**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OCTOBER 4, 2021**

Mayor Charles Daniel 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 in person 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**

**ALSO PRESENT: BOROUGH ATTORNEY, MARK ANDERSON**

**E. PRESENTATION- MATT BELL, BOY SCOUT TROOP 192**

Matt Bell was present to provide an update on his Eagle Scout Community Service Project.

Matt handed out a proposal to Council members which lists the proposed work and the estimated cost. Matt is planning on fixing some broken boards and clean the Boardwalk Path that leads from Mill Street to the Park. Matt will also be doing some needed repairs to the shed at the park.

The estimated cost of all the repairs is $1,391. Matt asked the Mayor and Council if there were any funds available in the budget to assist with these costs. Mayor Daniel explained that usually with Eagle Scout projects, the Eagle Scout candidate should look for donations from the community first. Matt was thanked for his proposal and he was advised to talk to the Council if after soliciting donations from the public sector he still needs assistance.

**BRUCE MORROW- THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL**

Bruce handed out the final program for the opening ceremony of the Vietnam Memorial Wall that will be arriving in Califon on October 14th. Opening ceremony is October 15th. All is in order and we should have a great turnout for this event.

**D. RESOLUTION- APPROVAL OF MARKER & SITE OF THE LEGENDS & LORE MARKER/SIGN**

Patty Nanna, resident and member of the Califon Historical Society, showed Council members a sample of the Legends and Lore sign that has been ordered. The sign will be installed on the right side of the bridge up from the corner of Mill and Main. Permission from the residents who live at the house on this corner will need to be done prior to installation. There is already a sign that appears to be placed by the County that states: “South Branch of the Raritan River”. We could possibly place this marker sign on the same pole. Will also need to speak with the County and possibly get their permission to use the same sign post.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-80**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon has approved the Legends & Lore sign that the Califon Historical Society has applied for through a grant from the William Pomeroy Foundation;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council members agree that the best placement of this sign would be at the opening of the Main Street bridge at 76 Main St, Block 21 Lot 1, and that permission for the placement of this sign will be obtained from the owners of this property and the County if necessary.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2021-80 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 16, 2021.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: M. Medea

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by L. Janas to approve the minutes from September 13, 2021.

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

Abstain: J. Collins

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by R. Baggstrom to approve the list of bills in the amount of $117,993.26.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_**Hunterdon County Health Department Notice of upcoming Hazardous Waste Clean Up day

\_ email from resident D. Diamond dated 9-3-21 concerning complaint over the amount of garbage that her neighbor puts out for pick up and that it is out there for a day or two before pick up.

\_ email from Lisa Hibbs, 9-27-21 of Commercial Utility Consultants, advising the last auction resulted in no bids. Mayor Daniel explained that we could not get a bid so the program will default back to the JCP&L pricing until we bid out again in the spring.

\_Califon Borough Municipal Court Monthly Report

\_email – 9-2-21-from resident regarding the condition of Clover Hill Drive and Lime Rock Lane

1. **RESOLUTION – INTRODUCTION OF BOND, ROAD ORDINANCE 2021-10- APPROPIATION OF FUNDS FOR DOT RAOD PROJECT KNOWN AS “COKESBURY RD., CLOVERHILL DR., CRESTMORE ST, & LIMEROCK LANE”**

The Mayor read Bond Ordinance 2021-10 by title: **BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING $620,000 THEREFORE (INCLUSIVE OF A STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $220,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $400,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-80**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Bond Ordinance 2021-10 entitled: **BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING $620,000 THEREFORE (INCLUSIVE OF A STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $220,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $400,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF** is hereby introduced upon first reading; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Ordinance 2021-10 will be considered for final passage following a public hearing to be held on November 1, 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Notice of Ordinance 2021-10 will be published by summary in the October 20, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Mayor Daniel advised that we are anticipating the costs to run a little lower, however the Cokesbury Rd drainage issue is a big part of this project. If we adopt this, this will go immediately out to bid and the work will be done in the early spring.

Councilwoman Smith asked if there was any hope in obtaining additional funding from another source? Mayor Daniel advised no. Mayor Daniel advised that this is a main road for many commuters cutting up and over to Route 22 and Route 78.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2021-80 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **CALIFON FIRE COMPANY 100TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE-**

Councilman M. Medea advised that the Califon Fire Company will be having a parade on Saturday, October 23rd to celebrate their 100-year anniversary. They are asking for the town to cover the cost of food and beverages which will be around $1500.00 and would also like the town to cover the cost of police coverage. We have $1,500 available in the Celebration of Life

budget item as well as a surplus in the Recreation budget that can be used. Councilman Baggstrom asked if the Fire Company had spoken with the police department concerning coverage and what times are needed. Councilman Medea advised that they are planning on staging this at 3:30 and it would end around 5:00 p m. He was not sure if they had contacted the police department. Councilman Baggstrom advised he would send an email to Chief Almer.

Councilman Medea suggested maybe the town could issue a proclamation to the Fire Company to also recognize this milestone.

Mayor Daniel asked if any members of Council objected to assisting with the costs of this event.

No members present objected.

1. **RESOLUTION- APPROVAL OF ESTIMATE FOR TREE REMOVAL AT PERSHING AVE**

Deputy Clerk, Mastro advised that we currently only have two estimates for the removal of the two large maples on Pershing Ave. One from Wood Glen Tree for $5000 and the other from Spartan Tree at $5,100.00. Three other companies were called for estimates with no response.

It was agreed to table this matter until we have an additional estimate and how we can budget for this unexpected expense.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION- ACCEPTANCE OF HIGHLAND REAPPROPIATION OF FUNDING / PLAN CONFORMANCE AMENDED GRANT AGREEMENT #09-033-011-1004, TO SUPPORT SCOPES OF WORK FOR A MASTER PLAN RE-EXAMINATION REPORT (not to exceed $7,350.00) AND AN OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN (OSRP- not to exceed $7,500.00)**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-81**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Mayor and Califon Council that the Council approves the reallocation of funds within the Highlands; Grants, tasks 1-11; that Califon has remaining within Highlands Plan Conformance;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the funds have be reappropriated to support the costs of the Master Plan Reexamination report, not to exceed $7,350.00 and to support the costs of establishing an Open Space and Recreation Plan, not to exceed $7,500.00;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that these grants are reimbursement based, and shall only be used for the above outlined projects.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2021-80 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 the Recreation Committee is all set for the upcoming Street Fair on October 10th.

Councilman Janas advised that the Planning Board will be hearing the Site Plan Application for the Califon Group LLC at the next meeting on Wednesday, October 20th. Councilman Janas also reported that the Planning Board will be seeking input from the Parks and Recreation, Environmental Commission, Council members as well as the residents regarding the Open Space and Recreation Plan. This will probably be started at the beginning of the year. Councilman Janas also advised that they are beginning to look at and discuss our current driveway ordinance/regulations.

Councilwoman Smith advised that she attended the Califon Board of Education meeting on September 15th. The school has had two back to school nights in person for the first time in 1 ½ years. The school is beginning to open up a little by allowing girl scouts to meet in the building as well as couple of other local community groups.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that the balance for the streets and roads interlocal is $1,100. We need to find out what the balance outside of the interlocal currently is. Councilman Baggstrom also advised that he drove by the resident on Crestmore Drive that complained about the tree branch that is growing out over the road and over his property. Councilman Baggstrom advised that it is difficult to tell what tree he is talking about, and stated that the whole roadway is filled with trees with branches extending out over the road. Councilman Baggstrom advised he will call the resident again and see if he can meet with him.

Councilman Collins advised that the Board of Health will be meeting on a septic waiver on October 6th. The Environment Commission will be having a table at the Street fair.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel advised that he recently received a couple of photos of two homes on Hoffman Drive where the homeowner has allowed the grass to grow over 6” high and the landscape is unkept. Discussion took place on what steps the Borough can take. Attorney M. Anderson advised that without a property maintenance ordinance, we really can not enforce any changes.

Mayor Daniel also brought up another situation in the same neighborhood where a resident has been using an excavator to move rocks and dirt around his property for three years now. The neighbors have a complaint concerning the constant noise from this machine as well as the concerns of encroachment into their property and the changing of the elevation which changes the storm water runoff. The Construction office had been notified and they advised that the wall that was built is less than 4 feet tall which precludes the resident from having to get a construction permit. Attorney M. Anderson advised that we could contact the soil conservation district and although they will not be able to preclude the resident from doing this work, they may be able to require permits

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

J. Bell from Cloverhill Drive, asked about the Energy Co-op and why it was not going out to bid.

Mayor Daniel explained that for some reason, the energy companies did not feel they could

set a competitive rate at this time. The Coop will then revert back to the current JCP&L rate and then they will go out to bid in the spring.

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion was made by C. Smith, seconded by R. Baggstrom to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Mastro, RMC

Deputy Clerk