

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

**COUNCIL STAFF MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

**1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR**

Mayor Tanella 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 Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella  
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Attorney Nabbi for Township Attorney Giacobbe,  
Township Clerk Stutz  
Absent: Councilwoman Peterson

**2. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS**

a) Receive Members of CG Ambulance & Rescue Squad

Jaselin Rodriquez, 45 Stonybrook, West Caldwell, Vice President, Crew Chief and EMT for the CGARS provided background information and chronology that led to the organization's temporary stoppage of service in 2020 and subsequent resumption of services 2021 as secondary/auxiliary ambulance responder. Ms. Rodriquez requested that the CGARS serve as the primary ambulance responder Monday through Friday from 6:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. Ms. Rodriquez detailed efforts made by CGARS to increase membership. Ms. Rodriquez explained that the current secondary designation jeopardizes the organization's ability to continue to recruit and retain members. Additionally, Ms. Rodriquez requested than an elected member of the Township Council serve as a liaison to the CGARS.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) Executive Session – June 7, 2021

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

AYE: Councilman Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Skabich

b) Staff Meeting – June 21, 2021

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

AYE: Councilman Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson  
ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Skabich

c) Executive Session – June 21, 2021

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

AYE: Councilman Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson  
ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Skabich

d) Executive Session – June 21, 2021

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

AYE: Councilman Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson  
ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Skabich

e) Executive Session – July 12, 2021

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

AYE: Councilman Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson  
ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Skabich

f) Executive Session – September 13, 2021

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

AYE: Councilman Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson  
ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Skabich

**4. TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Manager cited the following efforts to address flooding concerns from Storm Ida on September 1:

- September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. representatives from FEMA and NJDEP will walk the recent flood hot spots within the Township to determine potential remediation options
- September 29<sup>th</sup> PVSC scheduled to return to clean storm debris from Peckman River
- Municipal Engineer working with County to attend to County-owned culverts within Township

5. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Nabbi provided a draft resolution regarding 36 Cliffside Drive property for consideration at the October 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting, to which the governing body agreed.

6. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – No report

## 7. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Skabich – No report

Councilman Zichelli – Councilman Zichelli provided the dates of the Historical Society's annual apple and pumpkin sale. Councilman Zichelli also noted the South End Fire Co. #3 Open House event scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Maceri – Deputy Mayor Maceri reported that he attended the Elks Club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event and presented a proclamation on behalf of the Council. Deputy Mayor Maceri also noted that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Deputy Mayor Maceri requested status of use of the multi-purpose turf field on LRP school property. The Manager explained that the Board of Education must authorize execution of the agreement. The Manager also noted that a certificate of completion from the architect is required to facilitate use of the field.

Mayor Tanella commented that Senator Corrado was invited to visit the W. Lindsley Road area regarding water run-off issues. Mayor Tanella requested an executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning purchase through Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Contract #6 for road resurfacing

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 #6 for road resurfacing; and

**WHEREAS**, the contract amount for road resurfacing will not exceed \$242,324.20; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract through Bond Ordinance No. 21-872.

**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 #6 for road resurfacing from Schifano Construction, Corp. for an amount not to exceed \$242,324.20.

Councilman Zichelli moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Skabich, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

## **9. 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 \$ 652,861.74.

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

AYE: Councilmember Scabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Tanella opened this portion of the meeting to any one wishing to be heard.

Pat Clough; 143 Little Falls Rd. – Mr. Clough stated that he experienced significant flood damage resulting from Storm Ida. Mr. Clough advised that FEMA insurance costs have increased 10 times the rate. Mr. Clough requested consideration of reduction in real estate taxes for property owners affected by recurring flood damage.

Spencer Sujjaporamest; 201 Little Falls Rd. – Mr. Sujjaporamest described his recent flood experience. Mr. Sujjaporamest suggested that there are preventative measures that could be taken to minimize flooding condition. Mr. Sujjaporamest stated that he is seeking both short-term and long-term flood solutions and stated that he has initiated a petition to that effect.

P.J. Candido; 326 Ridge Rd. – Mr. Candido commented that his residence was devastated by flooding from the recent storm. Mr. Candido that he is disappointed with the Township's lack of response for remediation and offered solutions such as dredging the brook, more and larger storm drain openings on Ridge Rd.

Dan Dwyer; 187 Little Falls Rd. – Mr. Dwyer stated that the recent flooding is a health and safety issue that warrants immediate attention. Mr. Dwyer contended that "simple maintenance" of Peckman River and storm sewers will resolve flood issues.

Frank Turner; 201 Little Falls Rd. – commented that his observance of work being conducted in Peckman River in Little Falls is a source of frustration that the same efforts have not been observed in Cedar Grove.

Pat Clough; 143 Little Falls Rd. – Mr. Clough suggested that the governing body exercise its political power to resolve the flood issues.

Mike Verga; 181 Little Falls Rd. – Mr. Verga raised a question regarding the relationship of the reservoir level to the Peckman River, which was addressed by the Township Manager.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella closed this portion of the meeting. Mayor Tanella requested an executive session regarding potential litigation.

#### AUTHORIZATION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings' Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-12 (b) (1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a Meeting of the Mayor and Council in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove are of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of any action on the Executive Session of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council of September 27, 2021.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is personnel and potential litigation.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public as soon thereafter as it is deemed in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

AYE: Councilmember Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by acclaim.