

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

July 5, 2011

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2011, at 7:00 P.M.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Puliti 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, July 5, 2011, 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”.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmember Bostock, Kownacki, Mount, Powers and Mayor Puliti.
Absent: None.

Also, in attendance were Richard S. Krawczun, Municipal Manager, and Michael W. Herbert, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Proclamation and Honors

Chief Posluszny stated that the Police Department recently hired a new Police Officer, Iwona Smith, and promoted a new Police Sergeant, Joseph S. Lech IV. Thereafter, Chief Posluszny provided a brief background history and Mayor Puliti administered the Oath of Office to each of the following officers:

- 1) *Joseph S. Lech, IV, Police Sergeant*
- 2) *Iwona Smith, Police Officer*

Public Participation

Ms. Jeanne Muzi, Celia Bavier and Mr. Anthony Colavita, all introduced themselves to the Township Council and Ms. Muzi advised that they are representing Sustainable Lawrence and that they are the Committee who built the Sculpture located outside of Town Hall. She then proceeded to thank all the people who supported the project and indicated several months ago when there was still snow on the ground she met with the Municipal Manager and the Superintendent of Recreation to discuss this kind of project and their vision which was to make something from recyclable materials that would kind of symbolize sustainability; but most importantly involved the entire community.

Ms. Muzi stated they kept asking themselves what would a sculpture look like that had many, many citizens involved from preschoolers to grandmothers and grandfathers and advised on Saturday they displayed the answer to their question in front of the Town Hall, which is a standing Sculpture that not only symbolizes sustainability but summer, as it will be displayed from the Fourth of July to Labor Day, and is a great representation of Lawrence as a whole under the creativity of Mr. Anthony Colavita. She again thanked the Council for all of their help and support and proceeded to pay special recognition to all the people, Township officials and employees who delivered supplies, assisted with the artwork, construction and engineering of the project.

Mr. R.J. Anderson, Attorney for FOP, Lodge 209, advised that he is representing the Lawrence Township Police Officers and he has a few questions regarding the presentation scheduled under public participation (Presentation of Police Department Staffing Study/Matrix Consulting Group) and proceeded to ask if there would be a question and answer session after the presentation, if any formal action will be taken tonight or at a later date and whether or not the total presentation would be given, to include the Employee's Survey.

Mr. Krawczun advised that Mr. Travis Miller of the Matrix Consulting Group will be providing a summary of the Report and from his understanding there will be no formal action taken tonight, as the Report will act as a benchmark and a resource for the Council's decision-making process going forward in terms of budgeting and staffing in the Police Department. He further advised that the 2011 Municipal Budget has already been adopted so the Report will have no reflection or immediate impact on this year's budget. A short discussion took place relative to the Report being available on the Township's website, the Employee's Survey not being immediately available as it is under review by the Township Attorney and the matter being open for future public discussion.

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Presentation of Police Department Staffing Study – Matrix Consulting Group  
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Mr. Travis Miller stated that he is a Vice President with the Matrix Consulting Group and that their firm was retained by the Township earlier in the year to conduct a staffing study of the Lawrence Township Police Department, and that he would be providing a brief presentation highlighting the high points of the Study itself, after which he would be happy to answer any questions regarding his presentation.

Mr. Miller advised that the scope of services requested by Lawrence Township is one that is fairly standard for their firm, which is to evaluate the staffing and organizational structure within the Police Department, take a look at service delivery and make some observations about whether or not the department is addressing service needs within the community and if the department is organized in structure in such a way it might best meet the service demands in the police department itself and the community. In addition, they will take a look at current services and practices within the Police Department and examine those practices against national best practices and their experience having worked with hundreds of departments across the United States, to identify any gaps in in-service delivery then make a recommendation about staffing in each of the operational areas of the department.

