

REGULAR MEETING  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM – UPPER LEVEL

March 1, 2016

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened with the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Deputy Municipal Clerk.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Maffei read the following statement of proper notice:

**STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE:** “Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 has been provided through the posting of the annual meeting schedule of said Council in accordance with Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act.”

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, and Mayor Maffei. Mr. Powers arrived at 6:35 p.m. due to a work related matter.  
Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Municipal Manager Richard Krawczun, Interim Superintendent of Recreation Steve Groeger, and Township Attorney David Roskos.

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no Special Proclamations, Recognitions or Presentations.

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Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

There was no Public Participation.

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Review and Revisions of Agenda

Mr. Krawczun requested a Closed Session (18-M) for contract negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police for the Lawrence Township Police. Councilmember Lewis requested that Resolution 118-16 (18-N), addition of a State Contract Vendor be added to the agenda.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Kownacki, the Agenda was amended to include the above revisions.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, and Mayor Maffei.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Mr. Powers.

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Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of Minutes.

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Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

Mayor Maffei asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Maffei asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed.

Mr. Krawczun stated that, this awarding of bid to Richard T. Barrett Paving Company Inc. is for improvements on Cold Soil Road from Keefe Road to Carter Road, excluding the portion from Van Kirk to the curve. Funding is available from a previously adopted Capital Ordinance.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, the following Resolution was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 117-16

WHEREAS, on Thursday, February 18, 2016 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as 2016 Road Improvement Program – Cold Soil Road; and

WHEREAS, eleven (11) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Richard T. Barrett Paving Company, Inc. who submitted a bid in the amount of \$206,839.80; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the accounts to be charged are C-04-55-391-240 – Ordinance 2187-14 Various Road Improvements (\$40,000.00) and C-04-55-394-240 – Ordinance 2208-15 Various Road Improvements (\$166,839.80);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Engineer, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a contract with Richard T. Barrett Paving Company, Inc., 400 Prospect Street, Trenton NJ 08618-2630 in the amount of \$206,839.80; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process and is subject to New Jersey Department of Transportation approval;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Manager is hereby authorized to draft the necessary agreement, subject to the approval of the Municipal Attorney as to form and content thereof.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, Powers and Mayor Maffei.

Nays: None.

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#### Introduction of Ordinances

There was no Introduction of Ordinances.

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#### Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of Ordinances.

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**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Krawczun submitted invoice listings for the month of March 2016 in the amount of \$1,831,392.69.

Mr. Krawczun discussed the NJDOT public information meeting held at the Slackwood Firehouse concerning the Business Route 1 project. There were 162 people in attendance. The NJDOT left a display board with a schematic of the project. It is currently on display in the lobby of the Municipal Building.

Mr. Krawczun then discussed in-depth the revenue side of the Budget for 2016. After receiving notification from the State of New Jersey, he provided an updated chart. State aid remains the same as it was for 2015 at \$2,982,000. New revenues included in the 2016 budget are for towed vehicle fees; anticipated revenue is approximately \$70,000. Additional revenue from a liquor license sale also was discussed. Mr. Krawczun also discussed the anticipated surplus and revenue to be generated to replace surplus used in previous years. In 2015, Mr. Krawczun stated, the reserve was 1 million dollars higher than at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Krawczun then requested of Council to introduce the budget at the next meeting. There was a brief question and answer period between Councilmembers and Mr. Krawczun. Council then agreed to the timeline put forth by Mr. Krawczun, and Introduction of the Budget will take place at the Regular Meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Krawczun then introduced Steve Groeger, Interim Superintendent of Recreation to give a presentation on the use of the Township's athletic fields and the associated fees. Mr. Groeger's report shows the organization name, athletic field in use, type of use, number of users and total fees collected. He also presented a list of new, higher Recreation fees that he is recommending.

There are a large number of organizations that use the Township's athletic fields. Currently, there are 18 organizations that utilize the athletic fields with over 1,500 participants. The majority of the organizations are non-profit groups, and 4 are for-profit companies. The report also showed new requests by organizations wanting to utilize the athletic fields and for what purposes.

Mr. Krawczun made recommendations based upon Mr. Groeger's presentation regarding the taxing demands on the athletic fields. Mr. Krawczun commented that there is a significant amount of wear and tear, and the costs of maintaining the athletic fields are high. He is recommending to Council that the for-profit companies be prohibited from using the Township's athletic fields. He also recommends that any new requests be declined because of the current over-use of the athletic fields. There were comments and suggestions made by Councilmembers in regards to what other Municipalities do in so far as fundraising efforts. Discussions included holding tournaments; timeline of when changes would take place; questions about maintenance of the fields; impact of businesses in the area.

Mr. Groeger then discussed the Lawrence Senior Center. He presented a list of organizations that utilize the Center after business hours. The Township does not charge for use of the rooms. At one time, there was an Ordinance for room rentals, but Mr. Groeger imparted, it became a difficult situation because people renting the space would bring in alcohol when it is not allowed. It proved to be not worthwhile to continue renting rooms as the costs were not covering for custodial functions and clean-up after events. There is one Boy Scout Troup which does pay the Township for the cost of having a custodian present on Saturdays when they hold their meetings. There are eight groups that currently utilize the center. This is not including the Township's Office on Aging which conducts parties and events throughout the year. Mr. Krawczun is recommending to Council to keep the amount of organizations using the facility as it currently is.

Mr. Groeger then discussed the Nature Center, and the organizations that meet there. The 4H Club holds a 2 week summer camp which does provide funding for their usage. Friends of Lawrence Nature Center are also looking to host a summer camp this year with the proceeds to fund the Nature Center. In previous years, and again this summer, they will be hosting family nights in July and August, and a festival at the Nature Center. Mr. Krawczun had met with the Friend of Lawrence Nature Center Committee, and he was told there was mention of one staff member. He feels there is more to running a summer camp than what was presented to him, and he is recommending to Council to allow the 4H group to continue their summer camp program, and not to expand beyond that. Mr. Krawczun is not in favor of Friends of Lawrence Nature Center's proposed summer camp as there are requirements for insurance and staffing. Such an effort could prove to become a liability instead of an asset for the Township.

There are 17 different Scout groups that meet monthly at the Nature Center. Mr. Krawczun is recommending keeping the size at its current level, and not to add any new organizations or requested programs for the Nature Center. The majority of the organizations do not pay for usage of the Nature Center.

There was a questions and answer period between Mr. Groeger, Mr. Krawczun and members of Council. Discussions included what organizations have access and keys to the Centers; what organizations have meetings at the Senior and Nature Centers; written rules (if any); guidelines; fees; insurance requirements; and public access to the Centers. It was decided that for 2016 groups and organizations will continue their summer programs as they have been in previous years. Changes will occur for 2017 by developing programs that will require fees, and other such changes of usage. Mr. Groeger will notify the affected organizations to the changes taking place.

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**Attorney's Report –**

There was no Attorney's Report.

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**Clerk's Report –**

Ms. Carter stated that there is an application for Trails and Open Space Committee for Council to consider for the next meeting.

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**Unfinished Business –**

There was no Unfinished Business.

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**New Business –**

Mr. Powers asked about an individual who had come to a meeting back in October of 2015 requesting of Council a Resolution for FOP Awareness. At that meeting, Mr. White had presented a book to Council with Resolutions and Proclamations from different Municipalities in the State recognizing Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva. He was seeking an endorsement for research and awareness of the disease. He has been calling and would like an answer as to what the Council will do.

Mr. Powers stated that he is not comfortable writing Resolutions that are not specific to Lawrence Township. A discussion ensued, and it was determined that more discussion is needed before a decision can be made. Ms. Carter will be sending a letter to Mr. White stating that the Council is working towards making a decision.

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**Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –**

There was no Public Participation.

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Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 105-16(18-A) through 118-16(18-N) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X						
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mayor Maffei	X						

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

There were no Council Initiatives or Liaison Reports.

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**Written Communications –**

There were no written communications.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Tonya D. Carter, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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David C. Maffei, Mayor