

THE SPECIAL MEETING of the Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Larson at 3:00pm at the Borough Hall, on 10 East 7th Street. He stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act by posting a copy of the notice of this meeting on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall on, December 3, 2014 and by transmitting a copy of the notice to the Beach Haven Times and Asbury Park Press, newspapers designated by Mayor and Council on January 7, 2014 to receive such notice, and by filing a copy of the notice with the Borough Clerk on, December 3, 2014.

**ROLL CALL: SPARK, SHARPLESS, MIKULETZKY, WELLINGTON, REYNOLDS, WARR
ABSENT: NONE**

ALSO PRESENT: MAYOR LARSON, GAIL WETMORE, KATHLEEN FLANAGAN, CFO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE CLERK stated the minutes of the meeting are being recorded and will be on file in the office of the clerk.

George Warr turned the meeting over to Kat Flanagan. Kat called upon each Councilmember regarding their department and what they are looking for in 2015.

We have to check with the OCUA charges will be for 2015. We usually get a credit. It looks like a 35% increase which we are hoping is not so. We need \$10,000 pump for the sewer station. The one we have is not very efficient. George said he is familiar with it and it is a variable frequency drive. Rather than have the pump running constantly at full speed it slows the motor down and the motor can run steady but not as high a volume. Kat said we should make up the money in energy savings. It runs more constant but not as hard. Ed said on a smaller scale they are doing the same thing with swimming pool pumps. How come we are the only town on the island that has to maintain their own the Mayor wondered? The County services all the other towns. Mike will talk to Rich Warner. Gail asked if you are going to find out who has sprinkler systems in order to charge the \$200.00 per year on the water bill. There was some discussion and it was decided we will have Eddie look for them. Mike said we are going to have to define what we are looking for. The big ones are all on 3/4 or 1 inch pipe was said by Ed Wellington. Mayor said we will send Eddie out and send out a letter. This came up through the audit. Dottie said she thinks we should be doing it. Kat said it should be done and should not come off the books.

The police contract is up 2% and the health department is down slightly. Municipal court - all construction has been completed. There is a piece of drywall that is left and we are selling it to Ship Bottom. Metal detectors were picked up for free in Ship Bottom and maybe they will give us one as they cannot use three. Frank will call Joe in Ship Bottom. Mayor wants to get new carpet. We also would like to paint the outside of the building. That would be buildings and grounds. There are some wood repairs that need to be done. Kat said they might be money on an old ordinance. We should remove the old flower bed curbing. It is a mess. Dottie said we can take the recycling sign out of there. Unless they would like to use that sign for something else. (Outside organizations) Kat said the entrance to Barnegat Light sign needs to be painted. The tourism coalition might do something was what Scott Sharpless thought. Frank wanted to light the sign. George said he thinks that is a bad move. It is a maintenance problem. Flooding, etc. more problems than it is worth. Maybe you could put reflective paint on the sign.

We need a new flag pole at the dock. American eagle flag will be contacted. George mentioned a wheel stop at the ramp and Ed Wellington said the slip holders do not want one. Mayor said he is unhappy that we are renting a riparian grant on part of the

ramp. He asked to not pay it at this time. It is around \$600.00 or so per year. The check will be held. Ed will address this. 8 boat slips have been rented. Seems we are slightly down. We know of 4 who are not at this time. Most of the docks are out. Some are damaged. Two more fingers broke loose yesterday. There is enough money for recycling cans. Diversified Metal Fabricators is the name of the Company. Kat said she has a catalogue. The Bay beach recycling can is a disgrace. We talked of dredging at the dock. Mayor wondered if we are close enough to after Sandy to get a permit for free. It is \$50.00 a yard to take sand out of the water. Ed Wellington said he would get in touch with Frank Little.

Beaches and Parks were next: The truck is still coming. Kat said she has talked to Don and Dottie and we have the lowest paid beach patrol on the island. Dottie said we have had the lowest since she became chairperson. Ship Bottom is second. Surf City bumped all their guards up last year. What we are going to run into is know that Don Myers is gone everybody is jumping ship and going there. They are going to make twice as much as they do here to do the same exact job. Dottie said they do not have to work as hard. Kat said if someone is drowning they do. There are not nearly as many people said Dottie. Do you want to have a bunch of 16 year olds running your beach? You are going to have to make a decision of what you think is reasonable. Mike Spark said it is embarrassing when someone is getting \$375.00 a week or whatever it is. A 40 hour week what do they make? They are making minimum wage. Mike again said it is embarrassing and it is embarrassing what Don makes. Don is hundreds of dollars less than the other Captains on the island. Scott said he looks at it as three groups. The older guards and they are a brotherhood. They are not going leave. The middle crew and the younger kids. They will be the ones who may leave. There is a quality of life like Dottie said. They train during the say; their families can be on the beach with them. Most guards come from out of town. 10 are from town and the rest are from elsewhere. Kat will do a spreadsheet and she will give her recommendation of where she thinks they should be to keep the guards that we have. Mayor asked will that screw up the salaries of everyone else and Kat said of course it will. Michael is not so embarrassed anymore said Dottie. Kat also said there is no such thing as Beach revenues paying for this. George asked if we are just taking this out of the general fund. There is not one town on this island that brings in enough revenue from beach badges to run their beach patrol. It just doesn't happen. The Taxpayers pay for it.

Don wants to hire 2 more guards. 28th Street needs more protection. We are going to try and find someone to donate a lifeboat. Get a sponsor. Mike said get streets to donate for a boat i.e. 25th Street. The guards also need an ATV. Scott said Winnie got a good deal last time it was probably \$1,000.00 less. Mayor wondered why Winnie is seeming to be the purchasing agent here - what is Eddie doing. Mayor wondered why they asked Winnie. Kat said he does a good job. Mike said we need him on the end of a shovel. Scott said Winnie is a better negotiator than Eddie. Winnie and Dan have done all necessary repairs to the guard house. Scott said they need to work on the soffit.

Beach revenues are down 10% from 2013. That is huge. To ask for all these things who knows. The kids did great. We do not know why it was down. They are a lot of people who did not return. We get a lot of people from Manahawkin. Mayor wondered why we did not raise the price of the badges. Dottie said it is too late to raise beach badges now it is too late. Mayor said than you have to raise taxes. Mayor said when the budget comes around just remember and don't vote no because we have to have all this stuff. Mayor did not realize that Dottie wants an addition 10 on top of last years. Dottie asked if the repair of walkways can be put in capital. Kat said she did not know that beach walkways are capital. Scott said he talked to Eddie and 22, 21 and 19 are the three worst. We are finishing 20th Street now. That is one

of the shorter ones and cost us roughly 6 or 7 thousand. Kirk questioned how the walkways were configured. Kat said these beach walks come up every year. You need to bite the bullet and do a bond ordinance. Make a commitment. Scott asked Eddie how may if he could do them could you do in a year. Most likely do three a year. One and a half of the long ones. Mayor said we should hire a part time guy. Kat said we could hire summer workers who are not going to college and keep them on through December. Scott said maybe we would get another guy and his entire job would be building walkways. Kat will verify that this is a capital item and she will put it on as a capital project. Scott asked how much. Mike said we need to know our borrowing schedule as to what we have paid down. Dottie said that due to a former lawsuit we would have to put a handicap ramp in the middle of town. That would be 20th Street and it would cost a fortune.

Scott was some more money for public events. \$250.00 to \$500.00. Scott said we also want to buy some more of the rubber roll up walkways. They are \$381.00 for each 20 foot section. We are thinking of getting between 7 and 10 more to complete 30th Street. Dottie said why can't we sprinkle them around. Scott said he wants to do one whole street from end to end and see how it works. The public works truck is coming. The garbage contract stayed the same and roll off goes up a little bit. New lighting is needed in the DPW garage. Approximately \$13,000 for the light fixtures. Scott asked if we had ever looked into putting solar on that roof. Scott will look into it. We could put them on the Post Office too.

