

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON
REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2023**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 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: C.Daniel, R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero, C. Smith

Also, Present Via Zoom: Borough Attorney, Mark Anderson (joined at 7:30 pm), Chief Jeff Almer, William Kibler, George Cassa, Abraham Beates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 2, 2023, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by C. Smith seconded by E. Haversang to approve the meeting minutes of November 2, 2023.

For: E.Haversang, L Janas, M.Medea, J.Ruggiero, C.Smith

Abstain: R.Baggstrom

Opposed: None

A motion was made by L.Janas to make a correction to the minutes to mark R.Baggstrom absent on roll call for November 2, 2023 minutes.

November 2, 2023, Executive Session

A motion was made by C.Smith seconded by J.Ruggiero to approve the executive session minutes of November 2, 2023.

For: E.Haversang, L Janas, M.Medea, J.Ruggiero, C.Smith

Abstain: R.Baggstrom

CORRESPONDENCE/ CLERK REPORT

_Letter from Raritan Headwaters – hosting an information session on November 29th at 7:00 pm at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church (rec'd 11/6/23)

_email from NJDEP announcing Green Acres funding grants for completely inclusive playgrounds (rec'd 11/3/23)

_Letter from JCP & L COVID 19 Recovery Charge (rec'd 11/6/23)

_Letter from NJ Transit public hearing to gather information concerning programs for Senior Citizens & Disabled Residents. (rec'd 11/8/23).

_Letter from Lebanon Twp Planning Board – public hearing on the adoption of the 2023 Re-examination Report (rec'd 11/13/23)

_Violation Report from Fire Marshal, Matt Lopez

At this time, Mayor Daniel moved to Public Comments on the Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

J.Ruggiero asked Chief Almer about the number of calls the report reflected. Chief said it is average. L.Janas asked about the stop sign in front of the post office, M.Medea advised it had been put back up. Chief Almer reported that a citizen had called about the Island Park, in reference to picnic tables/benches being moved around. J. Ruggiero advised that cameras will be going up. M.Medea reported graffiti on the bridge, he called DPW and they will remove it on Monday. Chief Almer advised that a report should be called into the Police for documentation purposes.

Correction was noted by E.Haversang that Weis is spelled with only one “s”.

DISCUSSION – WEIS MILL DAM William.Kibler, of Raritan Headwaters, spoke from the perspective of RHA, their goal is removal of the Weis Mill Dam. There is a lot of sediment, damaging the habitat and creating a warm water bathtub affecting downstream. Colder water brings down bacteria levels, which is one of their goals. RHA would request that Califon take ownership of the property. Califon and RHA would then enter into a five-year management agreement, which would allow RHA to remove the dam. The reason for five years is that federal farm bill funding cannot go to government entities, county or municipalities it can go to private owners and private entities like RHA. The Feasibility study will be done by the end of this year. This project is really about stream restoration not about dam removal. Council needs to approach Hunterdon County to acquire this property. C.Smith asked if we acquire the property and RHA is unable to fulfill restoration is Califon in a vulnerable position. B.Hibler feels confident based on the history of other projects that this project will be successful. J.Ruggiero asked about funding, B.Hibler said support from Congressman and US Senator to bring more federal money to the state is favorable - if farm bill funding were to fall through there are other resources and agencies they could apply through.. Cost will be better to forecast once the feasibility study is done. Engineering will be done to ensure no flooding will occur downstream. The resolution tonight will enable the Council to approach Hunterdon County to acquire the property. A letter of support for this project from Califon is being requested. There is a deadline for this letter of December 1, 2023.

B.Kibler also discussed that South Branch Raritan River Restoration Project will hold an information session on November 29th from 7:00-9:00 pm at Lower Valley Presbyterian Church.

With no further comments to be made from the public, Mayor Daniel moved to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION TO ORDINANCE 2023-06 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON BY AMENDING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 5.08 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, WHICH IS ENTITLED “CANVASSERS AND SOLICITORS” – TABLED.

Council discussed the signage and removal of names from list and Council unanimously agreed to table this introduction until next year.

B. INTRODUCTION TO ORDINANCE 2023-07 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON BY AMENDING CHAPTER 16.20.010, “ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANNING BOARD”, TO PROVIDE FOR UP TO FOUR ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING BOARD

A motion was made by L.Janas seconded by C.Smith to accept introduction of Ordinance 2023-07

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

C. RESOLUTION- 2023-75 Resolution to appoint Christopher Danik to the Califon Planning Board of Adjustment as an Alternate # 2 member.

RESOLUTION 2023-75

WHEREAS the Califon Borough Planning Board / Board of Adjustment needs an alternate member, and;

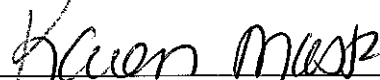
WHEREAS, Christopher Danik, resident of Califon Borough, has agreed to serve as an alternate member and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Charles J. Daniel, Mayor of Califon hereby approves the appointment of Christopher Danik as an alternate #2 member of the Califon Planning Board effective December 20, 2023, for a term of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025.

A motion was made by J.Ruggiero seconded by L.Janas to approve Resolution 2023-75

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

I certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough of Califon Council at a regular meeting held on November 16, 2023.


 Karen Mastro, RMC
 Municipal Clerk/Administrator

D. RESOLUTION – 2023-76 Resolution authorizing the Califon Fire Company to apply for a New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Grant.

RESOLUTION 2023-76

Whereas, the *Califon Fire Company* desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$75,000.00 to carry out a project to purchase additional replacement turnout gear.

Be it therefore RESOLVED,

- 1) that the *Borough of Califon* does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,
- 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between Borough of Califon and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

A motion was made by R.Baggstrom seconded by M.Medea to approve Resolution 2023-76

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

I certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough of Califon Council at a regular meeting held on November 16, 2023.



Karen Mastro, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

E. DISCUSSION – WEIS MILL DAM- Discuss the Borough of Califon accepting the Weis Mill Dam Property transfer from the County. Member(s) of Raritan Headwaters present to answer questions about the timeline and what to expect. See public comments by William Kibler.

F. RESOLUTION – 2023-77 Resolution authorizing the Borough of Califon to accept property, including but not limited to the remnants of the Weis Mill Dam from the County of Hunterdon.

RESOLUTION 2023-77**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY KNOWN
AS THE "WEIS MILL PROPERTY" FROM THE COUNTY OF
HUNTERDON TO THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

WHEREAS, a certain property commonly known as the "Weis Mill Property" (the "Property") is owned by the County of Hunterdon ("County"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon ("Council") has for some time sought a transfer of the Property to the Borough of Califon ("Califon") as an addition to its open space; and

WHEREAS, Califon's intention is that upon a transfer of the Property to Califon, Califon will enter into a five-year management agreement with Raritan Headwaters to facilitate the removal of the existing derelict dam; and

WHEREAS, the Council understands that the County is now willing to transfer the Property to Califon, "as-is", with the understanding that Califon will enter into a five-year management agreement with Raritan Headwaters to facilitate the removal of the existing derelict dam; and

WHEREAS, the Council is willing to accept a transfer of the Property to Califon "as-is";

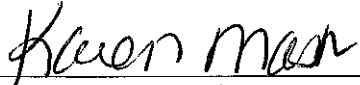
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon that Council hereby declares its intention to accept a transfer of the Property from the County "as-is", and thereafter enter into a five-year management agreement with Raritan Headwaters to facilitate the removal of the existing derelict dam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, the Borough Clerk-Administrator, the Borough Attorney, and all other necessary and appropriate representatives of Califon are hereby directed to cooperate with the County to affect the transfer as soon as practicable.

A motion was made by E.Haversang seconded by R.Baggstrom to approve Resolution 2023-77

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

I certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough of Califon Council at a regular meeting held on November 16, 2023.



 Karen Mastro, RMC
 Municipal Clerk/Administrator

G. DISCUSSION- Environmental Commission discusses meeting with the executive director of the Highlands Commission to present a vision for Califon Park and the town based upon the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

E.Haversang reported that the Environmental Commission has written a vision statement using the 2023 Open Space Plan as its outline. EC is planning on a meeting with the Highlands for further guidance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Ruggiero reported Parks & Rec discussed Street Fair 2023, tree lighting, coordinating with the Historical Society's Christmas celebration, and the purchase of a Menorah.

Councilman Medea reported that the flag on the bridge needs to come down. Confirmed that Council agrees that DPW clean the graffiti off the Island Park Bridge.

Councilman Haversang reported he spoke with a member of Califon Rescue Squad regarding the Borough's annual contribution to the Rescue Squad. A brief discussion amongst Council members took place regarding this subject matter.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning and Zoning meeting was cancelled, and the next meeting is December 20th.

Councilwoman Smith reported that she attended the Historical Society meeting on the 14th. Holiday plans were discussed. A presentation was given about the sign on the bridge and how it was verified to the movie it's A Wonderful Life. Califon Board of Ed meet on the 15th - enrollment is at 82. The High Impact tutoring grant was not received by Califon School, this grant was very selective.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that he had nothing to report.

Councilman Ruggiero reported that cameras will be put up.

Attorney Mark Anderson reported that he passed the Judge's opinion of the Deckhut case to Council. If an appeal is filed, he will inform the Council.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Daniel reported there will be a meeting on December 7th and a holiday potluck at the December 21st meeting.

With no further business to come before the Council, C. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm seconded by R. Baggstrom.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara M. Thomas

