

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

February 20, 2018

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 6:30 P.M.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Mayor Bobbitt asked for a moment of silence for the shooting victims of Florida as well as all the people who have been affected by gun violence in America.

The meeting was then opened with the Inspiration and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Municipal Clerk and the Boy Scouts Troop 27.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Bobbitt 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, February 20, 2018, 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." Said Notice was forwarded to The Trentonian, The Times and The Princeton Packet on December 26, 2017.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Kownacki, Lewis, Powers and Mayor Bobbitt.  
Absent: Councilman Maffei.

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager, and Victoria Britton, Esq., Acting Municipal Attorney and Peter Kiriakatis, Certified Financial Officer.

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

**A. Department Head Presentations of Their 2018 Municipal Budget**

**2018 Municipal Budget Presentation**

**Recreation - Nancy Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation**

Ms. Bergen greeted the Council and advised that handouts were distributed to everyone regarding her 2018 budget presentation for the Lawrence Recreation Department comprised of the Office on Aging/Senior Center and the Special Events Divisions which fall under the Superintendent of Recreation and that the handout provides a quick overview of what the Recreation Department is responsible for which is meeting the recreational and leisure needs of the residents of Lawrence Township.

Ms. Bergen stated before she gets started with her presentations she would like to first recognize her dedicated and hardworking staff - Jeffery Radice, Recreation Leader, Lillian LaSalle, Executive Director of Office on Aging, Leonard Spellman, Recreation Attendant/Van driver for the seniors and Coral Phillips, Senior Citizen Program Aide at the Senior Center. She went on to discuss the Recreation Department's Organizational Chart as it relates the Recreation Advisory Committee, Senior Citizen Executive Committee, Municipal Manager, Superintendent of Recreation, lifeguards/pool staff, program instructors/camp counselors, supervisors, coaches, part-time employees, partnering organizations and the many volunteers who assist with the various activities between the two divisions. The Patriotic Committee and Friends of the Nature Center who also work closely with the department; program registration (3,639 in 2017), hours of operation (7 days a week 8:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.) for the recreation office, pool hours, park facilities, nature center and various programs at BOE facilities, pool activities, youth basketball games, travel camps, sports camp, safety town, police academy, summer track and all the planning, training and customer service provided by the department throughout the year.

Ms. Bergen continued to discuss special events planned and coordinated by the Recreation Department – such as the Colonel Hand March, Community Day, Mother Nature Festival, Fourth of July Fireworks, Memorial/ Veterans Day Parades, Red, White and Bang Kids Triathlon and Township Municipal Tree Lighting Ceremony; the Recreation, Office on Aging and Special Events operating expenses and revenues remaining the same as 2017; 2018 Budget Request for one additional part-time staff to take over the clerical responsibilities in the Recreation Department to improve office productivity, Special Events Budget Request for \$5,000 to support the Memorial and Veterans Day parades, Capital Budget Request for the Recreation/Office on Aging for the replacement of exercise equipment at Village Park, community gardens improvements, park grill replacements, furniture replacement throughout the Senior Center. Additional discussion took place relative to a receptionist desk being placed at the entrance of the Senior Center and electronic sign-in system going forward at the Center.

Ms. Bergen also discussed the 2017 Recreation Goals Achieved that included the opening of the new Captain James Lawrence Playground at Central Park, expanded youth art classes, adult swim lessons, new 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Basketball Clinics for boys and girls, added interactive demonstrations and entertainment at Community Day, Colonel Hand March ending at the Nature Center and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July National Anthem Singer Contest; Recreation Goals for 2018 which is to promote and market the recreation programs and park services, create a newsletter, enhance the online registration program, evaluate, improve and add new programs to include a pre-school program during weekdays, evaluate program policies, focus on capital improvements as well as develop new revenue resources and increase budget donations through grants and other methods of solicitation to lessen the reliance on funding from the municipal budget.

Ms. Bergen went on to report on the Lawrence Township Office on Aging/Senior Center and it being the hub of activities providing socialization, nutrition and recreation programs geared toward keeping Lawrence Township seniors 60 and older active, healthy and happy, and the great job Lillian LaSalle, Executive Director of Office on Aging, does with providing senior recreational activities and programs that include, yoga, tai-chi exercise, line dancing, hula, choral, card playing, Italian and mah-jongg, creative art classes, program participation (662 w/ over 20,000 service hours), intergenerational programming, socialization/club activities and cultural events, community collaborations, nutrition project for the elderly, information and social service referrals, health department initiatives and the Office on Aging goals for 2018 with regards to offering more day trips, cruises, transportation to farmer's market, malls, movies, museums, etc. and a better senior tracking policy to evaluate trends and update policies accordingly.

In closing, Ms. Bergen advised that the presentation highlights some of the activities, programs and accomplishments of the Recreation Department and Office on Aging for 2017 as well as the momentum that the two departments are developing and the programs and activities being a valuable resource to the citizens of Lawrence Township. She then thanked the Council for affording her opportunity to serve as Lawrence Township Superintendent of Recreation and for their attendance at all the special events which were very well attended. She then opened the floor for comments and questions.

A general question and answer period ensued between Ms. Bergen, Mr. Nerwinski and the Council relative to program attendance/participation, fireworks donations, proposed golf clinic location, request for park grill replacements, extending senior transportation services and the department being more proactive in getting the word out regarding senior programs, the effects of social media and the critical need for a part-time employee in the Recreation Department.

Mayor Bobbitt and members of Council thanked Ms. Bergen and Ms. LaSalle for the great job they are doing at the Recreation Department and Senior Center.

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**2018 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Gregory Whitehead, Director of Public Works**

Mr. Whitehead greeted the Council and advised that he will be deviating from his normal budget report to cover three major items that are driving the Public Works request for 2018 as he thought it would be best to cover those items thoroughly and then answer any questions they might have relative to his budget request.

Mr. Whitehead stated his first budget request is for \$100,000 to Outsource Fire Apparatus and advised several years ago the Public Works Department was tasked with an emergency turnover of handling the firetrucks for each of the three fire stations who at the time were coordinating and handling their own repairs but started having some problems with budgeting and getting the proper quotes to get the get the vehicles repaired. So, the Municipal Manager thought it was would be best to temporarily place that task in the hands of Public Works; a task which his staff has risen to the challenge of doing; but, is now at a point where the job is presenting some real problems and has led to his request for funding to start the process of outsourcing some of the work and proceeded to the review the handout picturing the aging fire equipment for each of the (3) three firehouses and some of the manufacturers of the fire apparatus being out of business that is also creating a huge problem with regards to them trying to maintain stock for parts for the (9) nine varying trucks throughout the fleet.

Mr. Whitehead went on to explain the problems that have gotten them to this point as it relates to the infrastructure at Public Works and indicated when the building was purchased from UPS and transitioned over it was never designed to handle fire apparatus; it was mainly designed to handle public works equipment, motor pool and police and over the years they have wedged the vehicles in to try and make it work. Some of the equipment is worked on at the firehouses, some outside of the building and some of the equipment they have to walk around the building to work on as it is literally from the door to the wall of the building and cannot fit inside the building. The training of personnel is another huge issue and he says that with a lot of confidence in his employees as they are not trained or certified in the fields of pumps and emergency apparatus. But, Clyde D'Angelo, Manager of Motors, has done a great job with translating his knowledge and training to the mechanics that work on the equipment and continued to discuss some of the work that is subbed outside of the garage. He also discussed his staffing levels as it relates to a temporary move several years ago and his staff levels remaining the same with Public Works still having only four mechanics and the maintenance of ambulances and equipment that was taken over by the Public

Works Department but used to be directly outsourced at the EMS Station and his Department to date continuing the maintenance of those vehicles.

Mr. Whitehead reported the second issue of concern is the 120 labor hours spent on up-fitting of police vehicles being what used to take a week per car now takes the department three weeks because of all the new technology and upgrades needed for the vehicles and the cost of outsourcing the job being an additional \$4,000 per car. All which is compressed into their apparatus time and deducted from their labor hours and has created a problem with the turnaround time with the fire stations and them having to prioritize the jobs according to the need and continued to discuss the timeframe for ordering/receipt of a parts to help expedite repairs and good communication between the three fire companies being crucial in identifying problems of the apparatus and key to the repair process. He further discussed standardization of the firetrucks which will help streamline the repair work, keeping parts and vendors on hand to expedite work orders, standardized training of personnel on trucks with engines and transmissions so that the individuals who are trained on one new piece of equipment is also cross trained to work on the second piece of equipment which will enable them to get the equipment back to the firefighters in an expeditious manner.

Mr. Whitehead reviewed the next page in the handout relative to the \$100,000 budget request as it relates to work orders (over 80), labor hours (over 500 hours), annual preventive maintenance, brake service and tire replacement, aerial and equipment repairs, miscellaneous emergency lighting/wiring of the fire equipment being very time consuming and the Public Works Department continuing to perform the diagnostics and small repairs for cost-saving purposes but outsourcing jobs outside of their scope of expertise.

Mr. Whitehead stated his next budget request is for \$120,000 for Tree Maintenance and advised that Lawrence Township currently manages the community trees resources under its jurisdiction including trees along streets, in parks, right of way and municipal property. The Township desires to maintain and promote a healthy, safe, and sustainable shade tree resource that will physically and aesthetically benefit the community and its residents in the most cost effective manner possible. The Community Forestry Management Plan has identified tree hazards as a major area of concern, properly identifying hazardous trees and initiating a plan of action is paramount to public safety and indicated back in the early 90s the Township disbanded the Tree Care Division and they have spent a sum of money each year out of the Parks Budget to try to manage the trees as best they could and they had a contractor last year remove 31 dead trees and trim about a dozen trees costing over \$28,000 and they usually spend about \$25,000 out of the Parks budget to handle all of the tree work.

Mr. Whitehead advised that the Public Works Department is presently drowning in tree work as they have a lot of diseased and dead trees in the right-of-ways as well as all the parks that need attention. The Road Division has internally removed 132 small trees that they could handle without the need of a tree climber or cherry picker. They have also trimmed 300 trees throughout the neighborhoods and not just for the health of the trees...but for the fire, garbage/recycling and plow trucks to get by in an emergency given some of the trees are going so far out into the roadways thereby creating a hazard. And, the biggest reasons for the removal is just a lot of dead trees from a drought, tree risk, insect and disease, storm damage, developments, sidewalk damage and homeowners request due to age and/or other problems. He then discussed a home pictured in the handout that was damaged by a healthy sycamore tree that fell down in the Lakelands and him wanting to do a study of Colonial Lakeland to seek recommendation of what trees should be removed to reduce future the risk and a partnership to replant trees that fit in those spots and remove hazardous trees and stumps in the Lakelands and advised there are 80 stumps on the list to be removed township-wide and the Tree Replacement Program to trim trees in Veterans Park before the camps start and remove dead/hazardous trees in the Township's right-of-ways which is approximately 50 trees on the list to be removed.

Mr. Whitehead stated his final request is for two (2) laborers for the Public Works Department which consist of the Administration Division (2 employees), Streets Division (13 employees), Parks Maintenance (9 employees), Vehicles Maintenance Division (5 employees) and Building and Grounds Division (4 employees), and attached is a graph indicating the number of hours that are necessary to function at a full level of service in the Street Division; an integral component of the Public Works Department. The Division does potholes, sinkholes, paving, tree work, removal of snow and ice and responds to emergencies during storms. They are catalyst of the department being he can let the grass grow a little higher but he cannot let a tree block a road all day so their need for laborer is really for the street division; because the way they cross trained employees the work branches off from there and last year they stole 2,000 labor hours out of the streets division to work in the parks, open space and trails that require constant maintenance.

Mr. Whitehead continued to discuss the number of labor hours (23,108) after deducting sick, vacation and holiday time versus the Division's demand hours (32,145) in a calendar year to properly staff and service the municipality which equates to five (5) new employees and the difference between available hours and unavailable hours (9,037). He also discussed the road division daily job labor hours, 2018 projected labor hours, cross-training of personnel, repositioning personnel to assist in work areas that are staff deficient and their department doing more with less and the need for them to now start planning and budgeting for new personnel to accommodate their present-day and future needs and proceeded to discuss public works taking over the stretch of roadway where the roundabout is on Route 1 in 2019 and them assuming the responsibilities of landscaping, grass cutting, crash cleanups, signage and snow

removal; all which will require extra labor hours and resources that they do not have. And, with Route 1 being one of those major roadways such as Princeton Pike, Texas Avenue they must stay on top of the plowing throughout a storm and advised in 2019 he might be requesting an additional plow truck to make up for the added route and other aspects of the Snow Removal Program.

Mr. Whitehead discussed the exceptional job his staff does with the wide array of duties and tasks throughout the municipal facilities and properties; especially, Joe Sliwinski, who is the Supervisor of Building Services/Maintenance Supervisor of Grounds, and his crew of three (3) employees are tasked with maintaining over a hundred-thousand square feet of facilities. He also discussed brush removal and leaf collection becoming a more prevalent part of their operation and pointed out a pie chart detailing the Road Division job labor hours as well as his recommendation for the continuance of an outside contractor to cut and trim Town Hall, the Senior Center, and all Township-owned detention basins, Federal City Road islands, and the Johnson Trolley Line and expanding the contract for 2018 to include the new responsibilities of grass cutting and landscape services for Business Route 1 construction.

In closing, Mr. Whitehead stated he hopes his presentation has painted a clear picture as to the three large items driving his 2018 budget request in terms of Public Work's future and present needs. An at length question, answer and comment period followed relative to Mr. Whitehead extensive report and budget request for additional staffing.

Mayor Bobbitt and members of Council thanked Mr. Whitehead for the exemplary presentation and the great job he and his staff does on their day-to-day operations.

Mr. Nerwinski echoed his previous comments with regards to him and Mr. Kiriakatis asking each of the Department Heads to come before Council and tell them what their departments stand in need of after many years off not being able to for very valid financial reasons. And, he knows none of the Department Heads would be piggish with their request but asked for exactly what their departments stand in need of so that they could continue to provide the high level of service Lawrence residents have come to expect and deserve. He then proceeded to converse on one of Mr. Whitehead's requests with regards to the professional staff that is needed for the repair and maintenance of fire apparatus as it relates to protecting the public by having qualified, certified mechanics work on the some of the five-hundred thousand to a million dollar pieces of equipment which is critical from a liability and safety standpoint, and advised that public works has a great mechanical staff but he think is time to take it away and put it in the hands of professionals so that the firefighters are confident in the vehicles they are utilizing and when the time comes for the vehicles to respond to a crisis or an event they are ready. So, the request is critical and asked the Council to give it strong consideration.

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**2018 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Police Department – Mark Ubry, Chief of Police**

Chief Ubry greeted the Council and thanked them for their support of the Police Department and the Municipal Manager for breaking the ice because he has a large budget request and indicated copies of the 2017 Annual Police Report have been distributed to each member of Council and it will be posted on the town's website within a few days. Furthermore, he will not be reviewing all 55 pages of the Report but he would be highlighting a few areas in the report before he gets into his actual budget request.

Chief Ubry reported in 2017 the Police Department answered 36,141 calls for service which is a 3.5% increase compared to the calls in 2016. The reported crimes also increased by 3.5% which rose to 864 in 2017, up from the 834 in 2016; but despite the slight rise in crime some of the notable facts in the crime rate is, 45 reported burglaries a decrease of 25% from the reported burglaries in 2016, 5 robberies a decrease of 71% from the 17 reported robberies reported in 2016 and 8 aggravated assaults a decrease of 62% and each of those categories being the lowest it has been in over 30 years. In 2017, Lawrence Township Police Officers made 1,663 arrests 16% more than the 1,439 arrests made 2016. And, for two consecutive years, 2015 and 2016, the Police Department had a 14% increase in traffic crashes which lead to them forming a full-time Traffic Bureau in September 2017 and one of the results is a 5% decrease in traffic crashes last year and they hope that number will come down even more this year now that they have a full year of the traffic bureau.

Chief Ubry advised that his Record Bureau which has one (1) Administrative Clerk and one (1) Account Clerk fulfilled 3,673 Open Public Record Requests which is a 33% increase over the 2,472 in 2016 and a lot of requests. And, with only two civilian employees in the Record Bureau there are times throughout the year due to scheduled leaves such as vacations and mandatory breaks their records bureau is not staffed; especially, during lunch hour when a lot of people show up to get their reports. So, his request is for the hiring of one part-time Clerk to fill those gaps and to help out in other clerical areas. The cost is \$21,000 for 5 hours a day and it was not included on the 2018 proposed budget.

Chief Ubry stated with regards to technology the Police Department is in need of a new copier for the Record Bureau as it is over 10 years old with over a million copies, hard to get parts for and is not that reliable; so, he is requesting \$11,000 to purchase a new copier. And, last year they started a computer budget with regards to technology where they no longer have to write reports as everything is stored on the server so when something breaks down they have money in that budget to repair or replace it and the funds are only used as needed and proceeded to review the following budget



request: a universal power suppliers which in a power outage keeps everything up and running prior to the generator kicking on and indicated the power suppliers have not been replaced since the building was built in 2001 so they are well overdue. The replacement cost is \$6500; the radio system in the Police Communications Center that operates on a computer system specialized to run the radios and has been running nonstop 24 hours a day for the last 5 years and is now at the end of life. The cost is \$30,000 for the replacement of five computers; replacement of analog cameras and advised when the police building was built back in 2001 they installed analog cameras and the technology is now obsolete as everything is digital so they are looking to replace five (5) a year to try and get them all digital as some of the cameras are starting to fail. The replacement cost is \$6200 as the new ones run on a hub and are a little more expensive.

Chief Ubry stated one of his larger requests is for police vehicles and indicated they went through a cycle where the town was only replacing two vehicles a year and as a result nine (9) of the patrol vehicles have between 103,000 and 120,000 miles on them. They ordered some vehicles from last year's budget in May; but have not been delivered as of yet being they take a while to build with all the specialized equipment and upon delivery those vehicles will be sent to Public Works for another 3 to 6 weeks to get them prepared for the road. In addition, they received a grant for \$26,232 from the State for enforcement activities on their safe corridor that is being used by a patrol vehicle. So, this year, he is requesting six (6) more patrol vehicles to purchase in the amount of \$210,000, and it will take 14 to 18 months before those vehicles are ready for patrol use and cautioned that they have to stay ahead as the patrol vehicles get about 30,000 miles a year and cost about \$35,000 each.

Chief Ubry advised another major issue he would like to draw to the attention of Council is Lawrence Township police force that has only been at (58) fifty-eight police officers since 2012 and in 2011 the police force being at 65 and they would have to go all the way back to 1988 when the department had 56 officers then it increased to 59 officers in 1989. The population of Lawrence was a little over 25,000 and is now over 33,000 in population so that is a total of 8,000 more residents to serve. The other issue is Rider University which is right next door takes up a lot of their time; especially, during overnight hours given they do not have their own police force like some of the surrounding towns such as the College of New Jersey in Ewing and Princeton University in Princeton who have their own force so they do not have the draw or call for service that Lawrence Police Department have with Rider.

Chief Ubry discussed the Police Department's decrease in staffing levels per shift and the need to hire (4) four more new officers; training of 16 new officers to help bring up the staffing levels; 19 officers being eligible to retire including his entire command staff within the next 5 years and the need for the Administration to hire new officers well in advance given the timeframe (approximately one year) it takes to train and hire an officer and cost-effective ways to increase manpower, keep cost down and serve as a

training program for officers potentially wanting to be an officer and continued to discuss the State having a Special Law Enforcement Officers' Program for Class II Officers who can carry a gun and do the same duties as a police officer that Lawrence Police Department can utilize as prison guards, as it now takes two officers to process and transport a prisoner, and the Special Class II Officer could be utilized to supplement with a full-time officer in the booking room, prison guard, school post, transporting to prisoners to jail and vehicles to public works which would alleviate officers from coming off the streets to handle those duties. So, his request this year is for one (1) Class II Officer, 20 hours a week at a cost of \$20,800 with no medical or pension benefits. The 20 hours per week being the downside of the position.

Chief Ubry stated in light of the school tragedies that have been going on around the country the State has made it easier for the police departments to have an officer in the schools as they enacted a Special Class III Police Officer. The officer will be a retired law enforcement officer trained by the police department who wears a police uniform with no limit on time, no medical or pension; it is just an hourly employee who checks in with the police, drives over to school and acts as a resource officer as the officer will be able to teach at the schools and be an informal counsel for the students and advised they used to have the position, it got eliminated and he thinks the position should be reinstated. So, it is in his budget request; although, it is not included in the proposed budget and he estimates the cost of position to be approximately \$44,000 a year if they were to include the position of a Class III Special School Resource Officer in the 2018 municipal budget. In concluding his report Chief Ubry opened the floor for questions.

A general comment, question and answer period ensued relative to Chief Ubry's presentation regarding the cost and position of the Class III Special School Resource Officer, his request for six new police vehicles and the utilization of funds from seized and impounded vehicles to help offset some of the cost, the County asset forfeiture money being utilized to purchase one narcotics dog and the training of a younger officer to keep the program running after Officer Buchanan retires given he is one of the 19 officers eligible to retire in the next 5 years, Rider University possibly contributing to the cost for additional police staffing, drug and alcohol statistics and the reduction of DUI's and traffic crashes in Lawrence Township.

The Police Chief was congratulated for his Department's exemplary work by the Mayor and Council. They all thanked the Chief and gave closing remarks in relation to what has been accomplished over the past years in serving and protecting the community and his forward thinking with regards to the future of the Police Department.

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**2018 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Emergency Management, Jack Oakley, Director of Emergency Services**

Mr. Oakley greeted the Council and distributed a handout relative to the 2018 Budget presentation and thanked the Municipal Manager for affording him the opportunity to speak before the Council for the first time and proceeded with a detailed background history regarding his expertise and experience.

Mr. Oakley imparted that he moved to Lawrence Township with his family in 1970 and they resided in the area of Texas Gardens which is Texas Avenue where his great grandmother owned a house and from that point on he attained friends in the neighborhood, moved into the Lawrence School system and became interested in fire services very early on as his father was a firefighter in the City of Trenton. So, when faced with an opportunity to get involved in the fire service he joined the Slackwood Fire Company which he has been a member of for the last 44 years. He has been through their junior firefighter program and has held every fire line rank in that department including Chief for two years so he understands all about volunteer service.

Mr. Oakley indicated although fire services was his passion he was later afforded the opportunity to go to the New Jersey State Police Academy. He entered the academy in 1977, graduated in April 1978 at 19 years old, the youngest at that time to ever graduate from the Academy. He then served six years as a general road duty trooper on the road handling general crimes including three years on the New Jersey Turnpike and based on his Merit he was promoted to Detective where his assignment started out in the Sports Complex in the Meadowlands and eventually made its way through different areas of the State Police inclusive of the Major Crimes Unit, Fugitive Task Force Unit and Cargo Theft and Robbery which was a truck high jacking squad that required him to work undercover for a few years. Thereafter, he was assigned to the Arson Bomb Unit where he remained for 16 years and during that time he became an explosive investigator, hazmat technician and eventually a bomb technician as part of the Bomb Squad. As part of his job he went away to the Redstone Arsenal Bomb School in Huntsville, Alabama where he received his training as a Hazardous Device Technician and got a wife so he was fortunate on both ends.

Mr. Oakley stated as part of the Bomb Squad he eventually became the Unit Supervisor and Bomb Squad Commander just before 9/11 which changed the face of the country and pretty much the world and with that came some issues in New Jersey with the limited amount of bomb squads and personnel available as there were only nine (9) bomb squads and thirty (30) personnel at that time. So, the Attorney General's office and the Colonel at that time wanted them to be a little more involved in trying to get a group of those bomb squads and bomb technicians together to kind of make a Detect and Safe Task Force with the concept of being able to respond throughout the State which they accomplished. And, one of the big things they did, which he will be

explaining in detail a little later, is standardized equipment as it relates to his background and what he will be requesting as part of project in his budget.

Mr. Oakley advised that he was hired by Lawrence Township in August 2006 and he enjoys the working relationship he has with his constituents as they are a great group of people to work with and he hopes it continues in this fashion for many years to come. The first thing he would like to address is the Fire Division and indicated Lawrence Township has been very fortunate for over 100 years to have three individual fire stations - Lawrence Road, Lawrenceville Fire Company and Slackwood Fire Company - serving the town with a volunteer capacity; but, unfortunately, they have seen a decline in volunteerism nationally and across the board but in Lawrence they are still fortunate to have a group of people and individuals that are involved in volunteer organizations and who put forth a stellar effort in trying to still maintain what they do here for the citizens and businesses in Lawrence.

Mr. Oakley further advised that the volunteers are tasked with many, many different things of trying to balance a home life, a job, volunteering, the restrictions that are beginning to be a lot with required certifications and the need for two family incomes, kids and family obligations making volunteerism not as easy as it used to be. So, the Township decided to put career staff in each one of the fire stations, as a driver, in order to have a driver on-duty Monday-Friday to help support the volunteers so when the person comes on duty and receives a call there would be someone in place to drive the apparatus; but, because of the lack of volunteers they found that the paid firefighters were staying in the firehouse and not having the ability to go out on calls which was counterproductive as to their goal of having a piece of apparatus respond to a scene quickly. So, in 2012, they combined the four career firefighters into one unit which they eventually centralized at the Lawrence Road Company from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday – Friday and proceeded to discuss the tremendous job the volunteers do after hours, in the evening and at night when they are home and available but the daytime hours being more cumbersome due the decline in volunteerism.

Mr. Oakley reported that they received 1285 emergency assignments of which 556 (42%) of those incidents were handled by the career firefighters in 2017 and proposed an increase in staff fire services so that the career staff supports the volunteers instead of the volunteers supporting the career staff and the increase of one staff member providing an extra body that will be available to help in the daytime; but, more importantly when the career staff is off they can supplement that position with a per diem given their per diems right now are drawn from the volunteer staff and those numbers are dwindling. Therefore, if they add one member of staff they would be able to plug that person in and still maintain the minimum staffing levels required through some of the standards governing fire services.

Mr. Oakley stated the second item of concern is something Mr. Whitehead touched on earlier regarding the Apparatus Replacement Program and indicated when the Bomb Squad combined under the NJ State Police Detect and Render Safe Task Force they tried to make a force multiplier as they wanted to have equipment in different parts of the State where bomb technicians from any given department could respond to that area and use the equipment on the truck that would be placed in the same location throughout the state to standardize equipment and indicated if they want to have failure at any emergency incident confusion will make it happen a lot faster than not and when people do not know where things are or have to be told a number of times where pieces of equipment are located adds to a tragic outcome so standardization serves as public safety for staff, And, the replacement program and the apparatus being looked at information was taken from the volunteer core who has given them some examples of some of the things they are looking at and he thinks blending those things together along with the overall specifications at the Township level they should start to move forward with standardizing their equipment in Lawrence; because as previously mentioned the equipment will help with the cost of maintenance, training and they will have equipment on the trucks which he feels is a big plus as they move forward.

Mr. Oakley further addressed some of the requests given to him by the career staff and stated the staff is looking for some hydraulic rescue tools, pagers, turnout gear, SCBA Air Bottles for the volunteers, and the SCBA Unit Pack which are the face pieces for the firefighters that are no longer testable or usable and have reached their longevity and suggested the Council give those items careful consideration as they are pretty important to the overall success of the fire division.

Mr. Oakley imparted he would like to also touch on the Emergency Management Services that includes pie charts in the handout relative to the EMS assignments by call for 2017, and indicated the EMS has (9) career staff, one Supervisor and eight EMT's of which three are at the Paramedic level and a great asset for the people who live in or visit Lawrence Township as that level of experience and training is usually reserved for the advance life support people who ride out of Capital Health. So, the people with extra training can mitigate circumstances that ordinary EMT's with the basic training cannot perform and advised in 2017 the EMS answered 3267 calls for service and billed approximately 1955 calls which are approximately 60% of the total amount of runs they went on; it generated revenue of about \$852,000. EMS is requesting automated external defibrillators, portable radios for communication purposes and computer equipment as the computers they use to chart patients are kind of outdated and is needed while working in the field. They are also looking for money to possibly purchase a box style ambulance being the van style ambulance they presently use is too small for all the equipment they have to store and constrictive for two people when administering care.

