

May 14, 2019

A Neighborhood Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury was held on May 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Berkshire Valley Fire House located in Wharton, New Jersey. This meeting was held for the purpose of general discussion with Township residents.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor DeFillippo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: On December 21, 2018, notice was faxed to the Daily Record, the Newark Star Ledger, The Roxbury Register and published in the Daily Record; notice shall also remain posted throughout the year on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL (Present): Councilwoman Jaki Albrecht, Councilman Mark Crowley, Deputy Mayor Fred Hall (7:18 p.m. arrival), Councilman Dan Kline, Councilman Jim Rilee, Councilman Richard Zoschak, Mayor Robert DeFillippo; **Absent:** None

Also Present: John Shepherd, Township Manager; Amy Rhead, Township Clerk

Staff: Richard Blood, Public Works Director

Public: eight (8) members of the public were in attendance

Mayor DeFillippo noted that Deputy Mayor Hall called to advise he was stuck in traffic.

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor DeFillippo welcomed everyone. He noted a few of the exciting things going on within the township, including the new shopping center in Ledgewood and the turf field at Horseshoe Lake.

Introduction of Council Members

Mayor DeFillippo introduced members of the Council.

Introduction of Staff

Manager Shepherd recognized the attendance of Rick Blood, Public Works Director.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Lafayette School – update

Mr. Shepherd advised that the Canal Society of New Jersey has expressed an interest in relocating their headquarters to the old Lafayette School building and has been actively seeking state and county funding sources to assist with the restoration costs. The Township's 2019 budget included a line item to purchase and install a rubber membrane roof to protect the structure in the interim. General discussion occurred with regard to state and national historic registries.

Public Works update – current/upcoming projects

Mr. Blood provided an overview of the following Department of Public Works projects:

- Litter pick-up by volunteers
- Nordic Construction – relocating their construction company from Byram to Dell Avenue
- NJNG – ongoing gas main replacements (arrangement with Roxbury to pave/resurface curb-to-curb when the Township mills the roads where gas mains are being replaced)
- \$1.8M allocated in the 2019 Budget for paving
- 7.3 miles of paving to occur within the Township in 2019

At 7:15PM, Deputy Mayor Hall arrived to the meeting.

Mayor DeFillippo attributed the ability to increase the paving budget to the fiscal discipline of Council over the past several years.

Area News

Councilman Zoschak announced that Mt. Arlington Boulevard has finally been paved.

Mr. Shepherd advised residents that the next phase of the water main project, from Laurie Lane to Succasunna Road, will start after the Memorial Day holiday.

Mr. Shepherd spoke about the memorial in front of the Berkshire Valley Fire House that was damaged when hit by a vehicle. It is expected to be repaired in the near future.

Mr. Blood provided an update on Berkshire Valley Fire House improvements, including the new fire alarm system, roof and doors, which are being funded by County grant monies.

Mayor DeFillippo stated that County grant money also funded the Roxbury Public Library bathroom renovation project.

QUESTIONS – PUBLIC PORTION

Members of the public commented and asked questions. General discussion occurred regarding issues/topics such as:

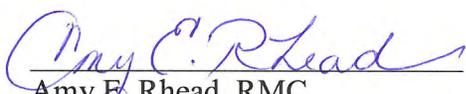
- **Vacant/abandoned buildings** – Mr. Shepherd spoke about the Vacant Property ordinance. He encouraged residents to advise the Planning/Zoning Department or Manager’s Office if there are concerns about any particular property.
- **Abandoned vehicles** – Mr. Shepherd advised residents to contact the Planning/Zoning Department or Manager’s Office about situations so they can be reviewed.
- **Tom’s Diner and other vacant commercial buildings** – Mr. Shepherd spoke about the vacant property registration being an ongoing process. The Township will continue to work towards ensuring every property is in compliance with the ordinance. Councilman Rilee clarified that the ordinance is not a property maintenance code. A resident inquired as to whether Tom’s Diner is a historic site. The diner has not received any official historic designation. Mayor DeFillippo added that it would be wonderful to see the structure restored.
- **Rats/vermin** – General discussion occurred with regard to previous issues within a certain area of town which seem to have been alleviated. Council members and residents discussed the importance of following proper protocol to avoid similar situations in the future.
- **Hercules** – Residents asked about plans and zoning details for the Hercules property. Councilman Rilee advised that there are no current plans for the property and it is still being remediated.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40PM, Councilwoman Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Crowley seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All in Favor – Yes; Motion carried unanimously, 7 to 0.

Submitted by:


 Amy E. Rhead, RMC
 Township Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL:	
DATE:	May 21, 2019
ROLL CALL:	Councilwoman Albrecht - Yes
	Councilman Crowley - Yes
	Deputy Mayor Hall - Yes
	Councilman Kline - Yes
	Councilman Rilee - Yes
	Councilman Zoschak - Yes
	Mayor DeFillippo - Yes