

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JUNE 15, 2020 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via electronic communication.

Council President Norgalis 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 3, 2020, WITH A SUBSEQUENT MEETING NOTICED ON JUNE 11, 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 ET SEQ. AS AMENDED TO PERMIT PUBLIC BODIES AS THEREIN DEFINED TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION OR OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AND WITH WRITTEN NOTICE AND ELECTRONIC NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE COURIER NEWS AND THE STAR LEDGER, POSTING ON THE WEBSITE AND THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AND FILING WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK.

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

Councilman Michael Kirsh
Councilman Allen Kurdyla
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council Vice President Filipe Pedroso
Council President Howard V. Norgalis

Also Present: Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
Wells Winegar, Deputy Administrator
Scott Maraldo, Director of Constituent Relations
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk
Grace Njuguna, Deputy Township Clerk

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

Minutes

JUNE 4, 2020 - REGULAR SESSION, VIRTUAL ACCESS

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Council President Norgalis, the above mentioned minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Forgot to make a report at the last meeting regarding the library as Council has been supporting their request to apply for a grant that will

aid in replacing the Library's HVAC system. Councilman Kurdyla stated the grant has been submitted and the library is waiting for a response expected to be received by September.

- Councilman Kurdyla will be getting the Open Space Committee together to review a parcel. He will report on this matter in the near future.
- Thanked Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator for his assistance in setting up a virtual meeting with the Fire District that went very well.

Councilman Ring:

- Councilman Ring stated he was at the Bridgewater Manor having dinner. He urged the residents to dine out and show support to our small businesses.
- Expressed that he hoped we can open the economy up as soon as possible.
- He also hoped we can begin in-house Council meetings as soon as possible.
- He opined that something needs to be done at the 822 Hawthorne property as reported by a resident at the last County meeting.
- Councilman Ring stated the County has communicated that contractors will soon begin construction/road work which lends to some possible road closures.

Councilman Kirsh:

- Councilman Kirsh stated he was at the municipal building over the weekend and noted the Flag was at half-mast indicating that some families continue to be impacted by the pandemic. He offered his support and encouragement to all those that have been affected.
- With regard to the 2020 Census, Bridgewater numbers are up to 77.9%.
- The 2020 primary election is upon us. This election will primarily be a vote by mail election. Bridgewater will have five (5) voting locations and residents will be assigned a voting location as follows:

The districts listed without parenthesis were formerly located at the named polling location. The districts listed in (parenthesis) & **bolded** have been relocated from their former location as identified to the newly named one.

Bradley Gardens Firehouse
24 Old York Road
Districts 1, 2, 16, 31 (3, 14, 27- Adamsville School)

Bridgewater Municipal Court
Mtg Rm 102 A&B
100 Commons Way
Districts 4, 11 (13, 22, 28, 29 – Hillside School) (25, 26 – Eisenhower School)

Bridgewater Senior Center
455 Somerville Road
Districts 7, 18, 21, 32 (8 - People Care) (9, 15 - FINDERNE RESCUE)

Blessed Sacrament Parish Center
1890 Washington Valley Road,
Martinsville, NJ 08836
Districts 10, 12, 20, 23, 24 (6, 17 – Hamilton School)

Somerset County Park Commission
355 Milltown Road
(Districts 5, 33, 34, 35 - 4H Center) (19, 30, 36 – UM Church)

- We have secured a voting drop-off box where residents can drop off their mail-in ballots. This drop-box will be located at the municipal building and will be used not only by Bridgewater residents but also by other municipalities in Somerset County.
- The Planning Board met on June 9 and heard two land use applications that were approved. Moving forward, the Planning Board will have a full schedule.
- The Zoning Board will be meeting on June 16 and will also has a full schedule moving forward.
- The Bridgewater High School will hold a ceremony for graduating students on June 23rd at 20:20 (8:20pm). Councilman Kirsh advised the residents that there may be some noise associated with this ceremony and not to be alarmed.

Council Vice President Pedroso:

- Nothing new to report

Council President Norgalis:

- Participated in budget conference call with CFO and Administrator to discuss 2020 budget parameters.
- Attended the Board of Education traveling graduation ceremony for his grandson. A small school bus with two high school administrators escorted by a police car and fire truck came to his house for a short but nicely done and very memorable graduation ceremony.
- Attended the Somerset County quarterly Planning Board meeting. Topics included an overview of the Walk, Bike Hike Study, Complete Streets Policy and the Community Outreach and Volunteer Engagement sponsored by AARP.
- Attended via a conference call, a meeting with Bill Savo, Mike Sullivan and others to discuss the Developers Agreement for Advance Realty.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Matthew C. Moench reported as follows:

- Mayor Moench provided an update on numbers as it relates to COVID 19.
- He stated administration and staff have been working diligently in a manner that will allow our businesses to reopen soon noting we are currently working on getting restaurants the permits they need in order to offer outdoor dining to their customers.
- He stated that the reopening of retail businesses does not include the Bridgewater Commons Mall. He added that the mall not only pays taxes but also gives a portion of their rent to the township which means that as long as the mall is closed, the Township continues to be at a financial shortfall.
- Mayor Moench reported some mayors have come together and sent a letter to the Governor urging him to allow the malls to reopen.
- Administration continues to advocate for local businesses to open.
- There have been peaceful protests in Bridgewater. Mayor Moench thanked our police department for ensuring peaceful events.
- Administration continues to solicit veteran information in order to be able to communicate with them. He added we are looking forward to putting together a committee for this cause.

- Mayor Moench hopes to put together a shared services task force in the next few weeks that will evaluate shared services and look for opportunities for us to save money.

2020 BUDGET 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Moench stated this has been an extraordinary year due to COVID-19. We are looking at close to a 2.1million anticipated loss in revenue. This revenue is directly related to COVID-19 which includes property occupancy taxes, the mall, construction permit fees, municipal court, interest that we are not receiving etc.

Mayor Moench explained that he met with the department heads who have gone over every inch of the budget to try and figure out a way of being able to meet our obligations and continue to offer the services that our residents expect but to do so in a way that is responsible.

The budget being presented presents a 1.94 tax increase which is approximately \$3 on the average house hold, and represents a 4% decrease in spending. Mayor Moench explained that we got here by making some hard decisions; We have eliminated almost every vacant position which amount to approximately ten (10) positions. We have also laid off 14-employees and will be looking at furlough days and reduction in overall operating costs. Mayor Moench explained we passed an Ordinance at the last Council meeting that will cover some of the expenses that State law allows in order to take care of some of the expenses associated with layoffs.

Mayor Moench explained that we continue to advocate to receive revenue from the state and federal government although nothing has come through at the moment.

Mayor Moench thanked Councilman Norgalis and Councilman Pedroso who are on the budget committee for their work with the budget. If introduced, after 28-days, the budget will be up for final public comment and final action.

Council President Norgalis commended the Mayor and staff for their work on this budget.

Council was confident that this budget has explored everything it can including but not limited to cost reductions, delay of expenses, furloughs, not filling open positions, work force reduction, general reductions whenever possible and then and only then presents a 1.94% increase in taxes. It was noted that at this point, we have not received any state or federal assistance that is related to loss in revenue. In addition, while we may qualify for FEMA, those monies will not be

available for this budget.

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

ORDINANCE [#20-10](#) WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-06-15-152](#) is appended to the official minutes.

Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 6th day of July, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time on said day as the time and the Bridgewater Township Municipal Court Chambers at 100 Commons Way in said Township as the place for hearing and final action.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall forthwith post on the bulletin board in the Township Municipal Building at 100 Commons Way, a true copy of said ordinance and make copies available to members of the general public and spread the same upon the minutes of the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET - \$43,259,860.79

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the 2020 Municipal Budget was introduced. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution #20-06-15-153 is appended to the official minutes.

Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 20th day of July, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time on said day as the time and the Bridgewater Township Municipal Court Chambers at 100 Commons Way in said Township as the place for hearing and final action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Budget synopsis will be published on June 19, 2020 on the Township's official newspapers.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall forthwith post on the bulletin board in the Township Municipal Building at 100 Commons Way, a true copy of said ordinance and make copies available to members of the general public and spread the same upon the minutes of the meeting.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting was opened to the public.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed to provide public input via electronic transmission with all comments to be read into the record, unless there are unusual circumstances.

There was a five (5) minute recess to allow the public additional time to submit public comment via the link/portal provided.

It was noted that the break in the meeting is to allow for public comment and to provide additional opportunity for "public hearing" input on the ordinance listed below (agenda item 10).

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting was opened to the public for comment regarding the public hearing and final action Ordinances.