Mr. Oakley stated the last issue he would like to discuss under EMS is regarding a couple of things he requested under OEM which will be disbursed to Emergency Services and not kept under OEM – pagers, carbon monoxide meters and thermal imaging cameras will all be disbursed out to the emergency services so they can update the antiquated equipment they have or the ability to increase to more equipment on hand. Also, he thinks outsourcing the maintenance of the apparatus, as previously discussed by Mr. Whitehead, is a great idea as the Public Works Department does a fantastic job on the apparatus but they are not setup for it and from a liability standpoint the person signing off is certifying the work and assuming the liability so it is a great idea as far as the maintenance programs goes to make sure the apparatus is up and running and able to get to the scene.

Mr. Nerwinski noted that he met with Mr. Oakley and they have had discussions about the matter of Emergency Services long-term to include the setup of a committee/commission to preserve and set standards for the three volunteer fire companies and ensure the town is providing the best fire services for the community going forward.

After the presentation an at length comment, question and answer period took place between Mr. Oakley and the Township Council relative to Mr. Oakley's budget request for one additional staff member and the additional staff decreasing the per diem cost, volunteers and preservation of fire service and his request for Thermal Imaging Cameras for fire services which Mr. Oakley indicated is for safety as it allows firefighters to virtually "see" through smoke at a fire scene and provided a brief demonstration of the TIC to the Council and the audience.

Mayor Bobbitt and members of Council thanked Mr. Oakley for the exemplary job he and his staff does in serving the community.

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Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

*Mr. Tom Ritter, 747 Lake Drive*, greeted the Township Council and thanked them for the opportunity to speak before them regarding the matter of Colonial Lake and advised that he along with other residents of Colonial Lakelands are present this evening to voice their objection to the proposed extended stay hotel at Colonial Lake Park and to share their vision of how the park should be preserved. He then distributed a handout to the Township Council presented by "Save Colonial Lake Park" citizens group and stated "Fly Eagles Fly" and he is not referring to the Philadelphia Eagles, he is referring to Colonial Lake Park eagles that he sees every day and proceeded to read the following letter into record:



*(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PRESENTATION READ INTO RECORD)*

After reading the letter into record, Mr. Ritter advised the last page is a photograph of Colonial Lake looking from halfway down Lake Drive straight across to Route 1 of the wooded area that is close in proximity to the properties they are speaking of tonight and if they took a walk around the lake they would see that is the only view that has nothing but woods in the view and every other view will have buildings, houses, thin trees and woods but not dense enough to block out any structures. And indicated on the whole lake the pictured area is the only view that gives them an unobstructed view of just woods and it would be a shame to lose it. Also, after listening to Mr. Whitehead's presentation concerning all the trees that the Public Works Department have to take care of this vision regarding Colonial Lake is something they probably do not want to hear tonight...but they are resolved. He thanked the Council again for affording them the opportunity to share their vision for Colonial Lake Park, and indicated they sincerely hope members of Council will give the proposal thoughtful consideration and at some time in the near future make it a major part of the official vision of Lawrence Township. A general discussion ensued relative to the lake traffic that has picked up and wildlife that resides on the lake.

*Mr. Jim Hooker, 712 Bunker Hill Avenue,* echoed the same sentiments of Mr. Ritter with regards to the vision for Colonial Lake Park and proceeded to discuss a group of foxes he flushed out in the park while walking and other wildlife that reside at the lake and how beautiful the preserved park they envisioned would be in twenty (20) years for future generations to enjoy in Mercer County as well as them purchasing the surrounding parcels of land with Open Space funds.

Mr. Hooker commended Mr. Whitehead on his terrific presentation and the great job he and his staff do in maintaining the streets and open space in the Township and advised that Paul Larson, Chair of the Trails, Open Space & Stewardship Committee, always has great things to say about his work. He then voiced his concerns relative to Mr. Whitehead's tree removal plan and indicated the Sycamore tree illustrated in his report that fell and damaged a home is the neighbor who lives in back of him. And, he hopes the neighbors are not in agreement with the removal of those Sycamore trees being those Sycamores make the neighborhood and most of them still look healthy. So, he is appealing to the Council and Mr. Whitehead to seek the neighbors' opinions first prior to any removal of trees in that neighborhood. He further suggested they look into amending the section of Land Use Ordinance regarding the 200' notification requirement for zoning changes to include a wider area as he and many others who have stake in the matter would not have known about the plans for a hotel if it was not for Mr. Larson who serves on the Open Space Committee. He then thanked the Council for their patience in allowing him to put his concerns on record.

*Mr. Michael Frederick, 76 Carr Avenue*, advised that the vision and idea of preserving Colonial Lake is a good one instead of having more vacant buildings which does not make a lot of sense and having a park space does being it adds to communities and gives people a place to go and reach out as clubs, teams and organizations can use the park and continued to discuss north Lawrence having soccer fields, baseball fields and more open space as oppose to south Lawrence that does not have much open space left and the importance of preserving the space they now have left.

Thereafter, Mayor Bobbitt stated for the record that he lives in Colonial Lakelands and he thinks most of the Council lives in south Lawrence and they do understand the concerns of the residents regarding the need for open space in south Lawrence.

Mr. Nerwinski stated for the benefit of those who were not present at the last meeting the Council was advised by the Township Attorney to not comment substantively on what is being said now about Colonial Lake due to the pending application before the Planning Board and two members of Council serving on that Board. So, the elected officials would probably have more comments on the Colonial Lake matter but because process has to be clean and legal they cannot comment at the present time.

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#### Review and Revisions of Agenda

There was no review or revision of the agenda.

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#### Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

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#### Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award or rejection of bids.

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Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE BY ADDING NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED 'TRAFFIC CONTROL STANDARDS: REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE'"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance was previously introduced and upon Council's request the ordinance was sent to the Public Safety Coordinating Committee for review and comments. The proposed ordinance has been reviewed and endorsed by the Committee and is on the agenda tonight for approval.

The Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

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

---

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING REGULATING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF THOSE OBTAINED FROM COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITIES KNOWN AS PUPPY MILLS AND KITTEN MILLS"

The following individuals expressed their proud support of the Ordinance and what the passage of the ordinance means for the protection of animals and consumers. They further thanked the Council for their endorsement of the ordinance which regulates the sale of dogs and cats that prohibits the sale of those obtained from commercial breeding facilities known as puppy and kitten mills:

Janice Fisher, Manasquan, New Jersey  
 Ellen Coyote, Hamilton, New Jersey  
 Jean Clayton, Marlton, New Jersey

Ordinance No. 2287-18

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS  
TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF THOSE OBTAINED  
FROM COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITIES KNOWN AS  
PUPPY MILLS AND KITTEN MILLS

WHEREAS, a significant number of puppies and kittens sold at pet shops come from large-scale, commercial breeding facilities where the health and welfare of the animals are not adequately provided for ("puppy mills" and "kitten mills," respectively). According to The Humane Society of the United States, it is estimated that 15,000 puppy mills produce more than 2,400,000 puppies a year in the United States and that most pet shop dogs and cats come from puppy mills and kitten mills.

