

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 5, 2019 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Council President Moench 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 9, 2019 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 (absent)
Filipe Pedroso
Christine Henderson-Rose
Council Vice President Howard Norgalis
Council President Matthew C. Moench

Also Present: Natasha Turchan, Director of Finance
 Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
 Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

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

Minutes

The November 25, 2019 regular session minutes were presented for approval. On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the minutes were approved. All were in favor.

Council Reports

Councilman Pedroso:

- Encouraged all residents to attend the Planning Board meeting on December 10, 2019 concerning the Center of Excellence.

Councilwoman Rose:

- Had the opportunity to attend the walk out.
- Clarified that when she was asked to speak with Councilman Pedroso about his concerns regarding the history Ordinance, unfortunately, the language he wanted included is the same language she voted against last year. For this reason, the history ordinance will be worked on next year.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Welcome to former Congressman Michael Pappas who, at reorganization on January 1, 2020 joins the Bridgewater Staff as Township Administrator. Councilman Norgalis stated that he and Mr. Pappas co-chair Mayor Moench's transition team and have been spending most mornings discussing job duties with department heads.
- Next Tuesday, December 10, 2019 may very well be the final Planning Board meeting for the Center of Excellence application as a vote might happen after final resident input.

Council President Moench

- He has asked Michael Pappas to take on as Township Administrator on January 1, 2020. From a transition standpoint, he along with Councilman Norgalis, Michael Pappas and Attorney Corsini are working to move forward. He thanked Township Administrator Naples and staff who have been gracious and professional during this process.

Mayor's Report

Natasha Turchan, Director of Finance

- Nothing new to report.

Presentation

STAVOLA QUARRY OPERATING LICENSE - 2020

Thomas Branch conducted the presentation noting it concerns Stavola Quarry's relicensing for 2020. He stated he is the Vice President and Director of Engineering and Development for Stavola Construction Materials who are the owners/operators of the Stavola Quarry located along Route 22 on Chimney Rock Rd. Per Township Ordinances regarding Quarry manning, Stavola is required to submit a renewal application every year in order to continue their business and as such, an application was filed with Chip Mills, PE of the Engineering Department and found to be complete.

Mr. Branch discussed in detail the 2020 mine and reclamation plan noting they are not seeking any expansion of limits than what has been previously approved and asked for approval of their 2020 operating license. He also discussed how they have modified the blasting process to minimize the impact of the blasts.

As part of the presentation, the 2019 Stavola Quarry Activity synopsis was provided as well as the 2020 reclamation plan and 2020 mine license plan.

Discussion

MR. GREGORY MEESE - NY SMSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS, SPRINT SPECTRUM L.P. AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC (AT&T) -BLOCK 176 LOT 1 - MILLTOWN ROAD

Gregory Meese, Esq. was present on behalf of NY SMSA Limited Partnership doing

business as Verizon Wireless, Sprint Spectrum, L.P. and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC. These three carriers have an existing facility on a PSE&G tower off Milltown Road. PSE&G has notified the carriers that that tower will soon be coming down and will be replaced. As a result of the carriers being forced off that tower, they are looking to install a temporary facility until PSE&G replaces the tower at which time they will return their facilities to the permanent tower. This work will commence sometime in September, 2020 and will last approximately one-year.

Attorney Meese stated the carriers are very concerned about maintaining service as more than one half of American homes only have wireless phones which means that half of the people surrounding this site will be without communication services when this tower goes down unless they are able to install the temporary facility.

The proposed temporary facility is within the same property and is owned by the Township but it is outside of the PSE&G right of way thus the reason they are before the governing body for authorization to install the temporary facility.

Attorney Meese and his team then fielded questions from the governing body.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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.

Jeffrey Brookner, 60 Nicole Terrace was present. He expressed concern over hiring Michael Collins of Archer Law and Mark Peck of Florio, Perucci, Steinhardt & Capelli in order to offer transition services. He opined it would be inappropriate for them to get paid for these services and offered transition work should instead be done by individuals who are just looking to help.

Regarding the proposal for the Council to appoint a traffic engineer to conduct a traffic study to determine the need for traffic improvements along the Route 202/206 corridor, he offered this is a great idea but wished it had been done in time to present testimony before the planning board.

Mr. Brooker then provided a stack of sample agendas. He offered some of these agendas have hot links to each and every document that is before the governing body and will be voted on. While this may take a while for this to be implemented, he requested that ways to be transparent with the residents be sought.

Jeff Foose, 6 Forest View Drive was present. He spoke against having cell phone

towers in residential properties. He opined that the testimony provided regarding the cell tower proposal is not entirely accurate and asked the Council to proceed with caution and hold them to what they say they will do because their track record is poor. He offered that this proposal should instead be perceived as a brand new tower which means the applicant should go before the Zoning Board of Adjustment and should be made to conform to the current cell tower Ordinance.

Cathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road in Bridgewater was present. She offered she disagreed with the opinions of Mr. Foose noting that the quality of service in Warren is poor due to the installation of little towers as opposed to the cell towers proposed. Ms. Franco also addressed transparency and requested that the agendas provide enough information for the residents. She also concurred with Mr. Brookner's comments regarding the proposal to hire two (2) attorneys to assist with the transition.

Jane Gandolfe, 2000 Washington Valley Road in Martinsville was present was present. She expressed disappointment that the Ordinance concerning historic preservation was not approved. Regarding the Washington Valley Road reconstruction, she stated that while they have done a beautiful job on the road, they are now working on the intersection of Chimney Rock Road and Washington Valley Road and the design is different, making access very difficult. She asked that the governing body look into this matter noting a final hearing with the freeholders is scheduled for December 10th and so far, there has been no representation from Bridgewater.

Councilman Pedroso stated that he and Mr. Foose have had a conversation with a Freeholder regarding this matter who stated he would look into it.

Mark Zislin, 1924 Bartle Lane in Martinsville was present. He expressed concern over the Quarry noting the dump trucks that frequent the Quarry are dangerous. He added that after Washington Valley Road has been reopened, he wondered whether the trucks that frequent these areas can be rerouted/restricted.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the meeting was closed to the public.

Council President Moench stated that earlier in the year, the Council passed a resolution asking the County to look into restricting trucks on Washington Valley Road. He added we have not been successful in limiting truck traffic being these are County roads.

Resolutions

**2020 STAVOLA QUARRY OPERATING LICENSE - BLOCK 711, LOTS 3, 4 AND 6.01
CHIMNEY ROCK ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY, SOMERSET COUNTY**

Council President Moench stated Stavola has met the Ordinance criteria for

approval. He added they are regulated by State law and are permitted to blast. The township makes sure that they do it while complying with local safety requirements.

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,330.00 IN THE CURRENT FUND

Council President Moench stated this will allow for the transfer of monies from accounts where we did not use as much money as was budgeted to accounts where we need to put more money into. This is not an increase of the budget.

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2019 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) HEROES AND HELPERS GRANT-\$10,000.00

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL COLLINS OF ARCHER LAW OF RED BANK, NEW JERSEY AS SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL FOR BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP TO ASSIST THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY WITH CERTAIN TRANSITION-RELATED MATTERS

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARK PECK OF FLORIO, PERUCCI, STEINHARDT & CAPELLI OF PHILLIPSBURG, NEW JERSEY AS SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL FOR BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP TO ASSIST THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY WITH CERTAIN TRANSITION-RELATED MATTERS

Council President Moench stated these two resolutions are to hire paid attorneys at an hourly rate of \$165/hour, not to exceed \$10,000.00. These are not fair and open appointments. He added that under our form of government, the township attorney is the director of the department of law and has the ability to request that the Council appoint special counsel to address legal matters that they determine are either outside of their expertise or when there is an excess amount of work. It was agreed that the titles of these resolutions would be amended to include the pay rate.

AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR A TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CONDUCT A TRAFFIC STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE ROUTE 202/206 CORRIDOR IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Council President Moench stated this is related but not limited to the Center of Excellence application. He added there was a study done along the Route 202/206 corridor in 1983 at which time there was recommendation for a 4-lane roadway and added it is time to update that study. This resolution will allow us to solicit bids and start the process.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second by Councilman Pedroso, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Absent
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilwoman Rose	Aye
Council Vice-President Norgalis	Aye
Council President Moench	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolution [#19-12-05-247 thru #19-12-05-252](#) are appended to the official minutes.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Matthew Moench
Council President