

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS WAS
HELD THIS EVENING IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Monday, December 14, 2015

Council President Louis Fontana called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: James Damiano, Joseph Maceri and Pamela Porter. Also present were Mayor Darlene Conti, Township Attorney William Northgrave, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay, and Township Administrator Charles Cuccia.

Absent: Councilmember William Liess and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steven Post, DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone

Following the Salute to the Flag, the Statement of Public Notice was read.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 as follows: A notice of the meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building, located at 225 Main Street, Little Falls, N.J. on January 6, 2015; a copy of the notice was faxed to the North Jersey Herald and News and The Record on the same date; additionally, a copy of the notice was filed in the office of the Township Clerk on said date.

Mayor Conti distributed a Proclamation honoring the retirement of Mary Ann Gianduso, who has served the Township as a crossing guard for twenty years.

Mayor Conti wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

PUBLIC PORTION – GENERAL MATTERS

It was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Damiano, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Maceri, Porter and Council President Fontana.
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Louis Fernandez, Harrison Street, requested further elaboration on the situation concerning Judge Corradino and whether any funds are missing.

Bonnie Nolan, 31 Prospect Street, President of the Board of Trustee of the Little Falls Public Library, announced the 100th year anniversary of the Library will be celebrated in 2016. Many events are planned, starting with a speaker from the Historical Society on January 24, 2016. Events will be advertised via email blasts, PVTv, on Facebook and on the website. She encouraged everyone to participate in the celebration.

Chief Jack Sweezy, announced Santa Claus will be traveling throughout the Township on Sunday, starting approximately 10:30 am. Notification will also be given through the schools and the Township website.

It was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Porter, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Maceri, Porter and Council President Fontana.
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mr. Northgrave stated is not appropriate to comment on Judge Corradino at this time, however, he is not aware of any funds missing. The courts must complete their investigation, upon which the Township will be advised, and necessary remedial action will be taken accordingly.

Council President FONTANA requested Ms. Nolan provide all the information on the Library's 100th anniversary such that it can be placed on the Township website.

Council President FONTANA reminded everyone Santa will be coming around with the Fire Department around 10:30 a.m.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

It was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Maceri, that the Council approve the following:

**RESOLUTION [A] 15-12-14 - #1
RESOLUTION APPROVING RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1,
2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016.**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Little Falls Township Council as follows:

WHEREAS, applications for renewal of **PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION/PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION** have been filed for the 2015-16 license term as follows:

<u>License No.</u>	<u>License and/or t/a name</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1605-33-004-001	First Russian Nat'l Home of Singac NJ, Inc.	\$2,200.00

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t/a New Russian Hall
4-6 Woodhull Avenue

and **WHEREAS**, it appears that the said application is in satisfactory form; that the applicant has complied with all necessary requirements; that the application is for renewal by the same person(s) for the same stand; and that no objections, in writing or otherwise, have been made or filed to said application; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council is familiar with the aforementioned applicant and the place for which they apply and sees no objection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the above-listed application be and the same is hereby granted; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the license be renewed accordingly, for the license term of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Maceri, Porter and Council President Fontana.
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. REQUEST TO USE PATERSON AVENUE RECREATION CENTER – Mr. Cuccia relayed a request received by Mr. Pace for use of the Recreation Center by a for-profit entity. Mr. Cuccia requested direction from the Council. Council President FONTANA expressed his disapproval for use on one of the Center’s busiest days. Councilmember DAMIANO concurred and stated there are more appropriate venues. Mr. Cuccia to relay the Council’s decision to Mr. Pace.
2. BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION-Mr. Cuccia announced there will be a final budget transfer presented at the next meeting.
3. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER CRACKDOWN - Chief Post reported that this program is funded by a State grant. Patrols will run for two weeks throughout the Township.
4. RESOLUTION APPOINTING CERT MEMBERS- Mr. Cuccia stated the resolution includes appointment of two new members presented by the OEM Coordinator. Council President FONTANA queried whether it would be prudent to postpone this until the New Year after the Reorganization Committee convenes, for reasons of simplification. Mr. Cuccia to follow-up with Sgt. Giandoso regarding CERT membership.
5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH INTERSTATE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING, L.P. FOR A BILLBOARD TO BE LOCATED AT THE PATERSON AVENUE SITE - Mr. Cuccia recalled the Township awarded the highest bid for the billboard at Paterson Avenue and Route 46. Mr. Northgrave will present the Resolution at the next meeting to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract. Mr. Cuccia outlined the specifications. Council President FONTANA questioned whether there was an upfront fee. Mr. Cuccia explained there is an escrow for engineering as the structure has to be built. Mr. Cuccia further explained the Township has the right to audit twice a year to determine their revenue and assure the Township is being compensated accordingly.
6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TREASURER TO REFUND TAXES DUE TO 2012 STATE TAX COURT JUDGEMENT- Mr. Cuccia summarized the location and amount of the refund.
7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TREASURER TO REFUND 2015 4TH QUARTER TAXES DUE TO OVERPAYMENT- Mr. Cuccia summarized the location and amount of the refund.
8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELATION OF 2014/2015 TAXES DUE TO CONVEYANCE COPIES OF DEEDS TO TOWNSHIP- Mr. Cuccia stated this resolution pertains to properties obtained by the Passaic River Coalition.
9. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELATION OR LIQUIDATION OF TOWNSHIP TAX TITLE LIENS DUE TO CONVEYANCE COPIES OF DEEDS TO TOWNSHIP- Mr. Cuccia specified the block locations on Woodcliff Ave. contained in the resolution.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT:

1. STORMWATER PROGRAM
Mr. Simone updated the Council on the storm water program indicating the DPW has fulfilled all obligations. The DPW continues to follow state requirements, update storm water basins to be compliant, and continually unclog brooks and ditches, concentrating on Peckman River. Mr. Simone added the cooperation of residents has been extremely helpful. As part of the storm water program, the new recycling brochure will include information on what storm water pollution is and methods of prevention.
2. WILLIAM STREET DRAINAGE PROJECT
Mr. Simone stated the replacement of storm drains continues to be an ongoing project. The original bond ordinance approved by Township was for \$200,000. Past similar projects in the area included storm drain replacement as well as sanitary sewer replacement and Belgian block curbing. He requested direction from Council as to whether to complete the current project replacing only storm drains or to replace storm drains and include sanitary sewer and curbing. If the Council recommended the latter, Mr. Simone will be requesting an estimated additional \$30,000 in the 2016 capital budget for the 400 foot section. Question has for council. Councilmember DAMIANO questioned how many FEMA acquired homes were on the referenced section as there may be curb cut outs, to which Mr. Simone answered three. Councilmember PORTER questioned the use of Belgian block versus other curbing. Mr. Simone explained the attributes of Belgian block, in that is more resilient to salting and easily maintained. Mr. Simone to request Crew engineers to evaluate and develop plan and cost specifications for storm water replacement, sanitary sewer replacement, and road improvement as per Council recommendation. Mr. Simone explained the components of the DPW budget for next year. In response to Councilmember DAMIANO’s query as to steps to prevent and repair of sink holes, Mr. Simone and Mr. Lindsay provided detail on the contributing factors and actions taken by the DPW.
3. SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES FOR 2016 – Mr. Simone previously distributed a letter pertaining to snow removal services for 2016. At next meeting, he will request a resolution for a contract to be awarded for

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Pacific Construction, LLC and Global Development Contractors for snow plowing, should additional help be needed. This has been a routine procedure and is used on ad hoc basis.

- 4. **MORATORIUMS ON RECENTLY PAVE ROADWAYS-** Mr. Simone and Mr. Lindsay discussed the development of a procedure for a moratorium on recently paved roads owned by the Township. Mr. Lindsay stated the County has a program and detailed how such a program in the Township could work. In the case of emergency situations, special considerations could be included on how to repair the road. The program would require the Township to be proactive in establishing a plan for paving roads. Mr. Simone requested Council guidance for direction. Councilmember DAMIANO asked whether the County’s policy could be used as a model and whether a requirement to take out bonds could be included in case repair work is not satisfactory. Mr. Lindsay explained the County’s program is extremely detailed, however, the basic premise is the same. Mr. Simone stated the utility companies have bonds and described bond requirements for private contractors. The Council recommended a moratorium program be explored. Mr. Lindsay to review current code and include a required settlement period and potentially some type of security.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember MACERI requested a status report on the Railroad park project. Mr. Lindsay reiterated his report from a previous meeting, that the project is slated for the spring. Mr. Lindsay to confirm all materials for the project have been ordered.

Councilmember DAMIANO discussed the meeting at MSU by the DOT on the Route 3/46 project, noting little notice given for meeting. He requested another meeting be held specifically for the Township. Mr. Lindsay attended the meeting and reported there were a number of people from Little Falls, however, the location was not easily accessible. Mr. Lindsay stated he found public to be concerned with the construction schedule and impact on the community. Councilmember DAMIANO requested Mr. Lindsay contact Debbie Hurt to coordinate a dedicated information session for residents.

Councilmember DAMIANO thanked the Fire Department for all their services.

Councilmember PORTER congratulated all the elected officials and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

It was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Maceri, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Maceri, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Louis Fernandez, Harrison Street, requested clarification and more specific information on the billboard planned for Paterson Ave.

Renea Shapiro, ABC, requested the Township look into a snow removal apparatus that shovels and picks up snow simultaneously, which she believed may present a cost savings to the Township.

It was moved by Councilmember Maceri, seconded by Councilmember Porter, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Maceri, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mr. Cuccia stated the billboard location was approved by the DOT several years ago for a digital billboard on one side and one static side. The \$250,000 stated by Mr. Hernandez, was found to be unrealistic at the time, and in researching other municipalities, the Township found \$40,000 a location to be more appropriate number. All appropriate approvals except the site plan and construction piece have been provided. Council President FONTANA provided history on the reduction of the price since the initial proposal.

Mr. Simone discussed the equipment needed to fill trucks would require a snow blower. Council President FONTANA requested Ms. Shapiro provide information on the equipment she described for Council review.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

It was moved by Councilmember Maceri, seconded by Councilmember Porter, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [BL]

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls the Council having received the Treasurer’s certification of the availability of funds for payment of all bills presented, that payment of all bills approved by the Finance Committee be and is hereby authorized, subject to the availability of funds and subject to the appropriate and available appropriation in the line item.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Maceri, Porter and Council President Fontana.
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed

