**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 19, 2022**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:35 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, E.**

**HAVERSANG, M. MEDEA, C. SMITH**

**ABSENT: L. JANAS**

**ALSO PRESENT: M. ANDERSON, BOROUGH ATTORNEY,**

**J. ALMER, CHIEF WTPD**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by M. Medea to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 5, 2022.

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

Absent: L. Janas

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by E. Haversang to approve the minutes of the executive session of December 5,2022.

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

Absent: L. Janas

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by C. Smith to approve the list of bills in the amount of $137,247.64.

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

Absent: L. Janas

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

The tax collector’s report was reviewed and filed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_email- December 16,2022-NJLM Weekly Round-Up

\_\_email-December 15, 2022-DCA Press Release- Gov. Murphy announces $10 Million for next round of shared services grant funding

\_email-December 15, 2022-Patty Jones, Groendyke Insurance – Statewide Renewal proposal assessment- increase in premiums of 6.6%. Changes to the deductible for property damage of “Named Storms”.

\_Letter from clerk, Mastro to neighbors on Academy St asking not to park in lot when there is inclement weather forecasted or happening.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF LIST OF ELIGIBLE FIRST AID SQUAD MEMBERS AND CALIFON FIRE COMPANY MEMBERS FOR LOSAP BENEFITS- 2021-2022**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-85**

**APPROVAL OF LOSAP LISTS FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST AID SQUAD AND CALIFON FIRE COMPANY MEMBERS FOR LOSAP BENEFITS- 2021-2022**

**WHEREAS,** the LOSAP program requires that a certified list of eligible volunteers from an emergency service organization be submitted for review by the sponsoring agency; and

**WHEREAS,** said required list of members eligible to receive LOSAP benefits for the 2021-2022 was received from the Califon Fire Company and the Califon First Aid Squad; and

**WHEREAS,** the sponsoring agency has 30 days to review the submitted list and request any records deemed necessary to ensure the list is accurate; and

**WHERAS,** the sponsoring agency has accepted the list as submitted.

**NOWTHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Califon Council that the list, submitted by the Califon First Aid Squad and the Califon Fire Company is hereby approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** a copy of the eligible member list, together with a copy of this Resolution will be returned to the Califon First Aid and Califon Fire Company.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION- RELEASING THE TAX COLLECTOR FROM THE COLLECTION OF 2022 TAXES OF PROPERTIES OF UNKNOWN OWNERSHIP AND THAT THESE TAXES ARE THEREFORE CANCELLED.**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-86**

**RELEASING THE TAX COLLECTOR FROM THE COLLECTION OF TAXES ON PROPERTIES OF UNKNOWN OWNERSHIP AND THAT THESE TAXES ARE THEREFORE CANCELLED**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and council of the borough of Califon that the taxes on the following properties of unknown ownership, as listed in the tax duplicate of the Borough of Califon are deemed to be uncollectible, and, that being so and according to New Jersey law 54:91-2, the tax collector is hereby released from the collection thereof and these taxes are therefore cancelled:

BLOCK LOT AMOUNT

5 (River Rd) 28 $7.28

6 (Academy) 25 $47.31

11 (River ) 1.03 $25.47

21 (Bank St) 5.01 $21.83

22 (Mill St) 18 $156.48

31 (Backland) 13 $72.78

Motion was made by E. Haversang seconded by R. Baggstrom to adopt Resolution 2022-86 as read.

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

Absent: L. Janas

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION- BUDGET TRANSFER**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-87**

**BUDGET TRANSFER**

**WHEREAS, IT APPEARS THAT THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO PAY OUTSTANDING BILLS:**

Liability Insurance

Workers Compensation Insurance

Employee Group Insurance

**AND WHEREAS, IT APEARS THAT THERE WILL BE AN UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN THE FOLLOWING 2018 ACCOUNT:**

Finance s/w

Planning o/e

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON THAT THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS BE AUTHORIZED AND WITHIN RESOLUTION IS THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH TREASURER TO MAKE SAID TRANSFERS:

AMOUNT FROM TO AMT

$ 9000.00 Finance s/w Liability Insurance $ 975.00

$ 2,398.31 Planning o/e Workers Comp $ 748.00

$11,398.31 Total Total $11,398.31

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by J. Collins to adopt Resolution 2022-87 as read.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2022-85 as read.

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

Absent: L. Janas

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea advised that he had nothing to report.

Councilman Haversang reported that Shannon’s Fly and Tackle Shop had a soft opening today. This is under new ownership and they have done a complete cleaning and some remodeling.

This is good news for our town as we have visitors come from all over and shop at this renown fly shop.

Councilwoman Smith advised she had nothing to report.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that calls were down during the month of November compared to October with 453 calls compared to November which had 704. Councilman Baggstrom

stated that this may be due to a higher presence of police in town this last month.

Councilman Collins reported that the board of health sponsored rabies Clinic is on Saturday, January 7th. Councilman Collins also advised that the winners of the coloring contest sponsored by the Environmental Commission are posted on the website and Facebook.

Mayor Daniel thanked Councilman Collins for his contribution to serving our town as Councilman as this is Councilman Collins last meeting.

**CLERKS REPORT**

Clerk Mastro advised that on December 8th a meeting with representatives of Aqua NJ, Alpha Utilities and Ralph Price took place to discuss the lead service line detection and replacement project. Aqua advised that at this time they have 31 known galvanized pipes within Califon and 250 unknowns. The unknown locations will need to have test pits done at the curb to determine if replacement is needed. A spreadsheet was provided with addresses throughout Califon that were designated unknown or if they had galvanized pipes.

Aqua advised that they had not secured a contract with a plumber as this will be needed for the securing of the replacement pipe to the resident’s water line inside the home.

Letters will go out to all affected residents.

Aqua stated that they would like to begin this project soon after the holidays. Clerk Mastro advised Aqua and Alpha Utilities that another meeting with the Borough’s engineer and DPW Supervisor would need to take place before we begin anything.

Councilman Medea asked if all those people on the list have received letters from Aqua and clerk Mastro advised she did not know. She has not received any calls from any residents regarding receiving correspondence. Clerk Mastro advised that she contacted both the Borough engineer and DPW Super to let them know that a meeting will need to be planned for after the new year with Aqua and their contractors.

Councilwoman Smith advised that their front lawn had gas/water line markers on it and a contractor was doing some digging near their front yard. They did not receive any notification of this prior to the work from any utility. Councilwomen Smith’s husband, Gill was in the audience and advised that after several calls and many minutes he finally was advised that Aqua had requested a water line cap to be replaced in the street in front of their house. Clerk Mastro advised that there was a water main break up in Raritan and that this work was probably tied to this.

Clerk Mastro advised that J. Ruggiero has volunteered to set up a digital Crier that could be emailed to residents that have signed up for email notifications. This can be sent out on a bi- monthly or quarterly basis. Clerk Mastro stated that if we do begin the Crier publication again, \, she believes that it should contain a lead article from a council person each edition as was done in the previous editions. The mayor would have the first lead article.

Discussion took place over whether or not there was a need for the Crier again. It was agreed that we will continue this discussion and look at our options. The Municipal office will be sending out emails to residents that signed up for upcoming events and news that is time sensitive.

Clerk Mastro advised that JCP&L did stop by advising tree work will be taking place on all the streets in our town. Mayor Daniel advised that he received a slip advising Railroad Ave will be having tree work done in January. He advised that there are a lot of Ash trees on the strip between Railroad Ave and the trail. Councilwoman Smith asked who owned this strip?

Councilman Haversang looked it up on an app he has on his phone and it showed it was owned by the County.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel advised that he walked down to the Christmas tree lighting and it appeared to be well attended.

Mayor Daniel thanked Councilman Collins for his serving on the board again and thanked everyone for their work and efforts in keeping our town running.

Mayor Daniel advised that next year we will have some challenges, the main one budgetary, but we will work at making it work as we always do.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Daniel asked if there were any comments from the public.

Jane Primerano from the Hunterdon Review advised that she was doing an article on the Shannon’s Fly and Tackle Shop and asked if anyone had any stories or information they would like to share.

Mayor Daniel told a story where he was up in Manchester Vermont and an employee of the Orvis store there knew all about Shannon’s Fly and tackle in Califon, NJ! Mayor Daniel advised that it was then that he learned that Shannon’s is considered one of the best fly shops on the East Coast. Councilman Baggstrom and Councilman Haversang both stated that this shop is rated at the gold level for fly shops.

Mayor Daniel asked Gil Smith, ex councilman if he had any comments? G. Smith advised that he walked down to the park the other day and saw the new flag poles that have been installed and memorial area and how nice it looked. Mayor Daniel and Councilman Baggstrom advised that Bruce Morrow has worked hard on raising money for this veteran’s memorial. Mayor Daniel advised that his son, Connor installed the brick memorial as part of his eagle scout project years ago and he recently saw the new flag pole installation and was very pleased on how it has turned out.

With no further business to come before the Council C. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 seconded by R. Baggstrom.

All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC