

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
Regular Meeting Minutes
6:30 pm

February 5, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order by Mayor Mengucci. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

A Prayer was offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Mayor Mengucci stated “adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Gazette and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

Present – Councilman Palitto, Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci. Also present were Attorney Campbell and Engineer Sterbenz.

Motion to resume regular session by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor. Attorney Campbell explained that the Council was in Executive Session for one hour and topics of discussion were as listed on the agenda.

Public Comment:

Old Business:

Minutes – Executive and/or Regular Sessions for December 30, 2019 and January 2, 15 and 27, 2020 were adopted on motion by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll Call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Belcaro for December 30, 2019, Council President Pryor for January 15, 2020.

Ordinance No. 20-01 – Second reading and public hearing to Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 101 entitled “Dogs, Cats and Other Animals” to add additional language to address prohibit the feeding of wild animals on private property. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor. No questions from the public. Motion to close the public hearing by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-01

SECOND NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, the following Ordinance was presented and passed on the final reading. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law by title only.

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 101 “DOGS, CATS AND OTHER ANIMALS,” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG TO PROHIBIT THE FEEDING OF WILD ANIMALS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Said Ordinance may be read and inspected at any time at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, Lopatcong Township Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Resolution by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

New Business:

North Prospect Street – Request from Elizabethtown Gas to replace gas mains in the vicinity of North Prospect Street. Motion to authorize by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 2020-02 – Establish CAP Bank.

ORD. 2020-02
CALENDAR YEAR 2020
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$225,252.23 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Lopatcong shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$225,252.23 and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the Township of Lopatcong be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong held on February 5, 2020 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on March 4, 2020 at 7:30 pm or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance in the Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Strykers Road Associates – Treatment Works Application – This matter was tabled in order for Sewer Engineer Dan Madden to evaluate sewer capacity on motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda on motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 20-33 – Two percent salary increase for certain employees.

R 20-33

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH PAY RATES FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2020

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey shall set a two percent 2% raise for the job titles as listed below. Titles marked with a * did not receive a two percent raise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following pay rates will be used during 2020 to compensate municipal employees:

TOWNSHIP CLERK – Margaret Dilts	\$135,314.84
*TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR – Margaret Dilts	\$15,600.00
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK - Phyllis Coleman	\$47,816.35
*MAYOR	\$5,230.00
*COUNCILPERSON	\$2,960.00
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER/SEWER TREASURER – Kimberley Browne	\$119,646.00
TAX ASSESSOR – Robert Sweeney	\$41,132.42

SENIOR PAYROLL CLERK – Jennifer Patricia	\$49,179.91
TAX/SEWER COLLECTOR-Daniele Lattig	\$64,504.80
ELECTION BOARD CLERK – Margaret Dilts	\$1,515.40
CUSTODIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING & PUBLIC PROPERTY – Gary Woolf	\$14,479.70
*PLANNING BOARD SECRETARY – Margaret Dilts	\$12,070.66
*BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT SECRETARY – Phyllis Coleman	\$5,951.70
*RENT LEVELING BOARD – Phyllis Coleman	\$4,359.62
CUSTODIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING – William Noto	\$18.20/Hr.
*MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE – William Mennen	\$31,497.60
*MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR – Christopher Troxell	\$20,155.20
MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR – Kristin Glinko	\$67,626.00
MUNICIPAL COURT VIOLATIONS CLERK – Christine Matthews	\$20.81/Hr.
MUNICIPAL COURT SECURITY – Michael Clancy	\$123.83/Session
CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL/BUILDING SUBCODE – Joseph Rossi	\$17,085.45
ELECTRICAL SUB-CODE – Joseph Rossi	\$9,444.85
PLUMBING SUBCODE OFFICIAL – Valentine De Santo	\$32.47/Hr.
FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIAL/FIRE PREVENTION – Kevin Maguire	\$33.77/Hr.
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL – Eileen Apple	\$44,213.02
BUILDING SUB-CODE OFFICIAL – John Fritts	\$31.21/Hr.
FIRE SUB-CODE OFFICIAL – Thomas Reynolds	\$31.21/Hr.
ZONING OFFICIAL – Joseph Rossi	\$8,383.54
*EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL – Gary Woolf	\$2,065.19
*DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL – Patrick Rivoli	\$1,326.00
*ANIMAL CONTROL REGISTRAR – Phyllis Coleman	\$1,229.10
RECORDS TECHNICIAN – Kathryn DeStefano	\$41,673.64
*POLICE MATRON – Kathryn DeStefano	\$25.00/Hr.
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS	\$16.29/Hr.
CLASS III POLICE OFFICER-Donald Obley	\$25.50/Hr.
*HERBICIDE LICENSE OPERATOR	\$2,000.00
*CLEAN COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR	\$2,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, approve a two percent increase for employees as listed above.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-34 – Two percent salary increase for DPW employees.

R 20-34

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH PAY RATES FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2020

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey shall set a two percent 2% raise for the job titles as listed below. Titles with a star in front will not receive a raise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following pay rates will be used during 2020 to compensate municipal employees:

Supervisor Public Works-Brian Weeks	\$88,048.83
*Acting Supervisor of Public Works	\$1.00/Hour
Senior Public Works Repairer-Joseph Bichler	\$68,556.92
Senior Public Works Repairer-Joseph DiMasi	\$62,908.41
Public Works Repairer-Brian Race	\$62,308.30
Laborer-Scott Tettermer	\$42,214.85

Laborer- Christopher Gara	\$42,214.85
*Herbicide License Operator	\$2,000.00
*Certified Pool Operator	\$2,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, approve a two percent increase for employees as listed above.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-35 – Appoint James Palitto fund Commissioner and Beth Dilts Alternate Fund Commissioner.

R 20-35

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER FOR 2020

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong (hereinafter “Local Unit”) is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (Hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund’s Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of that James Palitto, is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Margaret Dilts is hereby appointed as the alternate fund Commissioner for the Local Unit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit’s Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-36 – Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate.

R 20-36

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NO. 2016-036 ON BLOCK 115.09, LOT 23 C0387

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on October 12, 2016, a lien was sold on Block 115.09, Lot 23 C0387 also known as 387 Shannon Street for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2016-036 was sold to US Bank Cust for Pro CAP 4 and Crdtrs; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2020 the mortgage company for the property owner, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2016-036 in the amount of \$1,061.40, Premium \$700.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of February, 2020 that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,061.40, Premium \$700.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2016-036 to:

US BANK CUST FOR PRO CAP 4 & CRDTRS
50 S. 16th Street, Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-37 – Correct Tax Account on Block 69, Lot 3.

R 20-37

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CORRECT THE TAX ACCOUNT FOR BLOCK 69, LOT 3

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong has been provided with receipts for tax payments for Block 69, Lot 3 which were not applied to the taxpayer's account; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to apply these payments to the account and cancel any interest associated with the failure to timely post these payments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes the Township Tax Office to apply the following payments to Block 69, Lot 3:

1/21/2015	\$2216.39
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lopatcong Township Tax Office shall cancel any and all interest resulting from the failure to timely post these payments.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-38 – Correct Tax Account on Block 99, Lot 336 C1115.

R 20-38

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CORRECT THE TAX ACCOUNT FOR BLOCK 99, LOT 336 C1115

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong has been provided with receipts for tax payments for Block 99, Lot 336 C1115 which were not applied to the taxpayer's account; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to apply these payments to the account and cancel any interest associated with the failure to timely post these payments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes the Township Tax Office to apply the following payments to Block 99, Lot 336 C1115:

8/5/2015	\$1307.54
4/26/2016	\$1303.37

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lopatcong Township Tax Office shall cancel any and all interest resulting from the failure to timely post these payments.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-39 – Credit towards the sewer billing on Block 106, Lot 7.

R 20-39

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CREDIT TOWARDS SEWER BILLING ON BLOCK 106, LOT 7

WHEREAS, Aqua New Jersey has notified the Sewer Collector's Office of a 22,000-gallon credit applied to the water bill for 34 Wexford Court, also known as Block 106, Lot 7, due to water meter issues; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to apply a credit equivalent to the 22,000 gallons to the resident sewer billing; and

WHEREAS, the Township Sewer Collector has calculated the credit to be \$269.50.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes the Township Sewer Office to apply a credit of \$269.50 to the sewer account for Block 106, Lot 7.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-40 – Refund Tax Overpayment on Block 56, Lot 9.

R 20-40

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ISSUE A REFUND FOR A TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR BLOCK 56, LOT 9

WHEREAS, Block 56, Lot 9 qualified as tax exempt (disabled veteran) on January 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has adjusted the tax account to cancel taxes for the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2020; and

WHEREAS, before the Tax Collector could make the adjustment on the account, the homeowner made the 1st quarter payment of \$1,715.74 in January of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the homeowner's payment prorated to \$1,429.84 should be refunded to the property owner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes a refund in the amount of \$1,429.84 to: David M & Brenda L. Abel, 6 Briarstone Avenue, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-41 – Cancel unexpended balance to Sewer Capital Fund Balance in the amount of \$162,136.50.

R 20-41

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CANCEL UNEXPENDED BALANCE FROM BOND ORDINANCE 2009-11 TO SEWER CAPITAL FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$162,136.50

WHEREAS, certain Bond appropriation ordinances have funding that are no longer necessary; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby authorize to cancel unexpended balance from Bond Ordinance 2009-11 in the amount of \$162,136.50 to Sewer Capital Fund Balance.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-42 – Approve release of Site Completion Bond and a reduction in Performance Guarantee for I-78 Logistics Park pursuant to all conditions being met as outlined in report by Engineer Sterbenz.

R 20-42

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE AND RETURN OF SITE SAFETY AND STABILIZATION BOND

WHEREAS, the Bridge Point 78 has made a request for a 70% reduction in the Performance Surety Bond No. 0753479 for the I-78 Logistics Park Development Project; and

WHEREAS, a request has been made to release Site Completion Bond No. 0736283 valued at \$5,000.00; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in the amount of the performance guarantee to \$176,442.35 as well as the release of the \$5,000 Site Completion Bond is authorized once all conditions as outlined in Engineer Sterbenz Report dated January 27, 2020 have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby authorize the reduction of Performance Guarantee and Return of Site Safety and Stabilization Bond.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-43 – Approve Stew’s Auto Body and Superior Towing and Transportation be added to the Official Tower’s List for Heavy Towing for term expiring 2021.

R 20-43

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING STEW’S AUTO BODY AND SUPERIOR TOWING AND TRANSPORTATION TO BE ADDED AS HEAVY DUTY TOWERS FOR A TERM THAT BEGAN IN 2019 THRU 2021

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey received application from companies meeting the criteria set forth in Chapter 223 of the Code to provide motor vehicle towing and wrecker services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 223 of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong, approved applicants shall be authorized to provide services for the years 2020, and 2021; and

WHEREAS, the following companies have been approved and placed on the “Official Towers List” as Heavy Duty Towers.

Stew’s Auto Body and Superior Towing and Transportation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the above-named companies are approved to provide towing and wrecker services to the Township of Lopatcong for years 2020 and 2021.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, February 4, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 20-44 – Establish Clothing Allowance for qualified active members of the Fire Departments including Fire Police for the year 2020 in the amount of \$175.00.

R 20-44

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR QUALIFIED ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2020

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council created Ordinance 2014-14 to establish yearly a clothing allowance for qualified active members of the Township’s Fire Departments; and

WHEREAS, the amount shall be fixed from time to time a clothing allowance for damage and loss sustained in the line of fire duty provided the member attended and answered at least 40% of the fire duty during the preceding 12 months; and

Joseph Bichler, William Duaine, Jim Fox, John Hopkins, Stephan Hopkins, Dave Jiorle, Louis LaFord, Jr., Terry Lawler, James Marinelli, Braden Moore, Martin Olsson, Jr., Thomas Reynolds, Brandon Stires, Kyle Suruda, Tim Weiss, Sr.

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council decided the amount for the 2020 Budget would be \$175.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey shall fix a dollar amount of \$175.00 for the 2016 Budget to be paid to every qualified active member of the Fire Department.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Council Reports:

Councilman Palitto – LAA – had their meeting in January and Sean Leahy, their new, President asked to meet with Councilman Palitto and Mayor Mengucci to discuss the LAA Contract with the Town. Mayor Mengucci noted that he sat down with President Leahy and would fill him in.

Councilman Belcaro – Asked Road Superintendent Brian Weeks to discuss the broken sewer line on Canterbury Road. Sewer line clogged which included Hampton Terrace. There is one also on Rugby Road.

Councilman Wright – Reported on the vulture problem that activity has ceased at the present time.

Council President Pryor – Noted that at the closeout meeting on December 30th, he asked Clerk Dilts and Road Superintendent Brian Weeks to establish a “Pot Hole Hotline” and asked for an update. Clerk Dilts responded that she and Brian met to discuss and decided to put a notice on the website wherein anyone could call the Clerk’s Office or Dept. of Public Works to make the report and Brian would maintain a log including the date the pot hole was addressed.

Council President Pryor also noted that in the Fire Chief’s report he suggested two ordinances which he directed Engineer Sterbenz and Attorney Campbell to look into and report back. Lou LaFord noted that there are no working fire hydrants within the development of Autumn Ridge which is a safety hazard. This has been brought to the Fire Officials attention Kevin Maguire, he addressed it with the developer and the developer said it would be up and running in a week. This was not accomplished. A fire watch was ordered and that was not provided either. The ordinance would require any future developments that are in the process of being put up that operational fire hydrants are in place before that is done. Another issue is the apparatus could not access the buildings because building materials block the area. This would be another ordinance requirement so access would be granted to the Fire Dept. Engineer Sterbenz will call the developer and discuss these issues with him.

Lastly, Council President Pryor reported on the sewer connection fee ordinance. He noted that he asked CFO Browne to quarterback this so it can be addressed at the next meeting. There are many moving parts that need to come together.

Attorney Campbell – Noted one item from the Executive Session that requires action. Mayor Mengucci made a motion to authorize Clerk/Administrator Dilts to address, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Council President Pryor asked for Council to authorize an update on the sewer flow and capacity data. Motion by Mayor Mengucci, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Mayor Mengucci

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Council President Pryor

Mayor Mengucci – Reported that the Township is doing well, light winter, no overtime; only six weeks to get to spring. Salary ordinance passed early as it should be so employees can receive their raises timely.

Engineer Sterbenz – Reported on projects – Plaza Road, Red School Lane Traffic Signal Project, second phase of the Red School Lane Project, Lows Hollow Road/Fox Farm Road are all moving forward on schedule. Sink hole update on Wordsworth close to Harwich. Meeting with the County Engineer on the sidewalk project. The Sally Port Project bids were rejected and the project plans will be revamped to cut costs.

Chief Garcia – Announced that Patrolman Travis Smith has retired with 25 years of service effective February 1, 2020. He served 19 of those years in Lopatcong Township. He was well served in the Township and thanked him for his service and wish him the very best in his retirement.

Department Reports – Motion to approve by Councilman Wright, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Payment of Bills – Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Audience Participation:

John Betz – Asked for an update on staffing the Rent Leveling Board and handicap spots at the Brakeley Garden Apartment Complex.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

James E. Mengucci
Mayor