

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2019**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the reading of the following Sunshine law announcement: *“I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Califon Borough Council has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the annual notice in the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat.”*

FLAG SALUTE

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. BAGGSTROM, J. COLLINS, E. HAVERSANG, L. JANAS,
M. MEDEA, C. SMITH
ABSENT: NONE**

**DISCUSSION – RENEWAL OF POLICE AND COURT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN CALIFON AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP**

Present tonight to discuss with Mayor and Council various issues with the renewal of both the Police and Municipal Court Interlocal Agreements was WT Administrator, Andrew Coppola, Committee member/Police Commissioner, Ken Short, Police Chief Jeff Almer and Sharon Cooper, WT Risk Management Consultant. The first issue under discussion was clarification on Court revenue and costs. Mr. Coppola handed out to Mayor and Council a breakdown of two options for revenue and costs. Council reviewed and all agreed that Option A, the same option as is currently used, would be the best option for the renewal. The renewal will be for 6 years with no increase for the first year; then 2% for each subsequent year.

The termination clause for both the Police and Court agreements will be re-written to reflect the language agreed upon tonight.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the insurance clause in the Police agreement having to do with Califon’s crossing guards. Mr. Coppola and Ms. Cooper referenced Title 40A of the Administrative Code and have been in discussions with Califon’s insurance agent at Groendyke Associates. Both explained that Statewide’s requirements, as explained by Groendyke Associates, for coverage of the crossing guards under the Police department is not how it was set up originally and will not work going forward. The crossing guards are Califon’s employees and the language in the police agreement needs to stay the same for the renewal agreement.

Following the lengthy discussion, Mayor Daniel stated that if this does not get resolved by Friday, he would like to have a conference call with all parties involved to come to a resolution so that renewal of the Police Interlocal can be finalized and approved by Council at the next meeting on December 17th.

POLICE

Police Chief Almer reported that if the Califon School agrees to have a Class 3 officer in the school, the contract would be between the Police Dept. and Califon School; not the town.

Police Chief Almer reported that there were electrical wires pulled off the residence at 1 Academy St. by a truck coming over the bridge. Patrolman Barnes responded and the incident is in the system. No one was able to identify the truck or the driver.

Matt Taylor addressed Police Chief Almer and the Mayor and Council looking for an update on the controversy surrounding the rock wall at 38 Hoffman Dr. Mayor Daniel stated that he has a meeting with the Zoning Officer on Friday and will discuss the issue with him.

Mr. Taylor addressed Police Chief Almer regarding problems he sees with neighbors parking on the street when snow covered and at other times and asked the Chief about town traffic regulations for parking on Borough roads. Chief Almer said he would check the code and get back to him.

The Clerk will order a “no outlet” sign for Railroad Ave. to be placed half way down the road.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by E. Haversang to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 18, 2019, with the following corrections:

Page 153; under Committee Reports: Councilwoman Smith reported that the “Gloria Winter” grant of \$2,430 was awarded in 2019.

Page 153: under Committee Reports: Councilwoman Smith reported that NJ Advance Media’s marketing proposal of \$10,000 per month was rejected by the BOE

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

LIST OF BILLS

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by R. Bagstrom to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$34,790.74.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

___ Dept. of Transportation; Califon selected to receive funding for DOT grant for Cokesbury Rd., Cloverhill, Limerock and Crestmore roads in the amount of \$220,000.

___ map from NJWSA; Julie Shelley – location of 9 ash trees selected to be taken down

___ Califon Island park and Columbia Trail Connector Proposal received from Nathan Snyder
Copies to Amanda A, Chris Keiser – invite to next Parks meeting

OLD BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL COURT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CALIFON AND WASHINGTON TWP.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-92

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FIFTH RENEWAL INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON AND THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR A SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT

WHEREAS, THE Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon and the Township of Washington, County of Morris, desire to enter into a fifth renewal agreement for a shared Municipal Court located in the Township of Washington; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are permitted to enter into such agreements pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 2B:12-1. c.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Califon, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Fourth Renewal Interlocal Services Agreement between the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon and the Township of Washington, County of Morris, for a Shared Municipal Court for a 6-year term to commence on January 1, 2020 and to terminate on December 31, 2025.
2. A copy of the Agreement is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk for inspection by the public.
3. A copy of the Agreement shall be filed, for informational purposes, with the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Director.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2019-92 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks Committee has not met. The Clerk asked Councilman Medea to let her know the date of the Parks Committee's reorganization meeting for 2020 so that it can be advertised.

Councilman Medea reported that Justin Pill from Coldspring Landscaping has planted the new Christmas tree on the newly acquired Borough property. Councilman Medea bought the tree for \$400. Councilman Medea stated that he hoped the new outlet for decorative lighting installed by JCP&L in the summer will work for the Christmas Tree lighting event on Dec. 8th.

Councilman Haversang reiterated that the Christmas Tree lighting/Santa for Kids event, sponsored by the Recreation Committee will be held on December 8th. There will be cookies and hot chocolate available.

Councilman Janas reported that the School Steering Committee will meet on December 10th at 7:30 pm.

The Planning Board will meet on Wednesday, December 18th.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the BOE will meet on December 19th.

Councilman Collins reported that he spoke with the Borough Attorney, Peter Jost, about the ongoing Weis Dam project. Councilman Medea asked about the town's liability if Califon acquires this property from Hunterdon County. Councilman Collins stated that the County has not removed the concrete slab as they promised so he will need to determine what the hold up is and then, as the project moves forward, insurance and various other issues will need to be addressed at that time. Councilman Medea asked if there was any action on the County's part to repair the sinkhole at the edge of Raritan Dr. and Main St. The Clerk said that the County Engineer was going to look at it the last time he was in town but she has not heard from him on any remediation.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Daniel reported that he has a meeting scheduled with the Zoning officer, Bill Skene, on Friday to discuss the rock wall at 38 Hoffman Dr. and various other issues in town.

Mayor Daniel reported that he cannot be at the Council meeting on Monday, December 16th so Council decided to reschedule this meeting until Tuesday, December 17th. A holiday get-together will be held following this Council meeting with food and beverages available.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator