

**MINUTES**  
**November 26, 2019**

The Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst was held on the above date with Mayor McLaughlin presiding and Commissioner McLoughlin answering the roll call. Commissioner Bolan was not present. Also in attendance was the Borough Clerk/Administrator and Borough Attorney.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. with a salute to the flag.

Mayor McLaughlin announced that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 had been satisfied by delivering the required notice to the Coaster, posting the notice on the board in Borough Hall and filing a copy of said notice with the Borough Clerk.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Holiday Tree Lighting – Sunday 12/8**

## ORDINANCES

## **ORDINANCES – FINAL READING**

**FINAL READING – ORDINANCE #2019-11**

# ORDINANCE #2019-11

**AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE BOROUGH CODE OF  
THE BOROUGH OF ALLENHURST, CHAPTER XXVI  
ENTITLED “DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS.”**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin                      Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Allenhurst has determined that it is in the best interests of the community to revise certain portions of its existing Borough Code concerning the Development Regulations for the benefit of the needs of the community;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Borough of Allenhurst, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Code of the Borough of Allenhurst be and is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

**I.** Chapter XXVI be and is hereby revised to delete the existing subsection “26-5.6” entitled “Certificate of Occupancy” and replace it with the following:

26-5.6 Certificate of Occupancy.

No person shall occupy or use or permit the occupancy or use of any building or premises or part hereafter created, erected, changed, converted or enlarged, wholly or partly, until a certificate of occupancy shall have been issued by either the Construction Official or Code Enforcement Officer. Such certificate shall show that the building or premises and the proposed use are in conformity with the provisions of this chapter. It shall be the duty of the Construction Official and/or the Code Enforcement Officer to issue a certificate of occupancy within the time prescribed by applicable State statute.

**II.** Chapter XXVI be and is hereby revised to delete the existing subsection “26-8.1(a)” entitled “Fees” and replace it with the following:

26-8.1 Fees.

a. Every application for site plan review, subdivision reviews, requests for variance relief or Certificates of Appropriateness shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee in accordance with the schedule set forth in 26-8.1(c) herein. The Application fees charged are to cover the costs associated with the administrative and clerical processing of the application and are not refundable.

**III.** Chapter XXVI be and is hereby revised to delete the existing subsection “26-8.1(c)” entitled “Application and Escrow Fee Schedule” and replace it with the following:

26-8.1(c) Application and Escrow Fee Schedule.

	Type of Application	Application Fee	Escrow Amount
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Subdivisions			
1.	Sketch Plat	\$150.00	\$500.00
2.	Preliminary Plat	\$300.00 + \$100.00 per lot	\$3000.00 + \$100.00 per lot
3.	Final Plat	\$100.00	\$1500.00 + \$100.00 per lot
Site Plans			
1.	Preliminary	\$500.00	\$3000.00
2.	Final	\$300.00	\$500.00
Variance Relief			
1.	Special Question or Interpretation	\$300.00	\$500.00
2.	Hardship	\$300.00	\$1000.00
3.	Use	\$500.00	\$1000.00
4.	Signs Only	\$150.00	\$300.00
Certificate of Appropriateness			
1.	Application	\$500.00	\$1000.00
2.	Application for new construction	\$1000.00	\$4000.00
Additional Fees			
1.	Construction permit in bed of mapped street or drainage right- of-way or lacking street frontage	\$300.00	\$500.00
2.	Special meeting Costs	\$1500.00	\$1000.00
3.	Official Map Appeals	\$200.00	\$500.00
4.	Determination of percentage of impervious surface	\$100.00	No Escrow
5.	Zoning Determination	\$100.00	No Escrow
6.	Zoning Determination and Determination of Impervious surface	\$150.00	No Escrow

And, it is further

**ORDAINED** that except as herein above provided, the remainder of Chapter XXVI entitled “Development Regulations” shall remain unaltered and in full force and effect; and it is further

**ORDAINED** that the provisions of these ordinances are declared to be severable, and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase hereof shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, clauses and phrases of these ordinances shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part; and it is further

**ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and adoption according to law.

Carried to next meeting.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

**FIRST READING – ORDINANCE #2019-12**

**ORDINANCE #2019-12**  
**AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE BOROUGH CODE OF**  
**THE BOROUGH OF ALLENHURST, CHAPTER XXVI**  
**SUBSECTION 4.4(a) ENTITLED REGULATIONS**  
**APPLYING TO ALL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Allenhurst has determined that it is in the best interests of the community to revise a portion of its existing Borough Code concerning the Development Regulations to clarify subsection 4.4(a);

