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**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 7, 2022**

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, E. HAVERSANG,**

**L. JANAS, M. MEDEA, C. SMITH**

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT: BOROUGH ATTORNEY, MARK ANDERSON via Zoom, and Chief J. Almer in person.**

**FLAG SALUTE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilwoman Smith asked that on page 50 of the February 22, 2022 minutes, under her committee report, the tuition of $5,700 for the Califon Pre School be included in the minutes.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to approve the minutes of February 22, 2022 with the above changes.

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

Abstain- J. Collins

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by M. Medea to approve the list of bills in the amount of $602,747.77.

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

Opposed:

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_\_3-4-22- Letter from the Hunterdon County Commissioners advising that there will be a Public Hearing held on April 5, 2022 at 5:30 pm concerning the proposed increase in the Municipal Solid Waste Tipping Fee by Waste Management. Waste Management operates the Hunterdon County Transfer Station.

\_\_ Indemnification Agreement with requested changes from Aqua Water regarding the installation of water tanks in Califon for their planned maintenance of one of the storage tanks.

\_\_email- 3-7-22- County of Hunterdon advising of Executive Order lifting the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

\_\_\_Copy of Notice of Hearing by the Califon Planning Board o the Master Plan and Development Regulations Reexamination Report.

\_\_email-3-3-22- Kevin Pyatt, DPW regarding the cleaning out of storm drain on School St and the street sweeping of School Street, Lime Rock, Crestmore and Clover Hill.

\_\_Estimate from T. Barkman Excavating for replenishment of 5/8 stone for shared driveway @ Municipal Building- $1,300

**OLD BUSINESS**

This was scheduled for a Resolution however after discussing, it was decided that we do not need a Resolution to accept any changes agreed upon. The Borough attorney will make the changes to the lease and then at the next meeting, there will be a Resolution to introduce an Ordinance to authorize the lease of the Nellie Hoffman & Log Cabin to the Califon Historical Society for 10 years.

Borough attorney, M. Anderson advised that he made no changes to the lease we have been utilizing with no apparent issues since 2016 except some minor typos. M. Anderson did outline a few sections that he wished to discuss possible changes or elimination. The first was Section 3 the renewal section. After discussion to possible changes, Councilman Medea advised that we could just take this section out. Councilwoman Smith and Mayor Daniel also agreed that this section should be removed. Borough attorney, M. Anderson advised that he would do the same.

* 4. c referenced the Historical Society to agreeing to demolish and remove the old chicken coops on the property within 90 days. Mayor Daniel advised that this has been taken care of so this could be removed.
* 4.d reference the Historical Society’s obligation to restore, replace or remove the existing porch at the log cabin within 90 days. Mayor Daniel advised that this too has been taken care, therefore can be removed from the lease.
* 5. States that the Historical Society must file with the Borough a plan for restoration and maintenance of this property within a year of leasing the property. The plan is subject to the review and approval of the Council.

Councilman Medea felt that this was reasonable and should be left in the lease and suggested that we insert the word use in this paragraph. Councilman Baggstrom and Mayor Daniel also advised to leave it in the lease.

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* Paragraph 11 regarding the disposition of construction debris. Mayor Daniel felt that this should remain just in case they are planning doing some construction or repairs.
* Paragraph 12- agreed that this paragraph should remain.
* Paragraph 14- Need to obtain a copy of the Historical Society’s Insurance Certificate.
* Paragraph 15- Borough attorney, M. Anderson inquired as to whether the town has to pay extra to insure this property for fire, should we ask that the Historical Society provide the fire insurance for the structures? Clerk, K. Mastro advised that she would call the insurance agent tomorrow and confirm this information and get back to M. Anderson.

Mayor Daniel inquired as to whether or not the lease with the above changes will be able to be on the next meeting’s agenda? Borough attorney, M. Anderson advised that yes as long as he received the information regarding the insurance, he can have it completed by 3-21-22.

**B. BRUSH PICK UP –** Clerk, K. Mastro advised that she spoke with Kevin of our DPW and asked if it would be better to conduct the brush pick up the week of May 16th in order to ensure that the street sweeping can take place before Memorial Day. All Council members and the Mayor agreed that an earlier date would be better.

**NEW BUSINESS**

At this time, Mayor Daniel asked Chief Almer if he had anything to report to the Council?

Chief Almer advised that it has been quiet and that they had just under 700 calls in February. There have been no major incidents in Califon.

Chief Almer informed the Council that the Attorney General just enacted a new guideline for all NJ police officers, in that they are no longer able to pursue a stolen vehicle. If a police officer pulls someone over and note that it is a stolen vehicle and this stolen vehicle takes off, the police can not pursue. Chief Almer advised that in Morris County motor vehicle thefts are up by 113%. He stated that residents should be educated to not leave t heir keys or key fobs in their cars and to take all valuables out of their cars at night. Thefts are also beginning to occur in broad daylight.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee will be meeting Wednesday. They are planning Easter activities including the scavenger hunt. The fire company will be assisting in the activities as well. Councilman Medea advised he met with resident, Mark Gibson down at the park to further discuss if and where to put the batting cage. The batting cage is 70’ long made up of bars net and turf. Councilman E. Haversang asked who was going to own it? M. Medea advised it is being give to the town and the town will own it. Councilman Janas asked if this would affect our insurance? Clerk K. Mastro advised she would contact our agent to determine if this equipment would have a negative impact.

Councilman Haversang advised that they will begin to get the Trout Fest activities solidified for the May 14, 2022 event.

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Councilman Janas advised that the next Planning Board meeting will be on March 16th where the public hearing for the Master Plan Reexamination will take place.

Councilwoman Smith advised that the school board will meet on March 23rd.

Councilman Baggstrom advised he does not have anything to report.

Councilman Collins advised that there is a Environmental Commission meeting tomorrow night. Preparations for the April 23rd Stream Clean Up is on its way.

**MAYORS REORT**

Mayor Daniel discussed how we have asked to reduce the scope of the original Bank, River and Philhower road project as the cost was prohibitive. Our engineer confirmed our grant amount of $204,000 will not be reduced if we reduce the project to just River Rd or River and Bank Street. Mayor Daniel advised that he has attended several seminars on the American Rescue Plan and that it is his interpretation as well as that of his associates that we

would be able to use this money for this infrastructure project. We could put the balance of $100,000 into a BAN.

On March 30th there is a pre-construction meeting with our engineer and the contractor for the Crestmore, LimeRock, Cloverhill and Cokesbury project.

Mayor Daniel advised that we will need a Resolution to Hire DMC to do the Survey work by our next meeting so we are in line to award the contract by November.

Councilwoman Smith asked if this project will be happening in the spring of 2023? Mayor Daniel advised that it would.