We need extra money in Tax Assessor O and E. We had 9 last year. We need this for Henry Mancini for a large appeal. There is a 6% increase in State Health Benefits. Kat brought up the subject of hiring a Financial Advisor. She spoke of this in November. There is certain criteria that the State has put out that we need to meet for borrowing. It is something that Kat can't do. Maybe if someone trained her she could do it, but for what they charge it is better to just let them do it. They also offer financial advisory assistance. She would like to sign a contract with them. Mike Spark asked with whom. It is called Phoenix. It was part of our best practices check list and she answered that it was perspective. In addition to having your QPA and your CFO you should have a financial advisor. There are a lot of things that are falling through the cracks in the reporting that Financial Advisors would be the fill in of the gap. Mike asked if this is not what our auditor does. Kat said this is totally different. She also mentioned how time consuming it is going out for Bans. It is about \$1200.00 a year. She would like to sign a contract with them for a year. Mike wanted to know what we have been lacking in. At this point we are not lacking in anything. She spoke of the Flexible spending account which no employee is doing at this time. We have it through AFLAC but Kat know understands that do not meet the qualifications to do so by the state. Mike said it seems to him we are creating a job for somebody. He also said we have been in business for the last 100 years and now all of a sudden we need to pay somebody \$1200.00 to do something that we have been doing all along. Kat said Terry Brady is your bond council. Mike said if this is going to save money he would consider, but if it is just that we are paying someone to do someone else's work he is not for it. Mike asked what every other small town is doing. Kat said they are hiring a financial advisor. Who on the island has done this? She said she could not speak for Surf City, but the rest of the island towns have done so. Kat said what they charge is based on debt. If you don't ever think you are going out to permanent bonds than maybe you don't need to do so. She said it is a lot of work and a lot of pressure for our office. (Meaning Ban's) Paula jumps through hoops for days - actually months getting the paper work together. Put it on the list and we will see said Mike. Kat's said her opinion is that you hire them.

Requisition module in Edmunds would be good to have. In conjunction with the Edmunds program we already have. All our

requisitions are done on paper. We changed our payroll system a couple years also. The splits are all wrong. She said it is awful. She has spent countless hours on it. The input is fine - it is the programming behind it. It is not working the way it should. She told them they are about to get fired. They came in last July and it went live in September. There has only been one payroll that has not has to be corrected. It is a constant checking on our part. George asked if there are other services like this available. She would like it to go back to manual. Kat will let the council know what she wants to do. We need a fax machine for the office. Ed Wellington will look into it. We need a good fax machine. We are talking hundreds not thousands. Brenda's tax was over 99%. Computers last 3 to 5 years. We need at least one new one next year. Phone system will need to be replaced. Obama Care could be a problem. Anyone who goes over the 30 hour mark and we did not offer them medical benefits and next year they go out to the exchange we will be fined. It gets worse in 2016. They have not exempted lifeguards yet. It might make hiring lifeguards a nightmare. We have to consider this. Whatever phone system we go to will be one that links all the buildings.

There is an increase in pension contribution for both the towns and the employees. She needs to verify that information. She thinks it is up 2% more. George said he thinks Kat has painted a pretty good picture. Just remember when we get to the point where we are doing to be 2 cents 3 cents whatever we are talking about what we have to do for the lifeguards he just does not want it done on the backs of the rest of the employees. We are talking about spending a lot of money that we are not bringing in from beaches. Kirk had it right either we have to raise the beach badges or the taxpayers have to pay for it. So fine, we can all be in agreement but down to the final day we have to make a vote just remembering that we decided here that this is what we need. George asked Kat if she would be able to do this and be within the CAP. He said Kat painted a real good picture. Mayor said a penny is \$98,000.00. Mike said yes and there is the 2% thing too. We raised the taxes 1 cent last year.

George Warr had to leave the meeting at this point. We are not in trouble said the Mayor. Nobody else on the island has boardwalks. We need a new beach wagon. The trailer is already ordered from this year. We have to start dealing with the DEP over the riparian license at the boat ramp. Mayor said do not pay it at this time. The state uses the ramp frequently. Gail said we do have riparian maps. George is away until January 9th and the next budget meeting will be decided at a future date. Kat said the state is going green. Scott wants to get solar panels where we essentially own them. Scott wants to talk to the power company about putting the panels on the poles. Mike considers those an eyesore. Scott said after a while you do not even see them. Ed likes the idea of putting them on the building. We have to remember we are a resort area as well. He agrees with Mike. Mike said he wants to talk about another ugly thing - the do not parking signs on the boulevard. Mayor said it was a safety issue. He said again the pole is obnoxious. Ed said if you go to a stop sign you only notice the sign. It is because it is on one of those metal poles. What we put in were 4 b 4's. Ed feels when we put up a sign it should be put up on one of those metal poles. Mike said they are not even even on the streets. Scott wants to get back to the solar thing. He really thinks we should look into the south side of the post office. They are more efficient that way. Scott said the savings would pay for the roof over the course of 5 years. They are so low down now too. Spark moved to adjourn, seconded by Reynolds.

APPROVED: _____

**GAIL J. WETMORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK**