

**BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.  
MAYOR THOMAS A. BARBERA PRESIDING  
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**SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE** was led by Mayor Barbera

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW** – Mayor Barbera stated that adequate notice of this meeting was given by emailing the Central Record and the Courier-Post on January 6, 2015 and posting on the website and bulletin board in the Borough Hall, also on Borough’s website.

**ROLL CALL** recorded as present: Letts, McCunney, DiGregorio, Cruz, and Redstreak; absent: Mochel

**SAFETY ON THE AGENDA-** Bonnie Ridolfino representing Hardenbergh Insurance Group the Borough’s Risk Consultant, distributed a power point presentation to Mayor and Council reviewing each slide, giving background on the Borough’s safety effort and reviewed the 2015 Safety Program required by the Camden County Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund with regard to the performance and incentives available. Mrs. Ridolfino mentioned new policies being developed with regard to cell phone and laptop use, and security breaches if equipment or data is stolen. A Hotline has been established, should a data theft emergency occur.

**ENGINEERS REPORT** – Environmental Resolutions

**CAPITAL ITEMS**

1. **NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant Applications – FY 2016**

Our office has submitted FY2016 NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant Application for the reconstruction of Washington Avenue between Grand Avenue and Chestnut Avenue and also for a FY2016 NJDOT Safe Routes to Transit Application for the reconstruction of sidewalk along both sides of Stone Road between Washington Avenue and Broadway. We will apprise Council as updates to the status of the applications becomes available from NJDOT.

**OTHER PROJECTS**

2. **Stone Road Reconstruction**

Bids for the construction were recently received by the County. According to County Engineering, it is anticipated that construction should begin in Fall 2015, dependent upon Contractor scheduling.

3. **Tax Map Digitization / Revisions**

The State Division of Taxation comments and requested revisions were addressed and the tax maps have been accepted by the State. The tax map revisions are now finalized, hard copies of the maps have been delivered to the Borough Tax Assessor and ERI will be commencing work on the GIS mapping in the coming months.

4. **Glen Avenue Sinkholes**

During the spring sinkholes were observed in the 600 block of Glen Avenue that appeared to coincide with New Jersey American Water’s recently abandoned water main. NJAW repaired the sinkholes in June. Another sinkhole was observed in July. Again NJAW excavated to expose their abandoned main and no issues were discovered with the main. The storm sewer and sanitary sewer along the block were televised and no problems were observed. It is possible that the sinkholes were caused by improperly backfilled areas and that the problem took years to manifest itself. The repaired areas will continue to be monitored to determine whether further corrective action will be necessary.

**MATTERS REQUIRING OFFICIAL ACTION**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Regular Meeting of October 5, 2015 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio with, Cruz, DiGregorio, and Redstreak in favor, and McCunney abstaining
  
- **RESOLUTIONS**
  - **#095-2015- FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY AUDIT (LGEA) PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Office of Clean Energy administers the Local Government Energy Audit Program, an incentive program to assist local government agencies to conduct energy audits and to encourage implementation of energy conservation measures; and, **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs has decided to apply to participate in the Local Government Energy Audit Program; and, **WHEREAS**, the facilities to be audited are in New Jersey, are owned by the Borough of Laurel Springs, are served by a New Jersey regulated public utility, and that the Borough of Laurel Springs has not already reserved \$100,000 in the Program this year as of this application; and, **WHEREAS**, it is acknowledged that acceptance into the Program is dependent on the Scope of Work and cost proposal, and that Program rules will have to be met in order to receive incentive funds; and, **WHEREAS**, upon acceptance into the Program, the Borough of Laurel Springs will prepare Facility Data Forms and Scopes of Work for each facility to be audited, solicit quotations from the authorized contractors, and submit the Firm Selection Form; and, **WHEREAS**, the Borough of Laurel Springs understands that energy audit work cannot proceed until an Application Approval Notice is received from the Program; and, **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs approves the submission of an Application for participation in the Local Government Energy Audit Program of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.
  - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Letts, with Letts, McCunney, DiGregorio, Cruz, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
  
- **#096-2015- AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNDER THE SAFE STREETS TO TRANSIT PROGRAM FOR STONE ROAD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act provides that each community receive an annual state aid allotment for eligible projects; and

**WHEREAS**, pedestrian safety improvements on the east and west sides of Stone Road from Washington Avenue to Broadway has been identified as a potentially eligible project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as the Stone Road Pedestrian Safety Project to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Laurel Springs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Laurel Springs and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Borough Council, of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the Borough Engineer be authorized to complete the electronic grant application and associated documentation for submission to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Stone Road Pedestrian Safety Project.

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- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with Letts, McCunney, DiGregorio, Cruz, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- RESOLVED TO PAY \$69,270.85 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT AND \$25951.78 FROM TRUST AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Letts, with Letts, McCunney, DiGregorio, Cruz, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **Appointment** – Chris O’Keefe – Zoning Board Alternate/Planning Board Alternate 1, term – October 26, 2015 – December 31, 2015. (Moving forward this position is a one-year term.
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman McCunney, with Letts, McCunney, DiGregorio, Cruz, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **Acceptance of Letter of Resignation** – A letter of resignation was received from Public Works Employee Michael Vitale - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman McCunney, with Letts, McCunney, DiGregorio, Cruz, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- **Old Business**
  - 2016 Annual Fee Schedule – there was discussion of any additional changes, primarily the Peddling and soliciting which council was agreeable to \$100 for 90 days. There was conversation regarding the details of the Peddling and Soliciting with regard to churches, they are exempt. They do have to register for certain things. There was a discussion of the 90 day term to discourage people from knocking on doors. There was discussion of the requirement to have a badge. For item 13, key deposits will be increased to \$100.
  - Town Calendar – There was discussion of events, especially with regard to the lake clean up being moved closer to Earth Day and potential ideas for utilizing various service organizations. There was discussion of an updating a sponsors email. The correction will be double checked. There was discussion of the Council Meeting dates and moving the Monday holidays one day to Tuesdays rather than one week to the following Monday.
- **New Business**
  - **Restricting Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Shops** – this is a piece of legislation promulgated by the County, specifically Freeholder Nash, trying to eliminate the use of puppy mills, and promoting the adoption of shelter animals. Council was agreeable to introduction at the Regular Meeting.
  - **Property Tax Exemptions** – the Economic Improvement Committee wanted something to have to offer to new business or construction in the town. This ordinance offers three different ways taxes can be cut. They are the gross receipts method, the cost of building method and varying percentage of determined taxes method. This offers flexibility to tailor the exemption according to the circumstances of the development. It also addresses exemptions for improvements for homes over 20 years old. If someone puts up to \$25,000 into improvements the added assessment would be overlooked for 5 years. Council was agreeable to putting on the agenda at the Regular Meeting for introduction. Councilman Redstreak mentioned that a push is required because of potential upcoming development that is being discussed. Borough Administrator Cheeseman added that all towns around that have realized growth have offered some kind of incentive.

**CORRESPONDENCE –**

- From NJ LOM regarding increase in dues for 2016 – the increase anticipated is 2%.
- Holy Redeemer Health Care regarding gift in Memory of Robert W. Hagen, Sr. – this was collected by Council and Borough employees and was in lieu of flowers.
- Proposed Legislation – Mayor Barbera discussed some legislation pending and the pros and cons of such.

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**ITEMS RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PRINTED**

- Letter from Hopewell Township asking for support. Mayor Barbera reiterated a conference call he participated in on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in which the various difficulties created by Verizon and the poor quality of the copper wire. Most of the towns have a different issue than Laurel Springs' problem with Verizon. Council was agreeable to sending a letter of support. The motion for letter of support by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman McCunney, with Letts, McCunney, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Halloween Parade, Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 12:30 @Laurel Springs School Yard
- Trick or Treat, Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> immediately following Halloween Parade.
- Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>
- General Election, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 am – 8 pm @Laurel Springs Recreation Center. It was mentioned that there was a chance that Borough Hall would have to be closed.
- Recreation Commission meets Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm @Laurel Springs Rec Center
- Regular Council Meeting, Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm @Borough Hall

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- Leah Straub- 518 Glen Avenue – Suggested that Sterling High School Guidance Office be contacted to see if there are any groups or students who need community service hours. Interact, National Honor Society and ROTC were recommended. Councilman Redstreak encouraged everyone to check out the new boardwalk installation at Crystal Springs.
- Paula Veggian- 431 Beech Avenue- Pursuant to a recent Zoning Board application she composed a letter from the Lickfields and Veggians which she read into the record. They would like to see the buildable lot size from 60 x 150 feet, to 90 feet x 150 feet. They gave the reasoning behind their request and concern that small houses can be positioned between two larger homes. They posited a hardship this would create by residents having then three backyard neighbors. Councilman Redstreak said that 70% of Laurel Springs' homes are built on 50 or 60 foot lots. He said he would take it under advisement. Councilman McCunney said he would like to look at keeping a certain distance between if it is possible. Councilman Redstreak said he understand the particular zoning application that came forward recently, but said that he would not want to change the ordinances each time a specific or particular situation crops up. He reminded that no matter what rules are laid out, anyone can apply to have a variance to those rules. There were questions as to how many properties still exist that would be harmed by changing the lot frontages. It was confirmed that the recent Zoning application was at 440 Glen Avenue. The application was briefly explained. There was additional conversation about how many lots would be negatively impacted, to which it was said the Tax Maps would have to be consulted.
- Bob Lickfield- 432 Glen Avenue- Mr. Lickfield clarified that their main concern is properties between perpendicular streets. They are concern about the side streets. Mr. Lickfield gave a number of examples of such. They don't want houses put on these side streets, because they will have more than a neighbor behind them, they will have neighbor beside them.
- **ADJOURNMENT** –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman McCunney which was seconded by Councilman Redstreak to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC  
Municipal Clerk