

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AUGUST 3, 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, August 3, 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 JULY 29, 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: Wells Winegar, Deputy Administrator
Scott Maraldo, Director of Constituent Relations
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Linda Doyle, Township Clerk
Grace Njuguna, Deputy Township Clerk

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

Minutes

JULY 20, 2020 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the July 20, 2020 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Councilman Kurdyla advised there is an impending storm that is anticipated in a day. He urged residents to be vigilant in preparing for this storm by cleaning out fire hydrants, keeping an eye on the catch

basins in front of their homes and cleaning them if clogged with brush and grass in order to prevent street flooding. He also asked residents to tie down or bring in loose furniture.

Councilman Kirsh

- The Board of Education had a successful in person graduation ceremony on July 23rd at the ballpark.
- The plan for the 2020-2021 school year should be available and communicated soon.
- At the last Planning Board meeting, the Board voted on a PSE&G application to replace all of their 28-towers located within Bridgewater. Following a considerable number of questions, clarifications and concessions, Councilman Kirsh stated he believed they came up with a solid plan that is a good solution for our residents and that will allow PSE&G to upgrade its 90-year old infrastructure. He added there is also better communication between Verizon Wireless and PSE&G on what is going on.

Councilman Ring:

- Congratulated Chief Payne and Acting Captain O'Neil on earning the New Jersey State Association Chief of Police accredited and/or command executive certification. Only about 33% of the police chief's earn the chief accreditation and only about 29% of the command staff across New Jersey earn the command accreditation.
- We expect to see severe adverse weather in our region. Councilman Ring stated he is certain our Police, Fire, EMS and Public Works will be taxed and as in the past, they will rise to the occasion. His thoughts and prayers are with all of them that they will be safe during the storm and return home safely to their families at the end of their shifts.
- As the EMS liaison, he recently participated in a meeting with some members of the Emergency Management Council for the Township regarding some specific questions related to the EMS.

Council Vice President Pedroso:

- Attended a virtual Somerset County Regional Partnership meeting.
- Urged the residents to be prepared for the impending storm by taking note of some emergency contact numbers for PSE&G and JCP&L.

Council President Norgalis:

- Continues to participate in the Bridgewater Office of Emergency management conference calls. While COVID continues to be a concern the

hurricane/tropical storm due in our area tomorrow is getting a lot of attention. In that regard, the State of New Jersey Emergency Operations Center has been activated as many shore and low lying areas will be affected. High winds and heavy rains are expected.

- He has scheduled a discussion item for this evening regarding a planned request from a developer in Hunterdon County to utilize sewerage treatment capacity from the Somerset Raritan Valley treatment facility of which we are the biggest user.
- There is an additional property naming issue that will come before this council in the coming weeks and that is the Hancock property on North Bridge St. There are 20 acres in our open space inventory that were part of the Hancock farm for decades and the naming and sign recognition will commemorate that property.

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- The road assessment program has begun. There was a kick off meeting on July 23rd and the township roads will be evaluated to help us formulate a long term road plan.
- We continue to report on the status of all the road projects that are underway in town for any resident who is interested. Any time there are changes, the Office of Constituent Relations will make that information public.
- With regard to COVID-19, we continue to report on new cases and fatalities as they arise. As the summer months progress, he urged residents to be vigilant in practicing social distancing protocols where required. More information will be made public as far as statistics with regard to age ranges of cases and fatalities and time frames/trends.
- Continues to work with Mayors on Main Street Alliance which has 23-towns. They continue to advocate on behalf of small businesses throughout our communities that are negatively impacted by COVID-19. Recently, the Governor announced additional aid to small businesses but unfortunately only 64 municipalities were eligible for that aid. None of the towns on the Mayors for Main Street Alliance were eligible for their businesses to receive aid so they continue to advocate for them and will keep everyone advised of those activities.
- We continue to work with the County on partnering with the Police Department to implement an on-point type program.

- Received a lot of concerns from our residents regarding sewer bills as the post office failed to deliver several large groups of sewer bill reminders which means our residents are now incurring late fees because of it. Mayor Moench stated we may return to the governing body requesting relief on this issue. More information will soon be forthcoming.
- Mayor Moench stated we are yet to address several Police Department positions. Paul Payne, Chief of Police will make his recommendations on Captains and this information will then be made public at that time.

DISCUSSION

SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY CAPACITY (SRVSA)

The SRVSA started in 1958 and is a consortium of seven (7) township of which we are the largest as we provide approximately 30% of the affluent and pay 30% of the bills. It involves Branchburg, Hillsborough, Manville, Raritan, Somerville and Warren. Its rated capacity is 23M gallons per day.

Council President Norgalis stated that earlier in the week, he received a letter from the County stating they had received information from a developer in Hunterdon County who wants to develop residential homes on part of the Fox Hollow Gold Course which is partly in Branchburg and largely in Hunterdon with a plan to build approximately 240-homes in order to help satisfy their affordable housing obligation.

The concern is that if we allow those outside the consortium to utilize our capacity, once it is used up, we will need to expand which would be extremely costly. The possibility exists that Branchburg may let them in under their authority and in that case, there is nothing we can do about it. This matter will be discussed at the next SRVSA meeting in August. If we want to provide any guidance, they would welcome hearing from the Mayor or Council as to what our take is.

Council was in consensus that being the capacity is almost sized out, we should not let anyone else in because being that Bridgewater holds the largest cut, additions would adversely affect us financially and in turn affect our residents. Furthermore, we may need additional usage in the future and need to reserve that for our residents. For this reason, Township Attorney Corsini will provide a letter to the SRVSA to inform them of our stand.

Public Comment

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, 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 four (4) 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 2020 Municipal Budget (agenda item 8).

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, 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

Scott Maraldo, Director of Constituent Relations read the following resident comment into the record verbatim:

Bob Vaucher - 449 Foothill Road

Mr. Mayor and Council, I want to say how deeply honored I am to be recognized for my contributions to my beloved country as a member of the US Army Air Corp during WWII, as well as, my contributions to Bridgewater, which I've cherished as my home for 70 yrs. It is overwhelming to think that the Vaucher name will remain on Foothill Road long after "I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings." My deepest thanks for your thoughtful consideration of me and the freedoms, democracy and quality of life that I've fought for my entire life. May God continue to bless our great country and extraordinary Bridgewater Township. Sincerely, Bob Vaucher.

Gary Stocker - 55 Harry Court

Good evening. My name is Gary Stocker and I have lived in Bridgewater 10 years, the last 8 with 2 young children. We love it here and have lived through Sandy (losing a neighbor in a fire when electricity was lost) and have made many friends. Recently our peaceful street has seen an increase in traffic...which is expected since Adamsville is adjacent...but the traffic is mixed with motorcyclists who have recently moved nearby. Most motorcyclists are

responsible but in the past 2 years I have seen them doing wheelies down Harry with their babies, some going over 70 mph. I called the police last summer but this didn't stop them. My neighbor confronted one in march...didn't help. I left messages for public works, no return call. I spoke with someone last week in your office last week. She listened but sent me to a voicemail. No response. So that this doesn't escalate further in the neighborhood I am simply asking for the speed bump in front of my house. Thank you.

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator stated there were some residents who requested to address the Council in person:

Gary Stocker, 55 Harry Court emphasized his need for a Speed bump and requested that this matter be looked into.

James Schink, 17 Bujak Court asked about the timing for PSEG tower replacement and the Verizon temporary monopole installation. Councilman Kirsh advised that Bridgewater South will not begin until summer of 2022 and will run through winter of 2023. He offered he is available to have direct conversations with Mr. Schink should he so desire.

Councilman Kurdyla made motion to close the public input. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ring and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

In response to Mr. Schink's concerns, Mayor Moench offered that one of the things that Paul Payne, Chief of Police and he have had discussions about is increasing the amount of patrols that the traffic safety unit does within neighborhoods. He added that we used to receive grants from the State for safe quarters so a lot of the traffic safety units' anti-speeding direction was often on Route 22 where grants were given to do it and there was a financial incentive to focus on that area. We do not get that grant anymore but based on the complaints we receive from the public, they are not about speeding on Route 22 but about speeding on Harry Road, Oak Street and all the neighborhood streets so moving forward, the residents will see a program that will focus a bit more on safety within the neighborhoods in the form of targeted patrols, flashing signs etc.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT AND ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL (ret.) THOMAS R. VAUCHER TO THE DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PRESERVATION OF OUR WAY OF LIFE THROUGH HIS HONORABLE AND COURAGEOUS SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR CORPS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR, AND HIS IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP SPECIFICALLY, THROUGH MORE THAN SEVEN DECADES OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PRINCIPLED ADVOCACY AND FOREVERMORE

DESIGNATE THE FORMER JOHN WEMPLE PROPERTY AS THE “VAUCHER REVOLUTIONARY PRESERVE AT STEELE’S GAP” IN HIS HONOR

Councilman Ring stated he first met Lieutenant colonel Vaucher about three years ago during a County Committee campaign. He will be 102-years old in 4months but he still drives. He grew up in Texas and at the age of 21 already had his civilian pilot license. Shortly after that, he enlisted in what was the United States Army Air Corp at the time. He was commissioned in 1941 and later that year, 9-days after the empire of Japan attacked the United States, and only 1-day after he married, he piloted his first combat patrol mission.

In 1942, Bob was assigned to the 6th Bomb Group & 6th Air Force Headquarters in Panama, and flew search missions in the North Atlantic, Caribbean and Near Pacific, accumulating about 1,000 hours in four engine bombers.

Bob was one of a handful of pilots who was called back to the US in 1943 to participate in the development of the groundbreaking B-29 Superfortress, an aircraft destined to change the course of the war at that time.

In 1945, Bob was part of a group that led one of the largest mission of 454 B-29 bombers over Japan. In 1945, during which his second-in-command was shot down, and from which Bob managed to get his crew and plane safely back to Iwo Jima—hundreds of miles from his original base—on a “Wing and a Prayer,” despite the fact that after landing, he and his crew counted over 400 bullet holes in the aircraft.

In 1945 General Ramey gave Bob the honor of serving as the mission commander for the final show of force on September 2nd, 1945, during which Bob lead the formation of the 525 B-29’s which overflew the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay at the exact time that Japanese Empire formally surrendered to the United States.

Over the course of the war, Bob flew 117 combat missions, and earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, five Air Medals, eight Battle Stars, and 13 wartime commendations and citations.

Bob was honorably discharged from active duty in 1946, and by 1950, had bought a home on Foothill Road in Bridgewater Township, where he raised his family and has lived for the past 70 years.

Throughout his many years as a Bridgewater resident, Bob has been instrumental in the creation of the Bridgewater Police Department and the Police Department taking over patrolling the Township from the State Police.

He has also been instrumental in securing the land in which our high school sits today.

Bob has been a tireless advocate for the responsible use of land in Bridgewater, most especially engineering the preservation of Hobbstown when Interstate 287 was to be constructed through our Township.

In 2013, Bob was inducted into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame. In 2014, Bob was formally accepted as an eligible nominee for enshrinement into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Bob is scheduled this year to serve as honorary Air Boss for the Arsenal of Democracy WWII aircraft flyover of the nation's capital in honor of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of World War II in the European theatre.

In 2018, at 99 years of age, Bob successfully advocated for the preservation of the property of his late friend, John Wemple, which was turned over to Bridgewater Township, so that it may be a historical, recreational and cultural landmark for generations to come.

Councilman Pedroso stated he first came across Lieutenant Colonel Vaucher approximately 19-years ago when he joined the Zoning Board. Mr. Vaucher would often come to the Zoning Board to speak up as he is a strong advocate for Bridgewater's quality of life. He was one of the founding members of the Foothill Civic association group that took an active role in Bridgewater Township's issues some of which were controversial. What remained consistent is Bob's love for the Township and his drive to impact the quality of life for Bridgewater residents. If it wasn't for his activism and role, Bridgewater would not look or feel like it is today. He has been a guardian to protect this town's quality of life by standing up, advocating and speaking out. His accomplishments include securing the Bridgewater High school, securing the Police Department and the Hobbstown community. He was also instrumental in securing of Bridgewater's form of government. He has also been involved in political campaigns, always with the goal of protecting Bridgewater's quality of life and keeping our town great for all of us to live and raise our families.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, 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 [#20-08-03-196](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ERIC GOLDBERG OF 1294 COLONIAL WAY, TERRENCE HAUPT OF 14 MANVILLE BLVD, MICHELLE SMITH OF 662 FOOTHILL ROAD, MICHAEL MINAIDES OF 272 SHORT HILLS DRIVE, SCOTT MARALDO OF 5 HEATHER DRIVE (HOWELL, NJ), JOHN MANNA OF 966 BROWN ROAD, AND DANIEL CAOLA OF 1 MCMANUS DRIVE, TO THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Moench stated this will allow us not only to honor our veterans but to also engage them in our community to gain their wisdom, leadership and energy to benefit our community. Scott Maraldo, Director of Office of Constituent Relations will be the staff liaison to help guide the committee.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, 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 [#20-08-03-197](#) is appended to the official minutes

COUNCIL PRESIDENT NORGALIS READ THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE AND ALLOWED FOR DISCUSSIONS/QUESTIONS. HE THEN CALLED FOR A CONSENT MOTION.

AWARD THE 2020-2021 SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE TO K & J TREE SERVICE, LLC, 16 STONY BROOK ROAD, BRANCBURG, NEW JERSEY 08853 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000.00

The title for this resolution was amended to read as follows:

AWARD THE 2020-2021 SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE TO K & J TREE SERVICE, LLC, 16 STONY BROOK ROAD, BRANCBURG, NEW JERSEY 08853 IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00

Councilman Kurdyla asked whether K&J Tree Service is new to snow removal or whether we have worked with them in the past. Township Attorney Corsini stated this is the company we dealt with last year and offered to provide any information Councilman Kurdyla may need.

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND ASPEN HILL HOLDINGS, LLC FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MONITORING WELLS ON BLOCK 255, LOT 36, VACANT LAND, OWNED BY BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP ON KLINE PLACE

AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF VAN NOTE-HARVEY ASSOCIATES, INC. AS SPECIAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANT TO ASSIST IN THE REVIEW OF SEWER FLOWS AND COST ALLOCATIONS RELATED TO THE MIDDLE BROOK TRUNK AS A PRELIMINARY EXPENSE FOR GILBRIDE AND MIDDLE BROOK PUMP STATION REPAIRS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,050.00

AUTHORIZING CHANGE OF SCOPE TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT, INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE BY THE SUM OF \$8,000.00, FOR THE RESUMPTION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES, FOR THE WOODLAND TERRACE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CONTRACT PRICE WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, LLC (32 BROWER LANE, PO BOX 5877, HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844) FROM THE PRICE OF \$57,500.00 TO \$65,500.00 FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 CAPITAL FUND

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY, 600 COMMONS WAY BLDG. E, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-020-012, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the following 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 resolution [#20-08-03-198 thru #20-08-03-203](#) are 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.

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 Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:39 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#20-08-03-204](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:50 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President