

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

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Council President Darlene Post called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with the following members present: Louis Fontana, Mercedes Gonzalez, Joseph Sisco and John Vantuno. Also present were Mayor Michael DeFrancisci, Township Attorney Joseph Trapanese, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay, Municipal Clerk William Wilk, Township Grant Writer Joanne Bergin and Township Administrator Henry Underhill.

Absent: None

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone, Police Chief John Dmuchowski, Recreation Director John Pace, Detective Alfred Batelli, Deputy Court Administrator Wilma DeFrancisci and Deputy Municipal Clerk Cynthia Meyer

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 5, 2012; 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.

At this time, Mr. Trapanese wished to address comments that were made at a previous meeting regarding the Township Attorney's increased fees. He explained that he prepared a chart for the Mayor and Council to review, which shows different categories which are not connected to his office, as well as an increase in the work load over the past couple of years.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor DeFrancisci explained that he made a commitment to the people of Little Falls more than three years ago to be the next Mayor. He worked hard during his campaign and had little idea what he was getting involved in. His goal has always been to shepherd this town forward with the confidence that was instilled in him. Tonight he is tendering his resignation, effective Friday, January 20, 2012. He explained that he was approached approximately four months ago to take a position that will significantly limit his time to serve as Mayor. This decision has not been an easy one, as he truly enjoys serving the community of Little Falls. He is proud of the people who have worked with him and his accomplishments. Some of his successes include the starting of a children with special needs program at the Recreation Department. The Township website was redesigned, which now includes a flood watch link to monitor the swelling of certain bodies of water. The new Reverse 911 System has proven itself over and over again, which allows the residents almost instant access to emergency information. He also referred to the new paid ambulance service, noting that it in no way takes away from the outstanding service our volunteers have provided. Shortly after being elected, he met with the boards of our local schools and pledged his support to them. The School Resource Officer at Passaic Valley High School has been reinstated. He has also met with Montclair State University to work on the relationship the Township has with them. This has allowed for the Township to be reimbursed for all fire calls the town makes to the college. Several months ago he signed a memorandum of understanding with MSU that will allow the Township to collect potential lost tax revenue from the Ward Trucking site. Last year, he negotiated a new shared services contract for our Health Department with the City of Clifton; responses have been overwhelmingly positive regarding their service to the Township and they have been instrumental in working with residents through the floods. He also brought the Township back to the North Jersey Insurance Fund, which is also saving the Township money. With declining revenues, he sought out the installation of billboards, which will bring in revenue when they are erected. He also looked into red light cameras at all of the intersections, and once installed, these will provide more safety, as well as generating more money. One of his most significant accomplishments is acquiring grant monies for various improvements in the Township. In a few short months the tennis courts at Duva Park field will be completed, which is a direct result of applying to the Open Space Fund. The Pedestrian Safety Program on Paterson Avenue and Main Street was completed with improvements to the crosswalks at a cost of over \$40,000, which was donated to the Township. The recent completion of the bike path at the Morris Canal was also funded through a grant. Soon the recycling program will allow the Township to purchase and deliver a new recycling container to all residents, which will also generate revenue and save money. He informed that some tough decisions were made with regard to personnel. Little Falls Police Department added new officers that were never replaced in the past. A new Police Chief was also selected through a rigorous process. The Little Falls Justice Complex is under construction and he anticipates a date of completion sometime in March. He addressed flooding as one of the most threatening issues in Little Falls, noting that this is a crisis for each and every taxpayer. Since he took office, there have been four major floods. In response, he instituted one of the most comprehensive emergency management plans in any community. Little Falls is now considered one of the leading townships in New Jersey to be emulated in our mitigation approach. He will continue to be an advocate for a solution to the flooding. He also thanked his wife and his family for all of their support during his term as Mayor. He thanked all of the residents of Little Falls to have the confidence in him to serve as their Mayor.

At this time, Council President POST explained that the Township has experienced tremendous change over the past three years. She explained that his efforts to provide flood mitigation program for the residents will be continued after he leaves. She wished him well and said he will be missed. She also thanked him for his dedication and service.

Meeting of January 17, 2012

Councilmember FONTANA said he would miss Mayor DeFrancisci, explaining that they did a lot of hard work together. He thanked him for his time as Mayor.

Mr. Trapanese said he has never seen anyone work as hard as Mayor DeFrancisci. He thanked him for all of his efforts and support to Little Falls.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Poll: Ayes: Fontana, Gonzalez, Sisco, Vantuno and President Post
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Charlene Bidwell, 10 Riverview Circle, said Mayor DeFrancisci will be missed, noting that he listened to the residents in the flood area and took their concerns into consideration. She thanked him for all of his efforts and wished him the best of luck.

Victor Nowak, 6 Stephen Place, said that Mayor DeFrancisci made Mayor mean more.

Joe Bottazzi, 66 William Street, personally thanked Mayor DeFrancisci for his leadership over the last few years. There are now close to 100 homes in Little Falls where flood victims now have options to elevate or be bought out. He asked the Mayor and Council to continue this work.

Frank Zimmerman, Long Hill Road, said Mayor DeFrancisci had the leadership to bring people together and get the work done. He thanked him for being a good leader and wished him luck.

Joe Savittieri, 14 Madison Avenue, thanked Mayor DeFrancisci and the Council for always working together to get things done. He hopes the Mayor’s work will continue when he leaves.

Louis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, said Mayor DeFrancisci should have been the Administrator, since he did so much work for the Township; he should have gotten that salary. He wished him well and said he never doubted that he had the best interest of Little Falls in mind.

John Veteri, 133 Prospect Street, said he was here tonight to present the 300th painting, which will now find a permanent home in Town Hall. He also thanked Mayor DeFrancisci and said he has never seen anyone work as hard as he has.

Gene Bidwell, 10 Riverview Circle, thanked Mayor DeFrancisci for his time served as mayor.

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

Poll: Ayes: Fontana, Gonzalez, Sisco, Vantuno and President Post
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Council President POST thanked everyone for their kind remarks toward Mayor DeFrancisci.

REGULAR AGENDA

The following items were individually considered.

Finance – It was moved by Councilmember Sisco, seconded by Councilmember Gonzalez, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS IN THE 2011 BUDGET: \$344.00 [A]#1

Poll: Ayes: Fontana, Gonzalez, Sisco, Vantuno and President Post
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

- It was moved by Councilmember Fontana, seconded by Councilmember Gonzalez, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET: \$61,062.00 [B]#2

Poll: Ayes: Fontana, Gonzalez, Sisco, Vantuno and President Post
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Sisco, seconded by Councilmember Gonzalez, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION APPROVING A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012 TO JOANNE BERGIN OF BERGIN CONSULTING: \$13,000 [C]#3

Meeting of January 17, 2012

Poll: Ayes: Fontana, Gonzalez, Sisco, Vantuno and President Post
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Gonzalez, seconded by Councilmember Sisco, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION AWARDDING A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE SEVERE REPETITIVE LOSS FY 10 FEMA GRANT TO JOANNE BERGIN OF BERGIN CONSULTING [D]#4

Poll: Ayes: Fontana, Gonzalez, Sisco, Vantuno and President Post
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

At this time, Mrs. Bergin reported as follows:
 FEMA Program Update:

RFC Program: All 3 property owners have opted for elevation. The architect has completed preliminary design the three homes; the Township Engineer is reviewing the plans, which will also be reviewed by a structural engineer ,before going out to bid.

SRL Program (Round 1): Of the 34 properties in this project, 6 have confirmed their intent to elevate as opposed to be acquired. A grant agreement and funding are in place for this project. The remaining 28 property owners are waiting for word on the status of the Township’s application through the NJDEP Blue Acres Program for additional funds as needed to offer acquisition. Word is expected any day on the status of that application.

In terms of an architect for this project, the Township has advertised for professional services. The Township Engineer and myself reviewed the professional qualifications of the submissions and conducted interviews. Based on that, at the January 30 Council meeting, we are recommending the Council approve the architectural services of Richard Jacobs, at a cost not to exceed \$17,000. Architectural services are included in the grant and these costs will be reimbursed through the grant.

SRL Program (Round 2): Last week, the Township received a grant agreement from FEMA. The Township Attorney has reviewed the document and is satisfied that it is consistent with the project scope and costs as outlined in the grant application. Therefore, a request to execute this contract will be placed for consideration on the agenda for the meeting on January 30.

As a reimbursement program, the Township must bond at least a percentage of the grant in order to start implementation. Once work has been authorized, the Township will prepare and submit monthly reimbursement requests to FEMA in order to keep the influx of cash coming in to the Town. A bond ordinance is scheduled to be introduced at the January 30 meeting.

SRL Program (Round 3): The Township’s application for an additional 12 homes was filed in early October. The application was approved by NJOEM and has moved on to the next phase of review by FEMA. There is no timeline for that process.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: The Township's FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant application for 19 properties was submitted on November 30. As a result of the overwhelming demand for funds by communities across the state, FEMA has indicated it will fund 11 properties of the 19 properties.

Mrs. Bergin expressed her appreciation to Mayor DeFrancisci for his leadership over the last three years, noting how hard he has worked with grants and flooding. The past three years have been very productive, challenging and also very fulfilling because of what has been accomplished. Former Councilmember Paul Huggins supported this project along with the Mayor. She is very grateful for the professional opportunities she has had in Little Falls and she looks forward to carrying this project on in 2012 with new leaders.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

It was moved by Councilmember Gonzalez, seconded by Councilmember Fontana, 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: Fontana, Gonzalez, Sisco, Vantuno and President Post
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NJ State League of Municipalities	A & E		115.00
GPANJ, Inc.	Treasurer		90.00
Vital Communications Inc.	Tax Assessor		1170.44
Trapanese & Trapanese, Esq.	Legal		12,500.00
Trapanese & Trapanese, Esq.	∩		890.00
Trapanese & Trapanese, Esq.	∩		1065.00
Trapanese & Trapanese, Esq.	∩		660.00
Trapanese & Trapanese, Esq.	∩		6390.00
Trapanese & Trapanese, Esq.	∩		2277.00
Trapanese & Trapanese, Esq.	∩		600.00
NPC	Municipal Court	2011	467.49
Office Buisness Systems, Inc.	∩		195.68
North Jersey Media Group	Planning Board	2011	32.35
Delta Dental Plan of NJ, Inc.	Group Health Insurance		3059.60

Meeting of January 17, 2012

Delta Dental Plan of NJ, Inc.	∖		2587.59
Teamsters Local 97	∖		1637.50
Teamsters Local 97	∖		1692.00
NJ Intergovernmental Ins.	Other Ins. LIAB-NJIF		89,227.00
NJ Intergovernmental Ins.	Workmen's Comp Ins. NJIF		34,965.39
Eagle Hose Company #1	Aid to Volunteer Fire	2011	5000.00
ALLY	∖		534.69
APCO Institute	Police	2011	210.00
Clarion Office Supply	∖	2011	9.99
Clarion Office Supply	∖	2011	45.28
Integrated Document Tech.	∖	2011	80.70
Language Line Services	∖	2011	96.90
Some's Uniforms Inc.	∖	2011	787.50
Verizon Wireless	∖	2011	119.91
Integrated Document Tech.	Construction Code Official		26.00
Konica Minolta	∖		203.99
American Wear	DPW	2011	313.00
Cablevision Systems Corp.	∖	2011	74.90
Charles Simone	∖	2011	400.00
D2L Associates, Inc.	∖	2011	250.00
Herbert J. Hinchman & Son, Inc.	∖	2011	960.00
Home Depot	∖	2011	46.41
Home Depot	∖	2011	220.43
John W. Kennedy Co., Inc.	∖	2011	6.20
O'Connell Sports Inc.	∖	2011	3500.00
One Call Concepts, Inc.	∖	2011	52.30
R & J Control Inc.	∖	2011	4680.00
Regal Maintenance Supply Co.	∖	2011	373.30
Rossi Decorating Center, Inc.	∖	2011	38.82
Rossi Decorating center, Inc.	∖	2011	37.74
Salomone Brothers, Inc.	∖	2011	9655.00
Tilcon New York Inc.	∖	2011	250.46
Tilcon New York Inc.	DPW	2011	342.76
Integrated Document Tech.	∖		13.00
Gaeta Recycling Co., Inc.	Solid Waste	2011	440.00
Konica Minolta	∖		91.99
Airgas East	Vehicle Maintenance- DPW	2011	34.90
American Hose & Hydraulic Co.	∖	2011	11.40
Crane Chevrolet-GEO, Inc.	∖	2011	573.34
Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.	∖	2011	302.04
Power in Motion Inc.	∖	2011	154.89
Kirk's Orange Tire & Auto	Vehicle Maintenance – Police	2011	1150.24
STS Tire & Auto Centers	∖	2011	85.35
Integrated Document Tech.	Recreation		26.00
Konica Minolta	∖		189.99
The Kennedy Companies	Bond Ord. – 1048	2011	492.00
DAK Electric Company, Inc.	Public Bldg. & Grounds	2011	996.48
Millennium Mechanical, LLC	∖	2011	2146.00
Ocean Clean Inc.	∖	2011	1294.00
S & A Irrigation & Lawn Service, Inc.	∖	2011	2560.00
The Terre Co. of New Jersey	∖	2011	24.96
Totally Secure, Inc.	∖	2011	142.50
Get-A-Can, Inc.	Recycling Trust	2011	5390.00
Salomone Brothers, Inc.	∖	2011	407.50
Stone Industries, Inc.	∖	2011	250.00
Totowa Concrete Products	∖	2011	500.00
Treasurer, State of NJ	Reserve for Bldg. Insp. DCA	2011	3138.31
Draeger Safety Diagnostics Inc.	DWI	2011	224.95
Ford Motor Credit Company	Acq. Of Police Car		1365.41
Passaic Valley Sewerage Comm.	Passaic Valley Sewerage Comm.	216,046.29	
Deborah Gessler	Widows		416.66

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Fontana, seconded by Councilmember Gonzalez, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

William E. Wilk
Municipal Clerk

Cynthia Meyer
Deputy Municipal Clerk