

MAY 4, 2020

Mayor Susan R. Marshall called the regular meeting of the Tuckerton Borough Council to order on May 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Borough Complex.

Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act were complied with as notice was published to the *Beacon* and the *Asbury Park Press* stating the time, date and place of this meeting.

The following members of Council were in attendance: Keith Vreeland, John Schwartz, Sam Colangelo, Frank D'Amore, Mike Santo, and Mayor Marshall. Mr. Peterson was able to listen to the meeting via GoTo meeting however could not interact during the meeting.

Mayor Marshall led the salute to the flag.

Mr. Schwartz moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that the meeting be opened to the public for the 2020 Municipal Budget Hearing. It was so moved.

Pat Johnson, The Sandpaper/Leader asked if COVID-19 affected the budget planning.

Garret Loesch, CFO explained since the pandemic was happening during the process there was consideration for the possibility of revenue loss in the Construction and Court Offices, but that is why those line items saw a reduction.

John Zmich, 71 Little Egg Harbor Blvd., asked that knowing revenue was going to be reduced why the budget still is going up, other towns are changing their budget because of COVID-19 why isn't the Borough.

Mr. Loesch explained that the budget did account for revenue loss and the appropriations did see a decrease from last year for example the expenditures for 2019 was \$5,071,550.01 and for 2020 it is \$4,945,349.04 and the appropriations for 2019 were \$5,677,429.07 and for 2020 it will be \$4,945,349.04 so as you can see there were decreases in the amounts. He further explained that Tuckerton is a small town and never anticipates huge amount of revenue so we are used to working with bare bones.

Mrs. Gleghorn also explained that any expenditures that are for COVID-19 will most likely be reimbursed by either the CARES Act or FEMA.

Dr. Frank Fehn, 82 Curlew Road feels the Borough has a budget that does not reflect the current world situation right now, he feels the Borough should make cuts to the budget that include not giving salary increases, cutting the police department by 5 officers or looking at the State Police to work for the Borough, cutting the fire department by \$40,000 or looking to another department to do the services, stop purchasing equipment for those departments, look at consolidating with other towns for services,

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eliminating one person holding multiple jobs, putting caps on the Chief of Police salary, looking at relatives getting increases that are above and beyond and basically downsizing all of the employees for the Borough. He states that the town says no dredging but is increasing the budget by 2 cents, how is that possible, Tuckerton is a small town and we can't afford these increases anymore.

Anne Marie Sweeney, 600 South Green Street, stated she has gone over the budget for hours with a lot of professionals in the beach area and she finds some of the stuff egregious, like saying we don't have money for anything but giving everyone sizable raises why? She asked why there is nothing in the capital improvement plan, what are other expenses and can someone give her an explanation on what those are, and where do her taxes go?

Mr. Loesch explained the plan is not required by the state to be part of the budget but a lot of that capital improvement plan depends on the dredging and which way the Borough is going with that as for the Other Expenses line item the state requires the lump in the budget, but the system the Borough uses have sub accounts that detail what items are spent in those OE line items.

Mrs. Gleghorn explained that a bill list is provided at every Council meeting and in that bill list there is charges to different line items that have account numbers associated to those charges that number represents the different sub accounts in the budget and as for the raises, the town is already obligated by Collective Bargaining Agreements that they must follow for salaries.

Peter Gioiello, 358 Kingfisher Road, asked why there was an increase in the police expenditures, what is the condominium line item about, and as for the treasurer salary; why is that in 2019 she was listed at \$45,000 salary, but in 2020 she is making a hourly rate, when he thought she retired. He asked various questions about salaries from the 2019 resolution and 2020 resolution as well.

Mr. Loesch explained that state law requires towns to pay for or provide for certain services to town home associations and the Borough provides trash collection and snow removal to the Tuckerton Meadows, but the line item in the budget provides for reimbursement of street lighting per state statutes.

