

May 26, 2020

A Regular Meeting was held by the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury on May 26, 2020 at the Municipal Building located at 1715 Route 46 in Ledgewood, New Jersey at 7:30PM; however, the Council Room was closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, the meeting was broadcast via Zoom Pro in order to allow the continuation of routine municipal business and provide the opportunity for public participation during public comment periods.

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 originally given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: On December 27, 2019, 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.

Adequate advance notice of the location of this meeting being changed to remote access was provided within the statutory time frame as follows: On May 22, 2020, notice was emailed and faxed to the Daily Record, the Newark Star Ledger, The Roxbury Register, emailed to TAPinto Roxbury and posted on the Township website.

ROLL CALL (Present): Councilwoman Jaki Albrecht, Councilman Thomas Carey, Councilman Mark Crowley, Deputy Mayor Fred Hall, Councilman Jim Rilee, Councilman Richard Zoschak, Mayor Robert DeFillippo; **Absent:** None

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

Staff: Robert Kuncken, IT Director

Public: more than twenty (20) participants were in attendance remotely

Mayor DeFillippo amended the order of the agenda to provide the following community update with regard to COVID-19:

Community Update
May 26

- Welcome to the fifth Roxbury Township Council meeting in quarantine and conducted remotely. The Township Council and I hope you are all remaining well and safe.
- As most of you know, New Jersey remains under a stay-at-home order imposed by the governor because the number of confirmed cases of the Covid-19 virus continues to relentlessly increase. Although, there are signs new cases of the virus are slowing.
- For Roxbury, that means I must sadly report that the number of confirmed cases has increased to 275. The number of deaths thankfully remains at 12, but which makes the loss of those lives no less tragic. A moment of silence was held.
- The one bright spot is that we have seen several days over the last few weeks -- including today -- where the number of cases did not rise. It isn't a trend yet, but it is encouraging.
- The courageous health care workers and patients at Merry Heart as well as others on the front lines in other long term care facilities continue to need our thoughts and prayers as they battle with COVID-19 -- which seems relentless.
- Our Township Health Department continues to monitor their situation and to offer the Township's assistance
- While it continues to remain unclear how soon the stay-home order will be lifted, I want to once again take a few minutes to highlight how Roxbury's residents are managing through this unprecedented situation.

- Yesterday -- Memorial Day -- our community honored its fallen service members who paid the ultimate price to protect our freedoms and liberties. But it was a stark reminder of the way things have changed because the COVID-19 virus.
- Councilwoman Jaki Albrecht represented the Council yesterday at a brief but important ceremony at our VFW Hall. Only a total of 25 people could attend. That was a far cry from the parade and ceremony usually held in Roxbury. It is a happy occasion -- the beginning of summer. Our neighbors line Main Street and Hillside Ave. as our high school band, fire departments, EMS crews, little league and soccer teams march to Horse Shoe Lake.
- While we were forced to cancel that parade and ceremony, Councilwoman Albrecht reports that Monday's ceremony was solemn and respectful. Even the pandemic did not prevent us from honoring our fallen service members and those that protect us today.
- More on that ceremony later.
- As a reminder now is not the time to relax the social distancing precautions that have helped us to slow the spread of the virus and to flatten the curve. We urge everyone to please continue to adhere to all the social distancing guidelines.
- Now let me turn to the Township's plans concerning the reopening of certain businesses and township services.
- As you know, the Governor's executive order closed most businesses throughout the state. I'm happy to report some of those businesses and other activities are being slowly reopened. The following items are now or will be open shortly:
 - As of May 20, Township tennis courts were reopened.
 - As of May 18, non-essential retail stores were cleared for curbside pick-up. Orders must be placed in advance via the internet or telephone.
 - As of May 18, non-essential construction could resume.
 - As of May 17, charter boats and watercraft rental businesses reopened.
 - As of May 22, archery ranges, batting cages, golf driving ranges, horse riding, shooting ranges and tennis clubs.
 - As of May 22, groups of 25 may assemble outside while maintaining social distancing measures. Public and private campgrounds are now permitted to be open.
- In terms of reopening businesses and other activities, Roxbury Township follows the directives of the Governor and State -- which, of course, is required. We continue to encourage the safe reopening of the business community at the earliest possible opportunity.
- As a reminder, the state previously allowed the following business sectors to reopen: golf courses; State and county parks; personal care services for relatives and close friends; pet groomers and boarding; and stores that sell religious articles.
- This is not meant to be a comprehensive list, which is extensive and complicated.
- The Roxbury Police Department and Health Department keep abreast of the permitted business openings to ensure the smooth reopening of these business sectors.
- These activities must be performed in compliance with personal distancing rules and requirements. As much as we all want to see things reopen and the local economy to return to the strong position it was in prior to Covid-19, we must remember to remain vigilant and continue to practice social distancing.
- Like our other actions, the Council is making these decisions on an incremental basis -- meaning, we look at everything on a case-by-case basis and make decisions and changes as they become necessary based on facts, guidance, and the best information available. Public safety is always our chief concern.
- As we have said in the past, please visit the Township's website for up-to-date information about the virus and quarantine.
- Once again, Township staff continues to respond to residents' questions and to keep our essential services running -- either remotely or by reporting each day to their jobs. They are available to answer resident questions by phone or by email. Please visit the township's website for a complete staff directory.

- Township Manager John Shepherd and I continued our discussions with community groups, including the Interfaith Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Both groups are anxious to reopen and to once again serve our community. We have offered the township's assistance.
- John Shepherd and I are happy to meet with any group. Please reach out to us.
- One of the most important contributions residents can make continues to be helping our most vulnerable citizens by supporting our Social Services Department.
- Social Services has always been there to help our families in need. They continue to do so and they continue to need our help. A current list of their needs is posted on our website.
- As a reminder, Social Services is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Now, I'd like to address a resolution that we have on our agenda tonight that's directly related to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Resolution 2020-135 calls on the State of New Jersey to treat its smaller counties fairly in providing financial assistance.
- The resolution notes that \$3.44 billion has been allocated to the State of New Jersey from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, established by the CARES Act, which was signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020.
- The fund provides a direct payment to the State of New Jersey, as well as provided over one billion dollars of direct payments to New Jersey counties with populations greater than 500,000 individuals.
- Morris County, with a population that is just 1.6% below the threshold of 500,000, is not expected to receive a direct payment from the federal government, and thus will have to rely solely on a share of the state's allotment.
- Elected officials representing Morris County including our Freeholders, Congresswoman Sherrill, Senator Codey, and Senator Bucco have expressed this inequity to the State of New Jersey.
- Tonight, the Mayor and Township Council add our voices to those who have strongly urged the State of New Jersey to provide direct stabilization funding to Morris County from the Coronavirus Relief Fund in an amount consistent with the allocation made to counties that have populations slightly over 500,000, by utilizing the formula applied through the CARES Act. This funding is critical to Morris County's ability to continue its efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and work to keep our constituents safe.
- In addition, this resolution urges the federal government to adopt an aid funding threshold reflecting the true impact of COVID-19 for all future allocations, based on metrics indicative of the negative effects the virus has had on jurisdiction and the level of actions taken to combat the threats.
- As just one example of the enormous cost incurred by Morris County, the county built and staffed a huge testing center at the County College of Morris without any assistance from the state or federal government.
- Without this assistance, Morris County will likely suffer serious financial shortfalls, which impacts its ability to provide services on which we all rely.
- Finally, thanks to the efforts of Councilman Rich Zoschak, Eagle Scout Derek Dougherty is with us tonight to play taps. My understanding is that Derek is working to earn his bugling merit badge by playing taps once a week for three months.
- On Monday, Derek played taps at the small ceremony at the VFW. By all accounts it was moving. I want to thank Derek for playing taps and adding to that solemn ceremony. And, as I usually do, I want to thank Derek's parents because young men like Derek do not just happen. *(NOTE: The playing of Taps by Eagle Scout Derek Dougherty needed to be held until later in the meeting upon establishing a successful connection to the remote session).*
- On behalf of myself, the Township Council and township staff, I urge everyone to remain strong, be safe and God Bless.

Mayor DeFillippo returned to the order of the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, ETC.

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 15, 2019 - Budget Meeting
- February 05, 2019 - Budget Meeting
- February 19, 2019 - Budget Meeting
- March 05, 2019 - Budget Meeting

Councilman Zoschak made a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Councilman Carey seconded the motion.

	01/15/19	02/05/19	02/19/19	03/05/19
ROLL CALL:	<u>Budget Mtg.</u>	<u>Budget Mtg.</u>	<u>Budget Mtg.</u>	<u>Budget Mtg.</u>
Councilwoman Albrecht	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Councilman Carey	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
Councilman Crowley	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Deputy Mayor Hall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Councilman Rilee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Councilman Zoschak	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mayor DeFillippo	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Yes</u>
MOTION CARRIED:	6 to 0 w/1 abstention	6 to 0 w/1 abstention	4 to 0 w/3 abstentions	6 to 0 w/1 abstention

PUBLIC PORTION *(3 Minutes /1 Appearance per Individual)*

Dennis Wine, 4 Holly Drive, Succasunna – Mr. Wine asked about the purchase of surveillance cameras (Resolution No. 2019-144), storage capabilities and retention periods associated with the recordings. Mr. Shepherd responded by confirming the equipment is state of the art with cloud based storage.

Margaret Corsi, 4 Phyllis Drive, Succasunna – Ms. Corsi asked about the sidewalk repair project planned for Eyland Woods. Mr. Shepherd will follow up with the Public Works Department and report back to Ms. Corsi with additional information.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor DeFillippo closed the Public Portion.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES, COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND NEW BUSINESS / OLD BUSINESS

A. Reports of Council Liaison Representatives and Council Committees

Councilwoman Albrecht welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. She reported on the Memorial Day Ceremony and thanked Christine Houtz for organizing the event.

Councilman Crowley reported on topics discussed at the recent meeting of the Lake Hopatcong Commission. He informed Council that the Commission had not received the \$500,000 funding as expected due to State budget shortfalls associated with the closure of the Motor Vehicle Commission. Additionally, the State’s budget deadline extension means that a funding formula will not be available until after the boating season. Councilman Crowley also reported that the NJDEP implemented a new color-coded system to notify the public of Lake Hopatcong water quality on a daily basis. Councilman Crowley suggested adding a link to the Township’s website explaining the new color-coded system. Mr. Bucco provided further explanation regarding Motor Vehicle Commission closures causing dramatic decreases in the collection of boat licensing fees, which are relied upon as a significant component of the state’s contribution to the Lake Hopatcong Commission. Due to the lack of funding, weed harvesting has been put on hold. Mr. Bucco said he will continue to monitor the situation. He also expressed optimism regarding the NJDEP’s color-coded notification system. Mayor DeFillippo added that the NJDEP has agreed not to post signage on state highways regarding park closures without contacting the affected municipalities first. Additional general discussion occurred regarding the NJDEP’s hiring plans for the summer season.

Deputy Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Bucco for Resolution No. 2020-135 which supports reversing the funding inequities placed on Morris County by the State.

Councilman Rilee thanked veterans and active service members in honor of Memorial Day.

Councilman Rilee announced the Affordable Housing matter has been pushed back to late June.

Councilman Zoschak mentioned that he has received numerous inquiries regarding the Senior Property Tax Rebates.

Councilman Zoschak said he has received positive feedback regarding the installation of natural gas lines in Landing.

Councilman Zoschak shared his appreciation to the veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the country safe.

Mr. Bucco reported that the State budget has been frozen due to the projected shortfall caused by the pandemic. He is unsure how that will affect the Senior Property Tax Rebates, but assured everyone he will be watching the process closely.

Councilman Carey asked that residents get advanced notice prior to the start of paving projects.

Mrs. Rhead provided an update on the July 7th Primary Election by informing Council that there will be one consolidated physical location for in-person voting, but the majority of the election will be held via mail-in ballots.

Mr. Shepherd had nothing further to report at this time.

Mr. Bucco commented that the Township is running exceptionally well under the unprecedented circumstances.