WHEREAS, the documented abuses endemic to puppy and kitten mills include overbreeding, inbreeding; minimal to non-existent veterinary care; lack of adequate and nutritious food, water and shelter; lack of socialization; lack of adequate space; and lack of adequate exercise.

WHEREAS, the inhumane conditions in puppy and kitten mill facilities lead to health and behavioral issues in the animals bred in those facilities, which many consumers are unaware of when purchasing animals from pet shops due to both a lack of education on the issue and misleading tactics of pet shops in some cases. These health and behavioral issues, which may not present themselves until sometime after the purchase of the animals, can impose exorbitant financial and emotional costs on consumers.

WHEREAS, restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens to only those that are sourced from shelters or rescue organizations is likely to decrease the demand for puppies and kittens bred in puppy and kitten mills, and is likely to increase demand for animals from animal shelters and rescue organizations.

WHEREAS, due in large part to pet overpopulation, more than 20,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in New Jersey animal shelters annually. Restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens to only those that are sourced from animal shelters and rescue organizations will likely reduce pet overpopulation and thus the burden on such agencies and financial costs on local taxpayers.

WHEREAS, across the country, thousands of independent pet shops as well as large chains operate profitably with a business model focused on the sale of pet services and supplies and not on the sale of dogs and cats. Many of these shops collaborate with local animal shelters and rescue organizations to offer space and support for showcasing adoptable homeless pets on their premises.

WHEREAS, the Township Council believes it is in the best interests of this Township to adopt reasonable regulations to protect the citizens of the Township who may purchase cats or dogs from a pet shop or other business establishment, help prevent inhumane breeding conditions, and promote community awareness of animal welfare in the Township.

### **Section 1. Definitions**

*Animal care facility* means an animal control center or animal shelter, maintained by or under contract with any state, county, or municipality, whose mission and practice is, in whole, or significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes or rescue organizations.

*Animal rescue organization* means any not-for-profit organization which has tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, whose mission and practice is, in whole or in significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes.

*Cat* means a member of the species of domestic cat, *Felis catus*.

*Dog* means a member of the species of domestic dog, *Canis familiaris*.

*Offer for sale* means to sell, offer for sale or adoption, advertise for the sale of, barter, auction, give away or otherwise dispose of a dog or cat.

*Pet shop* means a retail establishment where dogs and cats are sold, exchanged, bartered or offered for sale as pet animals to the general public at retail. Such definition shall not include an animal care facility or animal rescue organization, as defined.

### **Section 2. Restrictions on the Sale of Animals**

(1) A pet shop may offer for sale only those dogs and cats that the pet shop has obtained from or displays in cooperation with:

- (a) An animal care facility; or
- (b) An animal rescue organization

(2) A pet shop shall not offer for sale a dog or cat that is younger than eight weeks old.

### **Section 3. Record Keeping and Disclosure**

A pet shop shall maintain records stating the name and address of the animal care facility or animal rescue organization that each cat or dog was obtained from for at least two years following the date of acquisition. Such records shall be made available, immediately upon request, to Township Police, Health Officer, Animal Control Officer or

their agent, and no later than June 1 of each year, to the Municipal Clerk’s Office. Each pet shop shall display on each cage a label stating the name and address of the animal care facility or animal rescue organization of each animal kept in the cage.

**Section 4. Severability**

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

**Section 5. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall become effective 20 days after passage.

Ordinance No. 2287-18 was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Kowmackl	X						
Ms. Lewis	X						X
Dr. Maffel				X			
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

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Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2018”

**Ordinance No. 2288–18**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2018**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

**Section I. Short Title**

This ordinance shall be known and may be recited as “The Salary Ordinance of the Township of Lawrence – Unclassified and/or Exempt, Seasonal, Emergency (non-union) Employees for 2018-2019.”

**Section II. Salaried Employees**

The attached list of salaried positions and job titles, Schedule A and Schedule B, are hereby authorized and assigned the appropriate salary ranges for 2018-2019 and are determined by date of hire as an employee of Lawrence Township.

This ordinance will continue the Township's consistent policy of providing comparable fringe benefits to exempt employees during their active service as that provided to Supervisors, CWA Local 1032, through their collective bargaining agreement. The Township will still maintain the flexibility of granting retiree benefits to exempt employees hired after January 1, 2011. Accordingly, employees covered by this ordinance that are eligible for health and/or prescription benefits shall contribute to the cost of the said health benefit premium for medical and prescription coverage as required by law, specifically Chapter 78, P.L. 2011. All employees hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall contribute based upon the year four rates specified by said law and to be made an Appendix to a successor Agreement.

**Section III. Part-Time or Seasonal Employees**

The following part-time or seasonal positions and job titles are hereby authorized and assigned the following pay maximums commencing January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019:

| <b>Position of Job Title</b>         | <b>Basis</b> | <b>2018</b>                                              | <b>2019</b>                                              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Armed Court Attendant                | Hourly       | \$25.04                                                  | \$25.54                                                  |
| Emergency Medical Technician         | Hourly       | \$22.16                                                  | \$22.60                                                  |
| Firefighter                          | Hourly       | \$18.16                                                  | \$18.52                                                  |
| Laborer (Seasonal)                   | Hourly       | \$11.39                                                  | \$11.62                                                  |
| Life Guard                           | Hourly       | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$15.56                       | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$15.87                       |
| Recreation Aid                       | Hourly       | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$36.45                       | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$37.18                       |
| Recycling Coordinator                | Per Annum    | \$8,243                                                  | \$8,408                                                  |
| Municipal Alliance Grant Coordinator | Per Annum    | \$2,500                                                  | \$2,500                                                  |
| Fire Crew Coordinator                | Per Annum    | \$4,243                                                  | \$4,328                                                  |
| School Traffic Guard                 | Hourly       | \$17.40                                                  | \$17.75                                                  |
| Secretary/Board & Committee          | Per Annum*   | \$1,800.00                                               | \$1,800.00                                               |
| Tax Search Officer                   | Per Annum    | \$11,557                                                 | \$11,788                                                 |
| Zoning Officer                       | Per Annum    | \$5,376                                                  | \$5,484                                                  |
| Municipal Court Attendee             | Hourly       | \$22.46                                                  | \$22.91                                                  |
| Park Attendant                       | Hourly       | \$15.56                                                  | \$15.87                                                  |
| All Others                           | Hourly       | Federal Minimum Wage up to Step1 In Applicable Job Title | Federal Minimum Wage up to Step1 In Applicable Job Title |

\* Denotes title paid monthly. All other titles bi-weekly.

Section IV. Eligibility

The ranges in Section II of this ordinance shall pertain to individuals employed by the Township of Lawrence on or after the effective date of this ordinance.

Section V. Longevity

A. Each employee hired before January 1, 2013 and covered by this agreement shall in addition to his/her regular wages and benefits, be paid longevity based upon years of service as of December 31, 2013 with the Township in accordance with the following amounts. Said amounts to be paid to an employee shall not be adjusted beyond the longevity amount being received by an eligible employee as of December 31, 2013. Longevity shall be pensionable and included as part of the employee's regular pay. Any employee hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall not be eligible to receive longevity pay at any time in the future. Length of Service.

|                                                     |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Beginning in year 8 through year 11                 | \$ 800  |
| Beginning the 12 <sup>th</sup> year through year 15 | \$1,100 |
| Beginning the 16 <sup>th</sup> year through year 19 | \$1,400 |
| Beginning the 20 <sup>th</sup> year through year 23 | \$1,700 |
| Beginning the 24 <sup>th</sup> year through year 27 | \$2,000 |
| Beginning the 28 <sup>th</sup> year and beyond      | \$2,300 |

Section VI. Other Personnel and Working Conditions

All other functions, responsibilities and rights not specifically enumerated in prior sections of this ordinance shall be judged to be within the province of management, subject only to the laws, rules and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Personnel, the provisions contained in applicable agreements (if any) or policy manuals, and by the issuance of Administrative Directives by the Municipal Manager.

Section VII. Repealer

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances adopted prior to the date of this ordinance that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed insofar as they relate to or concern the job classifications, salaries and benefits listed in this ordinance.

Section VIII. Severability

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section IX. Effective Date

- A. This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption.
- B. All salary or compensation provided for and by this ordinance shall be effective the first day of January.

Ordinance No. 2288-18 was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL       | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|---------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Kownackl  | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Dr. Maffel    |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |
| Mr. Powers    | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mayor Bobbitt | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 1940-07 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2289-18

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1940-07  
 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,  
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION  
 OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1:

a. Section 3 (a) of Bond Ordinance 1940-07, finally adopted June 19, 2007, amended by Ordinance 1990-08, finally adopted September 16, 2008, amended by Ordinance 2036-09, finally adopted December 1, 2009, amended by Ordinance 2104-11, finally adopted September 6, 2011, amended by Ordinance 2239-16, finally adopted May 17, 2016 be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Improvements of Municipal Buildings consisting of: "Energy Efficient Retrofit Measures..."

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Ordinance No. 2289-18 was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Kowmack	X						
Ms. Lewis	X						X
Dr. Maffel				X			
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

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Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2258-17 (et al) BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2290-18

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 2258-17 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:



Section 1:

- a. Section 3 (a) of Bond Ordinance 2258-17, finally adopted April 4, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2270-17, finally adopted July 18, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2271-17, finally adopted July 18, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2275-17, finally adopted September 19, 2017, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Improvements of Municipal Buildings consisting of: "Various Municipal Buildings Electrical Upgrades..."

Improvements of Municipal Buildings consisting of: "Energy Efficient Retrofit Measures..."

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Ordinance No. 2290-18 was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL       | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|---------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Kownack   | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Dr. Maffel    |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |
| Mr. Powers    | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mayor Bobbitt | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Administration is ready to make an application with regards to the Pit Stop location for funding for remediation which will require the town to get an appraisal done and asked the Council guidance as to how they would like for him to proceed. It was the consensus of Council for the Municipal Manager to move forward with the application process.

Mayor Bobbitt questioned if anyone had been in contact with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Mr. Nerwinski advised that they first have to get the appraisal done, the consent of the owner that had been the problem for years and is now in place and a Resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that he met with Leslie Floyd, Mercer County Planning Director, last week and she provided him with a lot of information regarding additional grant opportunities and that she will be a valuable resource to him and has offered her assistance moving forward and he will be talking about other things in closed session with regards to a potential real estate transaction.

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**Attorney's Report –**

Ms. Britton reported that Mr. Roskos asked that she update the Council on the status of the Affordable Housing litigation and settlement and stated as they might recall they were supposed to have their final compliance hearing last week on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, they did not get the Special Master's Report until the Monday before their hearing and she had a number of conditions that they were unable to review with the Planner and with staff in order to get the hearing to go forward on Wednesday. So, the hearing has been rescheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> which is completely typical given there is not one municipality that she has not come back with a list of conditions for review; but, they wanted the Council to know that Clarke, Caton and Hintz did a fabulous job on the plan and they do have a meeting set up with the Municipal Manager, Clarke, Caton and Hintz and staff to go over her conditions to development a game plan. So, again the hearing is set for April 30<sup>th</sup>.

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**Clerk's Report –**

There was no Clerk's report.

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**Unfinished Business –**

There was no unfinished business.

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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

*Mr. John Ryan, 128 Villanova Drive*, stated the Council talks about the social media enhancements such as Twitter, Facebook, etc. and asked if they could update the pictures on the town’s website. Mr. Kiriakatis advised they have in the Capital Budget a new website design, if approved by Council.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 88-18 (18-B.1) through 107-18 (18-H.11) were approved by the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL       | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|---------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Kownacki  | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis     | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Dr. Maffel    |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |
| Mr. Powers    | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mayor Bobbitt | 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 –**

Mr. Powers advised the Mayor that they had the Immigration Forum back in January and the Human Relations Committee Meeting is tomorrow night and there was talk about doing a “Welcoming Community” resolution similar to what Hopewell Township adopted so he wanted to give him a heads up on that. Mayor Bobbitt advised that he has received emails concerning the matter and it is still on their radar.

Ms. Lewis stated it was wonderful tonight to see a group of residents come out who were asked to do more work regarding their concern and who actually came and provided the background and with a plan for Colonial Lake. They did not just come and complain and say they wanted to spend money; they actually came back with something substantive that the Council can actually think on.

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**Written Communications –**

There was no written communication.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor

**A VISION FOR COLONIAL LAKE PARK  
and  
Preserving the Natural Gemstones in the Southern Portion of  
Lawrence Township**

Presented to the Lawrence Township Town Council 2/20/2018  
By "Save Colonial Lake Park" citizens group'

This vision has evolved out of deep concerns, personal stories, and dreams of, not only the people whose homes surround Colonial Lake Park, but the many who live well beyond the boundaries of the park. This vision is one that seeks the preservation of natural settings, creates a connectedness to neighborhoods, and protects the ever-dwindling natural environment in the southern portion of Lawrence Township.

**A Vision for Colonial Lake Park**

The origins of Colonial Lake Park and its surrounding neighborhood go back some eighty three years to the 1930's. Since that time commercial development has continued to grow along Business Route 1, becoming exponential in recent years. We have lost significant acreage of open and wooded space in that time. There are but a few small critical plots of wooded space remaining along this stretch of highway. Two of these lie just to the northeast side of Colonial Lanes and Entertainment. They are of interest here.

**The Vision:** The preservation and incorporation of certain property that abuts Colonial Lake and Colonial Lake Park that:

- Expands the preserved natural landscape by incorporating a small but significant piece of land into the Lawrence Township park system, prevents continued encroachment of commercial land development in the southern portion of the township, and preserves the last My wooded viewscape adjoining Colonial Lake<sup>1</sup>.
- Completes the parkland surrounding Colonial Lake.
- Creates a better sense of community between neighborhoods in Lawrence
- Encourages citizens of Lawrence neighborhoods and the larger community to take advantage of Colonial Lake Park through the enhancement of trail safety and expansion by creating a closed loop entirely within the park confines for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, birders, environmentalists, and more.
- Creates a better balance between the active sports and playground design on the south side of the park with a design for a more natural setting for walking and hiking on the north side of the park.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Appendix for visual

Steps necessary to bring this vision into reality:

Step One: This vision sees the Township of Lawrence in partnership with various conservation organizations such as The Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation, D & R Greenway Land Trust, the Mercer County Open Space Program and others purchasing a portion of the property now owned by the Colonial Lanes and Entertainment and the property containing Pizza Hut (See Illustration 1 below) for the purposes of incorporating said properties into the Colonial Lake Park.



Illustration 1: General outline of proposed acquisitions

Step Two: Incorporate those properties into Colonial Lake Park

Step Three: Complete the paved trail from its current end (at the loop) up into the newly acquired park property, back down to the water's edge and along the water's edge toward Rt. 1 on the SW side of Colonial Lanes stopping approximately 40-50 yards short of the highway and constructing a footbridge over the Shabakunk (See Illustration 2). This then would complete a closed and safe loop completely within the boundaries of the park.

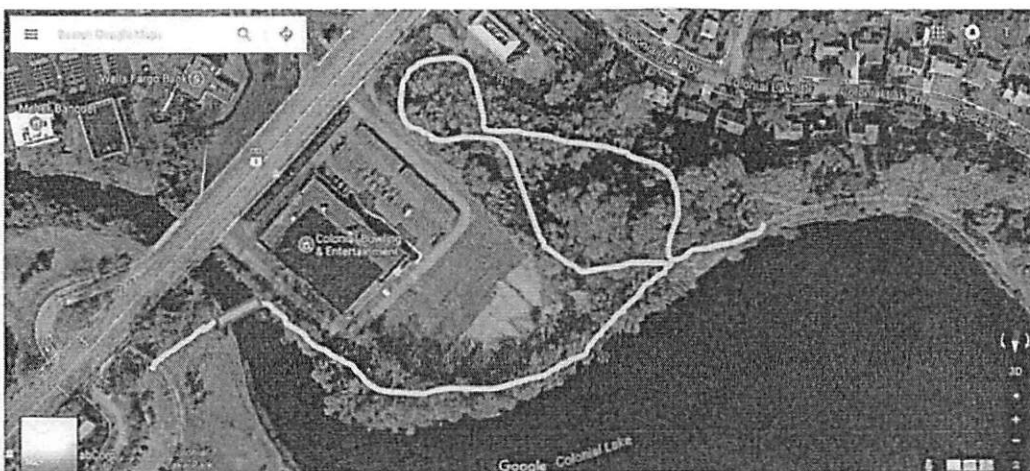


Illustration 2: Example of path continuation and completion of circuit around the park including a footbridge over the Shabakunk

Step Four: Tear down the Pizza Hut structure and create a parking area for visitors to the northeast side of the park. The current main parking lot on the southwest side offers access to a trail, tennis

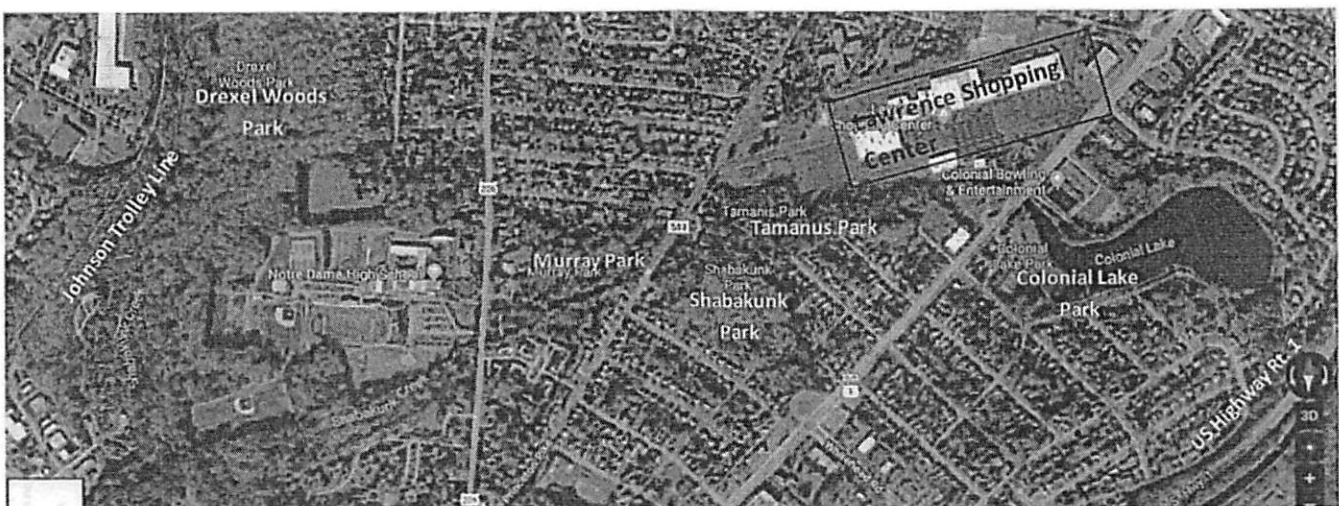
courts, playground equipment, and an open field. The proposed parking area will offer access for visitors in search of a trailed wooded zone for strolling, observing wildlife, and tranquility

### A Vision for Preserving the Natural Gemstones in the Southern Portion of Lawrence Township

In addition to preserving open space in Lawrence Township, one of the ideas for the vision for Colonial Lake Park is to create a more obvious link between the two neighborhoods surrounding the lake. In fact, an additional access to the park (proposed parking lot and trails) will create a link with many other neighborhoods in Lawrence Township. So let's think on a larger scale about creating healthy and safe links through the already existing park system. A little known fact is that there are not one, but five parks along the Shabakunk Creek in south Lawrence between the Johnson Trolley Line to the west and U.S Rt. 1 to the east: Drexel Woods Park (including the Nature Center) Murry Park, Shabakunk Park, Tamanis Park, and Colonial Lake Park (including the lake).

The vision: The creation of a series of trails and pedestrian overhead walkways linking those five parks that:

- Creates a sense of community between the many neighborhoods in the township.
- Allows foot and bicycle access between the two natural gemstones of Colonial Lake (as part of Colonial Lake Park) at one end and the Lawrence Nature Center (as part of Drexel Woods) at the other.
- Creates a consistency with the township's current redevelopment of Business Route One from the Brunswick Circle to the Shabakunk by making the community more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.
- Creates a consistency with the township's re-visioning for the Lawrence Shopping Center by making the shops more pedestrian and bicycle accessible.



Appendix: Photo of only wooded viewseape adjoining Colonial Lake;



\* With concept backing of The Lawrence Township Open Space, Trails, and Stewardship Committee, the D & R Greenway Land Trust, the Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation, and The Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter