

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

**COUNCIL STAFF MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 19, 2018
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 7:00 P.M. SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

Mayor Cicala called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 Kumburis, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Zielinski, Township Clerk Stutz
Absent: Councilwoman Peterson

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Executive Session – October 15, 2018 - Interview

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

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Tanella, Mayor Cicala

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Vargo

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

b) Staff Meeting – October 15, 2018

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

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Tanella, Mayor Cicala

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Vargo

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

c) Executive Session – October 15, 2018

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

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Tanella, Mayor Cicala

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Vargo

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

d) Executive Session – November 5, 2018 – Interview

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

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Tanella

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

e) Executive Session – November 5, 2018

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

- 3. TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Township Manager detailed the recent storm event and the Township’s response. Mr. Tucci stated that the Township DPW provided snow removal services on both Route 23 (State highway) and County roads in addition to municipal roadways. The Manager reported that the Police received a record number of calls for assistance from motorists. Mr. Tucci commended the efforts of the both DPW employees and Police Department. Following discussion, Mayor Cicala read the following memo from Police Chief concerning the storm:

“In regards to the Thursday November 15th 2018 severe weather event. The following information is based on the 8 hour time frame of the storm which I consider to be November 15th 2:30 PM through 10:30 PM. This was an unprecedented major traffic event. The police department responded to a documented 46 calls for service. The reality is however, that do to the high volume of calls that were many were not entered into the department’s computed aided dispatch system, C.A.D. There were 10 police investigative reports written. The majority being motor vehicle crashes. The Fire Dept. responded to assist Montclair for a structure fire.

Route 23 and the County Roadways were gridlocked or bogged down to a crawl a majority of time due to numerous vehicles being stuck in the roadway. There were 3 abandoned vehicles towed and numerous other pushed out by police. It cannot overstated, the job that Cedar Grove Public Works Department Employees did. They were invaluable. Because of the numbers of vehicle in the roadway stuck or otherwise there was no County or State snow removal in Cedar Grove. Cedar Grove Public Works plows were responsible, albeit a crawl, for any traffic movement within the township.

The on duty police shift was adequately staffed, however due to the traffic situation the oncoming night shift was unable to get into work until midnight. The day shift was held over along with Lt. O’Toole and myself. I would like to note that the majority of the held over officers did so for compensatory time. A direct reflection of the dedication and commitment of the men and women of the department. I would like to commend the public works for their invaluable service during the storm. All working seamlessly together. If you have any question or need additional information please contact me at any time.”

The Manager provided the Finance Director's recommendations for two water/sewer adjustment requests, to which the governing body concurred. Mr. Tucci explained and reviewed the Best Practices Inventory Checklist prepared by the Finance Director. Mr. Tucci reported that the Township attained the necessary score to qualify for receipt of 100% of its CMPTRA and ETR aid, scoring 54 of 61 affirmative responses.

4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – The Township Attorney provided a memo confirming the Municipal Engineer's recommendation for award of snow removal bid to Sanzari.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk noted the annual Tree Lighting ceremony scheduled for December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. The Clerk provided the Elk's Club request for waiver of annual amusement device permit fee, to which the governing body concurred. The clerk noted a request from Simon Wiesenthal Center to consider a resolution to condemn efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction (BDS) the Israeli government and people. Following a brief discussion, there was consensus that the Township Attorney review the proposed resolution.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

At Councilman Tanella's request, the Township Manager provided an update on the status of South End Fire House demolition. Mr. Tucci advised that lack of a road opening permit from NJDOT has caused delay of demolition. Mr. Tucci further advised that he has contacted Sen. Corrado for assistance to expedite issuance of the permit. The Manager also addressed Councilman Tanella's inquiry regarding anticipated start and completion of athletic field on Board of Education property. Councilman Tanella commented on the deteriorated condition of tennis courts and inquired the possibility of refurbishing prior to spring season. Following further discussion, there was consensus to expedite bonding to facilitate rehabilitation of the courts as soon as possible. Councilman Tanella reported that the Affordable Housing sub-committee plans to meet with Sen. Corrado as a follow-up to the October 29th town hall meeting.

Deputy Mayor Vargo announced a holiday show performance by CG high school alumnus Jelani Remy at the high school on December 17th the benefit Music Matters organization. Deputy Mayor Vargo requested an update on completion of Pompton Avenue reconstruction. The Manager advised that DOT informed him that it cannot provide a definitive date until March or April. Deputy Mayor Vargo suggested removal of No Parking signs in downtown business area. The Manager stated that request should be forwarded to the Traffic Safety Officer. Deputy Mayor Vargo requested clarification of the status of the mid-block crosswalk on West Bradford Avenue. The Manager advised that the County is not a proponent of mid-block crosswalks, but has agreed to review design plans from the Township. Mr. Tucci stated that the governing body agreed at the 11/5 public meeting to proceed with design services for the mid-block crosswalk.

Mayor Cicala commented on the commencement of construction of Hilltop development. There was discussion concerning resident priority, particularly pertaining to affordable housing units. The Manager explained that the Township has no role in the affordable housing selection process. Mayor Cicala raised Community Park athletic field concerns. The Manager advised that the Recreation Director is currently seeking proposals for re-design. Mayor Cicala requested to re-

schedule the time of the December 3rd public meeting to 5:00 p.m., to which the governing body concurred, subject to further consultation between the Township Attorney and Township Clerk concerning legal notice requirements.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning 2018 Best Practices Inventory

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

WHEREAS, the State's Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations Act (P.L.2016, c.10) requires a Best Practices Inventory be completed by each municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has completed and submitted the Best Practices Inventory to the Township Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has provided a copy of said inventory to the Township Council; and

WHEREAS, the required certifications have been made and the inventory has been submitted to the Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has reviewed and discussed the results of the inventory with the Township Council during its regular public meeting of November 19, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council that the Best Practices Inventory has been reviewed by the Township Council.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

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

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 \$39,425.00; and

WHEREAS, the funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract through Bond Ordinance No. 18-828.

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 \$39,425.00.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

c) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for engineering design services

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 the Reconstruction of Harper Terrace 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 October 11, 2018 as follows; and

<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Keller & Kirkpatrick	\$16,300.00
Engineering & Land Planning	\$16,740.00
LSEA Corp.	\$19,571.20
Christopher P. Statile, P.A.	\$24,300.00
Neglia Engineering Associates	\$25,950.00

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer has recommended that a contract for the above referenced professional services be awarded to Keller & Kirkpatrick; and

WHEREAS, funds are now available for this purpose in the 2018 Municipal Budget – Capital Improvements – Improvements to Harper Terrace..

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 Keller & Kirkpatrick of Morris Plains, NJ, for an amount not to exceed \$16,300.00 in accordance with the proposal dated October 11, 2018.
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 Vargo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Tanella, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

- d) To consider resolution concerning 2018 Fire Dept. stipends

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that:

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove shall establish the following 2018 fee schedule for stipends and mileage allowance for volunteer firemen of the Township of Cedar Grove:

Fire Chief	\$1,648.00
Deputy Fire Chief	\$1,030.00
Fire Captains	\$ 515.00
Fire Lieutenants	\$ 387.00
Fire Chiefs Secretary	\$ 927.00
Fire Prevention Bureau Dir.	\$ 721.00
Fire Inspector	\$ 309.00
Fire Prev. Bureau Secretary	\$ 309.00
Fire Dept. Secretary	\$ 181.00
Fire Relief Secretary	\$ 387.00
NFIR Secretary	\$ 412.00
Public Relations Info Officer	\$ 309.00
Clothing Allowance	\$ 898.00
Fire Prevention Bureau Mileage	\$ 98.00
IT Support	\$ 226.00
Respirator Protection Officer	\$ 309.00
Drivers/SCBA	\$ 156.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that 2018 fee schedule for stipends and mileage allowance for Volunteer Firemen be hereby established.

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

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala
NO: None
ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

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 \$ 2,666,633.55.

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

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala
NO: None
ABSENT: Councilwoman Peterson

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Joe Russomanno; 36 Bortic Rd. – Mr. Russomanno commended DPW employees for efforts during recent weather event and leaf removal.

Charles Dovico; 111 Holly Lane – Mr. Dovico raised concern regarding traffic signal activation coordination and delayed completion of Route 23 reconstruction. Mr. Dovico suggested that the Township put the State on notice that delay poses a hazardous condition, particularly at Pompton/Bradford Ave. intersection. Mr. Dovico further commented that the State and County should reimburse the Township for provided snow removal services on State and County roadways.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by acclaim.