After the introduction and executive summary, Mr. Miller stated as a standard practice they spend a lot of time talking to the Administration and the employees in the Police Department, from the top of the command down to patrol, to try and get at a good sense of what each person does in each of the individual departments and where changes might be most effective. He then proceeded to review in detail the following sections of the Staff Study Report and his recommendations to the Council: Analysis of Management, Organization and Staffing, Analysis of Patrol Staffing, Analysis of Investigative Staffing, Analysis of Support Services Staffing, Appendix A -Descriptive Profile and Appendix B -Comparatives Survey.

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Mayor Puliti thanked Mr. Miller and his firm for the Report and the Police Department for their cooperation and expressed how proud the Council is with the outstanding job they do with following up on investigations and the level of service they provide on a daily basis to the residents of Lawrence.

Mr. Bostock discussed the importance of the Report as it relates to public safety being the Township's number one priority, after which he thanked Mr. Miller and his firm for the good job they did with the Study, as well as, the Police Chief and all the members of the Police Department who contributed to the Report by their conversations with the consultants. He advised that the Report

will be a very useful and a valuable exercise, and it will serve as a valuable tool going forward.

Mrs. Mount thanked everyone in the Police Department for pitching in and being upfront and honest and trying hard to make the Staffing Study worth while, although, some of them might have seen themselves reflected in the Report and not very pleased with the recommendations. In addition, she feels the Council will use the Report in the administration and it helpful for them to know where they are in terms of police staffing and performance, and serve as a benchmark as situations come forward.

Mr. Powers echoed Mrs. Mount comments with regards to the level of cooperation shown by the Police Department and everyone sharing the same goal by not just holding themselves to a high level of standard service; but the highest level of service. He indicated people chose to live in Lawrence Township because of the safety that the police provide and they have a very strong reputation for being a safe community due to those Officers who patrol the streets day and night while they are sleeping. He stated that the Report reflects just that and it will be a good resource and tool for the Council to use in the future.

Mr. Miller gave some closing remarks regarding the whole process and advised that the project was a lot of fun for him, which is not always the case. He then thanked the Council and expressed his appreciation with regards to them giving him and his firm the opportunity to serve Lawrence Township.

In closing, Mr. Bostock suggested that the Report be given to the Chief of Police for review and between now and the next meeting requested that the Police Chief review the various recommendations made by the Matrix Consulting Group and come up with a process for evaluating their service, to include giving his recommendations to Council in terms of maybe prioritizing some of the recommendations and sharing his thoughts on how some of the recommendations might be carried out in the Police Department going forward. Some discussion followed relative the timeframe, after which Mr. Krawczun suggested that it be pushed off until the first meeting in September instead of the August.

There being no one else who wished to address Council, Mayor Puliti closed Public Participation.

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Puliti read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY" – Window Signs.

Mr. Krawczun advised the Ordinance simply amends the Municipal Land Use Ordinance for the purposes of clarifying signs not permanently affixed to a window or building and to also eliminate exterior placement which is currently permitted in the LUO.

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

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X					X	
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Mrs. Mount	X						
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mayor Puliti	X						

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Mayor Puliti read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1852-05 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN."

Mr. Krawczun advised that the Ordinance amends a previously adopted capital ordinance to add a supplemental purpose of a hybrid SUV.

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

| COUNCIL      | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVED | SECOND |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|-------|--------|
| Mr. Bostock  | X   |     |         |        |         | X     |        |
| Mr. Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |       |        |
| Mrs. Mount   | X   |     |         |        |         |       |        |
| Mr. Powers   | X   |     |         |        |         |       | X      |
| Mayor Puliti | X   |     |         |        |         |       |        |

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Mayor Puliti read by title an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATION OF TOWING AND STORAGE SERVICES.”

Mr. Krawczun advised that the Ordinance amends the Lawrence Township Code regulating towing services, as it will add a procedure for an appeal process for denied Towing Application’s, and add a fee of \$75 for re-inspection of a facility or application in the event an applicant is denied initial approval. Some discussion followed relative to the proposed changes.

