

**TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE
ESSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY**

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

Mayor Vargo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and made the required announcement concerning the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Adequate notice of this meeting was duly provided to the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building's lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Semeraro, Township Clerk Stutz

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Staff Meeting – June 17, 2019

Councilman Cicala moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Deputy Mayor Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Cicala, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Maceri

b) Executive Session – June 17, 2019

Councilman Cicala moved approval and release of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Tanella, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Cicala, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Maceri

c) Executive Session – July 15, 2019 - Interview

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

d) Executive Session – August 12, 2019 - Interview

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Deputy Mayor Vargo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Peterson

3. **TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Township Manager provided a draft resolution to designate the Township as “stigma-free”. There was consensus to put the resolution on the 10/7 agenda. The Manager requested authorization to purchase signs and suggested that an informational session be held to explain the designation to which the governing body agreed. Mr. Tucci noted a block party request for Brookshire Drive, to which the governing body agreed. The Manager noted the Fire Dept. annual paper-shredding fundraiser event on 9/28 and Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on 10/17 at Panther Park. The Manager provided an update on the status of refurbishment of Panther Park softball field and installation of batting cage. Mr. Tucci also provided an update on the Fearon memorial dedication scheduled for 9/25 at 6:30 p.m. at Panther Park.
4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Semeraro stated that research is still ongoing concerning dedication of recently acquired reservoir property as open space. Attorney Semeraro stated that he had consulted with COAH counsel regarding the matter. Attorney Semeraro anticipated having more information for the governing body by next meeting.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – No report

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Cicala – No report

Councilman Maceri request an update on status of LRP athletic field. The Manager advised that final plans are expected next week, preliminary grading to commence early November with completion in Spring 2020 (March/April).

The Manager addressed Councilman Tanella’s inquiry regarding review of field plans by governing body.

Mayor Vargo noted the upcoming Downtown Advisory Committee sponsored event, Oktoberfest, scheduled for 10/19 from 4-8 pm at LRP. Mayor Vargo provided additional details of the 9/25 Fearon memorial dedication. Mayor Vargo requested an update on status of Rt. 23 paving. The Manager stated that according to the NJDOT Deputy Commissioner, Bloomfield Ave. – Ridge Rd. is scheduled to commence in November, Ridge Rd. – Main St. in Little Falls to commence March/April 2020. Following further discussion concerning ongoing Rt. 23 utility work and impact on local businesses, the Township Manager explained difficulty of providing advance notification to residents/businesses of utility/construction work on Rt. 23.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning appointment of Downtown Advisory Committee member

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that Alex Conte be appointed as a member of the Downtown Advisory Committee to fill an unexpired term, effective immediately and terminating December 31, 2020.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Vargo

- b) To consider resolution concerning purchase from Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove utilizes the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Contract #47 for water meters, data recorders and radio frequency meter interface units; and

WHEREAS, the contract amount for water meters, data recorders and radio frequency meter interface units will not exceed \$44,710.00; and

WHEREAS, the funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract through Bond Ordinance No. 19-843.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove authorizes the Township of Cedar Grove to purchase from the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Contract #47 for water meters, data recorders and radio frequency meter interface units from RIO Supply Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$44,710.00.

Councilman Tanella moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

- c) To consider resolution concerning insertion of special item of revenue – Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2019 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2019 in the sum of \$5,734.96, which is now available as a revenue from the Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund, which is administered by the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, pursuant to the provision of statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$5,734.96 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund \$5,734.96

Deputy Mayor Peterson moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

- d) To consider resolution concerning purchase of sport utility vehicles through State Contract

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove has availed itself of the right to purchase Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) entered into on behalf of the State of New Jersey by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of Treasury pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable from time to time to purchase Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) under contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the said Division without the necessity of advertising for bids, or in cases where no bids have been received; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to purchase Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) under such contracts enter into on behalf of the State of New Jersey by said Division during the year 2019;

WHEREAS, funds for the purchase of the Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) are available in the Bond Ordinance #19-841.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the purchase of the Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) be awarded to Winner Ford, through State Contract No. A88728.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Tanella, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

- e) To consider resolution concerning hold harmless agreement with Essex County for Mid-Block Improvements

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

**HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH ESSEX COUNTY FOR INSTALLATION OF
PEDESTRIAN MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove to install a pedestrian mid-block crosswalk at the frontage of Panther Park located within the Essex County right-of-way of Bradford Avenue based upon the recommendations of the Township Police Department:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests permission from the County of Essex to install a pedestrian actuated mid-block crosswalk at the above location; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the Township of Cedar Grove will accept the responsibility for installation and maintenance of the mid-block crosswalk and will hold Essex County harmless of any claims and litigation from any types of incidences related to said mid-block crosswalk within the County right-of-way.

Councilman Cicala moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

- f) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for profession services – Trail Improvements

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, The Township has a need for professional engineering design services for Clearing & Improvements to Existing Trails on Township Watershed Property project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertising duly made for a fair and open contract in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et. seq., proposals were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on July 17, 2019 as follows; and

<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
CP Engineers, LLC	\$ 21,750.00

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer has recommended that a contract for the above referenced professional services be awarded to CP Engineers, LLC; and

WHEREAS, funds are now available for this purpose in Acct. No. 6063.219.03.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with CP Engineers, LLC of Sparta, NJ, for an amount not to exceed \$21,750.00 in accordance with the proposal dated .
2. This agreement is awarded as a “Professional Service” in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because of the technical of the professional services required for this project; and
3. A notice of this agreement shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as required by law.

Deputy Mayor Peterson moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Bill Resolution was read by title and amount as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the attached summary of bills having been duly audited and found correct be and they are thereby ordered paid and that warrants be drawn on the Treasurer in the aggregate amount of \$ 401,287.60.

Councilman Cicala moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Vargo opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard.

Charles Dovico; 111 Holly Lane – Mr. Dovico commented that his inquiry at previous meeting was promptly addressed by the Township Manager the following day. Mr. Dovico also thanked the Manager for addressing the VFW property maintenance issue.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Vargo closed this portion of the meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by acclaim.