Following recess, on the call of the roll by Township Clerk Doyle, the following Council members were present:

Councilman Michael Kirsh
Councilman Allen Kurdyla
Councilman Timothy Ring

**Council Vice President Filipe Pedroso
Council President Howard V. Norgalis**

Deputy Administrator Wells Winegar read the following resident comments into the record verbatim:

Stephanie Black, 5 Ann Place, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

What are the plans to: open the playgrounds, resume court remotely, resume municipal committee meetings remotely, furlough police officers, and other township staff given service levels and revenue are significantly reduced?

Geri Staub, 10 Braemar Place, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

As a result of the current pandemic and the impact it has had on our future way of life, much reliable news information tells us that there will be a major negative impact on the retail sector of our economy. It is obvious that Bridgewater has a significant investment in the retail sector which provides income to our municipality. I would like to ask the Mayor and Town Council, along with our community and other boards/committees, to have a conversation on the future new development/investment in the retail sector before going ahead with any new plans for that form of development.

Bridgewater Township Democratic Committee Statement on Police Reform

This unsettling time in our nation brought on by the senseless murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers demands sweeping police reform. In an effort to calm the demands, the Congress has proposed federal legislation that mandates a zero-tolerance approach in penalizing and/or prosecuting police officers who kill unarmed, non-violent, and non-resisting individuals during an arrest. The Bridgewater Township Democratic Committee wholeheartedly supports this bill and proposes a citizens committee to review Bridgewater's policing policies and practices. Additionally, we offer the following recommendations to facilitate a discussion between the Bridgewater Township Democratic Committee and the mayor and chief of police.

1. We want to ensure that the Bridgewater Police department does not and will not participate in any federal program to accept military equipment which has no place on our streets and should not be a part of municipal law enforcement. The Bridgewater Police should make public an inventory of any such equipment, an accounting of if and when it has been used and ultimately should divest itself of this equipment.
2. End any "qualified immunity" doctrine that prevents police from being held legally accountable for their criminal/immoral actions.
3. Develop a new model for policing communities that envisions the Bridgewater Police Department as a leader in "fair and equal" treatment of all races, colors, creeds, sexual orientation and genders. Bridgewater Police actions should not contribute to the shameful statistics that place New Jersey among the highest racial disparity rates of incarceration in the nation due to racial profiling.
 - a. Emergency calls related to psychiatric, drug abuse and homeless situations should be redirected from 911 to appropriate mental health and social services providers, thus avoiding any catastrophic encounters with the police.
 - b. Police should be trained in de-escalation strategies to avoid/reduce the use

- of force.
- c. Annual diversity training should be mandated for all police officers.
 - d. Chokeholds must be banned.
 - e. Shootings by police officers should be investigated by an outside authority.
 - f. An independent investigation should be held in the event that an individual is killed by the police. The Attorney General for New Jersey should oversee such cases.
 - g. There should be transparency regarding any disciplinary actions contained in police officers' records. When a police officer is dismissed because of bigoted behavior/incidents, this information should be shared with other police departments around the nation, thereby building a database of these offenders.
 - h. Bridgewater police have been wearing body cams since 2016. The equipment should be up-to-date, turned on during operations and available for timely public review if there is an incident. The same comments apply to the use of dash cams.
4. Finally, we welcome a meeting with the mayor and chief of police at their earliest convenience to initiate this discussion.

Cathy Haller-Franco, 766 Weemac Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Budget Comments

Why is there an ordinance to increase the capped amount allowed to 3.5% if the Mayor is proposing a budget which is less than what was approved last year? What is included and NOT included under this state Cap?

What positions have been eliminated by layoff, by not refilling "open positions" and what is the cost of "layoff" where we are funding through increased debt a 500K bond to be paid off over a series of years. I have heard stated that funding is "cheap" right now – what is the interest rate and what is the "upfront cost" of these bonds?

What services can we as taxpayers who live in Bridgewater expecting a "quality of life" and services expect to see in the upcoming year and in future years in order to make this budget work.

What is the expected percentage of increase to in the taxable rate with the proposed budget based upon each 100K of assessed property value?

What new positions have been created, what positions have been eliminated since the Mayor has taken office? What are the salaries and benefits associated with these new positions (and those eliminated) And for positions such as the Township Administrator and the Director of Municipal Services what are their salaries?

For the eliminated positions, what consultants' fees (ie engineers, COAH experts) are we as a township paying?

In addition to our Director of Legal services (not to exceed 400K) amount – how much is the total additional legal fees which have been approved by the council since January 2020 for ALL other legal services?

Other comments

Comment on plenary license for Buffalo Wild Wings - with so many accidents at this location on 22 west in the past few years I would hope that if this is granted that any outdoor seating is conscious of the location of the accidents which have occurred in this area in the past few years in order to assure the safety of all patrons.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sharodka Tofte, 191 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Does the township have an action plan in place or will have an action plan in place to address improving community relations between the police and Bridgewater residence; particularly for people of color? Also, has there been talks about improving awareness and appreciation for cultural diversity in the township? Lastly, are there discussions on how the police can improve their relationship and rapport with the youth in the town; particularly for people of color?

Colleen Macintosh, Bridgewater Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

About the layoffs, how many vacant positions were there and out of the layoffs how come most of them came from your DPW(9) what other depts were layoffs from?

Tim Kolvites, 411 Chimney Rock Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

When the layoff of 14 employees was spoken about earlier, what departments within the town were effected by loss of persons? Will the loss of these individuals immediately effect the services in which the town provides for its residents?

Stephanie Black, 5 Ann Place, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Comments Regarding: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,500,000 FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,325,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

What measures have been taken by the mayors across NJ to work with Trenton on getting NJ's roadwork reduced from \$1M per mile, the highest on the mainland to at least the same as costs Massachusetts #4 at \$500,000 per mile?

Stephanie Black, 5 Ann Place, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Comments Regarding: ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "TOWNSHIP") PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000.00 TO FUND CONTRACTUALLY REQUIRED SEVERANCE LIABILITIES RESULTING FROM THE RETIREMENT OR LAY OFF OF TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES

If we didn't release anyone illegally layoff, fire or terminate any of the municipal employees what is this \$500,000 fund specifically for?

Stephanie Black, 5 Ann Place, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Comments Regarding: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94-2 ENTITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES" TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION (O) ESTABLISHING A ZONING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

What specifically are these new fees?

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the public comment portion was closed.

Mayor Moench explained that we will reach out personally to those residents that have made comments above. He also encouraged any one with concerns to reach out to our office of Constituent Relations at ocr@bridgewater.nj.gov

Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,500,000 FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,325,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

Mayor Moench explained that this year, we are pushing very hard to get some of the construction projects that were previously approved and funded in prior years to be completed as well as taking on additional roads. He added that due to COVID-19, total road expenditures are lower than in past years but in total, more projects will get completed this year. He added we will have \$7M in total road projects done this year which will exceed most of the prior years.

Mayor Moench explained that Administration is looking to hire consultants who will guide us concerning road and infrastructure improvements in future years. This will be discussed later on tonight.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

ORDINANCE [#20-15](#) WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-06-15-154](#) is appended to the official minutes.

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "TOWNSHIP") PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000.00 TO FUND CONTRACTUALLY REQUIRED SEVERANCE LIABILITIES

**RESULTING FROM THE RETIREMENT OR LAY OFF OF TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ACTION ORDINANCE POSTPONED TO JULY 6,
2020 DUE TO PUBLICATION CONFLICT**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94-2 ENTITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES" TO
ADD A NEW SUBSECTION (O) ESTABLISHING A ZONING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ACTION ORDINANCE POSTPONED TO JULY 6,
2020 DUE TO PUBLICATION CONFLICT**

**Consent
Resolutions**

There being no questions concerning the following resolutions, Council President Norgalis read the resolutions by title and called for a consent vote:

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO TOP O' THE HILL TAVERN, 1182 ROUTE 202/206 NORTH, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-028-002, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO CHIMNEY ROCK INN, 800 N THOMPSON AVENUE, BOUND BROOK, NJ 08805, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-005-005, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO ARBER CORPORATION D/B/A MARTINSVILLE TAVERN, 1979 WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD, MARTINSVILLE, NJ 08836, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-008-008, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO ANTSUL - BWWII, LLC, AKA BUFFALO WILD WINGS BAR & GRILL, 970 US HIGHWAY 22, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-010-008, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO HOP BRIDGEWATER, LLC, 1288 E. ROUTE 22, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-014-009, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO SEASONS 52 HOLDINGS, LLC D/B/A/ SEASONS 52, 410 COMMONS WAY, PLENARY RETAIL

CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-018-009, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

It was confirmed that this applications were reviewed to ensure that they will comply with the requirements issued by the State government.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#20-06-15-155 thru #20-06-15-161](#) are appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO SOMERVILLE LODGE OF ELKS POST 1068, 375 UNION AVENUE, CLUB LICENSE NO. 1806-31-032-002, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Abstain
Council Vice President Pedroso	Abstain
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-06-15-162](#) is appended to the official minutes.

Resolutions AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY FOR 2020 RECYCLING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$408,501.

Council President Norgalis explained that this agreement presents a fee of \$24.33 per household which is \$.44 increase from last year with fourteen (14) more households from prior year.

Councilman Ring stated that while he supports recycling, in reviewing the

agreement, it appears the County has taken a prior agreement, adjusted the rate in the agreement and sent us the same agreement from last year. The County has been transitioning to new and larger recycling buckets but residents will be in violation of using the new recycling buckets because the agreement has not been amended accordingly. He opined the County would need to amend their agreement before we can approve this. It was confirmed that there is no urgency in approving this matter tonight.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing resolution was tabled to allow the County to amend their contract. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Nay
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Nay

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT FUND \$ 3,123,885.45

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR SEWER UTILITY FUND \$ 1,708,384.21

Mayor Moench explained these resolutions will allow us to pay bills while we wait for the budget to be adopted.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#20-06-15-163 thru #20-06-15-164](#) are appended to the official minutes

SUPPORTING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ROUTE 202/206 BRIDGE, 160' SOUTH OF STELLA DRIVE, OVER BRANCH OF PETERS BROOK IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, SOMERSET COUNTY

Township Administrator Pappas explained the New Jersey Department of

Transportation has informed us of their plans for the replacement of the existing Route 202/206 Bridge, 160' South of Stella Drive. It has been classified as structurally deficient due to the poor condition of the substructure and is in need of replacement. The purpose of this resolution is for Council to endorse the replacement of the bridge.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-06-15-165](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PENNONI ASSOCIATES, INC., 1900 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 TO SERVE AS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS TO CONDUCT A ROAD CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$38,650

Mayor Moench explained administration has been operating without a real long term road infrastructure plan. This resolution will allow for a long-term strategy to maintain and improve the township's roads. In this regard, administration is recommending the award of contract to Pennoni Associates who will undertake the study which will evaluate the condition of our roads.

Jerry Prevete and Megan Todaro of Pennoni Associates were present to conduct the presentation. They explained that their firm will utilize robotics technology which takes a complete picture of roadways every 10-feet and analyses the condition of each road. Each road is then given a rating from 1 through 5 - 1 being the best and 5 being the worst. That data, along with other factors such as proximity to a school and use will aid the township and engineering firm to develop a long term plan.

Pennoni will begin driving on the roads to collect data this summer. The full public report is expected to be released before the end of the year.

Mayor Moench explained it is his hope that this study would provide information on which roads needed the most attention and give residents some transparency into the process of how roads are selected.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-06-15-166](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZATION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY RARITAN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, 747 STATE ROUTE 28, BRIDGEWATER, NJ - JULY 4, 2020

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-06-15-167](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**Closed
Session**

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

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 Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:10 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#20-06-15-168](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 10:13 p.m.

Following the closed session, on the call of the roll by Township Clerk Doyle, the

following Council members were present:

Councilman Michael Kirsh
Councilman Allen Kurdyla
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council Vice President Filipe Pedroso
Council President Howard V. Norgalis

Resolutions **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH SERVICES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-1 ET SEQ FROM MAY 15, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 WITH THE MIDDLEBROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION LOCATED AT 111 GREENBROOK ROAD, GREEN BROOK, NJ 08812, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$54,375.00**

Council President Norgalis explained the changes to the resolution and contract for this matter including:

- The resolution will state the legal review was provided by Chris Corsini, Township Attorney
- The resolution will state that the health officer of Middlebrook Regional Health Commission will report to and be accountable to Bridgewater Health and Human Services Director Christine Madrid.
- The Contract will be amended to reflect that the part time REHS provided by Middlebrook will be at 50% which is 20hours per week.

Councilman Kirsh stated that it was announced earlier that there will be a shared services task force group of which he will be happy to be a part being that a longer term solution for health services will be one among many topics that they cover. Council President Norgalis added he too will be happy to be a part of and discussed some shared services task force groups and their responsibilities.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-06-15-169](#) is appended to the official minutes.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President