Mrs. Gleghorn explained the police salary and wages went up because of various reasons which include the promotion of two sergeants, the possibility of extra overtime because there is an officer still out for being involved with a shooting in town and there was increases to their contract. She did not understand what Mr. Gioiello was referring to with the salary because those specific figures are not listed in the budget so she was unable to explain what he was asking until he explained he received the OPRA information from Lee Eggert; which she was then able to explain that those resolutions have to represent every employee in the Borough for the auditors and even though that person is retired if she was present for one hour that resolution has to reflect it.

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Michael Vermandel, 91 Curlew Road, asked how much money the town received from the beach area after Sandy.

Mr. Loesch stated he could give that for the entire town at this point; however he will speak with the Tax Assessor to see if it can be broken out.

Carolyn Keen, 84 Curlew Road asked did we hire two new sergeants or were they police officers that were promoted to sergeant, why there is such a high increase in the police budget, and what happens to the SRO officer while the school has been closed.

Mrs. Gleghorn explained two officers were promoted to Sergeants, the increase includes the promotions, overtime because the department is down an officer who was involved in a shooting in November and because of the new union contract with the officers. The SRO officer is in the rotation of the police department and is currently working the road, but the school still will owe the Borough \$20,000.

Rich Piasecki, 113 Curlew Road, asked if the town has considered out sourcing garbage collection.

Mrs. Gleghorn explained the Borough had looked into it quite a few years back and after so many years with the contract they increase the amount and it becomes more expensive then what we are currently spending.

Mr. Connors explained that other municipalities have done this before and have not seen any savings after the first five years and what is even more troublesome is once you no longer collect trash, it can no longer be brought back into the municipality so we are at the for-profit companies mercy, but we can certainly continue to look into it.

Phil Stately, 164 Flamingo Road, stated there is a common theme here this evening with everyone on and it is being unhappy with the budget and that the beach people have no representation, we are being asked to pay more taxes so we are going to pick the budget apart and the Council should look at what we are saying and revise the budget and adopt it another time. The beach residents will not hear this stuff anymore, we are becoming organized and looking to do a referendum to pick our own taxes or put them in escrow and have our taxes pay for the beach area, status quo is not going to work anymore here.

Denise McDermott, 44 Curlew Road, asked wouldn't it be beneficial to have a separate budget meeting with residents to go over all these expenses and get the input from the town people.

Mayor Marshall stated she will look into having a budget meeting for next year.

Dave Schlick, 87 Dolphin Road, thought that Council had looked at numbers for the Public Works to be a shared services when he was on Little Egg Harbor

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Township Committee. There was a study done where Little Egg Harbor Township and Tuckerton would do shared service for the Public Works Department, and maybe revisit that again, he then asked if the Electrical Inspector is a shared service agreement with the township.

Mr. Loesch and Mrs. Gleghorn said it is something that we can definitely look into and that the Electrical Inspector is not shared service he works part time for the Borough.

Jamie Gross, 115 Curlew Road, stated she sees in the budget that Curlew Road line item has zero money in it, but the Kingfisher Road line item does, what does that mean?

Mrs. Gleghorn explained that line item is for grants received and we received the Curlew Road grants already and that Kingfisher is included in this 2020 budget.

Carolyn Keen, 84 Curlew Road, stated she does not hear from Council ever to get reassurance that they know what they are signing off on, she would like to hear from Council.

Mayor Marshall stated she is going to limit the amount of time to speak to once per person and the town has hired professionals with expertise that we can rely on to help us make our decisions.

Dave Schlick, 87 Dolphin Road, asked if it is even legal to limit the amount of times a resident can speak on the budget.

Mr. Connors stated it is legal to do and she has already extended the five minute, but if it is a new question and not repetitive then I think they should be able to ask.

Peter Gioiello, 358 Kingfisher Road, in the budget there is a rate of 90.7% collection rate under the reserve for uncollected taxes what does that represent and was that number considered with what is going on in the world right now and how do we compare to other towns.

Mr. Loesch explained the reserve for uncollected taxes is a formula designed by the state that is an estimated amount of what will not get collected and we cannot change that number based on current times, that number is established based off of numbers in previous budgets and taxes will always be paid because of a tax sale and to compare us to other towns can be difficult because other towns may do accelerated tax sales and the Borough does not do that.

Mr. Gioiello asked why the Borough does not do the accelerated tax sale.

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Mr. Connors explained that it can sometimes hurt the resident because if you are late on your taxes after the 11th day of the 11th month of each year than your property is in the tax sale and cannot be helped, without that, the town can work with the residents.

Dr. Frank Fehn, 82 Curlew Road, asked the Mayor if she relies on paid employees to give advice.

Annie Marie Sweeney, 600 South Green Street, stated that Council people who say every meeting that they have nothing your honor, maybe they should be looking into these shared service suggestions or cutting the budget.

There being no further comments or questions for the municipal budget hearing, Mr. Schwartz moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that public hearing be closed. It was so moved.

RESOLUTION #103-20

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF
TUCKERTON, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE READING OF
THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY**

Mr. Schwartz moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that Resolution #103-20 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of Council.

Mr. Schwartz moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that Resolution #104-20, adopting the 2020 Municipal Budget, be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TUCKERTON, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE COSTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STONE REVETMENT ALONG THE SHORELINE OF TUCKERTON BAY IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH TUCKERTON APPROPRIATING \$175,000 THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$175,000 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF TUCKERTON TO FINANCE THE SAME

Mr. Schwartz moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that meeting be open for public comment on Ordinance #6 of 2020. It was so moved.

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Mr. Schwartz explained that this ordinance promises the money for the Little Egg Harbor revetment project, but the State of New Jersey still has to promise its portion of the grant and if they don't this project can still not go through.

Frank Fehn, 82 Curlew Road, asked if there could be a better explanation of the settlement agreement for the Zito property easement and why it cost the town a \$1.00 for him to sign the easement.

Mr. Schwartz explained there was never any settlement where Mr. Zito signed the easement on his own, he had denied signing the easement for some time until he spoke to Mr. Colangelo and Mrs. Gleghorn last year which is when that was signed.

Peter Gioiello, 358 Kingfisher Road, asked for clarification that even if the Borough has the funding for this project and the State of New Jersey does not the project will not happen?

Mr. Schwartz stated there is a chance they might not have the money because of everything that is going on with the world and on the conference call with the NJ DEP .They stated they still needed approval for the additional finances for the project.

Anne Marie Sweeney, 600 South Green Street, asked are we still looking at July 1, 2020 to begin this project.

Mr. Schwartz stated the NJ DEP is looking to start on July 1, 2020.

Dave Schlick, 87 Dolphin Road, asked does the Borough own the property that was signed off on for the easements.

Mr. Schwartz explained the Borough does own those portions up until the shore line.

Mr. Schwarz moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that the public portion for this ordinance be closed. It was so moved.

Mr. Schwartz moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that Ordinance #6 of 2020 be adopted on second and final reading. It was so moved by the following vote: Yes – Vreeland, Schwartz, Colangelo, D'Amore, Santo; No – none; Abstain – none; Absent – Peterson.

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RESOLUTION #105-20

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF
TUCKERTON, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF
CLAIMS**

Mr. Schwartz moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that Resolution #105-20 be approved authorizing payment of claims in the amount of \$741,853.26. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of Council.

Mayor Marshall stated the bill is higher this time because of the payments made to the Pinelands Regional School and Tuckerton Elementary School.

Mr. Colangelo explained there are no new updates from County Solid Waste Management, but the Public Works Yard will be open beginning tomorrow May 5, 2020 and will continue to stay open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 12 pm and 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm, people must wear face coverings, must maintain 6 feet social distancing, no congregating, must show proof that you own a property in the Borough and there will only be 10 people at a time allowed in the yard. The building is closed to the public and you can still call for a bulk pick up.

Mr. D'Amore stated he observed the South Green Street Park this past weekend since it was the first time to open and he was happy with everyone observing the rules and social distancing. He also reminded everyone the bathrooms and playground are not open at this time.

Mr. Santo moved, second by Mr. D'Amore that the minutes of the meetings of April 20, 2020 be approved as presented. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of Council.

RESOLUTION #106-20

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF
TUCKERTON, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY AWARDED A CONTRACT TO
CONTINENTAL FIRE & SAFETY FOR THE
PURCHASE OF A PPV BLOWER FOR THE
TUCKERTON FIRE COMPANY**

Mr. Santo moved, second by Mr. Schwartz that Resolution #106-20 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of Council.

Mr. Peterson joined in at this time.

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RESOLUTION #107-20

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF
TUCKERTON, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING JOSEPH J. CAPUTO
AS SERGEANT FOR THE BOROUGH OF
TUCKERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Peterson moved, second by Mr. Schwartz that Resolution #107-20 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of Council.

RESOLUTION #108-20

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF
TUCKERTON, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING RYAN J. CAHILL AS
SERGEANT FOR THE BOROUGH OF
TUCKERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Peterson moved, second by Mr. Schwartz that Resolution #108-20 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of Council.

Mayor Marshall stated Urgent Care has been in contact with her and stated they now have testing kits for COVID-19 and to call them for an appointment. She also stated food bank signs have been placed around town and if anyone is in need to please text the food bank number and then she thanked John Hubler from 9 South Vapes for donating hand sanitizer to the Borough Police Department.

Mayor Marshall then asked if the fire department was on this meeting as she has been receiving updates of pictures of the new fire truck from Lee Eggert and it is looking good.

OEM Coordinator reminded everyone to please maintain personal safety habits and dispose of the PPE that is being used the right way, please don't litter.

Mr. Colangelo moved, second by Mr. Schwartz that the meeting be opened to the public.

Frank Provenzano, 385 Kingfisher Road, asked how many years ago did the Borough enter into a shared service agreement for dispatching with Little Egg Harbor Township, he feels shared service is a good idea and should be looked into for the Public Works Department and he is very happy that the yard is opening up tomorrow.

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Mrs. Gleghorn explained the dispatching services were happening with Little Egg Harbor prior to her beginning with the Borough in 2001 and that we were dropped by LEHT at one time and had to go to the County of Ocean and back in 2010 Little Egg Harbor asked us back and we went back to save money.

Carolyn Keen, 84 Curlew Road, asked if there is something the town can do to stop the mailbags from being deliver to homes because the litter is going in the bay and getting stuck in the storm drains, just making a mess.

Mayor Marshall stated there has been questions about this in the past and referred to Mr. Connors about this situation where he advised that it is the newspapers constitutional rights to deliver those mailbags and people have tried to ban them, but they are brought to court and those towns are found to be in violation.

Mr. Mc Andrew stated there is a phone number on the mailbags that if you call that number and tell them not to deliver to a certain property they will not deliver them.

Dr. Frank Fehn, 82 Curlew Road, doesn't believe what he is hearing, that tonight people are on here asking for the Council to reduce the budget and spending and just tonight alone the Mayor is talking about the fire truck which should never have been bought, buying the fire department equipment that should not be bought and promoting two officers as sergeants, when is the spending going to stop, when are the elected officials going to listen to the individuals who vote them.

Mayor Marshall stated the fire truck was purchased last year and there was a hearing on the truck and we cannot stop that at this point.

Dr. Fehn stated to send the truck back and stop spending funds that the town does not have and why do we have to rely on Council people who do not talk.

Dave Schlick, 87 Dolphin Road, congratulated the sergeants on their promotion and stated its required to have supervision on at night so this is something that needed to happen, but he is still frustrated that he cannot see the faces of certain Council members that in this day and age all of Council should have video cameras and the residents should be able to see them on these Council meetings.

Ann Marie Sweeney, 600 South Green Street, stated she feels the same way that Council can buy chrome books and we should be able to see who is talking.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Colangelo moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that the public portion of the meeting be closed. It was so moved.

Mr. Colangelo moved, second by Mr. Vreeland that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously approved at 9:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**JENNY GLEGHORN, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK**

Approved:

**SUSAN R. MARSHALL
MAYOR**