**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**December 21, 2023**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 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, L. Janas, M. Medea J. Ruggiero,**

**C. Smith**

**ABSENT: E. Haversang**

**Also, Present, Borough Attorney, Mark Anderson, Tax Collector and Acting CFO, Amy Monahan, Chief Jeff Almer**

**Approval of December 7th Regular and Executive Session Minutes**

A motion was made by M. Medea seconded by J. Ruggiero to approve the minutes for both the regular and executive session meeting.

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

Absent: E. Haversang

Oppose: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

A motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $443,721.30.

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

Absent: E. Haversang

Oppose: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Clerk advised that there was no correspondence.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION 2023-85 ADOPTING THE 2023 HUNTERDON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 2023-85**

**AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2023 HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**

**WHEREAS**, all jurisdictions within Hunterdon County have exposure to hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

**WHEREAS**; pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre and post-disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, a coalition of Hunterdon County municipalities with similar planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Hunterdon County and

**WHEREAS**, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of Califon:

1. Adopts, in its entirety, the 2023 Hunterdon County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (the “Plan”) as the jurisdiction’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.
2. Will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of identified hazards.
3. The strategies identified in the Plan will be coordinated with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
4. Will continue its support of the Mitigation Planning Committee as described within the Plan.
5. This will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this plan.
6. Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
7. Will update the Plan with the County no less than every five years.

I certify that the following is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough of Califon Council at the regular meeting held on December 21,2023.

A motion was made by C. Smith seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2023-85 as read.

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

Absent: E. Haversang

Oppose: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION 2023-86 RELEASING THE TAX COLLECTOR FROM THE COLLECTION OF TAXES ON PROPERTIES OF UNKNOWN OWNERSHIP, THEREFORE CANCELLING THESE TAXES.**

Mayor Daniel asked that this be tabled as he would like us to explore ways, we could get these properties back on the tax records. A short discussion took place concerning the cost of getting these properties onto the ownership of the Borough would be greater than continuing to go through this process.

It was agreed to table this matter.

1. **RESOLUTION 2023-87 BUDGET TRANSFER**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**2023 TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**December 21, 2023**

**RESOLUTION-2023- 87**

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

Liability Insurance

Workers Comp Insurance

Employee Group Insurance

**AND WHEREAS, IT APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE AN UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN THE FOLLOWING 2023 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 AMOUNT

$ 3,850.53 Finance s/w Liability Insur $ 640.64

Water $ 17.45

Employee Group Insu $ .32

Animal Control $ 2,423.60

Fire dept o/e $ 98.52

Audit $ 1.00

Computerized Data $ 669.00

$3,850.53 Total Total $ 3,850.53

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the following is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough of Califon at a regular meeting held on December 21., 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Karen Mastro, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator

A motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2023-97 as read.

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

Absent: E. Haversang

Oppose: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the tree lighting ceremony was canceled due to inclement weather on Sunday, December 10th. The Menorah lighting was a big success, with over 50 people in attendance. There was food, music, and singing, and everyone enjoyed a great time.

Councilman Medea shared that they do not have a Parks and Recreation Chairperson for 2024.

If we do not have anyone to lead this committee, some activities may not occur.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board meeting was cancelled in December so their next meeting will occur on January 17th.

Councilwoman Smith reported that she attended the Califon Board of Education meeting. She reported that the enrollment has gone up to 83 students.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that we received a complaint regarding speeding on Academy during the early morning hours at the Railroad Ave intersection. This was forwarded to Chief Almer, who immediately responded with increased speed monitoring patrols at this intersection.

Councilman Ruggiero advised that he does not have anything to report.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that the rainstorm on Sunday, December 10th, caused flooding throughout the town. First and River Road were completely flooded, and the channel behind the firehouse was filled with leaves and debris. Mayor Daniel advised that the DPW was called in and reported to 31 Main Street as the creek there appeared to have crested.

Mayor Daniel advised that our engineer has some ideas for additional improvements to these areas that will be addressed at the beginning of the new year.

Councilwoman Smith asked when River Road floods if our fire department communicates with the residents on River Rd concerning accessing the Columbia Trail behind their home or if our Emergency Management Coordinator does. Clerk Mastro advised that she believes our OEM Coordinator communicates with these residents, but she will confirm.

Mayor Daniel thanked the members of the Council for their time, commitment, and work over this past year.

Councilwoman Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. seconded by Councilman Baggstrom.

ALL IN FAVOR

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro