**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**July 20, 2023**

Mayor Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 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, E. Haversang, L. Janas, J. Ruggiero, C. Smith**

**ABSENT: M. Medea**

**ALSO PRESENT: Mark Anderson, Borough Attorney**

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by J. Ruggiero to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 15 and the minutes from the executive session of June 15, 2023.

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

Absent: M. Medea

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 $51,2442.85.

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

Absent: M. Medea

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Daniel moved to Public Comment on the agenda.

Kathy and Robert Schwartz of 3 Eisenhower Lane- Kathy Schwartz gave council members a background of the flooding issues they have been experiencing over the years. The Schwartz’s live at the end of Eisenhower Lane and K. Schwartz stated that the water from top of Hoffman Drive comes down, around and then makes a river and heads right to their driveway opening. In the past, a drain was installed in the grass and connected to an underground drainpipe that leads to the river in the back. K. Schwartz advised that by the time the water gets near their property, most of it bypasses this drain and the other storm drain on the other side. Their driveway is beginning to lift from the water pushing on it and they are worried that it will wash out along with their septic which is to the right. K. Schwartz explained they have taken several actions to mitigate the stormwater on their property but suggests that the Borough put in a trench, or another drain right before the start of their driveway.

Mayor Daniel advised that the Borough Engineer will be contacted and asked to go out and review this area.

John Collins of 119 Philhower Ave, Califon advised that he noticed that the approval of the DOT grant for the repaving of Philhower Rd is on the agenda and he wanted to point out that one of the drainage basins is in bad shape. Mayor Daniel advised that all basins will be inspected, and repairs done prior to project, if the grant is awarded. J. Collins advised that he also heard that the water main pipes under Philhower Rd were not in good shape. Mayor Daniel advised that Aqua Water will be replacing the water main under Philhower prior to our paving.

Bruce Morrow of 47 Academy Street advised that the issues he described at the last Council meeting of June 15, 2023, all remain. Discussion on obtaining proposals for surveillance cameras installed at the park took place. Councilman Ruggiero advised that he recently had the opportunity to speak with a police officer in Sparta where they were experiencing similar problems with vandalism. The officer advised that they participate in a program that works with the school when they identify a vandal from their webcams. If it involves a juvenile and the party is identified by the school, the police and town require the offender to complete community service. A brief discussion concerning the Hometown Heroes program took place which was agreed to place on hold until the security measures at the park is determined or another location is identified.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_7-14-23- Dept of Agriculture, notice to municipalities that ordinances that restrict bee keeping is not allowed.

\_7-20-23- invitation from County Commissioner, Z. Rich for a 8-8-23 meeting about available agricultural grants for local communities in Hunterdon.

\_Progress report was sent to the State concerning the ARF Fire Fighting grant.

\_Clerk reported that the 2023 final and 2024 preliminary tax bills will be mailed out on Monday, July 24th. A fact sheet on stormwater pollution solutions will be mailed with these bills as part of our fulfillment to the Tier A, MS4 permitting we are undertaking.

\_Notice from Commercial Utility Consultants regarding the Hunterdon Area Cooperative Energy program going out for bid on August 30, 2023.

\_ email sent to Aqua asking if the water main on Philhower is galvanized and if so, this needs to be prioritized in replacement project as we will be paving. Aqua did respond and advised that it is galvanized, and they will submit replacement plans to Califon in the near future.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Clerk Mastro advised that she did not set up a Consent agenda as she was not sure if any of the Resolution items needed to be discussed. She asked council members to review items and advise if there are any items that they wish to discuss and if no discussion is needed, we can do one roll call vote for all Resolutions.

Council members advised that they were fine to proceed with a consent agenda for Resolutions 2023-59-2023-62.

**RESOLUTION 2023-59- HOUSEHOLD GOOD/BULK PICK UP- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-59**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon has approved the contract with Interstate Waste Services, for the removal of residential household bulk items on Monday, September 11, 2023; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost for this service will be $2,100 per load and $118.00 per ton disposal.

**RESOLUTION 2023-60- BAGGED LEAF PICK UP**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-60**

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR 2023 LEAF COLLECTION WITH INTERSTATE WASTE SERVICES- $ 2,100 per TRUCK LOAD INCLUSIVE OF DISPOSAL COSTS DATES: 11/8/23 & 12/6/23**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the Borough of Califon has awarded a Municipal Contract to Interstate Waste Services for the curbside collection of leaves in biodegradable bags within the boundaries of Califon Borough; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost of this service will be $2,100 per load inclusive of disposal costs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough wide collection of leaves will be held on the following two dates: Wednesday 11/08, and Wednesday, 12.6/23 and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Acting CFO of the Borough of Califon has provided a Certification of Funds to not exceed $10,000 from account# 10529099 and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign and fully execute the Municipal Contract between the Borough of Califon and Interstate Waste Services for this service.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-61**

**APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL TAX MAP DIGITALIZATION AND UPDATES PROPOSAL FROM SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC**

**WHEREAS,** it has been determined that the Borough is in need of updating its current tax maps and these maps need to be digitalized.

**WHEREAS,** the Borough’s QPA has reviewed and recommended that the Borough accept the proposal from Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc for these services;

**WHEREAS,** the proposal of March 10, 2023, from Suburban in the amount of $29,000 has been approved;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon that the contract between the Borough of Califon and Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc for tax map updating and digitalization is hereby approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-62**

**OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF**

**THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

***APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***FOR THE PHILHOWER AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS***

**WHEREAS,** the Borough of Califon Mayor and Council desire to construct road improvements to the entire length of Philhower Avenue, including: upgrades to stormwater facilities; pavement resurfacing; replacement of sidewalks where required; replacement of curbs where required; ADA crosswalk improvements; traffic control signs; and, long-life traffic striping; and,

**WHEREAS,** 2024 Municipal Aid funds are available through the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Mayor and Council of Califon Borough, formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application, identified as MA-2024-Philhower Avenue Improvements-00559, to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Califon Borough.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Califon Borough and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

Roll Call Vote for Resolution 2023-59- Resolution 2023-62

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by E. Haversang to approve Resolutions 2023-59 through Resolution 2023-62 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: M. Medea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilman Haversang reported under the Environmental Commission news that Japanese Knotweed was spotted along the Frog Hollow Creek. Member Jim Kinney and E. Haversang removed this highly invasive plant. Councilman Haversang advised that he was down at the channel behind the firehouse cleaning out debris from the top 1/3 of the channel and advised that there is a large boulder located in the bend which he could not get out.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board met on June 21st and voted to approve the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The board also conducted a voice resolution to approve the plans to replace the municipal building roof with the same product, same color.

The meeting on July 19th further discussion of the roof replacement took place as the planning board attorney advised that this must be sent to the state for historic review since the building is on the historic registry.

They also discussed with the planner whether it would be permissible to place a pavilion in the Califon Commons. Further discussion concerning this will take place once specific plans are identified.

Councilwoman Smith reported that there was a short Board of Education meeting on June 21st. Last year Califon School had 7 preschool and 6 regular students that paid tuition to attend. $81,600 was received in tuition during the 2022-2023 school year.

A grant was received from the NJ department of health and the department of education for 14 air purifying units.

Councilwoman Smith advised that she attended the Historical Society June 20th meeting where a discussion on getting a driveway installed at the Nellie Hoffman House took place. Councilwoman Smith advised that it was reported that the windows of the cabin need to be rebuilt and the Historical Society were wondering if Open Space funds could be used for the repairs.

Councilwoman Smith advised that they have identified a potential Eagle Scout project.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that we received a complaint concerning some wash out on Raritan Drive between the black top and the curbing. Our DPW will be going out to inspect and repair if warranted. Councilman Ruggiero advised that while we are speaking about roads he wanted to point out that the crosswalk painting on Raritan Drive is less than desirable.

Councilman Baggstrom reported the June police calls for Califon which were at 497, which went up.

Councilman Ruggiero advised that he could not attend the last Parks & Recreation meeting but could report that the plans for the October Street Fair are well under way. Currently they have over 20 vendors and 3 food vendors. The 5k is being sponsored by Envision Helaht and is a USATF sanctioned event. They are looking for volunteers.

The townwide tag sale is scheduled for September 9th which the Califon First Aid is sponsoring.

Councilman Ruggiero reported that there will be no Fun Days event this year as no one volunteered to run the event.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that on Friday, July14th he met with Tom Boorady PE, the Borough engineer, and Kevin and Brian from our DPW. They began behind the firehouse at the channel that became completely overwhelmed with water and was left completely filled with all kinds of debris, silt, rocks causing the water to run up and over and flood the downtown area. The new trail that was just installed by the county was also washed out. Discussion concerning the grates that had to be installed in the channel for safety measures. Grates quickly become blocked up causing water to flow up and over. Kevin from the DPW went to someone local who could cut some of the grate out which would allow more water to flow through.

They spoke of the idea of removing grates and placing a fence around the channel. The fence of course would then act like grate and debris would get stuck on this causing a backup of water.

Mayor Daniel advised that what would be of tremendous help would be to ask the County to tie in the water that is coming down academy from Cokesbury into the storm drains which lead to the river instead of into the stream on the triangle property. We would need to speak with a county representative and Commissioner.

Mayor Daniel advised that he believes we need to look at the triangle property between Main and Academy that is owned by the Borough and NJWSA for stormwater mitigation. The property has become a wetland and we need to meet with the NJWSA to discuss what we can do on this property to help stop the river of water that rushes through this property and then onto the back of the Firehouse. Mayor Daniel also advised that we need to speak with the county and a commissioner on what can be done on their end to assist the town.

Mayor Daniel advised that they also did a site visit at 31 Main Street as this was heavily affected by the last storm. The Borough owns an easement at this property and our DPW continuously cleans out the grate on the pipe that empties into the culvert. During these large storms this area gets backed up with debris and causes flooding in the next-door home as well as Main Street. Mayor Daniel advised that one of the ideas was to put a new pipe from the back of the garage, down the driveway to a storm drain on Main Street. Discussed financing a project like this and advised we would have to look at EPA / DEP / State grant which would be overseen by the State Historic Preservation and would probably take 3 to five years.

Mayor Daniel advised that he would like to meet with a representative from the County, New Jersey Water Authority/Raritan Basin and the Borough engineer to discuss and begin planning what we can do to slow up the speed of this stormwater.

**RESOLUTION 2023- 63**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN   
ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon that an Executive Session, not open to the public, shall be held immediately following the adoption of this Resolution for the purposes of:

Attorney – Client Matters of litigation discussion with the Borough attorney and matters as it relates to public safety.

At the conclusion of the executive session, the regular meeting will be reopened and closed with no public discussion or action taken.

It is anticipated that the minutes of the Executive Session may be disclosed to the public as to discussions with the Borough attorney, since the attorney -client privilege has no specific expiration date, the minutes may be disclosed by the Borough Council when it determines that the public interest no longer requires confidentiality.

At the conclusion of the executive session, the public session will be closed and no business will be discussed, or decisions will be made.

Councilwoman C. Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-63 as read and close the public meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilman L. Janas.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: M. Medea

**MOTION CARRIED**

The council meeting was closed for Executive Session at 8:40 pm.

The public meeting was opened at 9:17 pm after the closing of the executive session. With no business to attend, Councilman R. Baggstrom made a motion to close the public meeting seconded by C. Smith.

All Present In Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC