

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

**SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 17, 2018**

**1. ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Cicala called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Kumburis, Peterson, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala  
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Zielinski, Township Clerk Stutz  
Absent: Councilman Tanella

The flag salute was led by Mayor Cicala.

Mayor Cicala 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 by fax and on November 6, 2018, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building Lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING**

- a) To consider adoption of Pending Ord. #18-83, Police Salaries, Grades, Wages and Fees for Fiscal Years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022

The ordinance was read by title only:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARY GRADES AND WAGES AND FEES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE CEDAR GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, FISCAL YEAR 2020, FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND FISCAL YEAR 2022.

Mayor Cicala opened the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on this item only. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Cicala closed this portion of the meeting.

Councilman Kumburis moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Mayor Cicala

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Vargo

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

- b) 2019 Community Development Block Grant

The Township Manager provided an overview of the CDBG program which provides funding for low-moderate income qualifying projects. Mr. Tucci stated that barrier free projects and projects that

benefit the senior citizen population are automatic qualifiers. The Manager further explained that public hearings are required as part of the program application process to solicit public input for potential projects in addition to proposed projects identified by the Township. The Township proposed project for the 2019 grant are barrier free curbing on various municipal roadway intersections.

Mayor Cicala opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Cicala closed this portion of the meeting.

**3. MEETING OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP WISHING TO BE HEARD ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Cicala opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on any item on the agenda. There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Cicala closed this portion of the meeting.

**4. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

- a) Township Manager – The Manager provided a cost proposal for rehabilitation of tennis courts. There was consensus to bond as soon as possible so that the project can be completed for the high school 2019 spring season. The Manager announced two Police Dept. promotions effective January 14, 2019; Sgt. Ed Conlon to Lieutenant, and Ptl. Joe Russomanno to Sergeant.
- b) Township Clerk – The Clerk reported that request and plan has submitted to the Essex County Board to remove polling sites from schools.
- c) Township Attorney – No report
- d) Other reports - None

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Township Officials
  - (i.) Municipal Prosecutor

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

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Prosecutor for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 states "no local unit shall be required to advertise for bids for professional services", and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby re-appoint **ROBERT J. CANDIDO** to serve as the Township Prosecutor commencing January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the appropriate Township officials be authorized to execute an agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that notice of this appointment shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

(ii.) Public Defender

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

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the appointment of a Public Defender for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 states "no local unit shall be required to advertise for bids for professional services", and

**WHEREAS, PETER D. RUSSO** is an attorney-at-law in the State of New Jersey and comes under the "professional services" provision of the Local Public Contracts Law:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby re-appoint **PETER D. RUSSO** to serve as the / commencing January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the appropriate Township officials be authorized to execute an agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that notice of this appointment shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

(iii.) Court Administrator

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 Theresa Platvoet be re-appointed to serve as the Court Administrator for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2019 and terminating December 31, 2019.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

(iv.) Deputy Court Administrator

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 Courtney Demarest be re-appointed to serve as the Deputy Court Administrator for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2019 and terminating December 31, 2019.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

b) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Auditor

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

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Auditor for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 states "no local unit shall be required to advertise for bids for professional services" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4, the annual audit and

**WHEREAS**, the firm of Nisivoccia & Company is a registered municipal accounting firm in the State of New Jersey and comes under the "professional services" provision of the Local Public Contracts Law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby appoint Nisivoccia & Company to serve as Township Auditor for the calendar year 2019.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that notice of this appointment shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

c) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Bond Counsel

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

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for specialized legal services in connection with the authorization and the issuance of bonds or notes of the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq.. under a fair and open process; and

**WHEREAS**, qualifications/proposal for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on November 7, 2018; as follows

Gibbons, P.C.	Newark, NJ
Walters, McPherson, McNeill	Secaucus, NJ
Wilentz Golman Spitzer	Woodbridge, NJ
Winnie Banta	Hackensack, NJ

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council that the law firm of Gibbons, P.C. of Newark, New Jersey is hereby re-appointed for the calendar year 2019 to provide the specialized legal services necessary in connection with the authorization and the issuance of bonds or notes by the Township.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk's Office.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

- d) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of representatives to New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund

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, that the following municipal officials are hereby appointed as the Commissioner and Alternate to the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund for the calendar year 2019:

Commissioner – Thomas J. Tucci, Jr., Township Manager

Alternate – William M. Homa, Chief Finance Officer

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

- e) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of representatives to Community Development Block Grant Committee

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 Alex Palumbo, Municipal Engineer, is hereby appointed to serve as Cedar Grove's representative to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for 2019:

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

- f) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer

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

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5 requires that each public agency annually designate an officer or employee to serve as its Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that Kathleen R. Stutz is hereby re-appointed as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Township of Cedar Grove.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

6. MEETING OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP WISHING TO BE HEARD ON ANY ITEM ON OR OFF THE AGENDA CONCERNING TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Mayor Cicala opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Cicala closed this portion of the meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

JOSEPH CICALA MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK