

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AUGUST 5, 2013 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, August 5, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Council President Rose read the following announcement:

Notice of Meeting

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 8, 2013 by sending written and electronic notice to the Courier News and the Star Ledger, posting on the Township website and on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and filing with the Township Clerk.

On call of the roll, the following Council members were present:

Allen Kurdyla
Matthew C. Moench
Howard V. Norgalis
Filipe Pedroso
Council President Christine Henderson Rose

Also Present: Daniel J. Hayes, Mayor
James T. Naples, Township Administrator
Natasha Turchan, Finance Director
William Savo, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

Council President Rose led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for Approval

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second by Councilman Moench, the following minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of those present and eligible to vote:

Regular Session - July 15, 2013
Closed Session - July 1, 2013 & July 15, 2013

Council Reports

Councilman Moench reminded everyone of the upcoming Special Election scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2013.

Councilman Kurdyla had nothing new to report.

Councilman Pedroso had nothing new to report.

Councilman Norgalis reported as follows:

- He reminded everyone of the upcoming 4-H Fair scheduled for August 7 thru August 9 from 10am to 10pm
- There was complaint about the Regional Animal Shelter's sanitary conditions. He made a walk thru and reported that although crowded, there was no significant odor or undue clutter. The health inspection sticker was out of date but is now scheduled for re-inspection
- Wyeth, formally known as American Cyanamid and NJDEP have reported that site preparations are underway for cleanup
- He attended the Somerset County Planning meeting along with Mayor Hayes, Council President Rose and Planning Board Secretary Kane
- Duke Highland Park hosted a free skin care screening on 7/28/2013 as part of the Regional Cancer Coalition of Morris and Somerset Counties
- He will be attending the Bridgewater Senior Citizens Picnic on 7/8/2013

Council President Rose reported that shortly after Council considered discussing the possibility of forming a historical committee, she received an email from a library staff member responsible for NJ history expressing interest in getting involved. This matter will be placed on a future agenda for further consideration.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hayes reported as follows:

- Fall Bulky Trash days have been announced via the Township website
- Bridgewater recently received a "Ridewise" award
- We have received an update from Pfizer regarding the Cyanamid property. There will be a public meeting concerning this in October. More information to follow.
- He has attended meetings with various Commercial entities within the township to maintain a dialogue with them
- "Evenings with Dan" meetings continue to be held on a monthly basis

Public Comment

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed two minutes to speak, unless there are unusual circumstances.

William Metz, 45 Shannon Rd. was present. He was concerned that municipal taxes went up whereas he was under the impression that taxes would not be going up. He also thanked Township Engineer Bogart for cleaning up the debris around the Bradley Gardens area.

Priest (inaudible name) was present. He stated he has been the owner of an affordable unit at the crossroads for 25-years and complained about the sudden \$1,200 increase in taxes. Township Administrator Naples offered there is a program funded through a grant that can help him and any other member of the public that was in attendance due to this matter. He offered that Finance Director Turchan would take their contact information and a letter with facts would be mailed out to said residents.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the public comment portion was closed.

Resolutions

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2013 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,141.77

Township Administrator Naples advised this grant will allow for and offset some of the cost associated with drunk driving enforcement.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution #13-08-05-178 is appended to the official minutes.

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2013 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) 2013 NJDOT HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$151,971.69

Township Administrator Naples advised this project was successful in the past. This grant is for expenditures related to enforcement along the safe corridors stretch of Route 22.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution #13-08-05-179 is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2013 RECYCLING AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOMERSET COUNTY AND BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP AT THE RATE OF \$23.85 PER HOUSEHOLD, NOT TO EXCEED \$2,838.15

Township Administrator Naples advised this resolution will allow us to enter into an agreement with the County who will conduct a curbside pick-up service for collection of recyclable materials.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed with the above modification. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution #13-08-05-180 is appended to the official minutes.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS APPLICATION FOR FY2014 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (ROID) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000

Township Administrator Naples advised this resolution will allow us to make application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs who offer grant funding to support Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution #13-08-05-181 is appended to the official minutes.

**ADOPTION OF REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT,
TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

This resolution will confirm that the Council of Bridgewater Township has reviewed the Sustainability Statement and finds that it offers mechanisms to sustain the Regional Center and supports same.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution #13-08-05-182 is appended to the official minutes.

DISCUSSION

SOMERSET COUNTY MIGRATION

Mayor Hayes headed the discussion and summed as follows:

The County has offered to provide 911 dispatch service to any municipality without special assessment. The service will be provided as part of general county taxes. To date, 11 municipalities, 35 Fire companies and 18 EMS squads have accepted the offer and delivered considerable savings for their residents without degradation of service. Currently Bridgewater is not dispatched by the County. As a result, the Bridgewater residents pay 100% of township dispatch costs in addition to subsidizing the dispatch costs of participating communities, By participating in county dispatch, the Township estimates a positive budget impact of \$4,5 million over 10 years, Once anticipated transition costs are completed, estimated annual savings over current forecasts are approximately

\$720,000.

The Council passed a resolution in March 2011 which identified the parameters to be reviewed. An established committee gathered the necessary data and conducted the study. The resolution called for a determination to be made as to whether the provision of the service by the County was both in keeping with the current standard and cost-effective. The committee, comprised of two Council members, members of the police department and Administration, met with County public safety staff to complete the analysis and create a proposed migration plan. After numerous meetings a draft plan was developed that identified the costs associated with migrating to County dispatch and detailed the technical aspects of the change in service providers.

In April of this year the draft plan was circulated to the Fire and Rescue organizations for their comment, The Administration hosted separate meetings for Fire and Rescue officers that detailed the plan and allowed for questions and comments with County staff, Police and Administration members. All council members were invited to attend. Input from these meetings and the written comments received were used to formulate a final draft plan and Memorandum of Understanding that would govern the proposed migration, The final draft migration plan and MOU were then circulated to the effected organizations on June 25 for final comment,

The savings associated with the switch to County dispatch are substantial, even with the most conservative assumption. Savings are estimated at \$4.5 million over 10 years. No discernible service difference is expected from the migration. Mayor Hayes thanked Councilmen Allen Kurdyla and Howard Norgalis for their work in creating a plan that insures a continuity of service and substantial savings for our residents. The cost benefit analysis that identifies the expected expenditures and potential cost savings for each year for the next ten years was also reviewed.

After a lengthy discussion as Administration fielded questions from the council, it was agreed that more information was needed in order to make an informed decision on how to proceed. This matter will be placed on the 8/19/2013 Council meeting for further discussion.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public.

The meeting was opened up to the public for questions concerning the Somerset County Migration:

John Lyszyk, 59 Cain Court was present. He stated he is the Bradley Gardens Fire Chief and advised the communication system is currently overloaded, he noted that he and other emergency service persons are not comfortable with this migration.

Chris Ireland, 96 Ivy Lane was present. He opined that quality of life in Bridgewater will be upset if we migrate to a larger communication center. He added that after speaking to other police officers, it was apparent they are not in favor of this and urged that Council listen to them.

Bridgewater PBA President Bob Reilly was present. He stated that he and other PBA members are not in favor of migration noting there is no way to guarantee the same level of service we currently enjoy adding that the County has made promises in the past that they did not keep and that so far, they have not handled a town as big as Bridgewater.

Randy Pelle, 1645 South Brook Drive was present. He stated he works for the fire and police departments and based his opposition to this migration on work experience.

April Mc Morrow, Porter Way East was present. She spoke against the migration noting her experience with Bridgewater dispatch has been quick and efficient while county dispatch was slow and ineffective.

Bryan J. Bradley, 1816 Washington Valley Rd was present. He noted he is the Martinsville Fire Chief and spoke in opposition to the migration.

Charles Springer, 3005 Holm Court was present. He stated he is a Fire Chief and spoke in opposition to the migration due to public safety concerns.

Bridgewater Township police officer Russell Dunlop was present. He spoke in opposition to the migration noting he has worked for two law enforcement agencies and has dealt with the County, Middlesex Borough and Bridgewater. In his opinion, Bridgewater Police Department is by far the best dispatch organization he has ever worked with and asked that Council keep it that way.

Bridgewater Police Officer Brian spoke in opposition to the migration due to public safety concerns.

Michael Ziarnowsoski was present. He spoke in opposition to the migration due to safety concerns noting that operationally, County migration will not be as effective.

Chief Borden opined that from an operational stand point, he cannot support the migration. Following the close of public comment, Chief Borden fielded questions from Council concerning some of the public comment.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the public comment portion was closed.

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A UNIFORMED SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR RADIO DISPATCHING SERVICES WITH THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A 40A:65-1 ET SEQ

Councilman Norgalis made motion to table the above referenced resolution and go into closed session. Councilman Moench seconded the motion which carried on the following roll call vote:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

Closed Session

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss litigation and contract negotiations.

When and if the matters discussed become public record, this will be made known to the public at that time.

The public is excluded from said meeting and further notice thereof is dispensed with all in accordance with Sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, Council convened in closed session at 10:20 p.m.

A copy of resolution #13-08-05-183 is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting reconvened to open session at 10:40 p.m.

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A UNIFORMED SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR RADIO DISPATCHING SERVICES WITH THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A 40A:65-1 ET SEQ

Council President Rose advised it was Council's consensus to table this

resolution until the next Council meeting as they were not in a position, at this time, to make a decision without gathering more information.

Councilman Norgalis made motion to table the above referenced resolution. Councilman Pedroso seconded the motion which carried on the following roll call vote:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Christine Henderson-Rose
Council President