**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Borough of Califon was called to order by Mayor Charles Daniel at 7:34 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*** Borough of Califon 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.”***

**Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the State of Emergency imposed by Governor Phil Murphy, the Borough of Califon Council will hold their regularly scheduled monthly meetings conducted remotely through a web-based platform called Zoom until the Borough is fully opened and operational to the public. Public notification regarding access to the Zoom Council meetings will be posted on the Borough website and Facebook. Adequate notification of this change of format has also been provided to both 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**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** M. Medea made a motion to accept the **August 17, 2020** minutes, seconded by J. Collins.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

M. Medea made a motion to accept the Executive Session minutes of **July 20, 2020**, seconded by E. Haversang.

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

Abstain: L. Janas

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $23,574.21.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT**

The Tax Collector’s Report was reviewed and filed

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION -APPROVAL OF PLANS TO HOLD “MUSIC IN THE PARK”, SPONSORED BY THE CALIFON RECREATON COMMITTEE**

Recreation member, Jason Beard presented the Recreation Committee’s Event Plan to members of the Council. This written plan was distributed to all members for their review.

Councilman L. Janas asked how are they going to know how many people will be attending? J. Beard advised that residents that want to attend will need to register on line to reserve their spot. Participants will have their wrists stamped as they enter as well.

J. Beard advised that fencing will be placed around the event to keep non reserved people from crowding the venue.

Participants will be ushered to a painted circle on the lawn where they can sit, picnic and enjoy the music. No more than 6 people per circle. Not sure how many circles there will be but the event is capped at 250. Jason believes there may be a quarter of that present.

Fire Company will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs, not sure about the sale of alcohol.

Councilman Baggstrom asked if there was going to be police presence at this event. J. Beard advised that although we had hired a police officer for the Street Fair, they did not plan on it for this event. Chief Almer suggested that they may want a police officer present and circulating the event just in case you have any issues that come up, it can be dealt with immediately. Discussion took place and it was agreed to hire one police officer to be present at event.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2020-61**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the event known as “Music in the Park “, sponsored by the Califon Recreation Committee has been approved and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this event is scheduled to take place on Saturday October 10, 2020 from 2:00 pm to 5:00pm with a rain date of Sunday October 11, 2020, and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Califon Fire Company will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs to residents for their enjoyment and

**BE IT RESOLVE** the legendary, local band, Califon Hellbenders will be providing music for all ages to enjoy, and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington Township Police will have an officer present to ensure the safety of the residents and

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Califon Recreation Committee will have this event staffed with their members to make sure that the event runs smoothly and safely for all involved.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** this event will be advertised via the town’s website, Facebook and flyers.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2020- 61 as read.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

At this time the meeting was directed to the new business agenda item as resident Jennifer Gross was present at the meeting to provide an update on her investigation into this program.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR TOWN-WIDE STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT WITH JCP&L**

A memorandum to the Mayor and Council from the Environmental Commission advising the Califon Environmental Commission unanimously agree that the Street Light Replacement Program offered to municipalities through JCP&L and researched by resident and EC member, Jennifer Gross would be a beneficial, energy efficient and cost savings program for Califon to participate. The EC would like to begin this program with the minimum required lights of 12.

Estimated cost to the Borough is $2000.

Councilman L. Janas inquired if people in town are aware of this program. J. Gross advised that she has spoken with almost all the business owners where the replacements will begin and they were all very positive and supportive. They would like to see the lighting on Main St unified.

Councilman R. Baggstrom inquired as to whether the new bulbs will have diminishing light for pedestrians walking on the street where there are not sidewalks? J. Gross advised that no, the LED light is actually directed downward and the lumens are much more efficient. The sky will be less lit but the illumination is the same. Less light pollution then the current sodium lights, as the sodium lights shine upwards illuminating the sky. J. gross advised that due to the energy efficiencies of these new LED bulbs, we will benefit from a modest savings.

Mayor Daniel inquired as to the funding. J. Gross advised that JCP&L pay for everything except a bracket that if needed would cost us $100, and we would have to pay for the police to provide safety coverage during the installation. Police coverage runs $97.00 per hour. J. Gross is following up to determine how long these installations take so we can better estimate the cost of safety.

