**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

Council President Michael Medea called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 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. BAGGSROM, J. COLLINS, E. HAVERSANG, L. JANAS,**

**M. MEDEA, C. SMITH**

**ABSENT: MAYOR CHARLES DANIEL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Collins to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 19, 2019.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, M. Medea

Opposed: None

Abstain: L. Janas, C. Smith

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by E. Haversang seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $541.731.03.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_\_** sample ordinance from Lebanon Township; No Knock regarding peddling and soliciting

\_\_ Hunterdon County Planning Board; re: hosting a 2020 Census Kick-Off Orientation on September 18, 2019 from 7:30 am to 9:00 am

**POLICE REPORT**

Police Chief, Jeff Almer, reported to Council that there will be a formal presentation of the Police accreditation recently approved on Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm at town hall.

Chief Almer also reported on the following:

The police training room will be dedicated to former Police Chief George Keutz

A recognition of the 18 officers who responded to the recent W. Mill St. active shooter event. They were well prepared, had the most up to date equipment and did an amazing job.

There was a recent complaint about speeding on Main St.; Police Chief Almer reiterated that after much research, there is no problem with speeding on Main St. He will however install the speed sign to collect data once again.

There was a recent incident in the Park that was caught by the Police.

Very few problems with Island Park during the bridge construction.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – PROCEED WITH PLANS TO ACQUIRE 14 ACRES OF PARKLAND FROM HUNTERDON COUNTY AND REMOVAL OF WEIS DAM**

Councilman Collins reviewed the conversation he had with the Mayor and Council at the last Council meeting, regarding the land transfer offered by the County of Hunterdon, with Councilpersons Janas and Smith, who were absent at the last meeting. Councilman Collins explained that the County has proposed the transfer of 14 acres of parkland surrounding Island Park to Califon Borough for $1.00. Califon has responded favorably to this proposal however, Califon would like the County to remove the concrete slab adjacent to the dam, which poses a safety hazard; at no cost to the Borough. Councilman Collins has confirmed with Tom Mathews, County Engineer, that the County is willing to remove the concrete slab and move forward with transferring the 14 acres. The County has stated that the remnant of the Weis dam, an unregulated structure, will then become Califon’s liability to remove. Councilman Collins stated that there are various funding sources that will cover the cost of the dam removal. Califon will enter into a stewardship agreement with Raritan Headwaters so that they can apply for the grants. Once the remnant of the dam is removed, a river restoration project can be undertaken. There are several entities that are excited to see a river restoration project at this site which will result in a healthier river. Councilman Collins asked Council to adopt a resolution to proceed with plans to acquire 14 acres of parkland from the County; formalizing this arrangement by having Hunterdon County draft an Agreement between the County and Califon and move forward with securing funding for removal of the Weis dam and embarking on a river restoration project once the remnant of the dam is removed.

The following Resolution is introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2019-72**

**WHEREAS,** the County of Hunterdon has proposed the transfer of 14 acres of County parkland surrounding Island Park; ending at the Weis dam, to the Borough of Califon for a fee of $1.00; and

**WHEREAS,** Califon Borough has agreed to this land transfer from the County of Hunterdon, subject to Califon’s request to have the concrete slab, adjacent to the Weis dam and considered to be a safety hazard, removed by the County of Hunterdon at no cost to Califon Borough; and

**WHEREAS,** the Borough of Califon and the County of Hunterdon have agreed that once the land transfer has been finalized, it will be the sole responsibility of the Borough of Califon to remove the remnants of the Weis dam; at no cost to the County of Hunterdon.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon agrees to proceed with plans to acquire 14 acres of parkland surrounding Island Park from the County of Hunterdon at a cost of $1.00 and authorizes the County of Hunterdon to draft an Agreement between Califon Borough and Hunterdon County confirming this arrangement.

1. **DISCUSSION – FUNDING OPTION FOR MAIN STREET AND RIVER ROAD RESURFACING PROJECTS (POSSIBLE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES (BAN)**

**TO COVER SHORTFALL**

Clerk, Laura Eidsvaag, reviewed funding options for potential funding shortfalls for two grant projects, Main St. and River Rd. The amount applied for to NJDOT for the Main St. resurfacing project was $382,950 and the grant amount awarded was $240,000; leaving a shortfall of $142,950. This could be less if the curbing portion of the project in the amount of $80,000 is eliminated.

The application for a DOT grant for River Rd. requested an amount of $180,000 and the DOT award was $150,000; leaving a shortfall of $30,500. The total funding needed to certify funding for both projects ranges from $215,000 to as low as $95,000. A possible funding source would be for Califon to go out for Bond Anticipation Notes (BANS). The Council would like to speak with the Mayor at the next Council meeting to discuss the possibility of meeting with the Bond Counsel, Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer, to draft a Bond Ordinance for the issuance of BANS.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Haversang reported that the Recreation Committee met on August 13th to discuss plans for the Street Fair; plans that are shaping up well. The next meeting of the Rec Committee will be held on 9/10.

Councilman Baggstrom offered to see if he can arrange to have the Washington Twp. Police K-9 dog be available at the Street Fair. He will confirm with Chief Almer.

Councilman Janas reported that the School Steering Committee met on August 20th to finalize collating of data from the public meeting in April. Councilman Janas was not available for this meeting due to vacation plans. The Steering Committee and the long-range planning Committee of the Board of Education will hold a joint meeting however, the date has not been finalized. The dates may be September 9th, 11th or 12th

The Planning Board meeting scheduled for August 28th was cancelled due to the professionals; both the planner and attorney, were not available to attend due to vacation conflicts.

Mayor Daniel would like Councilman Janas to be at a meeting on Monday, September 16th at 5:30 with the Planning Board professionals and the PB Chair, Art Owens, to discuss the merger doctrine ordinance.

Councilwoman Smith reported that she was on vacation and had to miss the last Board of Education meeting. Councilwoman Smith did have a report to read about the last meeting.

Chief School Administrator, Joann Roberto, reported that the current enrollment for the 32019-2020 school year is at 78 pupils; there are 5 or 6 new students. She is currently reviewing an application for 1 tuition-based student. There is a new music and language arts teacher this year.

Some summer projects included the installation of bollards for security; scan cards for teachers; classroom air conditioning and dehumidifiers and a landscape project.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that the Household/Metal/White goods clean-up day will be held on Monday, September 23rd following the First Aid Squad Sponsored Tag Sale on Saturday, September 21st.

Councilman Collins reported that he has found 3 residents that are interested in membership on the Environmental Commission. He will work with Karen Mastro to set up a meeting for orientation of the new members.

The Board of Health will meet on September 4th to discuss a septic waiver.

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks Committee can begin meeting again to accomplish projects at the Park, such as mulching the playground, now that the bridge is completed and they will have access to the park. He will speak with Chairman Chris Keiser to schedule a meeting.

Councilman Medea asked the Clerk to contact the WT DPW Supervisor, Read, to ask them to resume the field grooming now that the bridge is open.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public, however Councilman Haversang asked Council members if they have heard any disgruntlement from the Califon public complaining that energy costs seem to be higher since the energy aggregation program. Council stated that they had not heard any complaints. The Clerk asked that anyone with issues about the energy aggregation program need to call Lisa Hibbs from Consolidated Energy to report and discuss with her. Residents should call the Municipal offices to obtain her contact information.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator