

MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
Preparation for 2020 Reorganization
Monday, December 16, 2020 at 5:30 pm

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Jersey.

Present: J. Roy Oliver, Mayor
Ken Whildin, Deputy Mayor
Bill Ashton, Committeeman
Denise L. Peterson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Oliver at 5:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Oliver

Roll Call: Mr. Oliver
Mr. Whildin
Mr. Ashton

The purpose of the meeting is preparation for the Reorganization meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 12 noon.

Discussion Item:

1. 2020 appointments (Resolution 02-2020)

The Township Committee members present reviewed the 'draft' Resolution No. 02-2020 and positions were discussed and assigned for the Township Committee and staff.

2. LUB Appointments (Resolution 02-2020)

The Township Committee members discussed the three seats terminating on December 31, 2019 and agreed to re-appoint all three members to Land Use Board for the terms based on category.

3. Township Committee representative for the 2020 Tax Sale in June. (Resolution 24-2020)

The Township Committee agreed that Mr. J. Roy Oliver would be named to represent the township interest, should the need arise, at the 2020 Tax Sale which will take place in June/July 2020.

4. Professional Service Contracts for 2020

a.) All Professionals responding to RFP (Resolution No. 15-2020)

The professionals submitting proposals were reviewed and recommendations from the Township Solicitor were considered and the Municipal Clerk for Township Solicitor. The following professionals were selected: Public Defender – Anthony Imbesi from the office of Testa, Heck, Testa & White, Alternate Public Defender – Alfred Verderose, Township Solicitor – Frank DiDomenico, Prosecutor – Thomas Corrigan, Planner – Tiffany CuvIELLO Morrissey, Insurance Broker of Record – Mints Insurance, Auditor – Ray Colavita of Nightlinger, Colavita & Volpa, Land Use Board Solicitor – Michael Benson, and In Rem Solicitor – Thomas Seeley.

An extension of one year was approved to the Environmental Consultant – Mark Pietrucha of Woodard & Curran at prior meeting. The Township Committee determined the proposal submitted by Ron Sutton for Animal Control was high and Mayor Oliver will discuss with Mr. Sutton a proposed lower rate. Ambulance – North proposals were rejected: Belleplain Emergency due to excessive proposed fees and Dorothy for incomplete proposal package.

b.) Barber Consulting for IT services (Resolution No. 21-2020)

The Township Committee agreed to contract with Barber Consulting to provide IT services for the township in 2020. Resolution No. 21-2020 will be presented on January 2, 2020.

c.) CM3 for HVAC services 2020 (Resolution No. 22-2020)

The Township Committee agreed to contract with CM3 for the municipal building HVAC services in 2020. Resolution No. 22-2020 will be presented on January 2, 2020.

d.) Water Testing Quotes

Three quotes for Water Testing and Well Monitoring services for 2020 were reviewed by the Township Committee. The Township Committee determined that for efficiency to award the Landfill Water Sampling to Woodard & Curran with the Senior Center, Concession Stand and Leechester Hall to be awarded to Eurofins QC.

5. Discussion/Designation of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2020

A brief discussion took place between the members present regarding the 2020 Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

6. Ambulance – North (added discussion item)

The Township Committee further discussed the proposals submitted and alternatives for Ambulance Service – North. It was discussed that Dorothy already provides ambulance services to a portion of Milmay. Mr. Oliver offered that he spoke with Chief Lippincott in Millville regarding the possibility of services to the northern section of Maurice River Township and Chief Lippincott stated they cannot at this time because they will not have their services up and running until June 2020. The Township Committee discussed ‘splitting’ the northern section of the township. It was proposed to do a Request for Proposals asking for two alternative quotes – one for the entire northern section and one splitting the northern section using the fire district lines. Mr. Whildin offered that Laurel Lake presently has 20 part-time employees with an annual salary for all at \$200,000 but they are not certain they would be able to provide ‘quality’ ambulance service but they will look at the situation further for a better determination.

Mr. Whildin stated the immediate concern is that the current contract expires on December 31, 2019. The Township Committee was in agreement for Mr. Whildin to reach out to Inspira to see if they would agree to an extension of 180 days to their current contract until the township can secure ambulance service for the north.

7. Construction Official (moved from A&BR meeting at 6:30 pm)

Mr. Gross was asked to attend the A&BR meeting but arrived while the Preparation meeting was ongoing. The Township Committee agreed to hear Mr. Gross’ information on the positions he held in the township and brief descriptions of each. Mr. Gross is retiring effective February 1, 2020. Mr. Whildin stated he would like to see cost savings in the new hire with the position being part-time.

Mr. Gross explained that his Construction Official certification is for HHC (high hazard) which permits him to conduct inspections such as those after Hurricane Sandy. This title also provides for issuing ‘unsafe structures’ due to house fires, etc. which ultimately helps the resident with insurance. Certificate of Occupancy copies are provided to the Tax Assessor after construction is complete to allow for assessment on work done. The Class I (HHS) allows for waiving of municipal fees upon Township Committee approval. The current plumbing, electric and fire inspectors have HHS licenses and there is one MRT resident who has this license. Building and construction are both needed. Derrick Leary is interested in Building but not construction.

Mr. Gross provided reports of services rendered and permits issued in the last couple years by the construction office with fees collected.

Mr. Gross stated the Housing Officer will be responsible for rental inspections (RCS license required). Rental inspections are done once a year and presently MRT has 133 rentals registered with the township.

Mr. Gross stated that Floodplain Manager is a Federal License that is obtained through courses offered by FEMA. The courses are intense and long. Mr. Gross offered that 42 homes were reported damaged after Sandy and all homes built utilizing flood mandates only sustained

damage to steps and decks. Mr. Gross stated he is not sure if this position is required but he does recommend.

Mr. Gross addressed the Vacant Housing Inspection. Mr. Gross stated this program is now 3 years old and this year \$39,000 was collected from the program. There were 116 documented and inspected properties under this program. In the 3-year period \$96,291.61 has been collected and 39 total homes have sold. All properties registered in this program are 'bank' owned. No license is needed to inspect for vacant housing and registration.

Mr. Gross stated that this year his office brought in a total of \$102,627.36.

Mr. Gross addressed the position of OEM Coordinator and directives were provided to everyone. FEMA funding can be obtained. The OEM Coordinator declares emergencies and must keep the EOP current every 4 years. NIMS also needed as to keep compliance up to date. Both OEM Coordinator and NIMS are required.

Mr. Gross stated he is also responsible to have emergency housing in place and no license is required. These shelters must have cots, emergency heating & cooling.

Mr. Gross addressed Code Enforcement stating that generally for MRT inspections of properties are done when complaints are received. This person must work with people to get results.

Mr. Oliver expressed that after January 2nd a special meeting will be arranged to address the new replacements and asked Mr. Gross to attend when it is scheduled.

Comments

Mayor Oliver stated that Pastor Schmeling has agreed to provide the invocation for the Reorganization meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 12 noon.

The meeting was adjourned.

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk