**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 6, 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, E. HAVERSANG, L. JANAS,**

 **M. MEDEA, C. SMITH**

 **ABSENT: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTIONS – INTRODUCTION OF 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Borough Auditor, Anthony Ardito, was in attendance at tonight’s meeting to review the final

draft of the 2020 Municipal Budget before Council was asked to vote on introducing the budget.

Mr. Ardito explained that the total appropriations and revenues = $1,267,557. There will be a $71.00 tax increase on an average assessed home value of $330,060.00. The tax rate is 0.6327. Mr. Ardito further explained that the fund balance is down due to bridge expenses being paid in December but as soon as the reimbursements come in from DOT and Hunterdon County the fund balance will go back up. Mr. Ardito explained that the budget was $2200 over the 2% levy cap and the cap back was used to balance the levy cap. Councilman Medea asked if the donation to the Fire Co. was $25,000 which they had requested. Mr. Ardito answered in the affirmative. There was a brief discussion on the state’s recent recommendation that municipalities do estimated tax bills this year due to the Covid-19 epidemic. Mayor Daniel said that a resolution would need to be adopted by the Council to enable this action and the state is also determining if they will mandate that the grace period for the 4th quarter due May 1st be extended to the end of May. No decision has been made as yet. Mr. Ardito reported that the Municipal budget will be advertised on April 22nd and public hearing and final adoption will take place on May 4th.

The following Resolutions were introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2020-40**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon is holding a meeting on April 6, 2020 for the purpose of introducing the 2020 Municipal budget and conducting other matters; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, that the Borough of Califon hereby petitions the director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2020 Local Municipal Budget be introduced and approved on April 6, 2020.

**SUMMARY OF REVENUES 2020**

1. Surplus Anticipated General Revenues $ 115,000
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenue 187,651
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes 37,500
4. (a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes 927,406
5. (b) Addition to Local District School Tax

Total Amount to be Raised for Taxation

For Support of Municipal Budget 927,406

**Total General Revenues 1,267,557**

**SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS 2020**

 **Budget**

1. Operating Expenses

 Salaries & Wages $ 188,084

 Other Expenses 771,013

1. Deferred Charges & Statutory Expenditures 46,396
2. Capital Improvements 36,500
3. Debt Service 96,675
4. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes 127,989

 **Total General Appropriations $ 1,267,557**

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2020-40 as read.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2020-41**

**WHEREAS,** the 2020 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 6th day of April, 2020 and,

**WHEREAS,** during the fiscal year 2020 the Borough of Califon has been allocated a state grant for various programs in the amount of $4,000.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local government Services that the 2020 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of **“Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated**

**With Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services – Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:”**

**Clean Communities Program $ 4,000.00**

 **Total $ 4,000.00**

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2020-41 as read.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2020-42**

 **WHEREAS,** the 2020 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 6th day of April 2020; and,

 **WHEREAS,** during the fiscal year 2020 the Borough of Califon will receive revenue for various other special items in the amount of $47,626.00

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2020 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of **“Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services – Other Special Items:**

 **General Capital Fund Balance Anticipated $ 5,000.00 Interfund Receivable Anticipated – Grants Fund 46,396.00**

 **47,626.00**

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2020-42 as read.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**NONE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 16, 2020.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: E. Haversang

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $29,148.66.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT**

The Tax Collector’s Report was reviewed and fi

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_\_** e-mail from Kevin Pyatt, DPW asking about status of brush pickup this spring. There are conflicts in May due to Tewksbury Twp. clean up days so Council asked if they could do the brush pickup for Califon the week of May 18th or 25th.

\_\_ Memorial Day Parade status – Not sure if Parade will be cancelled. Council will let Amanda know that they will wait until the end of April to make a decision.

\_\_ correspondence from Dep. Clerk Karen Mastro regarding Council feedback on retail food licensing fees; either waive or postpone payment of $225 fee

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **MAIN STREET PROJECT TO COMMENCE**

Mayor Daniel reported that the Main St. Improvement Project commenced today, April 6th.

Top Line is the contractor and they will begin with curbing and progress to milling and paving. Anticipated timeframe for completion is 3-4 weeks. Mayor Daniel reported that the contractor put together a notice and distributed it to all residents on S. Main St. as well as all businesses on Main St. There was a brief discussion on the detours necessary while work is progressing on this project.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that he is still working on getting quotes for the basketball court work at Island Park. Nets will be purchased at a price of $5,000 each and a contractor will be hired to install; both costs will be under the bidding threshold. Council agreed to get this project moving forward. Councilman Medea reported that he taped off the playground and will check tomorrow on the condition of the tape. Councilman Medea will hold off on the infield mix for the baseball fields for now.

Councilman Haversang reported that the Easter Egg hunt was cancelled as well as the Trout Fest and camp-out at the beginning of May. A decision on whether or not to hold the Memorial Day Parade will be made at the end of April.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board meeting in March was cancelled. The next planned meeting will be April 22nd. Work with the school Steering Committee will be on hold until perhaps the summer. Materials will be gathered by the Steering Committee to share with the new Administrator.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the last Board of Education meeting was held virtually.

There was one letter of interest for the open member position on the BOE; Sacro

The public hearing on the 2020 School budget will be held on April 29th. The budget represents a 2% increase; $2,434,520.

Dr. Ruberto reported on the status of the virtual learning in place during the Covid-19 emergency.

The next BOE meeting will be a retreat.

There will be a Kindergarten open house scheduled soon. It appears that the class for 2020-21 will be larger than this year’s class however, no definite number is known as yet.

The BOE approved the following Pre-K tuition: $5500 a year for 5 full days and $4000 a year for 5 ½ days.

The newly hired Chief School Administrator has been announced. Her name is Michelle Cone; former CSA in Clinton Township.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that he is working on a date with the DPW for brush pick-up in May and also monitoring the progress of the Main St. Improvement Project that started today.

Councilman Collins had no report for tonight.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that Amy Monahan, CFO, asked if the Borough is in need of masks.

Clerk, Laura Eidsvaag, stated that the OEM Coordinator, George Waseleski, was asked and said that as far as he knows, the Fire Co. and FAS have enough for now.

Mayor Daniel reported on the upcoming bridge reconstruction project begin conducted by Hunterdon County at the Hickory Run Rd. bridge. Mayor Daniel feels there will be a problem with one of the two detours that will route cars down River Rd. With the trail being so busy,

more pedestrians and bicyclists will be going down River Rd. Tom Mathews, County Engineer, did confirm that the main detour will be up Hickory Run Rd. to Hill Rd to Sliker Rd.; however, River Rd. remains the second detour. The Chief of Police is aware of the situation and will be monitoring River Rd. for speeders, etc. Mayor Daniel stated that the Mayor of High Bridge has asked that the trail be closed; as their parking lot is way too crowded, but it is unlikely that the trail will be closed.

Mayor Daniel stated that Governor Murphy has discussed the stimulus package during his daily briefings and it is not likely that Hunterdon County will be getting any money.

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 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator