

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

Monday, January 13, 2014

Council President Louis Fontana called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: Joseph Maceri, William Organisciak, Pamela Porter and John Vantuno. Also present were Mayor Darlene Post, Township Attorney William Northgrave, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus and Township Administrator Joanne Bergin.

Absent: Councilmember Pamela Porter

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone and Deputy Registrar Marlene 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. 10:4-8 and 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 8, 2014; 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.

REMARKS FROM CHAIR

Council President FONTANA had nothing to report.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember ORGANISCIAK informed that the Council meeting videos have been posted to the website, which is working well; the Technology Committee has done a great job with this. They have not yet decided how many meetings can be archived, but they will keep working on this.

Councilmember VANTUNO had nothing to report.

Councilmember MACERI referred to Resolution [C] on this evening's agenda, and explained that this is something other towns have passed. The Flood Board has also worked on this and is seeking the Council's support of same.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Post said she attended the Flood Board meeting with Councilmember Maceri this past week. She also informed that the Police Department is now fully functional over in the new building. She explained that she has a proclamation this evening regarding human trafficking, which is a big issue during the Super Bowl. Since the Super Bowl will be in New Jersey this year, this is of utmost concern. She read the proclamation at this time.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Northgrave had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Bergin had nothing to report, but asked Mr. Lindsay to provide an update regarding the northeast grid reliability project by PSE&G.

Mr. Lindsay explained that this project is now ready to proceed. It will take place in the existing right-of-way, which affects several areas in Little Falls. There will be a lot of construction in town due to this; he will provide fact sheets to the Council. Mrs. Bergin pointed out that PSE&G used the Civic Center in November to inform the public of this project.

Councilmember ORGANISCIAK asked if the town has any say in this since it is in the right-of-way. Mr. Lindsay explained that there is no other approval from the Township.

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PUBLIC PORTION

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

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Louise Wibbons, 216 Lower Notch Road, said the community of Great Notch is very concerned regarding the issue of billboards being discussed; they still do not approve of billboards on Lower Notch Road. They would like to make sure there is no consideration of this in the area. She provided a copy of an article to the Council regarding property value decreases for homes within 500 feet of a billboard. This is referencing a study that was done in Philadelphia. It also states that the income that comes from billboards is the least amount of revenue compared to other options.

Mark Simolaris, 111 First Avenue, asked for further clarification regarding Resolution [C].

Renea Shapiro, Walnut Street, is hoping that the town will consider moving the army trucks now that the Police have moved and they can no longer watch over them. She asked when and where signs will be placed to inform the public of where the new Police Department is located.

James Damiano, Sigtim Drive, referred to the PSE&G work being done in town, and said they are well underway. Based on his own observation, they are certainly doing what they can for the erosion. He also informed that the line of sight at the bottom of Sigtim Drive, approaching Franciso Avenue, is not clear, due to bushes on a resident's property. He asked for this to be addressed as it is dangerous and causes more accidents.

Arnold Korotkin, Long Hill Road, had a concern about public safety related to the last snow storm. He asked who is responsible for clearing curb cuts, as it is dangerous when it becomes icy in those areas.

Louis Fernandez, Harrison Street, explained that according to an article, Woodland Park is discussing the idea of billboards. When Woodland Park was in attendance for a previous Little Falls Council meeting, their Mayor stressed that he was against billboards. He thinks he owes an apology to Little Falls. He also voiced his disappointment in Assemblyman Rumana regarding the progress of flooding in Little Falls.

Ryan, Little Falls Towing, two weeks ago, they were at a meeting regarding the loss of towing services to their business. Two days after that meeting they lost their towing services in the town. Tony and himself have provided the towing services in town for many years; their business has been around for 50 years. They also repair vehicles for the township. They are upset that no one has notified them of these changes in advance. The new towers are five miles away from here. The new towing ordinances have requirements that automatically disqualify them from being a tower in town. He feels that this is discrimination. He and Tony have appealed the towing and he hopes that they will reconsider. Tony said this is very upsetting; he has been trying to contact the PD since 10/18/13. He never received a response from them about any details with the towing.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Vantuno, seconded by Councilmember Maceri, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mayor Post explained that any billboard approvals would have to go before the Planning Board first. They do not consider this to be a discussion or an option for quite some time.

Councilmember MACERI provided further clarification of Resolution [C], adding that the Flood Board unanimously showed support of this Assembly Bill. He explained that they currently have no help with flooding

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issues pertaining to river maintenance, nor do they have any jurisdiction to create this; our resolution simply shows support.

Mrs. Bergin said they do intend to bring the trucks to the new location. They are looking to mark out the back lot for this. In response to Mrs. Bergin, Mr. Simone said he has some signs that he ordered for the Police Station, which will be placed on Montclair and Union Avenues. He has some at the yard that can go on the side streets for the time being.

Mrs. Bergin said she will speak with Mr. Macones regarding the bushes at the end of Sigtim Drive.

Mr. Simone explained that homeowners and business owners are responsible for the clearing of curb cuts when there is snow and ice.

Council President FONTANA said he remembers the meeting when Woodland Park came to speak against the billboards; they will reach out to Mayor Kazmark about this.

He also pointed out that the Township tries to put the pressure on the higher level politicians, and they will continue to do so.

Mr. Northgrave said he is not sure what to say beyond what he explained at the previous meeting. He cannot say why the Police Department has not responded to him. He reiterated that the town could not notify one tower and not another without inviting a lawsuit in town. He also explained the appeal process, noting that only an approved tower can appeal. They are not eligible, as they were not approved as a tower in town. He understood their hardship and concerns; however, the law does not allow the town to limit opportunities to businesses in town. It must be an open process.

C O N S E N T A G E N D A

All items on the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine and were enacted with a single motion. Any items under REQUISITIONS carried a Treasurer's certification as to sufficiency of funds.

APPLICATIONS

Blue Light Permit – David J. Marco, Roosevelt Avenue, Clifton, Little Falls Fire Department
- Elia Shehady, Thomas Street, Little Falls Fire Department

REPORTS

Municipal Clerk's Report – Month of December 2013

MUNICIPAL CLERKS REPORT Month of December 2013

ABC LICENSES

OTHER LICENSES

Business Licenses	\$10,470.00	
Pre-paid Business Licenses		
Raffle Licenses		\$10,470.00

REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Fees & Permits	\$488.00	
Marriage Licenses-LF	12.00	
Marriage Licenses-NJ	100.00	\$600.00

MRNA

Street Maps		
Zoning Maps		
Zoning Ordinances		
Document Copies	\$41.95	
Garage Sales	5.00	
Misc. Fees & Refunds:		

TOTAL MRNA		<u>\$46.95</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT		<u>\$11,116.95</u>
TOTAL TO TREASURER		<u>\$11,116.95</u>

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Municipal Clerk's Dog/Cat License Report – Month of December 2013
MUNICIPAL CLERK'S DOG/CAT LICENSE REPORT
Month of December 2013

Dog Licenses issued 01/01/2013 thru 01/31/2013

Nos. 450 to 450 = 1 Licenses
Amount due Little Falls \$6.80
Amount due State 4.20
Total Cash Received \$11.00

Total to Treas. \$11.00

Tax Collector's Report – Month of December 2013

Municipality of Township of Little Falls
Office of the Tax Collector
Township of Little Falls Current Account, Lakeland Bank
Revenues for the Month of December 2013

Categories	December 1-31, 2013	2013 Year to Date
2013 Taxes	\$306,368.60	\$42,070,460.87
2012 Taxes	0.00	498,470.93
2011 Taxes	0.00	250.00
2010 Taxes	0.00	750.00
2009 Taxes	0.00	250.00
2008 Taxes	0.00	250.00
2007 Taxes	0.00	500.00
Prepaid 2014 Taxes	323,802.25	443,698.55
Interest	12,307.66	87,414.58
Cost of Tax Sale	0.00	4,046.00
Duplicate Tax Bills	5.00	610.00
Tax Searches	0.00	10.00
Insufficient Check Charge	20.00	380.00
6% Penalty Fee	0.00	3,611.24
Tax Sale Additional Fee	0.00	1,875.00
Outside Lien (Trust)	18,876.67	275,907.94
Premium OTL Fee	0.00	296,000.00
GRAND TOTALS	\$661,380.18	\$43,684,485.11

Delinquent 2013 Taxes \$307,596.15 (92 line items) 1st– 4th Qtrs.
Delinquent 2011 Taxes 986.85 (1 line item)
Total Delinquent Taxes \$308,583.00

2007-2010 Open Items due to State of NJ \$250.00 deduction audit (due 06/01/14):

2010 Taxes = \$250.00 (1) line items (State canceled \$750.00 (3) line items)
2009 Taxes = 0.00 (0) line item (State canceled \$500.00 (2) line items)
2008 Taxes = 0.00 (0) line items (State canceled \$500.00 (2) line items)
2007 Taxes = 0.00 (1) line item (State canceled \$500.00 (2) line items)
Balance due = \$250.00 (State canceled \$2,250.00 (9) line items)

Comparison same time last year:

Delinquent 2012 Taxes \$505,116.71 (141 line items) 1st-4th Qtrs.
Delinquent 2011 Taxes 1,236.85 (1) Bankruptcy/1 Sr. Disallowance
Total Delinquent Taxes \$506,353.56

2013 Refunds this month = -\$39,927.46
2013 Year to date refunds = -\$57,568.82

Breakdown of refunds for years 2009-2013 completed in 2013(see attached).

2013 Insufficient check charge backs (year to date) = -\$42,989.36.

REFUNDS IN THE YEAR 2013

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Month	2009 STCJ	2010 STCJ	2011 STCJ	2012 STCJ	2013 STCJ	2013 CBJ	Regular 2013	2013 Veteran / Widow	2013 Senior/ Disabled	Exempt 2013	2013 Homestead Benefit	Total by Months
Jan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,972.52	\$83,908.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$107,881.12
Feb	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
March	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69.00
April	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,877.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,877.31
May	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,087.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,087.82
June	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,555.10	\$33,835.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,295.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70,685.57
July	\$162,526.64	\$173,372.96	\$180,351.60	\$193,384.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$709,635.20
Aug	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.40
Sept	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,239.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$664.20	\$2,904.08
Oct	\$0.00	\$44,755.71	\$49,828.35	\$57,281.50	\$3,983.00	419.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$156,268.51
Nov	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$720.72	\$5,342.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,882.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,945.96
Dec	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,161.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,765.70	\$39,927.46
Totals	\$162,526.64	\$218,128.67	\$292,305.60	\$375,012.70	\$3,983.00	\$419.95	\$50,735.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,429.90	\$1,105.542.43

Note: The above figures represent the months that the Tax Collector did the adjustments in the computer; the Resolution(s) may have been adopted in the next month.

STCJ = State Tax Court Judgments.
CBJ= County Board Judgments.

Municipality of Township of Little Falls
Office of the Tax Collector
Township of Little Falls Tax Collector Trust 2 (Lien Premium Monies), Lakeland Bank
Revenues for the Months of January-December 2013

	Liens with Premiums Redeemed/(-)	Bal./Dep.(+) \$97,900.00
Balance Brought Forward (January 1, 2013)		\$97,900.00
January 2013		
Block 41 Lot 2 (01/08/13)	-\$19,100.00	\$78,800.00
February 2013		\$78,800.00
March 2013		\$78,800.00
April 2013		
Block 76 Lot 17 (04/22/13)	-\$15,000.00	
Block 173 Lot 11 (04/25/13)	-\$12,600.00	
Sub Total		\$51,200.00
Tax Sale April 17, 2013 + \$296,000.00 premiums		\$347,200.00
May 2013		
Block 189 Lot 3 (05/08/13)	-\$22,000.00	
Block 166 Lot 14 (05/29/13)	-\$8,500.00	
Block 148.01 Lot 56 (05/29/13)	-\$32,000.00	\$284,700.00
June 2013		
Block 73 Lot 3 (06/03/13)	-\$22,000.00	

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Block 20 Lot 17 (06/11/13)	-\$10,700.00	
Block 88.05 Lot 1 C314 (06/26/13)	-\$13,000.00	\$239,000.00
July 2013		
Block 123 Lot 9 C0602 (07/18/13)	-\$7,800.00	
Block 35 Lot 7 (07/30/13)	-\$4,500.00	\$226,700.00
August 2013		\$226,700.00
September 2013		\$226,700.00
October 2013		
Block 35 Lot 7 (10/09/13)	-\$32,500.00	
Block 120 Lot 12 (10/11/13)	-\$10,100.00	
November 2013		
Block 88.05 Lot 1 C707 (11/15/13)	-\$9,000.00	
December 2013		
Block 29 Lot 2 (12/20/13)	-\$5,100.00	
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2013		\$170,000.00

Municipality of Township of Little Falls
Office of the Tax Collector
Township of Little Falls Tax Collector Trust 1 (Lien Monies), Lakeland Bank
Revenues for the Months of January-December 2013

	Deposit	2013 Year-to-Date
January 2013		
Block 41 Lot 2 (01/08/13)	\$61,643.78	\$61,643.78
February 2013	\$0.00	\$61,643.78
March 2013	\$0.00	\$61,643.78
April 2013		
Block 76 Lot 17 (04/22/13)	\$7,367.46	
Block 173 Lot 11 (04/25/13)	\$1,980.46	\$70,991.70
May 2013		
Block 189 Lot 3 (05/08/13)	\$11,131.32	
Block 166 Lot 14 & 148.01/56 (05/29/13)	\$24,805.34	\$106,928.36
June 2013		
Block 73 Lot 3 (06/03/13)	\$7,554.68	
Block 237 Lot 15 (06/05/13)	\$8,122.77	
Block 20 Lot 17 (06/11/13)	\$33,112.72	
Block 88.05 Lot 1 C314 (06/26/13)	\$5,977.60	\$161,696.13
July 2013		
Block 185 Lot 5 (07/03/13)	\$15,824.79	
Block 123 Lot 9 C0602 (07/18/13)	\$14,506.77	
Block 35 Lot 7 (07/30/13)	\$18,955.81	\$210,983.50
August 2013	\$0.00	\$210,983.50
September 2013	\$0.00	\$210,983.50
October 2013		
Block 122 Lot 43 (10/09/13)	\$17,022.52	
Block 120 Lot 12 (10/11/13)	\$9,592.06	
November 2013		
Block 88.05 Lot 1 C707 (11/15/13)	\$19,433.19	
December 2013		
Block 29 Lot 2 (12/20/13)	\$18,876.67	
Total Collected as of December 31, 2013		\$275,907.94

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RESOLUTIONS

NJ Dept. of Health – State Dog License Fees

RESOLUTION [A] 14-01-13 - #1

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, the Treasurer having certified to the availability of funds, that the Mayor, Clerk and Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized and directed to issue a check in the amount of:

\$4.20

payable to:

NJ State Dept. of Health

representing payment of State dog license fee, license Nos. 450 to 450 for the month of December 2013.

NJ Transit

RESOLUTION [B] 14-01-13 - #2

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, the Treasurer having certified to the availability of funds therefor that the Mayor, Clerk and Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized and directed to issue a check in the amount of:

\$240.00

payable to:

NJ Transit

P.O. Box 1549

Newark, New Jersey 07101-1549

representing payment of Lease/Permit for 12/02/13 – 12/01/14 – Permit #P1607-1809-01.

It was moved by Councilmember Organisciak, seconded by Councilmember Vantuno, that the Consent Agenda be approved as printed.

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA

The following items were individually considered.

NEW BUSINESS

Supporting Assembly Bill No. 4313 Establishing an Office of River Maintenance within the NJDEP – It was moved by Councilmember Vantuno, seconded by Councilmember Maceri, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [C] 13-01-13 - #3

SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4313 ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF RIVER MAINTENANCE WITHIN THE N.J.D.E.P.

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2013, Assemblyman Scott Rumana introduced A-4313; and

WHEREAS, A-4313 establishes the Office of River Maintenance within the DEP; and

WHEREAS, this newly created office would be responsible for conducting all stream cleaning, desnagging and bank stabilization on water bodies throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, this Bill re-defines the terms “stream cleaning and desnagging project, bank stabilization or restoration”, and other terms found in the “Flood Hazard Area Contract Act”; and

WHEREAS, this office would be the agency within the DEP to implement the current laws relating to such undertakings; and

WHEREAS, Little Falls and our sister municipalities within the Passaic River Basin stand to benefit by the creation of such an office given the financial commitment “we” invested in maintaining the rivers which flow through our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that Little Falls supports and endorses Assembly Bill A-4313 requiring the State of New Jersey to take a leading role in stream and river cleaning through the Office of River Maintenance thereby protecting countless properties from potential damage while saving untold dollars in losses due to stream and river flooding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to our sister municipalities within the Passaic River Basin, Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Steve Sweeney, and members of the 40th Legislative District.

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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It was moved by Councilmember Organisciak, seconded by Councilmember Vantuno, 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: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Vantuno, seconded by Councilmember Maceri that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk