

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

February 18, 2020

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 6.30 p.m.

Councilman Bobbitt advised that Mayor Kownacki had personal matters to attend to and will not be in attendance but he will do his best in his place.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Councilman 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 18, 2020, 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 19, 2019.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers and Ryan.

Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager, David Roskos, Esq., Municipal Attorney and Peter Kiriakatis, CFO.

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Department Budget Presentations

**2020 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Superintendent of Recreation, Nancy Bergen**

**2020 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Recreation - Nancy Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation**

Ms. Bergen greeted the Council and distributed handouts to everyone regarding her 2020 budget presentation for the Lawrence Recreation Department that is comprised of the Office on Aging/Senior Center and the Special Events Divisions which fall under the Superintendent of Recreation. She imparted that the goal of the Recreation Department is to provide recreational programs that enrich the quality of life for Lawrence residents by promoting an active lifestyle and encouraging social interaction.

Ms. Bergen proceeded to highlight the following items relative to the Recreation Department:

- Recreation Organizational Chart that includes the Recreation Office, Special Events and Office on Aging. The Recreation/ Office on Aging staff - Jeffery Radice, Recreation Leader, Megan Cook, Part-Time Recreation Clerk, Lillian LaSalle, Executive Director of Office on Aging, Coral Phillips, Senior Citizen Program Aide and two Part-Time Drivers - Ron Dziminski and Mark Lenarski, hired this year with the retirement of Leonard Spellman, former van driver for the Senior Center.

Ms. Bergen noted that she has a very good staff that is very enthusiastic, hardworking and they do a lot of off-hour things and she just wanted to recognize them for that.

- Recreation Department operating with three full time employees, more than 100 part time employees in addition to 70 volunteers who play a critical role in coaching, teaching and leading any of the activities. The Department coordinating a lot of recreation programs from the beginning to the end. They do park planning and development and a lot of community relations and customer service which includes a lot of work with the Youth Sports organizations throughout the town with regards to scheduling of the fields, supervising the fields, lighting, practice and game schedules.

Ms. Bergen noted that a lot of the programs they could not do without the support of the Public Works Department who maintain the buildings and grounds, athletic fields and the senior center. The Health Department that run a lot of the programs at the Senior Center and the Police Department who assist them with the camps and other things.

- 2019 Recreation Department Selected Program Participants – Winter Youth Basketball Program (388), Summer Camps Before/After Care (127), All Summer Camps (481), Youth Winter Wrestling (41), Clinics/Classes (97), Community Gardens (92), Lawrence Lighting Swim Team (139), Swim Lessons (272), Pool

Membership (108), Daily Pool Passes (173), Park Pavilion Rentals (41) and Red, White and Bang Kid's Triathlon (132).

- Recreation Department's office hours, pool hours, park facilities, nature center, various programs at BOE facilities and senior center with hours of operations ranging from 8:30 a.m. -10:00 p.m., Monday thru Sunday.
- Community Special Events planned and coordinated by the Recreation Department – such as the Colonel Hand March, Community Day, Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, Fourth of July Fireworks, Red, White and Bang Kids Triathlon, Community Day, Veterans Day and the Township Municipal Tree Lighting.
- 2019 Accomplishments – Successfully moved Community Day to Central Park, Added a Teen Adventure Travel Camp (included trips such as hiking, skydiving and caving), Added a Junior Golf Camp, New Holiday House Lighting Contest (32 houses registered), Added an Adult Water Exercise Class, Added a Kid's Triathlon Training Class, Added a Girls Fall Basketball Clinic, Added an additional week of Nature Center Camo, Veterans Breakfast (partnered with Lawrence High School Patriotic Committee and Post 414) and Increased Participation at Special Events.
- 2020 Recreation Department Strategic Goals – Primary Goal is to keep evaluating, promoting and improving the exciting program and adding additional programs; continue to increase participation at Special Events, Introduce Rec to the Rescue where the staff would offer small art projects and games once or twice a month at different parks and the location of the Rec Van would be announced on Social Media, Add additional Adult programs, New Street Hockey Program, Offer additional programs and activities, explore additional parking options and research grant for adding display cases for art and education purpose a to the inside of the Nature Center and Continue to research trending needs of the community.

Ms. Bergen reported that the Lawrence Township Office on Aging/Senior Center continues to be a hub of activities providing socialization, nutrition and recreation programs geared toward keeping Lawrence Township seniors 60 and older active, healthy and happy.

Mr. Bergen proceeded to highlight the following items relative to the Office on Aging:

- Slide show of participants and various activities, programs and special events and the 2019 Office on Aging Program Monthly Participation by Class/Group prepared by Lillian LaSalle, Executive Director of Office on Aging, which included a report of senior programs - bingo, chorale, creative art classes, exercise, games, hula and line dancing, mah-jongg, tai-chi exercise, van service, yoga and

other recreational programs and total number of participates (20,265) that does not include seniors who attended the Nutrition Program offered (4) four days a week at the Center.

- 2019 Office on Aging and Senior Center Highlights – Clear Captions Speaker, AARP Taxation Program, Black History Month, Chinese New Year Celebration, Valentines Pizza party, Diabetes Self-Management Talk and Program, AARP Safe Driving Class, St. Patrick’ s Day Social, Diabetes Self-Management, Hypertension Speaker, Passport Day, Intergenerational Programming, Friends and Family CPR, Water Color and Silk Painting Instructor, Volunteer Appreciation Event, The Artistry of Head Wrapping, Older American’s Month Program, Consumer Affairs Talk, Choraleers Memorial Day concert, Elder Abuse Prevention Day, Home Town Hero at the Ball Park, Community Concert Band Summer Concert, 2019 Summer Fun Night, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lawrence Township Senior Art Show at Lawrence Library, Annual Nutrition Picnic at Mercer Park Arena, Annual Indoor Flea Market, Healthy Bones Orientation, Senior Olympics, Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon, Community Concert Annual Concert, Lawrence Senior Township Choraleers, Christmas and New Year’s Party Kwanza, Fruit Baskets from “It’s Your Best Shot” and Rights for Nursing Residents Legal Talk.
- 2020 Senior Center/Office of Aging Strategic Goals – Continuing to offer programing with Lawrence Township Schools including Valentine’s Day Social with the Interact Club at the High School, Spring dress rehearsal for Frozen at the Middle School, Middle School personal interviews with seniors, High School and Middle School student volunteers during summer months for required community service and other collaborative efforts including student card sharing for holiday; Increased interaction with Rider University students including computer lab work; Expand travel programs to offer excursions to local theatre productions, day trips and overnight trips and cruise planning, Offer a caregiver information forum; Engage the Executive Committee to come up with a Mission and Vison Statement for the Office and Senior Center.

Ms. Bergen advised that the Recreation Department, Office on Aging and Special Events operating budget remains the same for 2020 and her Capital Budget Request for Recreation is for park improvements that includes the Nature Center parking lot, Veterans Park and Colonial Lake playground area (\$45,000). Her request for Office on Aging is for building improvements that includes a front entry reception area, new light fixtures and new TVs for two of the rooms at the Senior Center. (\$11,500).

In closing, Ms. Bergen acknowledged and thanked the Council and Municipal Manager for their support and participation in the Recreation Department/ Office on Aging special events and members of the 2019 Patriotic Committee, 2019 Senior Executive Committee, 2019 Recreation Advisory Committee and the 2019 Friends of the Nature Center for all of their help with the activities, programs and special events. She then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Councilman Ryan stated Ms. Bergen is a real asset to Lawrence Township. When he is at the Senior Center...she is there; when he is at all sorts of meetings...she is there. Mr. Ryan reiterated again how great of an asset Ms. Bergen is to the Township with what she does with the kids with soccer and basketball. He has also seen her on Valentine's Day at the Senior Center supporting the seniors; then she was off the next day; but, came down for basketball. So, he just wants to thank her for all that she does for Lawrence Township.

