not the point here; so, I won't disagree. The point of my question "how much savings might we expect?" is that whatever high percentage of property had been extracted from our LT citizens for the schools, we aren't having to provide those services any longer, at least through the end of this school year.

I previously attempted to call into the township meeting, but I was (as were others) unsuccessful. In case that is again the case tonight, I would appreciate your reading into the record these 3 follow up questions- -

1) you say you can imagine it will actually cost MORE for the schools to "operate" now. What facts and criteria are you relying on to make that projection?

- *Just off the top of my head I can think of many reasons why we should be paying a LOT less and dozens of expenditures that are simply no longer valid*
 - *utilities; cafeteria costs; custodial: papertowels, toilet paper, light bulbs, mops, cleansers; sports: dept head + several assistants + coaching stipends at each high school.*
 - *Buses: Not only are there no more regular pickup/dropoff routes, there is no daily 5:30 sports bus, no bus to take the swim teams to RVCC pool. In fact, no more buses to sports events or field trips or special schools or classes or Polytech.*
- *I grant your point that the teachers are still teaching, and I'm not saying we shouldn't pay them, but they make up a small fraction of the people employed by the school system.*
 - *Are we still paying the cafeteria and custodial staff? What about front office staff, disciplinarians, nurses, the dozens of guidance counselors? If we are still keeping them on payroll, the municipalities should be getting aid from the State or Federal government to offset that, analogous to the small business payroll grants.*
 - *Administrators -- perhaps a few are still actually working, but a lot of those positions are anachronistic during this shutdown. Whole layers of administration exist that are rarely seen by we mere mortals. For the administrators who are working - should not someone suggest they take a small, say a 20% pay cut -- they have no commute, no gas, no dry cleaning - shouldn't someone ask them if they are willing to take a pay cut? Many of us had a tough time meeting the costly taxes as it was; without work, it becomes impossible. Surely, they would understand that.*

2) might it be considered something for the LT Committee to be proactive about -- perhaps instead of waiting until the schools inform you that they need less money (as anyone who has been in business or government knows it will be a long wait indeed), the Committee could request an amended budget and authorize a citizen-committee to work with the school board in identifying unneeded items. Otherwise, the municipal governments' main function appears to be acting as a collection agency for the schools, who demand ever more increasing monies

3) As our elected officials, is it not your responsibility to take this issue up with our state representatives? We ordinary citizens do not have the voice that you have. The Federal government has even delayed income tax in this unprecedented situation, and if someone lost their job they will obviously be paying less on their 2020 taxes (not be paying tax on what they did not make). Property taxes are not based on use or income which makes them even more onerous.

Mr. McCollum asked that the Committee to address the excess noise and the use of all terrain vehicles during the day and evening on the Mack property.

Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Committee a motion was made by Ms. Koehler seconded by Mr. Laul and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Sandorse, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Approved: May 20, 2020

Mike Schmidt, Mayor