

JANUARY 4, 2010

Mayor Cooperhouse called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Mayor Cooperhouse read the Presiding Officer's Statement. Present were Council Members Burden, DeNofa, Dodge, Menapace and Murphy. Council Member Keegan was absent. Also present were Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman and Borough Attorney Martin Barger.

Salute to Flag

As everyone present had saluted the flag at the Reorganization Meeting which was held immediately preceding the Regular Meeting of Council, this was not repeated.

Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2009

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Burden to approve the meeting minutes of December 7, 2009 with the correction of the spelling of Eddie Preissler's name. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes, except for Councilman Dodge who abstained.

Authorize Mayor & Clerk to sign Contract for Sale of Real Estate between Evelyn Bonanno to the Borough of Shrewsbury

A motion was made by Councilman Burden, seconded by Councilman Menapace to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract for sale of real estate between Evelyn Bonanno to the Borough of Shrewsbury. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes. The Mayor stated that the closing date is tentatively set for mid January 2010.

Authorize Mayor & Clerk to sign 2010 Renewal Contract for Special Counsel – COAH

A motion was made by Councilman DeNofa, seconded by Councilman Dodge to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the 2010 renewal contract with Jeffrey Surenian, Esq. as Special COAH Counsel. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Authorize Mayor & Clerk to sign 2010 Renewal Contract for Bond Counsel Services

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the 2010 renewal contract for Bond Counsel with John O'Bennett, III, Esq. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes

Authorize Mayor & Clerk to sign Contract with Rocon Contracting, Inc. for Public Works Garage Repairs

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman DeNofa to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract for wit Rocon Contracting, Inc. for the building repairs needed at the Public Works garage. Councilman Menapace gave an update on the status of the different phases of the repairs being done. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Seaman reported that Captain Spencer has been working on all the details for the Emergency Alert System and that he had received proposals from Cooper Notification System which was reviewed by Attorney Barger. Mr. Seaman noted that they were in the process of finalizing some of the issues with the other towns as well as the Red Bank Regional Board of Education.

Mr. Seaman listed all the different methods used to inform the resident about the recycling changes. He noted that the information was disseminated on the Borough website, the marquee in front of the Fire House, through a mailing, as well as using the Reverse 911 system. Administrator Seaman noted that he had spoken with the Code Enforcement Officer about being patient with the Shrewsbury residents during the transition period.

Mr. Seaman noted that the Finance Committee is busy with the budget process and that budget worksheets would be going out to all the Departments with meetings set up for the end of the month. He noted that they were looking to see substantial cuts in "other expenses". Mr. Seaman stated that the Finance Committee is looking to cut the budget by 20%. The Mayor requested Mr. Seaman pick a date and then provide him with what the budget was and what each department expended and what was encumbered in the 2009 budget. Mr. Seaman said it would not be a problem to do that.

Reports of Council

Councilman Burden stated in reference to the new garbage and recycling program that he would like to speak for Mr. Allen to share how pleased he was with the special consideration afforded Thornbrooke in how it was handled. Mr. Burden made note of the 50 pound limit and asked if in future correspondence the 50 pound limit be made very clear for the residents.

Councilman DeNofa reported that on December 23 he received a phone call in reference to the possibility of Shrewsbury Borough providing Shrewsbury Township with fire and first aid services needed by Shrewsbury Township. He explained that their current needs were being covered by Eatontown Borough but the agreement between the two municipalities would expire on 12/31/09. Mr. DeNofa reported that he and Mr. Seaman reached out to Shrewsbury Borough Fire Chief Pete Gibson and had a discussion about the feasibility of this proposal. Mr. Gibson brought to light that he had researched the number of calls that had occurred in Shrewsbury Township and that his findings did not match the numbers provided by their Township Attorney. The Council discussed the dollar amount offered (\$4,000) was not in line with the potential cost to the Borough to provide for the Townships' fire and first aid needs.

Councilman DeNofa discussed the different considerations that needed to be taken into account. The consensus was that this was not a reasonable idea for Shrewsbury Borough to consider as proposed.

Mr. Seaman shared that he had spoken with the Borough of Red Bank's Administrator, Stanley Sickles, as they were also approached about the possibility of providing these services to the Township and that Red Bank was not committing to this proposal long term. Mr. Seaman noted that Red Bank may offer their services on a 45 day basis initially but they did not think this was the long term solution for the Townships needs.

Councilman Menapace explained the protocol of first aid calls and how with the way the process works Shrewsbury Borough could end up responding to these calls anyways considering the mutual aid process currently used. Mr. Seaman noted that they may end up outsourcing their first aid needs to Monoc.

Mayor Cooperhouse suggested that if the Borough is contacted again on this issue that Mr. Seaman arrange for a face to face meeting with members of the governing body as well as representation from the Borough's fire and first aid to discuss this situation in a meeting where all the principals' are involved.

Councilman Dodge had not report.

Councilman Murphy stated that even with the 20% cut that the Borough would still be in a tremendous hole and that it is going to be another difficult year financially. The Mayor stated that there will be no "wish list" this year. Councilman Murphy reviewed last years decisions and noted that this year the different departments are being asked to cut even deeper. He stated that the Finance Committee will be reviewing all the numbers as the information comes back from the different departments.