Councilwoman Lewis stated based on Ms. Bergen's budget request for park and building improvements versus the revenue, she is asking for \$53,000 less than she brought in last year and she thinks that is important to know as it means people really like the programs that are being offered and the improvements would be a great investment in the Township. She further echoed Councilman Ryan's comments with regards to the great job Ms. Bergen and her staff do and her being a great asset to Lawrence Township. She also complimented Ms. Bergen on the awesome fliers that were done this year and the social media presence they have incorporated which has brought a lot more people into the special event pieces and she loves some of the new programs outlined in her presentation.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Recreation Department has undertaken the Senior Connect Program and he thinks that participation is related directly to the quality of the programs but also social media as they are really working on their presence through that. And, he feels the Nature Center is an underutilized asset which they should focus on in the next couple of years to improve it as well as open it up to the community a little bit more. In addition, they should explore the use of the Lawrence Neighborhood Center for township programs as it is also underutilized; so they will be partnering with Homefront to explore those options. He then echoed previous comments relative to the wonderful job Ms. Bergen is doing and the great ideas she comes up with for employee events to help motivate and improve the atmosphere among the Township employees.

Councilman Powers thanked Ms. Bergen for the fantastic job her department has done and kudos on the great attendance at the Special Events to include the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Community Day which was moved to Central Park this year and had record numbers.

Councilman Bobbitt noted the 5200+ people that attended Bingo and the high attendance record for other programs and services and echoed the same sentiments as the rest of Council with regards to the great job she and her department does and the underutilization of the Neighborhood Center the Township Manager discussed.

A brief comment and question period took place relative to bringing back the Art Program and incorporating more programs such as drama, LEGO, etc. for residents not interested in sports; adding new programs such as photography and art in nature, renting and adding security and lighting at the Nature Center; pool usage for recreation

program changed to Lawrence High School and Safety Town at Ben Franklin Elementary School and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks taking place on July 1<sup>st</sup> with a rain date on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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**2020 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Emergency Management, Jack Oakley, Director of Emergency Services**

Mr. Oakley greeted the Council and distributed a handout relative to the 2020 Budget presentation and thanked the Council for affording him the opportunity to speak before them tonight and advised that he will be going over some of the Emergency Management Departments specifically the Fire, EMS, OSHA Budget and Office of Emergency Management.

Mr. Oakley opened his budget presentation by reviewing the following:

- EMS Division – comprised of (9) nine employees and one Chief which includes one (1) Supervisor, (8) employees and a list of per diems to fill-in for the career staff when they are off; EMS call stats of receiving over 4,000 calls – answered 3086 – a large caseload for 9 employees; notable responses in Lawrence during 2019 that included – (52) cardiac arrest, (177) cardiac/strokes, (1444) general medical calls, (444) traumatic injuries, (271) respiratory emergencies, (80) overdoses (80), (8) maternity/childbirths, (124) assist to citizens, (49) assist to fire or police for standbys and (332) motor vehicle accidents with 24 of them requiring heavy rescue for entrapment.

Mr. Oakley advised of one incident where a 70 year old gentleman had fallen unconscious at the gym in town and when EMS arrived they immediately recognized that it was not just an unconscious person but an individual in cardiac arrest. Luckily some of the other people at the gym had applied the AED to the gentlemen that had shocked him at least three times and the EMS crew continued the shocking process not only with the equipment from the gym but with their own AED and they got pulses back and he survived, which shows the great skills and knowledge of the crew in recognizing quickly that the person was not unconscious but in cardiac arrest which goes on day in and day out and they do a fantastic job.

Budget Request - Mr. Oakley stated under the EMS they are looking for one capital expenditure to be done which will be an All-Terrain vehicle. The vehicle will be put in service to do the Red, White and Bang Triathlon, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks display and the Memorial Day Parade where they have pedestrian traffic that is off the traveled roadway and it takes them a considerable amount of time to be able to reach people who need help. So, the vehicle will be equipped to assist them in being able to move from a paved location off the beaten path so

to speak to get to somebody who needs help which would great for the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail which is a very limited access area.

- Fire Division – consist of (3) three fire stations - Lawrence Road, Lawrenceville and Slackwood Fire Company as well as the career staff comprised the Lawrence Fire Department. In 2019, there were 1435 calls for service for the volunteers with the career staff responding to various incidents to help provide coverage for the first responders when the ambulance was tied up during the day. (Mr. Oakley noted back in 1974 when he joined the Slackwood Fire Company they was struggling to make 100 calls a year so although that was a number of years ago that call volume is still very steep.)

Budget Request - Mr. Oakley advised that he would be reviewing the Capital Budget request for the Career Staff first and indicated over the last several years the Career Staff has obtained their own rescue equipment which is utilized for motor vehicle accidents to extricate people from and in 2019 they were at an all-time high so they are asking to supplement that with some additional extrication equipment in the amount of \$14,500. The career staff itself answered 571 calls out of the 1435 calls and all of the statistics are broken down in report by assignment, major incidents and the average for all calls.

The Volunteer Staff request for replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus that is the lifeline for a firefighter which includes the safety ensemble a firefighter wears – helmet, coat, gloves, boots, pants, etc. and the SCBA that has reached their life expectancy and serviceability. The request is for 42 to 45 SCBA's replacements at a cost of approximately 8,000 per unit totaling over \$300,000. Mr. Oakley noted in talking with the CFO and the Municipal Manager they have decided to try and do a 3-year program where they will purchase a third of what is needed to replace each year and get them back in service so they will be able to supply the fire department and the volunteer staff new SCBA's to put on their apparatus and they are asking for an amount of \$99,000 under capital budget.

The Emergency Management Services budget request for (1) one response vehicle to replace the present one that is 10 years old with 75,000 miles and although the mileage does not sound too bad they have to take into consideration that he responds to a great amount of emergencies throughout the day and sometimes after hours on the weeks where there is a lot of quick starts and awful hard stops that he does. They also use the vehicle as a command post in particular instances so it is time to upgrade the equipment and the vehicle itself so they can maintain it as an important part of the fleet.

- Mr. Oakley stated as for the Operating Budget there is no request for any additional increases that includes EMS, Fire Division, Emergency Management and OSHA which is their safety budget.

A brief comment and question period took place relative to the following: no complaints from residents regarding emergency response time; preparing and planning for future paid staff for EMS and the Fire Division; vehicle extrication training on electric vehicles; SBCA equipment purchased under the 3-year plan being equally distributed among the three firehouse; SBCA interchangeable usage and useful life of the equipment; educating residents through social media to prevent dryer vent fires and getting the word out through the Recreation Department; additional incentives to recruit and retain more volunteers; funding for the purchase of another ambulance; EMS truck being moved over to the Superintendent of Recreation if a new vehicle is purchased and recruitment and retaining volunteer firefighters. The Council thanked Mr. Oakley for the exemplary job he and his staff does in serving the community.

Mr. Nerwinski indicated for the record that the Township is in the middle of a Fire Study and that study will hopefully give them some good feedback on where the town will be in (5) five years and how they get to that place in terms of staffing and coverage and information requested by the consultants have been provided. They also attended a response to the fire yesterday which was a very gratuitous situation to have them observe and they are currently going through the Rehab Program with the firehouses in terms of what the Council provided in funding last year to help increase membership.

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**2020 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Chief of Police, Brian Caloiaro**

Chief Caloiaro greeted everyone and thanked the Council for allowing him to speak this evening. He then apologized to the Council for not having the 2019 Annual Report prepared with a lot of statistical information as there were a few things they had to continue to work on and that will be done within the next two weeks and each member of Council will receive a copy of and he would be more than happy to come back in a future meeting to discuss all the details of that yearend report.

Chief Caloiaro thanked the Township Council for all of their support and discussed the outstanding people he works with every day that makes his job easy and a pleasure to come to work each day. He further discussed Mr. Nerwinski being one of the best bosses he ever worked for as well as his great staff of people.

Prior to budget presentation, Chief Caloiaro addressed the allegation made about him instituting an illegal Ticket Scheme featured in newspaper that would negatively impact the residents of Lawrence Township and indicated just recently an independent investigation was conducted and found no proof that an illegal ticket scheme occurred in Lawrence Township.

Chief Caloiaro reported in 2019 the Police Department had 58 sworn officers, (2) officers in the police academy, (4) four School Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) who cover the schools and they are in the process of hiring a fifth officer, (1) Administrative

Clerk, (2) Account Clerks with one being part-time, (1) Confidential Clerk and (1) Record Support Technician who works in the property room and does the evidence function for the Police Department, (15) Crossing Guards with (2) Reserve Crossing Guards to keep children safe while crossing the road. They had approximately 36,000 calls for service that the officers responded to up from the 33,000 calls in 2018; Dispatch Service still being managed by iXP Corporation an independent company and a 2% decrease in New Jersey Uniform Crime Reporting - arson, burglary, larceny and rape, etc.- down from 656 UCR reported crimes in 2018 to 645 crimes in 2019.

Chief Caloiaro stated the Police Department's 2020 budget request is vanilla, as they are not asking for anything different than they have in the past; but, their operating budget is up a little bit from 2019. The budget increased from \$192,915 to \$210,915 mainly because of the maintenance fees they pay on a yearly basis which seems to go up very quickly being \$117,000 of the police budget goes towards maintenance fees for all of their technology, computer programs and everything else that runs through the department.

Chief Caloiaro stated in terms of Capital expenditures he spoke with Peter Kiriakatis, CFO, about the Police Department's radio communications needing to be upgraded which they decided to put off until the 2021 budget. As for their operating budget they are asking for (11) eleven Toughbook computers for the police cars that keep the police officers up and running on a daily basis because without the computers the officers would have to spend time in the Police Department away from the view of the public; so, they are asking for eleven computers and mounts that go in the police cars with the computers for a total of \$36,748.00. In addition, they are asking for (2) two new police cars with the possibility of a third one as the year goes along to maintain the fleet in keeping the miles low. And, indicated this year they were able to go through a leasing program for their SLEO Officer to drive five new pickup trucks which Lieutenant Drew was instrumental in putting together and maybe in the future the police vehicles will be part of that leasing program which would save the Township a significant amount of money.

Chief Caloiaro highlighted the following current events as it relates to the Police Department:

- The (10) ten weeks, April thru June, he spent at the FBI Academy in Quantico with 255 officers from around the world where he was able to take five classes which he received 16 credits from the University of Virginia and him working and collaborating with constituents from around the world on police issues which is huge and learning trends that are going on around the country. And advised of a media class that he took that helped when they had to do a very large press conference that drew national attention regarding an incident that happened at Lawrence High School and with help of the partnerships. He thanked Councilman Bobbitt who was serving as mayor at the time for all the support he gave to the police during that time and the Detective Bureau who did a phenomenal job investigating that crime which enabled them to get the right message out through

that press conference with a big part of that press conference being through the FBI National Academy Media Program that he went through.

- Lawrence Police Department very successfully passed all aspects of the Accreditation Program on October 21, 2019 with the help of Lieutenant Drew, Accreditation Manager, and Officer Michael Whitmore, and the department being re-accredited on March 19, 2020 and hopefully be presented with the recognition at one of the Council meetings in April.
- The Police Department making progress with the usage of Social Media - Facebook and Twitter which Chief Caloiaro pointed out is a wonderful way of getting information out to the public as well as providing transparency but there is an aspect of learning how to mitigate and respond to people's questions and post online that could be answered easier by telephone or in person.
- The reinstatement of the D.A.R.E. Program back into the school and the successful training of the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders at Lawrence Intermediate School and St. Ann School and their graduation program taking place on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Chief Caloiaro noted Detective David Burns and Ryan Dunn did a phenomenal job in putting together a very successful program and the SLEO III Officers are doing a great job as well. And advised that they recently hired Officer George Henderson for one of the elementary schools who is a total hit with the kids at the young schools and the plan to hire another officer. And, hopefully, in the future they will have an officer in each of the elementary schools to engage with the children.
- Discussed the non-enforcement events such as the Community Egg Hunt, Memorial Day Parade, National Night Out, Community Day, Trunk or Treat, Coffee with a Cop three events, Youth Police Academy extended one week and very popular and plans for 2020 Bicycle Patrol training.

Chief Caloiaro noted this is the hard part of his presentation...manpower... and advised that this calendar year was quite taxing for the Police Department as they had (58) fifty-eight sworn officers for the year but throughout the year they had (1) one officer retire, (1) one officer resign, (1) one officer pass away, (2) two officers on limited duty for a good portion of the year which put them down in the low 50s in terms of manpower; but, thankfully with the great staff of officers they have, they rose to the challenge and kept on working with overtime so they had to extend more overtime this year than normal.

Chief Caloiaro advised within the next 5 years Lawrence Township will lose half of their police department if they do not start hiring and getting the force at higher numbers. They are going to be caught where they were ten years ago in the 40s again and have to decimate almost all the programs they worked hard to put together and work for. So, he thinks it is imperative over the next few years to get that police number of officers on the force up so in case they have an officer unexpectedly leave or something comes up they are prepared as it takes approximately one year to train and hire an officer and the next police academy is not until September. He then discussed the number of officers 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.

Chief Caloiaro discussed future goals with efforts to stabilize and reduce motor vehicle accidents (crashes), increase presence to decrease the four-wheeling activity that takes place in the back of the Nature Center, continuing community engagement and developing new partnerships with churches and other organizations to come up with new innovative ideas to support the town and the people that they serve. He then opened the floor for questions.

Prior to the opening of comments, Councilman Powers imparted when he heard the allegation of Chief Caloiaro conducting an illegal Ticket Scheme he knew it was nonsense and commended the Chief on the way he conducted himself during that investigation by the Prosecutor's Office.

Councilwoman Lewis echoed Councilman Powers' sentiments regarding the allegation and outcome of the investigation and thanked Chief Caloiaro and his staff for the exemplary job they have done in keeping the town safe and their renewed commitment to the community that has been shown over the last several years. She then thanked the Chief and all the Officers for their commitment to the schools and the School Board for paying for the officers, and advised every time Officer George is in the building at the school she hears about how wonderful he is and she was happy to hear about his commitment to do a week at every school just to get know everybody since he is not from the community.

Councilman Ryan echoed the same sentiments as Councilman Powers and Councilwoman Lewis with regards to knowing the Caloiaro family for 35 years who are respectable people and stated he appreciates all that the Chief and his officers have done and he is behind them 100 percent and encouraged him to keep his head high, shoulders back and stay above the white noise.

Councilman Bobbitt spoke about the rollercoaster ride he was on with the Police Chief during his time as Mayor which was scary and not fun but credits his strength to the Chief and his team who allowed him to get through a lot of the white noise Councilman Ryan spoke of that tried to play into a certain narrative that Lawrence Police Department does not do the right thing when he and everyone else knows that they do, which gave him the courage to speak before those cameras. He then thanked the Municipal Manager for helping the Chief get the matter resolved and the Chief for all that he does.

A general comment, question and answer period ensued relative to Chief Caloiaro's presentation regarding the statistical crime report as it relates to the heroin epidemic, increase in crime and treatment offered to offenders to help reduce the crime rate, problems with the bail reform law and transport still being done by the Police Department, police manpower down even with the use of Armed Court Attendants and iXP Corporation managing dispatch services to get more officers on the road; the need for IT services to be done by a sworn police officer; impending retirements, hiring of officer within the budget, new list of candidates to attend the Police Academy in

September coming out in March and the Chief's recommendation to start hiring ahead to increase staffing levels preferably in the mid-60s to give the Police Department a cushion and his current need of (4) four officers to offset impending retirements; recruitment of new officers and time/training of new officers to effectively do their jobs; unforeseen litigation eating into the cost of hiring new officers that the Administration budgeted for in 2020; iXP Corporation dispatch services not working well due to the revolving door of employees and mistakes and the Administration reviewing the best plan of action once the contract ends to help mitigate the problem – potentially hiring a paid Dispatch Supervisor who is a retired police officer or firefighter with experience in the communication center and police morale improvements and concerns; use of Twitter to get information out and prevent crimes and the amazing job the police does with National Night Out.

Mr. Nerwinski noted for the record that there are 11 police officers present this evening on a Tuesday night when they do not have to be which is awesome and that it is an honor every day to work with the good men and women of the Lawrence Police Department and they have his full support. They focus on the good people and those present tonight mean a lot and goes to the Chief's leadership as they can handle anything and encouraged the Chief and his officers to keep up the good work.

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#### Public Participation

There was no public participation.

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#### Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that Resolution 78-20 (18-H.1), Authorizing a Closed Session of Council Immediately Following the Regular Meeting to Discuss Labor Negotiations and Personnel Matters, be removed from the agenda.

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Ryan, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of **November 8, 2019** were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Power and Ryan.  
Nays: None.  
Abstain: Councilmember Lewis.  
Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Ryan, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of **January 21, 2020** was approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Power and Ryan.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Awarding Contract to Golden Crown Contractors for Veterans Park Comfort Station, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 73–20

WHEREAS, on Thursday, August 8, 2019 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Veterans Park Comfort Station**; and

WHEREAS, five (5) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Golden Crown Contractors, Inc., who submitted a bid in the amount of \$19,500.00 for the total base bid and \$6,672.00 for the alternate for a total of \$26,172.00; 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;

| Acct.           | Ord. No. | Name       | Amount      |
|-----------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| 0-16-56-843-299 | ---      | Open Space | \$26,172.00 |

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 Golden Crown Contractors, Inc., 4099 South Broad Street, Yardville NJ 08620 in the amount of \$26,172.00; and

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, Lewis, Powers and Ryan.  
 Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-B), Authorizing Awarding Contract to TC Landscape Construction Group, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 74–20

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Bid 20-01 Cold Soil Road Grading Improvements (Keefe Road to Van Kirk Road)**; and

WHEREAS, five (5) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was TC Landscape Construction Group, Inc. who submitted a bid in the amount of \$105,002.00, 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;

Acct.	Ord. No.	Name	Amount
C-04-55-454-244	2328-19	Various Road Improvements (Keefe	\$93,835.00

		Road, Cold Soil Road, Carson Road, Van Kirk Road )	
C-04-55-454-291	2328-19	Various Road Improvements (Graf Avenue, Harmony Avenue, Hopewell Avenue, Slack Avenue, Carr Avenue)	\$11,167.00

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 TC Landscape Construction Group, Inc, 1104 Biondo Street, Toms River NJ 08753 in the amount of \$105,002.00; and

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, Lewis, Powers and Ryan.  
 Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-C), Authorizing Awarding Contract to Affordable Housing Administrator for Affordable Unit Rehabilitation Program for 2020, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 75-20

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, bids were received and publicly opened for the provision of administrative services for the grant known as **Lawrence Township Affordable Unit Rehabilitation**; and

WHEREAS, one (1) bid was received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Affordable Housing Administrators that submitted a bid in the amount of \$7,000.00 to review and update the existing Policies & Procedures Manual; \$1,000.00 to maintain the program waiting list; \$3,500.00 per privately owned unit rehabilitation and \$3,000.00 per publically owned unit rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Township may conduct up to twelve (12) rehabilitations during the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is G-02-41-048-299 (\$57,854.50 - 2014 Lawrence Township Affordable Housing Unit Rehabilitation) and 0-19-56-853-299 (\$1,145.50 Affordable Housing Trust Fund); and

WHEREAS, Affordable Housing Administrators has performed satisfactorily;

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Manager, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk executed a contract with Affordable Housing Administrators, P. O. Box 945, 825 Lincoln Avenue, Point Pleasant NJ 08742 not to exceed the amount of \$59,000.00 for a term not to exceed one (1) year with the option to renew annually for two additional one-year periods, for a total of three years; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT 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, Lewis, Powers and Ryan.  
Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-D), Authorizing Awarding Contract to Silviu Nedelcu Painting for Rehabilitation of 1 Roxboro Road, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 79-20

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence passed Resolution 312-19 awarding Silviu Nedelcu Painting & Remodeling the contract for the rehabilitation of 1 Roxboro Road through the rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, Silviu Nedelcu Painting & Remodeling, Inc. has found it necessary to modify scope of work; and

WHEREAS, Silviu Nedelcu Painting & Remodeling, Inc. has submitted a change order to make these necessary repairs to address these modifications; and

WHEREAS, the change order has been recommended by Affordable Housing Administrators, the Consultant for the rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, Silviu Nedelcu Painting & Remodeling has performed satisfactorily;

WHEREAS, the owners, Colin John Anderson & Miki Anderson, of 1 Roxboro Road has been deemed eligible to participate in the rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, the change order in the amount of \$3,342.50 increases the total cost of the project to \$25,117.50; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is 0-19-56-853-299 (Affordable Housing Trust Fund); and

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 Manager, the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk hereby authorize the acceptance of the change order in the amount of \$3,342.50 for the purpose of rehabilitating 1 Roxboro road to Silviu Nedelcu Painting & Remodeling, 4475 Route 27, Princeton NJ 08540.

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, Lewis, Powers and Ryan.  
Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-E), Authorizing Awarding Contract to Windsor Guild Building, LLC for Rehabilitation of 710 Eagles Chase Drive, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 80-20

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence passed Resolution 311-19 awarding Windsor Guild Building, LLC the contract for the rehabilitation of 710 Eagles Chase Drive through the rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, Windsor Guild Building, LLC has found it necessary to replace the main shut off valve in the residence; and

WHEREAS, Windsor Guild Building, LLC has submitted a change order to make the necessary repairs; and

WHEREAS, the change order has been recommended by Affordable Housing Administrators, the Consultant for the rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, Windsor Guild Building, LLC has performed satisfactorily;

WHEREAS, the owners, Mario & Juliana Fernandez, of 710 Eagles Chase Drive has been deemed eligible to participate in the rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, the change order in the amount of \$390.00 increases the total cost of the project to \$19,690.00; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is 0-19-56-853-299 (Affordable Housing Trust Fund); and

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 Manager, the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk hereby authorize the acceptance of the change order in the amount of \$390.00 for the purpose of rehabilitating 710 Eagles Chase Drive to Windsor Guild Building, LLC, 17 School Drive, Windsor NJ 08561.

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, Lewis, Powers and Ryan.  
Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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Introduction of Ordinances

Councilman Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 435 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED "MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC" – Handicapped Parking

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance amends the Code entitled "Motor Vehicles to include a handicapped parking space in front of 758 Puritan Avenue.

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

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

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### Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

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### **Manager's Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Administration is continuing to work on the Township's new website and they had a lot of issues that have taken away their manpower and ability to aggressively get the website out and now that other things are winding down they are really going to try and get it done within the next 30 days or so.

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### **Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos reported that Judge Hurd felt their request for a Motion to Dismiss was too early in this case and suggested that Mediation be considered by the parties so they plan to proceed with the Discovery and he will be meeting next week with the Police Chief and Mr. Nerwinski to develop their discovery strategy to advocate that matter.

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### **Clerk's Report –**

There was no Clerk's report.

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### **Unfinished Business –**

The following matters were put on hold until the March Meeting when Mayor Kownacki returns.

- A. Change of Start Time for Council Meetings
- B. Change of Start Time for Boards and Committees

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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

There was no public participation.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 70-20 (18-A.1) through 94-20 (18-H.6) with the exception of Resolutions 71-20 (18-D.2), 73-20 thru 75-20, 79-20 and 80-20 (Bid Awards) and 78-20 (Closed Session) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

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Resolution No. 71-20 (18-D.2) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Councilman Bobbitt advised that Growth & Redevelopment Committee had a lengthy meeting with a packed house in the Lower Level Conference Room with

presentation of the Business Route 1 Redevelopment Plan and he had been working with the Municipal Manager, Greg Whitehead, Director of Public Works, Jim Parvesse, Municipal Engineer and Brenda Kraemer, Assistant Municipal Engineer, as well as people from Clarke, Caton Hintz about how to spruce up the Brunswick Pike area and the plan was well received by 95 percent of the audience to the point one person in the audience asked where is the money and when are they going to start so he asked Mr. Nerwinski to look into plans for funding.

Councilman Bobbitt reported on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 7p.m. at the Slackwood Fire Company there will be a second presentation for those who missed the last one and they had a good working group in terms of addressing some of the issues dealing with maintenance and how to move forward.

Councilman Powers advised that the Historic Preservation Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. and he asked them about changing the meeting time to 7:00 p.m. and they had no objection to the time change and suggested when the liaisons meet with the various boards and committees to poll their preference. The Committee also approved The Lawrenceville School application regarding for one of the residential houses which will be coming before the Planning Board.

Councilwoman Lewis reported that she had good conversations with the Environmental and Green Advisory Committee, Health Advisory Board along with Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee and they had a packed house for both. They had discussions concerning TICK Disease Prevention for humans and animals, signage regarding the Green Fest taking place on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Rider University, the Coronavirus as it relates to things they seen in Lawrence and efforts to move the Zero Vision Policy forward. They will be reaching out to other committees and staff to get there feedback before coming before Council.

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**Written Communications –**

There was no written communications.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at Council went into Closed Session.

8.07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Christopher Bobbitt, Acting Mayor