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

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X					X	
Mr. Kownacki	X						X
Mrs. Mount	X						
Mr. Powers	X						
Mayor Puliti	X						

Resolutions

The Municipal Manager provided a brief summary of Resolution (8C) - Authorizing the Cancellation of Grant Accounts Receivable and Offsetting Reserves, and Resolution (8K), Authorizing a Special Item of Revenue for Clean Communities Grant in the Amount of \$51,388.13.

Resolution Nos. 206-11 (8A) thru 217-11 (8L)) was approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X						X
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Mrs. Mount	X						
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Puliti	X						

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in Resolution Book Volume No. 2 of the Township of Lawrence.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

Mayor Puliti asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Puliti asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed. On a motion by Mr. Bostock, seconded by Mr. Powers the following resolution was presented for adoption:

Resolution No. 218-11

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2011, bids were received for Bid No. 11-09, Ambulance Billing Services; and

WHEREAS, four (4) bids were received and reviewed by the Township Manager and the lowest responsible bidder is Ambulance Billing Company, LLC, 1 Rapp Road, Milford NJ 08848, who submitted a bid of five (5%) percent of fees collected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Township is hereby authorized to award Bid No. 11-09, Ambulance Billing Services, to Ambulance Billing Company, LLC, in the amount of five (5%) percent of fees collected for a contract period of two (2) years.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bostock, Kownacki, Mount, Powers and Mayor Puliti.
Nays: None.

Adoption of Ordinances

There were no adoptions of ordinances.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Krawczun stated earlier in the meeting he discussed the Clean Community Grant and in relation to that he posed a question to the Council a couple of meetings ago with respect to amending the brush pickup ordinance that would allow residents to have an extended period of time to place brush out to the street for pickup, as the current ordinance only allows for brush to be placed out at the curb the weekend before the residents scheduled zone pickup. So, his question is if they are to become more assertive in enforcing compliance of the Ordinance he would like to know the Council's desires to allow residents to have at least two weekends before their scheduled pickups to put out the brush, as it will provide people additional time and they will not have as many residents out of compliance. After a short discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to amend the Ordinance to include the extension of time.

Mr. Krawczun distributed copies of the Annual Report of Audit to the Township Council for fiscal year ending December 31, 2010 and advised that the Report has been submitted to the Local Finance Board, Division of Local Government Services, and the Audit once again contains no recommendations regarding the Township's fiscal operations reviewed for 2010. He then proceeded to discuss the process with respect to the Governing Body reviewing the Audit Report, a Resolution being prepared for the next meeting and a Synopsis of the Audit Report being published by the Municipal Clerk within 30 days of the audit, in which, the Municipal Clerk advised was already published.

Mayor Puliti thanked Mr. Krawczun and his staff, who runs a tight ship, for the great leadership that allows Lawrence Township to operate so efficiently.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Herbert stated with regards to Kraft Cleaners he just received the Report from the Building Code Official regarding the property and they are preparing the certifications and complaints to be filed with the Court, which should be soon.

Clerk's Report –

There was no Clerk's report.

Written Communications –

There was no written communications.

Old Business –

Mr. Bostock congratulated Mayor Puliti for his leadership in making sure the Township had Fourth of July fireworks this year and indicated the moment the Mayor was sworn in he made that a priority to raise the funds and set the example by his willingness to donate monies received for performing weddings to additional donations. Further, there is no doubt in his mind that the Township would not have had the event last week to commemorate the Nation's

independence without his leadership. He again thanked and congratulated him on making that event a priority this year.

Mayor Puliti thanked Mr. Bostock for the compliment and advised that the Superintendent of Recreation played a very large role in making the event come to fruition, as well as, the Municipal Manager who gave them much latitude in pursuing donations and proceeded to discuss how wonderful the entire event was and how everybody he had spoken to commended the Police Department on the great job they did executing the large crowds going in and out of the campus.

New Business –

There was no new business.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned.

8:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Gregory J. Puliti, Mayor