Mayor and Councill all agree that this would be a program that Califon should participate in once definitive costs are obtained and our Streets & Roads budget could support it.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2020-62**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM OFFERED BY JCP&L**

 **WHEREAS,** the Borough of Califon Environmental Commission has recommended participation in this cost savings, energy efficient and aesthetically improving program, and

 **WHEREAS**, Environmental Commission member Jennifer Gross has done an outstanding job in her research into this program, and

 **WHEREAS,** the Mayor and Council agree Califon should move forward in the installation of the first 12 streetlight replacements in the business area of Main St, Philhower Ave, Railroad Ave and part of Academy, and

 **BE IT RESOLVED,** the commencement of this program will take place once the final cost to Califon is determined and it is certified that the municipal budget can support these costs.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Collins to adopt the Resolution 2020-61 as read.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

**OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED**

1. **RESOLUTION- APPROVAL OF “LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING” BETWEEN TROUT UNLIMITED AND CALIFON BOROUGH**

Mayor and Council reviewed the changes to the Letter of Understanding made by attorney Mark Anderson. All were in agreement that this should be forwarded to Trout Unlimited for their review and signature.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2020-62**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON AND NJ COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED FOR ASSISTING IN THE FUNDING FOR THE LEGAL FEES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAND TRANSFER CONTAINING WEIS MILL DAM REMNANTS FROM THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON.**

 **WHERAS,** the Borough of Califon has entered an agreement with NJ Council of Trout Unlimited who has generously volunteered to assist with the costs associated with the acquisition of this land, and

**WHEREAS,** The NJ Council of Trout Unlimited has agreed to provide funds for attorney fees related to this property transfer, and

**WHEREAS,** the attorney fees related to this property transfer should not exceed, $6,400 and,

**WHEREAS,** The NJ Council of Trout Unlimited has agreed to provide funds for the Phase One Environmental Study, and

**WHEREAS,** the costs associated with the Phase One Environmental Study should not exceed $2,800, and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that payments will be provided to the Borough of Califon upon notification from the Borough at each of the stages listed in the Letter of Understanding, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** any other additional costs must be submitted to the NJ Council of Trout Unlimited for review and approval prior to being authorized or expended by the Borough of Califon. And,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Borough of Califon and the NJ Council of Trout Unlimited share a common goal for the removal of the remnants of the Weis Mill Dam that will improve the health of the South Branch of the Raritan River.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2020-62 as read.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_ Special Council Agreement from Mark Anderson- signed

\_ Letter thanking area businesses for their service to the Califon area residents during Covid-19.

\_ Email to K. Mastro from DEP advising they last inspected Coles Mill Dam in January.

\_August 24, 2020 letter from resident T. Weiler concerning flooding that occurred during last storm, damaging his property at 43 Main St.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Baggstrom advised that he received a great response from Sgt. Hade concerning

Signage and how to mark the school zone more efficiently. It was noted that the 25mph sign from upper School St (from 513) is completely faded and needs replacement.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that there is no School Zone marked on Main Street to let motorist know they are nearing a school area; suggests we place additional signs.

Councilman Baggstrom advised he was contacted by BOE President Chris Keiser who stated that he would like to place Slow- Children at Play sign on School Street Extension as there is currently no sign. Mr. Keiser advised he found two new signs in our storage garage and asked if the DPW could install the same. Mr. Keiser told Councilman Baggstrom that due to Covid-19 there are classes being conducted outside in the quad area along side of School St Extension as well as the students are crossing School St Ext to get to the playground more frequently due to Covid–19.

Mayor Daniel inquired as to whether School St Extension is a private road.

Mayor Daniel asked Chief Almer what would Califon have to do to make a school zone? Chief Almer advised that it is already a school zone, you just have to agree on placing signs. Chief Almer advised that grids could be installed before crosswalks as an additional safety measure.

Councilman Baggstrom feels that we have to pursue these additional signs for the safety of the kids.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that he feels that another safety issue exists down by the crosswalk by the Califon Firehouse leading to the Columbia Trail and Railroad Ave. Councilman Baggstrom advised that you can not see that there is a crosswalk until you are on top of it when coming down Main St from Philhower Ave. to Rt. 512. We need a sign that designates pedestrian crossing, not just bikes and the 25mph sign is actually blocked by a telephone pole. There is only one stop sign for the pedestrians and bicyclists and that is on the trail.

Councilman Janas inquired that since it is a County trail don’t we have to consult with the County? Chief Almer advised that in Washington Twp on their trail heads they put a Stop sign in a 5-gallon bucket and place it at the end of the trail. Chief Almer advised that educating the public about the laws of crosswalks is important as well. Bicyclists are supposed to get off their bikes and walk across the crosswalk. Pedestrians should not proceed across the crosswalk until there are no cars coming. We could hang fun educational signage at these intersections to help relearn the public.

Councilman M. Medea advised that he met with resident and Environmental Commission member Jim Kinney and Brian Cowden, both members of NJ Council of Trout Unlimited. Trout Unlimited will be donating saplings for planting along the river banks in October. Councilman Medea advised that since we lost so many trees to the Ash Borer, the planting of these trees will help establish a 25-foot buffer along the river bank. The Mayor and Council members were all in support of this project.

Councilman E. Haversang advised that the Recreation Committee will be going forth with the October 10th Music in the Park and urged everyone to come out and join them on what will hopefully be a memorable day. Food will be for sale by the Fire Company. Mayor Daniel advised he spoke with Chief Bergman and they will probably not be selling alcohol.

Councilman L. Janas advised that the Planning Board met on 8-26-20. Another extension was granted to the Wade partnership as their previous extension had expired. Discussion on the status of the historic district plan and the consultant Dennis Bertrand we had hired. Part of the proposal had suggested in our next phase we may want to extend certain sections or homes rather than another whole district. Mayor Daniel advised that at the end Mr. Bertrand just faded away and could not be reached by the municipal staff. Planning Board secretary, K. Brown was looking into the last correspondence. The next scheduled meeting is 9-23-20.

Councilman M. Medea inquired if anyone knew why there is no road or curbing built in the new housing development? Mayor Daniel advised that our engineer, T. Boorady required curbing to be placed along 512 prior to construction of homes, which was done. Not sure why the road and curbing were not completed with in the development. We will have to ask our engineer.

Councilwoman Smith advised that the BOE had a meeting on 8-19-20 about the opening of the school. It was announced that Leslie Weiss retired. Resident Netz Sacro was appointed to the Board of Ed. The Steering Committee has been disbanded. Councilwoman Smith advised that Michele Cone the CSA reported the first day of school went great. The students all lined up according to their grade and seemed very excited to be back at school. There will be early dismissal until 9-10-20.

Councilman Baggstrom advised JCP&L took down a tree on 5 Pershing Ave that is along the road. Resident wanted them to take the wood but they advised they do not take the wood and she had already signed an agreement to that affect.

Councilman Collins remarked that the Environmental Commission met on Tuesday September 1st. The members all agreed to move forth with the JCP&L Streetlight Replacement Program which was discussed here previously. The EC and the NJ Council of Trout Unlimited have entered a letter of understanding regarding the funding of the legal expenses and the environmental assessment study. Members of the EC have volunteered to assist in the tree planting on Saturday, October 17th.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that last week he met with Borough Engineer, Tom Boorady and Councilman L. Janas and they opened up manhole covers by the firehouse to look at the diversion chambers. The last rain storm we had was a 25 yr. storm that brought 5 inches of rain in just three hours. Brian from the DPW advised that he looked at the channel behind the fire house at 9:30 am and all the grates were completely clear. 50 minutes later they were completely blocked with debris. Mayor Daniel advised that when he inspected this area after the main rain had come, it was the worst, he has ever seen it. Debris covered the length of the flume. Mayor Daniel advised that the grates get clogged and then flooding occurs.

The flooding from behind the fire house goes onto and across Railroad Ave and then floods Tim Weilers property and into Bob Grants property. Mayor Daniel advised that maybe if we get rid of the grates and install a fence for safety reasons it would eliminate this problem. Councilman Haversang advised that maybe the debris would just gather around the fence and flooding would still occur.

Mayor Daniel advised that the State Historical Commission was involved in the design of this

Flume and required many restrictions as to the size, etc.

Mayor Daniel advised that he has given the Borough Engineer, T. Boorady a copy of the Stormwater Improvement Project plans and has given him instructions to come up with some fixes to these issues.

Mayor Daniel stated that they inspected River Road for a pre-paving inspection. They found quite a few pipes that run under the road and almost all were clogged. Our engineer advised that he knows of a company that can clean these out. They also inspected parts of the river bank that are very close to the road. The Borough Engineer, T. Boorady suggested adding large boulders and rocks to the river bank in these areas will help preserve the road.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**NONE**

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 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Mastro, RMC