

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

February 21, 2017

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Maffei 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 21, 2017 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: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, Powers and Mayor Maffei.
Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Richard Krawczun Municipal Manager, and Township Attorney David Roskos.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

2017 Municipal Budget Presentation
Health Department, Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer

Ms. Chamberlain greeted the Council and advised that the State requires the Health Department to submit an annual report based upon the State’s “Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health, N.J.A.C. 8:52 and review it with the local Board of Health which technically is the Township Council.” She thanked the Council for an opportunity to present the 2016 Annual Report and information regarding her 2017 budget request.

Ms. Chamberlain proceeded with an overview of the Health Department's prevention efforts regarding the Zika virus that emerged as a public health concern in the spring of 2016; their investigation of domestic wells in the Eldridge Park neighborhood when a well was identified with elevated levels of volatile organics; her and her staffs participation in a tri-county emergency preparedness exercise in March 2016 with Mercer, Hunterdon and Somerset counties and Animal Control emergency trailer that was delivered in 2016.

Ms. Chamberlain advised of upcoming health events including a Health Fair they are planning with the Senior Center that will offer free screenings to the seniors and Township employees and the need for an Animal Control vehicle to replace the current one that has lot of wear and tear and is over 10 years old and discussed her budget request for a Health Educator to assist with the health/wellness events and a new animal control vehicle, preferably, a van that will allow the Animal Control Officer to work with the animals inside the vehicle instead of outside the vehicle as it would be more efficient and safer for the ACO. Copies of the 2016 Annual Report were distributed for the Council to view at their leisure regarding the Health Department's day-to-day functions, mission, activities, programs, vital statistics, various public and health services, cooperative purchases, grants, inter-local agreements, shared services and partnerships they have with other agencies that are governed by the State Health Department and Department of Environmental Protection, establishment of protocols for maintenances of vehicles, licensing and inspections, emergency preparedness plan, plan reviews for a new restaurant and future initiatives.

In closing, Ms. Chamberlain extended her gratitude to the Health Advisory Board and the Lawrence Alcohol and Drug Alliance; an excellent smart group of people that she really enjoys working with and are always there for advice when needed. She also thanked her staff for the excellent job they do in keeping residents in Lawrence safe.

A brief question and answer period took place relative to Ms. Chamberlain report, after which Mayor Maffei thanked Ms. Chamberlain for her presentation.

2017 Municipal Budget Presentation
Police Department – Mark Ubry, Chief of Police

Chief Ubry greeted the Council and thanked them for their support of the Police Department as he knows his department makes up a large part of the municipal budget. He then distributed copies of the 2016 Annual Report to each member of Council and indicated the Report is posted on the Township website under the Police Department.

Chief Ubry advised that the Lawrence Township Police Department is made up of bureaus and divisions as well as the Office of Emergency Management and EMS. They have (58) fifty eight fully trained police officers - (53) fifty-three males, (5) five females, (1) one African American, (1) one Native American - three speak fluent

Spanish and five speak fluent Polish. As for civilians, they have two full-time Clerks in Records Bureau; one being a Supervisor, one part-time Clerk for the Investigation Division and Secretary for Police Administration. They also have one Armed Court Attendant, (18) eighteen School Crossing Guards and two fill-in designated post and two substitute cars to fill for absences. Budget request is for a Records Support Technician for the police property room which will allow one of Property and Evidence Officer to return to patrol and bring the manpower level back to six patrol officers per shift and a level it was in 2013 and proceeded to review the primary duties relative to the position.

Jack Oakley, Emergency Management Coordinator, oversees EMS, Career Fire Division and acts as a liaison with the volunteer fire companies. The Career Division employs four career firefighters; one Fire Lieutenant and three Firefighters and a staff of hourly per diems who are used to fill their absences. In 2016, the Career Fire Division answered 535 emergency assignments which is a 13-percent increase over 2015 where they answered 474 calls which Council can review in the report. The Career Fire Division has no budget request for 2017.

EMS has one Emergency Medical Technical Supervisor and (8) eight EMT's and a staff of hourly per diem EMT's to fill their absences. In 2016, they answered 3,319 calls which is a slight increase over the 3,236 call in 2015 and collected over \$746,000 for services render in 2016. He then presented their 2017 budget request for \$28,000 to purchase two mechanical chest compression systems; replacement of two unserviceable automatic automated external defibrillators and the purchase of a stretcher and stairpo for one of the three ambulances and a mobile radio for another ambulance. The equipment is needed to maintain efficiency and high safety standards.

Chief Ubry stated that the Police Department had an 11 percent increase in calls for service last year 34,916 for 2016 compared to the 31,326 in 2015. Despite the increase the crime rate remained low, only increased by four over the prior year and in the last five years the crime rate has gone down by 34-percent so their crime reductions strategy is working and Lawrence Township is a safer place to live because of the proactive policing strategies and commitment of the police officers. In 2016, police officers seized over 260 vehicles and over \$99,000 in cash - \$92,000 of funds received from forfeiture and the administrative fees were utilized by the police department to purchase police vehicles and equipment, weapons and accessories, law enforcement accreditation and Leads on Line (an on-line investigation system). All purchases were made without any cost to the Lawrence taxpayers.

Chief Ubry provided an overview of the crime statistics, calls for service statistics, low use of police force, the reduction in burglaries/motor vehicle thefts (lowest in 30 years), 108% increase in traffic enforcement of commercial and passenger vehicles, 39% increase in speeding summonses, vehicle impoundment data, increase in towed vehicles, increase in Opioid addiction/deaths and the police utilization of Narcan (7) seven times last year to revive patients, the Project Medicine Drop Program and the increase in collection since the program was implemented three years ago, iXP

Corporation for dispatch services answering 12,694 - 911 calls in addition to transferring fire calls to Central Dispatch and doing a great job, increase in traffic crashes/accidents, decrease in reported crimes at the mall, police personnel and their job duties, equipment needs relative to their day-to-day departmental operations. He then presented his 2017 Budget request to update outdated equipment, update technology and the replacement some of the police vehicles over 100,000 miles.

Chief Ubry stated that the goals set by the Police Department for 2016 was to engage the Community which he feels they met and proceeded to discuss the following events: The Community Egg Hunt that was held in March at Central Park, the Youth Police Academy that was held in July, National Night Out – “Americas Night Out Against Crime” that was held in August at the Municipal Building and Trunk or Treat which was held at the Lawrence Township High School in October. He also discussed the 1,558 documented citizen and business contacts officers made throughout the year where residents and business owners shared their concerns with the officers which resulted in the officers and public getting to know each other better. The Police Department also wanted to become accredited so they solicited the support of the Mayor and the Municipal Manager and meet with an Assessor who conducted an on-site visit in October and they exceeded the standards. Now, they are awaiting the hearing on March 9th and hopefully they will be awarded their accreditation and indicated how proud he is of the Lieutenant Brian Caloiaro, Accreditation Manager, and all the guys for doing the work on their own without hiring a outside group for \$40,000-\$60,000. He then thanked the Council and opened the floor for questions.

A general comment question and answer period ensued relative to Chief Ubry's presentation.

The Police Chief was congratulated for his Department's exemplary work by the Mayor and Council. They all thanked the Chief and gave closing remarks in relation to what has been accomplished over the past year in serving and protecting the community.

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

Mr. Mike Winka, 227 Cold Soil Road, spoke in support of Resolution 18K which authorized the submission of a grant application to Sustainable Jersey for \$10,000 – 65 percent of grant going to the Township for development and installation of four signs to be placed at the entrance of Community Township Parks, open space across the Township and the additional amount going to the partners – such as Friends of Lawrence Greenway, Sustainable Lawrence, Historic Society, etc. The signs will have details regarding natural resources and sustainability elements of the area as well as historic significance of the specific park and surrounding areas, and the signs will connect with a virtual walkway between the parkways to encourage people to come out and walk. He thanked the Council for their time and support.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that Resolution (18-L) - Authorizing the Sale of 301 Talon Court to Radouan Abderrahim and Resolution (18-M) – Authorizing Sale of 1319 Colts Circle to Martha Cusick, be added to agenda, and Resolution (8-F) – Closed Session, be amended to include personnel matter regarding the Municipal Manager position.

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award or rejection of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO 1845-05 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2256 -17

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 1845-05 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1:

a. Section 3 (a) of Bond Ordinance No. 1845-05, finally adopted on May 3, 2005, be and is hereby amended to add the following purpose:

Pavement and road repairs: "...Lawrence Station Road..."

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Ordinance 2256-17 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

Manager's Report –

Mr. Krawczun submitted invoice listings for the month of February 2017 in the amount of \$1,374,655.90.

Mr. Krawczun advised that two Capital Ordinances for roadwork that were previously discussed will be brought forward at the next Council Meeting. In reference to Chief Ubry's report regarding an increase in car crashes there is a Resolution on the Agenda this evening to apply for a grant from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for "Distracted Driving 2017 Statewide Crackdown".

Attorney's Report –

There was no Attorney's report.

Clerk's Report –

There was no Clerk's report.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business –

There was no new business.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 109-17 (18-A) through 121-17(18-M) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

There was Liaison reports.

Written Communications –

There was no written communication.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

David C. Maffei, Mayor