

FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Mayor Terel Cooperhouse called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Mayor Cooperhouse read the Presiding Officer's Statement. Present were Council Members DeNofa, Dodge, Menapace and Murphy. Councilman Burden and Keegan were absent. Also present were Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman and Borough Attorney Martin Barger. ****Councilman Keegan entered the meeting at 7:35 PM.

RESOLUTION #2010-15 (Executive Session)

Mayor Cooperhouse read Resolution #2010-15 to enter into executive session.

Reconvene Public Meeting

Mayor Cooperhouse reconvened the regular meeting at 8:00 PM. Mayor Cooperhouse read the Presiding Officer's Statement. Present were Council Members DeNofa, Dodge, Keegan, Menapace and Murphy. Councilman Burden was absent. Also present was Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman and Borough Attorney Martin Barger

Salute to Flag

Mayor Cooperhouse led the Salute to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes of the Re-Organization Meeting January 4, 2010

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace to approve the meeting minutes of the Re-Organization Meeting of January 4, 2010. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes except Councilman Keegan who abstained.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting January 4, 2010

A motion was made by Councilman DeNofa, seconded by Councilman Murphy to approve the Regular meeting minutes of January 4, 2010. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes except Councilman Keegan who abstained.

Authorize Mayor to sign Revised Agreement between the Borough of Shrewsbury and the Shrewsbury Historical Society

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman DeNofa to authorize the Mayor to sign the revised agreement between the Borough of Shrewsbury and the Shrewsbury Historical Society. Mr. Barger stated that all this did was memorialize the agreement that has been in effect for years. Mr. Seaman stated that the only thing added to this was some insurance but at a minimal cost to the Borough as part of the Borough's JIF (Joint Insurance Fund). The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Authorize Mayor & Clerk to sign 2010 Renewal Contract for Animal Warden Services

Mr. Seaman explained that there was a minimal increase of about \$100 but that it has been a very good shared service agreement. He itemized the different services provided. A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Murphy to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the 2010 renewal contract for Animal Warden services with the Borough of Red Bank. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

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Authorize Mayor to sign Contract Renewal for Audit Services with Hutchins, Farrell, Meyer & Allison, P.A.

Councilman Murphy noted that there was no increase in the cost of their services and that there was no increase last year either. A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Dodge to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2010 renewal contract for Audit Services with Hutchins, Farrell, Meyer & Allison, P.A. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Authorize Mayor to sign Contract Renewal for LOSAP Audit Services with Hutchins, Farrell, Meyer & Allison, P.A.

Mr. Seaman explained that the Auditors perform a standard audit required by the State for the LOSAP plan that is in place for volunteers on the Fire and First Aid. A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman DeNofa to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2010 renewal contract for LOSAP Audit Services with Hutchins, Farrell, Meyer & Allison, P.A. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Resolution #2010-16 (Appointing Lisa Casler as Part Time Court Assistant)

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Keegan to appoint Lisa Casler as Part Time Court Assistant. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes

Resolution #2010-17 (Appointing Sydney Lineberry as Court Administrator)

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Dodge to appoint Sydney Lineberry as Court Administrator. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes

Resolution #2010-18 (Release Business Surety Bond for "Book It")

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Keegan to release the business surety bond for "Book It". The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes

Resolution #2010-19 (Appropriation Reserve Transfer No.1)

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Dodge to approve the Appropriation Reserve Transfer No. 1. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes

Resolution #2010-20 (Awarding Contract to Cooper Notification System)

Mr. Seaman explained that this system comes highly acknowledged as a replacement for the Reverse 911 System whose contract was up and had not worked out as we had expected. A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman DeNofa to award the Contract to Cooper Notification System. The Council discussed how this system was chosen after

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extensive research that was done by Captain Tim Spencer on the available systems on the market. The Council explained the different capabilities this system will offer the Borough for the benefit of the public present. It was noted that the Borough would be entering a shared agreement with three different entities on this service. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes

Resolution #2010-21 ((Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Notification System))

Mr. Seaman explained that the Red Bank Regional School and Little Silver Borough as well as Little Silver School district will share in this three year agreement and sharing in the cost of the system with Little Silver contributing \$3,000; Little Silver School contributing \$2,000 and Red Bank Regional School contributing \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000 towards the cost of this system over a 3 year period. Mr. Seaman noted that the Shrewsbury School System has a system in place that they like very much but may consider this going forward. A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Murphy to approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Emergency Notification System. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Seaman reported that he and Mike Biehl, Borough Administrator for Little Silver, have discussed the Vehicle Wash Station. Mr. Seaman stated that Mr. Biehl was very interested in this shared service as a benefit to both Municipalities and he was planning to address his Council on the issues of sharing the cost of the construction and a yearly maintenance agreement with us. Mr. Biehl requested that we share the design with their engineer. Mr. Seaman reported that the Borough Engineer, Dave Cranmer, will be finishing his phase on that process and we will then share that information with Little Silver. The Mayor provided background for the benefit of the public present that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection had passed a regulation requiring that Municipalities wash their trucks, tractors and other vehicles on a daily basis after they have been used. He explained how this decision evolved and all the factors that were considered before arriving at this decision to construct a Vehicle Wash Station. The Mayor asked Mr. Seaman to talk to Mike Biehl to get a commitment on this and find out what is reasonable as the DEP has inspected the Borough DPW and there is a timeline the Borough needs to meet. The Mayor stated that he felt that 30 days from today would be reasonable.

Councilman Menapace stated that he had spoken with Mr. Cranmer and he currently has a design engineer working on a couple of different options and he is really just waiting to see what those options are from a construction cost standpoint. Mr. Menapace stated that the next step would be to share those numbers with Little Silver so they can move forward on their end with the information with an understanding of what they are committing to. Mr. Menapace stated how they tried using the County facility for washing the street sweeper and the problems encountered doing that. He stated that we have an existing bond that was passed last year to pay for this as this was anticipated in the DEP recommendations so there is money bonded for this already.

Mr. Seaman noted that the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations requests for Congressman Rush Holt's office are due by February 17, 2010 and all the department heads as well as the engineer have been

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notified of this and their requests are due back to him by February 12, 2010. Mr. Seaman stated that he would share that information with the Mayor and Council once he receives it.

The Mayor referred to the \$500, 000 obtained from Congressman Rush Holt for the Borough's Municipal building seven years ago.

Mr. Seaman noted that the Auditors have been working on the Borough's financial sheets and that the Annual Debt Statement was completed and the Borough's Annual Financial Statement should be completed by the end of the week.

Reports of Council

Councilman Dodge reported on the conversion of the insurance from a private provider to the New Jersey State Health Benefit Plan. Mr. Dodge noted that we have 42 Borough employees and 11 retirees. He noted that 38 of the employees have signed up and that we will be successful in making the March 1st deadline. Councilman Dodge stated that reviewing the bills that there is a 35% increase in fees in our current provider so he felt this was a positive move forward.

Mr. Dodge acknowledged Councilman Keegan's comments about dealing with the totality of the budget in the interest of controlling costs.

Councilman Dodge reported on the second testimony by the applicant for the Hovnanian project. He stated that the testimony principally centered around the traffic plan and he acknowledged that there is a lot of concern about access in every direction and exiting in every direction as well. Mr. Dodge noted that Mr. Pete Meyers, spoke in the public session representing the Shrewsbury Elementary School Board of Education and his concerns centered on the accuracy of some of the economic forecasts, traffic issues, the data that is used and the issue of commissioning a separate study to gather this information.

Councilman Dodge noted there was also testimony from the traffic officer who testified concerning the traffic patterns and offered some pretty significant increases in traffic in his estimation. He stated that the testimony is preceding and the next subject would be involving landscape architecture and the environmental impact.

The Mayor stated that if residents or anyone has concerns or questions what they can do is attend the Planning Board meetings but that the Council does not have jurisdiction over an active case with the Planning Board.

Councilman DeNofa had no report.

Councilman Keegan had no report.

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Councilman Menapace reported that the DPW garage repairs are essentially complete. Mr. Menapace noted that there is a very short punch list. He noted that Rocon, the contractor, did the job on time and on budget. Mr. Menapace noted the only additional cost was about \$300 for doors that had to be purchased.

Councilman Menapace stated they have put out feelers to see if the Borough recycling truck can be sold since the Borough has changed the recycling system. He explained that the plan is to see if the Borough can sell the truck to another municipality or someone who needs it but if that was not successful then it would be put up for auction at the appropriate time.

Councilman Menapace stated that the bid specifications and invitations for bid for the Laurel Avenue project should appear in the paper this coming week. He noted that the timetable on the work should begin when the weather breaks this spring.

Councilman Murphy reported that on January 27th he attended a meeting at Shrewsbury Elementary School where there was a panel of the Garden State Coalition talking about education. He noted that Senator Beck, Assembly Members Casagrande and O'Scanlon, Superintendants from Red Bank, Little Silver and Shrewsbury and Red Bank Regional were all present. They addressed concerns about the funding formulas for the schools; the legality of pay increases with union employees and reduction in aid to the municipalities for school systems. Mr. Murphy noted that it is a good thing that these questions are coming up as it could offer some tax relief but he noted that the Governor is so new that it is speculative at best. Councilman Murphy stated that it was very interesting and he advised the Council and public present that there is a web site that has a lot of this information and that Karen Lloyd in the clerk's office would have that information for anyone who is interested.

Councilman Murphy noted that the budgets from the different departments were coming back in a timely fashion for the Finance Committee. He stated that they would be reviewing them line by line the beginning of next week.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that the Council Negotiating team has concluded their negotiations with the Shrewsbury Police Department PBA and that they had reached agreement. He noted that members of Council have been briefed and the Union has ratified the contract. The Mayor stated that he needed authorization from Council for permission to sign the contract. The Mayor provided a brief overview that this is a 3 year contract with 3 ½% increases in 2010, 2011 and 2012. He noted that there was a giveback in that there has been language in the PBA contract for 25 or 30 years that the insurance plan had to be "equal to or better than" a previous plan going back many, many years.

The Mayor noted that they had been working toward having that language removed and he noted how there were situations where the Borough was backed into a corner because they were not able to make certain changes to the insurance plan. He shared that thankfully this year they were able to negotiate that language out of the contract thereby enabling the Borough to save \$288,000.

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Councilman Menapace commented that the Borough is changing from the Horizon Plan to the State Plan and not only did the language come out that had been there for so long but the change represents significant savings to the Borough.

Councilman Murphy motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract between the Borough of Shrewsbury and the Shrewsbury Policemen's Benevolent Association, Local #308, seconded by Councilman Menapace. The Mayor extended a thank you to Councilman Murphy and Menapace for their work on the Negotiation team with him. He explained that they started negotiating in early November and worked until last week to successfully bring closure to this negotiation.

Attorney Barger acknowledged the accomplishment stating how this was a good thing and done very expediently without arbitration becoming an issue and thereby saving the Borough quite a bit of money. The Mayor stated it was a pleasure to read in the paper that Little Silver settled for 4% increase with no givebacks and to realize what they had accomplished. *The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.*

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

Open/Close Meeting to the Public

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

Mr. Edward Cosburg, 91 Beechwood Drive, questioned the appointment of the new Court Administrator. He asked if someone could just give a brief description of the duties of the Court Administrator and how many hours a week this person is engaged in the performance of these duties.

Councilman Menapace responded that the Court Administrator is responsible for collecting the fines, scheduling the cases and generally handling the operation of the court from an administrative basis. He noted that Judge Berube hears the cases but the Court Administrator collects the fines and logging of tickets that are issued by the Police Department. He added that the Court Administrator oversees the logging of arrests for docketing and if they are referred out to County is responsible for the handling of that process.

The Mayor added that this is a mandated position by State Statue and approved by the Assignment Judge at the County. He noted that although she is the Borough's employee she reports to the Assignment Judge in Freehold.

Mr. Cosburg stated that he had no idea what the duties were and that is why he asked.

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Close Meeting to the Public

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

Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Keegan 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 8:45 PM was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Keegan and approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

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

Approve: _____
Terel J. Cooperhouse, Mayor