**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 16, 2020**

Mayor Charles Daniel Called the regular meeting of the Borough of Califon Council 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. BAGGSTROM, J. COLLINS, L. JANAS, M. MEDEA,**

**C. SMITH**

**ABSENT: E. HAVERSANG**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Collins to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 2, 2020.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CONTINGENCY PLAN – CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

George Waseleski, OEM Coordinator for the Borough of Califon was present at tonight’s meeting to give an update of the County plans to inform the public about the current spread of the coronavirus. Mr. Waseleski reported that there will be a conference call between all OEM’s and the County Office of emergency Management on Friday for an update. There is 1 diagnosed case in Hunterdon County and only 2 testing sites only. The aim is to level the spread of the cases and Mr. Waseleski urged everyone to adhere to the CDC recommendations to stay at home as much as possible. After a short discussion, Mr. Waseleski and Mayor Daniel, with Council approval, reported that the Municipal Bldg. will be closed completely to the public with adequate posting on the doors of the building and the website. Employees will be available by e-mail, telephone, regular mail and the drop box. Recreation events such as the Easter Egg hunt has been cancelled; the Memorial Day Parade is still in question. Mayor Daniel reported that Wheels on Wheels is still delivering meals to seniors in need. Groceries are available at local supermarkets, as well as Target and Amazon. The Municipal Clerk will work with Mr. Waseleski on a list of vulnerable seniors within the Borough. It is still unknown whether or not the state will postpone building and fire inspections. For right now, each Borough Department will need to access if they want to have their monthly meetings.

Council decided to move Council meetings from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm and advertise and amended annual notice.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by C. Smith to approve the list of bills in the amount of $21,609.70 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT**

The Tax Collector’s Report was reviewed and filed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_\_ multiple pieces of correspondence from various state, county, municipal offices; Board of Freeholders, HC Department of Health, State Dept. of Health; with guidelines for procedures for handling coronavirus outbreak

\_\_quotation from Brian Conner, DPW for asphalt repair of Guinea Hollow: $2700

\_\_ e-mail from Kevin Pyatt, DPW, Morris County Co-Op to be scheduled in spring to strip crosswalk across Pershing Ave. following the recent paving of Pershing.

\_\_ quotation from RPI Contracting – work on shed at Park - $2390.00

\_\_ Municipal Court report for month of February

\_\_ State legislation designating March 12th thru March 20th of 2020 as “Get Out the Count Week” to encourage full Census count in NJ

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP INTO THE N.J. STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION – JACK MURRAY**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2020-39**

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon do hereby approve the membership of Califon Fire Co. Fireman Jack Murray into the N.J. State Firemen’s Association; having successfully completed the membership application and physical test record; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is duly authorized to sign and fully execute the membership application for Municipal Approval.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by J. Collins to adopt Resolution 2020-39 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that Justin Pill from Coldspring Landscaping, will be grading the infield mix when delivered for a cost of $1800.

Councilman Medea is still working on getting two more quotes to the two-phase basketball court work at the Park. Harrington came in at $15,000; $25000 minus $10,000 for the hoops = $15,000 which is under the $17,500 threshold. We will see if the other two quotes come in under the threshold as well and by how much.

Councilman Medea will report back at the next meeting when a decision on a contractor will be made.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board meeting for March 25th has been cancelled. There has been no work about a meeting of the school Steering Committee. The Board of Education is having virtual BOE meetings and there has been no mention of the Steering Committee.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Board of Education is scheduled to meet this Wednesday.

Dr. Roberto has done a good job on a contingency plan at the school. To date, there has been no status report on the new Chief School Administrator

Councilman Baggstrom read the Municipal Court report for the month of February. The meeting with the DPW on March 18th has had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus issue. It will possibly be rescheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd if Tom Boorady and Kevin Pyatt can make that date.

Councilman Collins reported that the status of the April stream clean-up is uncertain but may have to be cancelled. The Board of Health is keeping ahead of all communications from the County Health Dept. on the evolving coronavirus outbreak. The Environmental Commission is working on tackling Green Team initiatives, such as recycling. They are considering the idea of developing a logo to put on reusable shopping bags. At the last meeting of the EC, Mary Jude Haddock Wailer from the Highlands was present to make it known that grant funding from the Highlands Council is available for initiatives such as Stream Corridor Management and for Wastewater Management initiatives. They are available to help Califon with these projects if agreeable. Councilman Collins also reported that there were several attendees at this meeting from Trout Unlimited; Trout capes and Raritan Headwaters. Trout Unlimited has offered funding up to 10, -15,000 to donate to any studies related to the Weis dam project. Councilman Collins will discuss with Tom Boorady what his professional opinion is on what studies might need to be done; i.e.: Phase 1 Environmental, etc.

Councilman Collins reminded everyone that whatever studies may need to be done before dismantling the bridge and acquiring the parkland, the County of Hunterdon will need to give their permission.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that he will be on vacation from April 4th thru April 11th and will not be in attendance at the April 6th Council meeting. He may call in because of the introduction of the budget. Mayor Daniel asked that the Auditor be asked to send the budget document so everyone can see the bottom line/tax increase.

Mayor Daniel has not had a chance to speak to Bill Kibler about the breach in the Cole Mill Dam but will continue to contact him.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Reporter Jane P. asked Council for the correct spelling of Brian Cowden’s name; the representative from Troutscapes.

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