

May 18, 2021

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Lafayette Township Committee was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 33 Morris Farm Road, Lafayette, NJ

Members Present: Mayor Gregory Corcoran, Committeemen Kevin O’Leary, Richard Hughes, Alan Henderson, Richard Bruning

Members Absent None

Also Present: Clerk AnnaRose Fedish, Road Foreman Bill Macko

Mayor Corcoran opened the meeting stating that it was being held in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Minutes - Motion by Hughes, seconded by Henderson, to accept and place on file the minutes of May 4, 2021. Motion carried by roll call vote: O’Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Committee Reports

Open Space (OSAC) - O’Leary reviewed the “Lawlor” property inspection.

Land Use Board - O’Leary reviewed the Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting for The Shoppes at Lafayette.

Harmony Foundation - O’Leary reported 95 acres of the property will be removed from farmland assessment this year.

Elizabethtown Gas - Hughes reported agreements were sent to property owners; and most have been returned signed. The engineering for Morris Farm Road is complete.

US Postal Service - Hughes reported the engineering is continuing for a new post office location.

Advance Housing - Hughes reported a meeting will be held this week regarding the PILOT.

Software and Emails - Hughes reported discussions are continuing regarding the security of the software and emails.

Fire House Generator - Hughes reported the generator for the fire house is on backorder.

COVID Vaccine - Henderson reported the County will be offering the COVID vaccine to interested employees and their families.

Streets and Roads - Bruning reviewed the Road Foreman’s report.

Foreclosed Property Auction - Bruning reported the current foreclosed properties will be auctioned by Max Spann in June/July.

Recreation Commission - Corcoran reported lifeguards are being sought; and the pond will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the swim season.

Correspondence

a. From Laura Camp re: Resignation from EDC

The Township Committee regretfully accepted Mrs. Camp’s resignation from the EDC.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Bruning, to appointment Debbie Johnson to the EDC. Motion carried by roll call vote: O’Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

b. Borough of Hamburg Resolution re: Consortium of Municipalities to improve JCP&L Services

c. Sandyston Township Resolution Supporting Equitable State Funding for all School Districts

d. Board of County Commissioners Resolution Opposing Cuts in State School Aid Allocations

e. From Anastasia Strashna re: Invitation to the Mayor’s Reentry Taskforce

Vouchers

Agra Environmental Services, Inc.	110.00
Airgas USA, LLC	19.69
American Wear	94.72
Dover Brake & Clutch Co., Inc.	62.80
Elizabethtown Gas	208.44
Griffith-Allied Trucking	224.56
Home Depot Credit Services	628.81
JCP&L	924.85
Lafayette Auto Parts Supply, LLC	326.00
Lafayette EMS	719.71
Lisa's Stone Brook Florist	57.50
MGL Printing Solutions	371.00
Montague Tool & Supply Co.	26.42
Mr. John	196.07
ND Engineering, LLC	1,570.00
NJ State League of Municipalities	25.00
North East Parts Group, LLC	38.36
Old Dominion Brush	515.00
Optimum	21.95
ReadyRefresh by Nestle	9.99
Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority	300.00
Transaxle	2,874.37
Treasurer, State of New Jersey	1,958.00
United States Postal Service	993.40

Motion by O'Leary, seconded by Bruning, to pay the bills on the Bills List. Motion carried by roll call vote: O'Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Unfinished Business

Cannabis Opt-Out Ordinance - Mayor Corcoran opened the public hearing for the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAFAYETTE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF CLASS 1 THROUGH CLASS 5 CANNABIS LICENSES IN THE TOWNSHIP, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, NAMELY, IN THE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ZONE DISTRICT WHEREIN ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CLASS 1 THROUGH CLASS 4 SHALL BE PERMITTED; ALLOWING CLASS 1 AND 2 LICENSES PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN THE R5 ZONE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF ORDINANCE 13-14(b)(9) TO CONTINUE TO BE PERMITTED; AND ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CLASS 6 LICENSES TO BE PERMITTED WITHIN ALL ZONES IN LINE WITH LIMITATIONS OR RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN STATE STATUTES OR ADMINISTRATIVE CODE REGULATIONS TO BE ADOPTED BY THE CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION GOVERNING CLASS 6 LICENSES; AND TO SPECIFICALLY OPT OUT OF ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CLASS 5 LICENSE IN THE TOWNSHIP

With there being no comments from the public, Mayor Corcoran closed the public hearing.

Motion by Bruning, seconded by O'Leary, to adopt the Cannabis Opt-Out Ordinance. Motion carried by roll call vote: O'Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

New Business

Cancel Summer Meetings - Motion by Bruning, seconded by Hughes, to cancel the following summer meetings: June 15, 2021; July 20, 2021 and August 17, 2021. Motion carried by roll call vote: O'Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Pezzuti Tax Exemption Resolution - Motion by Bruning, seconded by Hughes, to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AND ISSUE A REFUND TO GARY W. PEZZUTI IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,818.30 DUE TO THE APPROVAL OF A 100% DISABLED VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION FOR BLOCK 22.01, LOT 13

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2020, the Tax Assessor received an application for a 100% Exempt Disabled Veteran made by Gary W. Pezzuti for his home at 16 Voight Lane, known as Block 22.01, Lot 13, and the Tax Assessor has now approved the application, making the property tax exempt from the date of application; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 property taxes in the amount of \$11,233.49 had previously been paid in full by the homeowner, creating an overpayment of \$1,169.64, the 1st quarter taxes of 2021 were paid by the homeowner in the amount of \$2,808.38, and a homestead benefit rebate for the year 2017 was applied to the 2nd quarter 2021 taxes in the amount of \$840.28, creating a total overpayment in the amount of \$4,818.30; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette, Sussex County, New Jersey, that Daryn Cashin, the Tax Collector, be authorized to cancel the property taxes accruing after November 23, 2020 and refunding Gary W. Pezzuti in the amount of \$4,818.30.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector, the Chief Financial Officer, and Township Auditor for their records.

Motion carried by roll call vote: O’Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Local Recreation Improvement Grant Resolution - Motion by Bruning, seconded O’Leary, to adopt the following Resolution:

LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Lafayette, Sussex County, New Jersey desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$50,000.00 to carry out a project to address updates to community centers, trails and various other recreational facilities to meet the needs of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (1) that the Township of Lafayette 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 the Township of Lafayette 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. Motion carried by roll call vote: O’Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Improvements to Roads Spending Ordinance - Motion by Bruning, seconded by Hughes, to introduce the following Ordinance and set the public hearing date of June 1, 2021:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAFAYETTE, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR ENGINEERING AND ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS ROADS AND APPROPRIATING \$195,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND – IMPROVEMENTS TO ROADS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette, County of Sussex, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The funding for Engineering and additional costs for the Improvements to various roads and appropriating \$195,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund – Improvements to Roads.

Section 2. The total amount of \$195,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund – Improvements to Roads.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication of notice of final adoption as provided by law.

Motion carried by roll call vote: O’Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Amending 2021 Salary Ordinance - Motion by Henderson, seconded by O’Leary, to introduce the following Ordinance and set the public hearing date of June 1, 2021:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LAFAYETTE FOR THE YEAR 2021” WHICH WAS ADOPTED DECEMBER 15, 2020

1. Effective April 14, 2021, the annual salary of the officer named hereafter for the year 2021 and for each year thereafter, until amended or repealed, is hereby established and fixed at the following sum in lieu of any and all fees and remuneration to which the respective incumbents of

said office might otherwise be entitled, except, however, that which may be authorized by resolution of the Township Committee, to wit:

	Annually	Payable
Zoning Officer	22.50 per hour	Bi-Weekly

2. That the aforesaid salary shall be paid at the time and in the manner established by the Township Committee for payment of salaries.

3. Any and all portions of any and all ordinance that may be inconsistent with the provision of this ordinance are hereby rescinded.

Motion carried by roll call vote: O’Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Mileage Reimbursement - Henderson will contact Montague Township for their policy on mileage reimbursement. This issue will be carried to the next meeting on June 1, 2021.

Executive Session - Motion by Bruning, seconded by Henderson, to adopt the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF LAFAYETTE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AUTHORIZING CONFERENCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

WHEREAS, it is deemed appropriate that the Township Committee discuss the matter(s) hereinafter mentioned without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 10:4-12b, being Section b of the Open Public Meetings Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey as follows:

A matter relating to personnel shall be discussed by the Township Committee without the presence of the public. It is anticipated that this matter can be disclosed to the public upon resolution of the matter.

Motion carried by roll call vote: O’Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Exec. Session - Personnel

Motion by Hughes, seconded by O’Leary, to return to the regular meeting.

New Hire - Road Department Employee - Motion by Henderson, seconded by Bruning, to hire Anthony Van Dunk as a full-time Township Road Department employee at a rate of \$18.00 per hour subject to a favorable background review. Motion carried by roll call vote: O’Leary-yes, Hughes-yes, Henderson-yes, Bruning-yes, Corcoran-yes.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, motion by Hughes, seconded by O’Leary, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

ANNA ROSE FEDISH, RMC
Municipal Clerk