Councilman Menapace reported that Bob Wentway has received some calls in reference to the recycling program but they were all basic questions and primarily people asked if they could mix everything together. Mr. Menapace stated that in general the response was that the new program is great and that this is going to make this endeavor so simple with everything being one day and all in one container. Mr. Menapace commented that he had spoken with 6 or 8 people who reiterated that this approach to recycling is going to encourage people to recycle that weren't previously doing so. He was pleased to report that there hasn't been any negative feedback.

Mr. Menapace stated that with the December 19th and 20th snow storm that had just occurred DPW had expended approximately 20 tons of sand and salt mixture during the storm. He pointed out that this essentially depleted the Borough's on hand supply. Mr. Menapace noted that DPW has resupplied with an additional 50 tons at a cost to the Borough of \$70 per ton for a total cost of \$3,500. Councilman Menapace reported that the cost of handling the storm came to \$29,560.67. He pointed out that this amount includes overtime, equipment operation costs, the salt-sand purchase and meals for DPW employees who worked the storm. Mr. Menapace stated that these employees worked 28 straight hours.

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In response to a question from the Mayor as to any feedback regarding problems with servicing the roads in the loss of the two DPW workers, Mr. Menapace informed the Council that there was no problem with handling the storm even with the layoffs of the two DPW workers. Mr. Menapace stated that the garbage handling has been very positive. He commented that the worker who services the town is top of the line in work ethic and is doing a great job and providing the Borough with good service on the garbage pickup and recycling.

Councilman Menapace noted that the Christmas tree pickup had commenced and people were putting their trees curbside. He informed the Council that DPW has requested a list from the Environmental Commission of the sewers that flow into the affected waterways so they can act accordingly. Councilman Burden acknowledged this request and responded that he would advise the Environmental Commission of this request.

Councilman Menapace stated that he had a meeting with Dave Cranmer the Borough Engineer. He noted that Mr. Cranmer prepared a statement of qualifications which covered his primary staff regarding their qualifications and the work they do as he is aware that his contract with the Borough is being renewed. Mr. Menapace noted that Mr. Cranmer provided a thumbnail of the company and what their capabilities are. Additionally he provided his schedule of hourly rates for 2010 and he asked Councilman Menapace to make it known to the Council that he is reducing his rates anywhere from \$3 to \$6 dollars per person in view of the existing economic conditions. Mr. Menapace provided copies of this information to all the members of the Council.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Cooperhouse spoke for Councilman Keegan in his absence and passed on his request to the Council that one more member be added to the Recreation Committee. The Mayor stated that this would increase the membership of the Recreation Committee to a total of 11 members. He explained that the reason for this request was the need to increase participation in the Recreation Committee ranks and to help disperse the increasing workload. The Mayor asked for the Council to authorize the Borough Attorney to review the ordinance and make the appropriate changes to allow for this change. The Mayor also asked the Council to authorize the Borough Attorney to amend the ordinance to allow for real estate open house signs as previously discussed. The consensus of Council was to authorize the Borough Attorney to amend both ordinances to be presented at the next Council meeting.

Correspondence

The Mayor reported on correspondence he received from Mr. Pete Meyer, President of the Shrewsbury Board of Education regarding the Hovnanian project. The Mayor stated that he didn't feel he should comment on the correspondence at this time as this project is currently before the Planning Board and he felt the Planning Board should have the first opportunity to respond to Mr. Meyer's email and then follow up with the Council.

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Councilman Burden stated that he had missed the previous Council meeting and so he inquired if the Council had authorized the architectural review of the Wardell House. The Mayor responded no as the Council had decided to wait for the changes in the Freehold Board that would occur after their January reorganization meeting. He noted that the Council felt they would be positioned better to discuss the Wardell House at that point.

The Mayor acknowledged the fact that Freeholder Elect John Curley was in attendance at the meeting.

Open/Close Meeting to the Public

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Burden to open the meeting to the public. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Kirk Dodd, 123 Garden Road inquired as to any updates on the MOM Line and stated his desire to have the Mayor and Council send a final message to the Governor as a final effort to stop any further consideration of the Eastern corridor MOM Line. Mr. Dodd commented that he would like to see a letter written to the new administration in Trenton, Governor Elect Christie or whoever the correct contact would be at the State as to the Borough of Shrewsbury's opposition. He felt it should be pointed out in the letter that there are 6 main arteries in the Borough, 4 of which are already compromised by the railroad and that if this MOM line was approved all 6 would be compromised.

Freeholder Elect John Curley of Middletown addressed the Mayor and Council. Mr. Curley stated that he would be sworn in as Freeholder on January 7, 2010. He pointed out to the Mayor and Council that his door is always open for anything he can do to help with different issues of concern to the Borough of Shrewsbury. He added that he too was strongly opposed to the MOM Line because of the impact it would have on Shrewsbury and the bottleneck of traffic it would create in the area. Mr. Curley spoke as to how Shrewsbury was his hometown and how his family goes back four generations in the County. He reflected on his family's history and how his father had built the Curley homes in Shrewsbury Borough and how his brother, Jim is a resident of the Borough.

Mr. Curley extended an invitation to provide assistance in any way possible to help address concerns which effect Shrewsbury residents. He wished the Mayor and Council a Happy New Year. The Mayor responded wishing Mr. Curley good luck in his newly elected position.

Close Meeting to the Public

Seeing no one else to speak, a motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman DeNofa to close the meeting to the public. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

**BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY
MUNICIPAL CENTER
MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

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Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Dodge to authorize payment of all bills as submitted by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace and approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Attest: _____
Kathleen P. Krueger, RMC – Municipal Clerk

Approve: _____
Terel J. Cooperhouse, Mayor