B. New Business/Old Business

None

MATTERS REQUESTED / REFERRED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS, MANAGER, ATTORNEY OR CLERK

None

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

None

HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

None

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

2020-134 A RESOLUTION INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE HEREIN AND APPROVING THE FOLLOWING NUMBERED RESOLUTIONS LISTED ON THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA FOR THIS DATE:

- 2020-135, 2020-136, 2020-137, 2020-138, 2020-139,
- 2020-140, 2020-141, 2020-142, 2020-143, 2020-144,
- 2020-145, 2020-146, 2020-147, 2020-148

Councilman Rilee made a motion to approve the adoption of Incorporating Resolution No. 2020-134. Councilman Zoschak seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Councilwoman Albrecht	- Yes	Councilman Carey	- Yes
	Councilman Crowley	- Yes	Deputy Mayor Hall	- Yes
	Councilman Rilee	- Yes	Councilman Zoschak	- Yes
	Mayor DeFillippo	- Yes		

Motion carried unanimously, 7 to 0.

2020-135 A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE DIRECT STABILIZATION FUNDING TO MORRIS COUNTY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

2020-136 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF VARIOUS SPRING 2020 RECREATION PROGRAM FEES WHICH HAVE BEEN CANCELED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2020-137 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A CASH PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE SUBMITTED BY ANTONIO SANCHEZ TO GUARANTEE THE COMPLETION OF SOIL MOVING OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SOIL MOVING PERMIT FOR BLOCK 9603, LOT 8.01, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 5 CRYSTAL COURT, LEDGEWOOD, ROXBURY TOWNSHIP

2020-138 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO CONSERVATION ADVISING SERVICES, LLC FOR OPEN SPACE ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR

Councilman Rilee asked if the above-referenced award for professional services resulted from an Open Space Advisory Committee recommendation. Mr. Shepherd and Councilman Crowley confirmed that the Open Space Advisory Committee selected Conservation Advising Services, LLC after interviewing several different firms.

2020-139 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO HOFFMAN SERVICES, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 15,000LB LIFT FOR USE IN THE EQUIPMENT AND REPAIR DEPARTMENT

2020-140 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO STRYKER FOR THE PURCHASE OF A POWER PRO XT STRETCHER FOR FIRST AID COMPANY NO. 1.

2020-141 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO TONY SANCHEZ, LTD FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A UTILITY BODY AND PLOW

2020-142 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO FIRE FIGHTER ONE TO PURCHASE THREE (3) SETS OF TURNOUT GEAR FOR USE BY THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

2020-143 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO TILCON NEW YORK INCORPORATED FOR THE MILLING AND PAVING AT THE AJAX TERRACE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

2020-144 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO MONARCH TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF VERKADA SECURITY CAMERA DEVICES AND MOUNTING HARDWARE – PHASE 1

2020-145 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO SHI INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION FOR THE WIRING AND INSTALLATION OF SECURITY CAMERAS TOWN WIDE – PHASE 1

2020-146 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE WATER ALLOCATION PERMIT APPROVED BY RESOLUTION NO. 08-186 AND PREVIOUSLY EXTENDED BY RESOLUTION NO. 11-74, 11-326, 2012-168, 2012-334, 2013-143, 2013-340, 2014-169, 2014-323, 2015-146, 2015-350, 2016-135, 2016-328, 2017-117, 2017-330, 2018-182, 2018-325, 2019-161, AND 2019-373 FOR THE FLEXIBLE OFFICE BUILDING LOCATED ON ROUTE 46, LEDGEWOOD, BLOCK 9603 LOTS 3 AND 4

2020-147 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF TAXES

2020-148 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS

PERSONNEL CHANGES

None

COMMUNICATIONS

May 22, 2020

No comments or discussion.

PUBLIC PORTION *(3 Minutes /1 Appearance per Individual)*

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Mayor DeFillippo amended the order of the agenda for the following:

Mayor DeFillippo welcomed Boy Scout Derek Dougherty to the remote meeting. Derek played TAPS on his trumpet as a tribute to veterans and members of the military.

Mayor DeFillippo returned to the order of the agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2020-149 NOT USED – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROXBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CONFERENCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:13PM, Councilman Rilee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Carey 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: June 23, 2020

- ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Albrecht - Yes
- Councilman Carey - Yes
- Councilman Crowley - Yes
- Deputy Mayor Hall - Yes
- Councilman Rilee - Yes
- Councilman Zoschak - Yes
- Mayor DeFillippo - Yes