

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Marc Laul called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings 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 Laul asked everyone to please stand for the Flag Salute and for a moment of silence in honor of our Servicemen and Women.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent-

Also Present - Attorney Dick Cushing, Clerk Karen Sandorse and 19 members of the public.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Special and Executive Session Meeting of June 7, 2017**

*Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the Special and Executive Session Meeting of June 7, 2017.*

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2017**

*Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the Executive Session of June 21, 2017.*

**Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of June 21, 2017**

*Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the Executive Session of June 21, 2017.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – for agenda items only.**

*Motion by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the public comment portion of the meeting.*

Ms. Hoffman asked if the Capital Ordinance is going to include the Museum addition. Mayor Laul stated that this is the ordinance where the money could be included for the addition.

Ms. Gail Glashoff asked if the Committee read the Hunterdon Review from last week. Ms. Glashoff stated that she was very upset when she read it because the article regarding the hiring of the Tax Assessor was not true.

Mr. Ron Milkowski asked what the issue is with the appointment of the Tax Assessor. Mayor Laul stated that he will explain during the meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE**

**Introduction**

**Ordinance No. 2017-04 - Capital Improvements**

Mayor Laul stated that the Committee has two ordinances to consider for introduction this evening. One is for \$317,000 and the other is for \$382,000. Each ordinance includes the resurfacing of Red Mill Road, between Newport Road and Mt. Airy, the chip and seal program for various roads, the acquisition of a calcium storage tank, distribution equipment for winter road treatment and the acquisition of a new electronic message sign for in front of the municipal office. The \$382,000 ordinance also includes and allocation of \$65,000 for the Museum Lavatory/Storage addition. Mayor Laul stated that the Committee needs to decide if they are going to include the Museum addition in the ordinance.

*Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Ordinance 2017-04, on first reading, as entitled below, with the Museum lavatory addition included (\$382,000), on the condition that if the bids come in too high to consider, the money will not be spent.*

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON  
TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON  
ORDINANCE NO. 2017-04

CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$382,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE TOWNSHIP.

**Public Hearing to be held on July 19, 2017**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 73-2017 – Chapter 159**

*Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 73-2017 as written below.*

**TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION NO. 73-2017  
CHAPTER 159**

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

SECTION 1,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Lebanon, Hunterdon County, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the increase of \$ 120,000.00 for an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2017 as follows:

Miscellaneous Revenues –

Revenue Offset with Appropriations – NJ DOT – Hickory Run Road Guard Rail

Replacement

Total with increase to be \$ 120,000.00

SECTION 2,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$ 120,000.00 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations -

Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenues – NJ DOT – Hickory Run Road Guard

Rail Replacement

State/Federal Share       \$ 120,000.00

Non State Share           \$

Total with increase to be \$ 120,000.00

FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution with a copy of the appropriate documentation be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Township Engineer Correspondence - Safe Roadway Speed Limit Recommendations**

Mayor Laul stated that Chief Gale and the Township Engineer looked at roads in the Township that do not have speed limits. Speed tests were conducted on the roads and the appropriate speed limit for each road has been determined.

Mayor Laul stated that he emailed the DPW Manager, Warren Gabriel, to ask what the cost would be for the speed limit signs. Mr. Gabriel said that the cost will be approximately \$5600 for the signs and the cost will be covered by the DPW operating budget.

*Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee authorized the Township Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend the current speed limit ordinance and for Mr. Gabriel to purchase the signs relative to such.*

### **Ambulance Purchase**

Tabled

### **Tax Assessor Position**

Mayor Laul stated that a number of people have asked him about the status of the Tax Assessor hiring. Mayor Laul read a statement outlining the history of the failed attempt to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with Readington Township and the negotiations that took place, with Ms. Laura Whitaker, to enter into a distinct Agreement, for the Lebanon Township Tax Assessor position.

Ms. Koehler and Mr. Wunder stated their concerns with the process that was followed in the hiring efforts.

*Motion by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 73A-2017 as written below. AYES: Laul, Schmidt, McKee NAYS: Wunder, Koehler*

**TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON  
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION NO. 73A-2017  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING TAX ASSESSOR**

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor of the Township of Lebanon retired from her position effective June 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-146 the Township is required to appoint a Tax Assessor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 58-17, the Township agreed to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with Readington Township for the hiring of a tax assessor; and

WHEREAS, the Township and Readington Township could not reach an agreement regarding the hiring of a tax assessor and, therefore, decided to rescind Resolution 58-17 and hire its own tax assessor; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined that Laura Whitaker is the most qualified candidate to hold the position; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-148, a vacancy in the position of tax assessor shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-148 the term of a tax assessor is “4 years from the first day of July next following his appointment;” and

WHEREAS, since the appointment of Ms. Whitaker will occur on July 5, 2017, she will be appointed for the unexpired term of the former tax collector for period July 5, 2017 to June 30, 2018, and for the statutory four-year term from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has also determined that Ms. Whitaker should be appointed as authorized agent for the Township to appear and act as agent in all tax appeal matters before the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, that Laura Whitaker is hereby appointed to the position of Lebanon Township Tax Assessor for the period July 5, 2017 to June 30, 2018 and for a full four-year statutory term from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appointment does not confer tenure on Ms. Whitaker as Tax Assessor unless and until she is appointed for an additional term beyond June 30, 2022; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ms. Whitaker be and is hereby appointed as authorized agent for the Township for Lebanon to appear and act as agent in all tax appeal matters before the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation in which the Township of Lebanon is a party.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Clerk are authorized to execute the attached agreement with Ms. Whitaker in substantially the same form as that attached hereto.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that Resolution 58-17 is hereby rescinded.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **NJ State Firemen’s Association Membership Application**

*Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved a N.J. State Firemen’s Association Membership Application for Firefighter Paul R. Lagarenne.*

### **DPW Manager Correspondence – DPW Generator**

Mr. Gabriel sent a letter to the Township Committee requesting permission to purchase a Radiator Exhaust Scoop for the DPW generator. The generator is equipped to run quieter, with the exception of the Scoop. Mayor Laul will conduct a sound test before and after the scoop is installed.

*Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the DPW Manager's request to purchase a Radiator Exhaust Scoop from Emergency Systems Service Company in the amount of \$6500.00.*

### **PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS**

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

*Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the July 5, 2017 bill list, in amount of \$ 76,182.26.*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:35p.m.*

Ms. Laurie Hoffman asked if the questions that Gail Glashoff, the CWA Shop Steward, brought up at the last meeting, regarding the CWA contract, are a concern now with the new Tax Assessor agreement.

Ms. Hoffman asked if there is a time limit for when the funds in the Capital Ordinance need to be used.

Mr. Ron Milkowski asked if the Capital Ordinance is to borrow or does the Township have the money.

Mr. Ron Milkowski asked what changed with the Assessor's qualifications between the Shared Services Agreement with Readington and hiring just for Lebanon Township.

Mr. Victor Hoffman said that Mr. Josh Rich asked if the Committee could assist him in his attempt to acquire the one room school house that is located on East Hill Road. The school

house is owned by the local school. Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Koehler will be working on the task. Mr. Hoffman also said that the Historian's should be involved as it is a historic building.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the Committee authorized the Engineer and Police Chief to determine speed limits on some of the Township roads which is positive. Mr. Hoffman asked who will be enforcing those speed limits.

Mr. Hoffman asked what the salary will be for the Tax Assessor.

*Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:57p.m.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to come before the Committee a motion was made by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen J. Sandorse, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

Approved: September 20, 2017

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Marc Laul, Mayor