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Borough of Allenhurst, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Code of the Borough of Allenhurst be and is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

**I.** Chapter XXVI be and is hereby revised to delete the existing subsection 26-4.4(a) entitled Regulations Applying to All Residential Districts and replace it with the following:

26-4.4(a) In each residential district, building height shall not exceed two and one-half (2 1/2) stories in height or thirty-five (35) feet in height, except that the provision of this subsection with regard to height shall not apply to chimneys or flagpoles. No residential dwelling shall have living, or habitable, space on more than three (3) floors, which shall include any portion or all of any one-half (1/2) story permitted by the Borough's Development Regulations.

And, it is further

**ORDAINED** that except as herein above provided, the remainder of Chapter XXVI entitled Development Regulations shall remain unaltered and in full force and effect; and it is further

**ORDAINED** that the provisions of these ordinances are declared to be severable, and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase hereof shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, clauses and phrases of these ordinances shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part; and it is further

**ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and adoption according to law.

Carried to January 14, 2020 meeting.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION #2019-239**

**A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AND APPROVE MINUTES**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the minutes of the regular meeting of October 22, 2019 be ratified and approved.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2019-240**

**A RESOLUTION TO DISPENSE WITH READING OF MINUTES**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Clerk dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 22, 2019.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2019-241**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MEMBER IN ALLENHURST FIRE  
DEPARTMENT/FIRST AID SQUAD**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, The Membership Committee of Allenhurst First Aid Squad has received an application for membership from Anthony Ianicelli; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Membership Committee has advised the Board of Commissioners that Anthony Ianicelli is acceptable for membership;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That Anthony Ianicelli is approved for membership in Allenhurst First Aid Squad, pending a criminal history check; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized to execute the necessary paperwork on behalf of the aforementioned applicants.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2019-242**  
**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STUDY COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE OPEN**  
**PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Allenhurst strongly believes in and supports open transparent government, and that citizens and residents have the right to be informed about the workings of government in order to best participate in a democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 8, 2002 then Acting Governor DiFrancesco signed into law the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) which mandates that government records shall be available, with limited exceptions, for public access and simplifying the procedures for requesting such specific records; and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of the law was to provide the public with easy access to government records with an uncomplicated process for obtaining the records and eliminating bureaucratic red tape; and

**WHEREAS**, over the course of 18 years OPRA has been a positive light, but it has also been fraught with abuse and misuse, and has become an unanticipated financial cost to the taxpayers of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, Borough of Allenhurst has labored under a well-intended law that has spiraled out of control, due to the volume and nature of requests, the cost to taxpayers in responding to the requests, and the potential liability in having to pay disproportionate prevailing party attorney's fees should the requests turn into litigated matters, as well as the liability in determining which documents shall be released, with or without redaction, while attempting to maintain individual privacy; and

**WHEREAS**, it is not only the volume of OPRA requests that challenge our resources, but it is also the cost associated with reviewing, retrieving, and processing the OPRA request(s) by public entity personnel and counsel and possibly defending our action(s) before the Government Records Council or in Superior Court; and

**WHEREAS**, Borough of Allenhurst received and responded to 95 OPRA requests in 2017, 83 OPRA requests in 2018, and to date has received and responded to 67 OPRA requests as of September 1, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Borough of Allenhurst received and responded to 20 OPRA requests since September 1, 2019, two of which were particularly time consuming requiring 100 hours of manpower to produce, and

**WHEREAS**, Borough of Allenhurst municipal staff has spent approximately 200 hours responding to OPRA requests received in 2019 to date, and a yearly average of approximately 120 hours since 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the often conflicting case law and Government Record Council decisions, as well as the unique characteristics of OPRA request, the Borough of Allenhurst must often times rely on the municipal attorney to review certain OPRA requests, resulting in additional fees of approximately \$2,178.00 in response to OPRA requests in 2017, \$1,172.50 in response to OPRA requests in 2018, and currently has spent \$5,000 in response to OPRA requests in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, requests that are the most costly and interrupt operations include OPRA requests for payroll information, requests for information from solicitors and Planning Board records and files, requests for records not kept electronically that must be scanned and, often require personal information redacted; and

**WHEREAS**, with limited exceptions OPRA has not been amended to address the clear and apparent advancement in technology that has changed the way government records are created, stored, and/or transmitted; the various interpretive decisions; privacy concerns; abuse for commercial gain; and/or the ever increasing cost to taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, as the current law approaches its twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) anniversary it has outgrown its original intended use and has become ripe for comprehensive review and reform;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the governing body of Borough of Allenhurst appeals to the legislature to form a Commission comprised of Mayors, Municipal Clerks, Municipal Managers, Attorneys, Police Chiefs, open government advocates, privacy experts, members of the media, citizens and other appropriate stakeholders, to review and examine the effects of OPRA on local government and the needs to be fulfilled by the law, and use the Commission's findings to perform a comprehensive reform of OPRA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Representatives Joann Downey and Eric Houghtaling, Senator Vin Gopal, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Senator Weinberg, Executive Director of the Government Records Council, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey and New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2019-243**  
**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RAFFLE LICENSE**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst, that a non-draw raffle license, #RA-1-2020, be granted to the Allenhurst Fire Department, No. 1, which raffle shall be held on Wednesday, January 1, 2020, from Noon to 5:00 PM, at the Allenhurst Fire House, 318 Hume Street, Allenhurst.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2019-244**  
**A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A TEMPORARY DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Commissioners has determined that it is necessary to appoint a Temporary Deputy Municipal Court Administrator; and,

**WHEREAS**, Patricia Megill has agreed to perform in this capacity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst, as follows:

Patricia Megill, be and she is hereby appointed the Deputy Court Administrator for a term of commencing at 12:01 AM, November 27, 2019 and terminating December 31, 2019

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2019-245**  
**A RESOLUTION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF INFO-COP E-TICKET TURNKEY SYSTEM**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, The Allenhurst Police Department has advised the Board of Commissioners that the Borough is in need of a E-TICKET system; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Allenhurst Police Department has received a quote from Gold Type Business Machine, Inc. (GTBM Inc.) with up-front costs of \$17,325.99; and,

**WHEREAS**, GTBM Inc. is a member of the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance # CK04- a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services of recognized by the State of New Jersey, and this item is being purchased under Contract 19-34; and

**WHEREAS**, Funds for this purpose are available in the 2019 Budget, and the Chief Finance Officer has so certified;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That a E-Tickets system can be purchased from GTBM Inc. at a cost of \$17,325.99.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2019-246**  
**A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, Robin Diebert has filed for retirement from the P.E.R.S. effective January 1, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to the Public Employee's Retirement System and the Borough's Personnel Policy, employees who retire from the P.E.R.S. with the required number of years of service; are entitled to certain benefits; and,

**WHEREAS**, Robin Diebert meets the retirement system requirements;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Board of Commissioners, the following retirement benefits be confirmed:

1. Medical Benefits for Retiree and Spouse, through the NJ State Health Benefits Program, effective February 2, 2020 until the death of the retiree.
2. Accumulated Sick Days

Benefit: \$15,000.00

To be paid: \$5,000.00 January 15, 2020

\$5,000.00 January 15, 2021

\$5,000.00 January 15, 2022

3. Accumulated and earned vacation.

Vacation earned from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019: 25 days

25 x 2019 rate of pay at \$259.69 = \$9348.84

Total due for earned vacation: \$9,348.84 to be paid on 1/15/2020

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, These benefits may be adjusted prior to the January 1, 2020 retirement date as required.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

#### **RESOLUTION #2019-247**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF ALLENHURST TO ENTER INTO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICIAL COOPERATIVE PRICING**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Nevada, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead State" has offered voluntary participation in the National Association of State Procurement Officials # 1907- a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

**WHEREAS**, on November 26, 2019 the governing body of the Borough of Allenhurst, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

#### **TITLE**

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Borough of Allenhurst

#### **AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead State.

#### **CONTRACTING UNIT**

The Lead State shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

#### **RESOLUTION #2019-248**

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EASEMENT TO STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, Purchases were made for amounts over \$1,000.00 and it is the policy of the Borough that the Board of Commissioners approve or confirm said purchases; and;

1. Home Depot	Monthly Purchases	\$2,735.06
2. Realty Appraisal	Tax Appeal	\$1,800.00

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the following contracts are hereby confirmed:

**VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE**

**RESOLUTION #2019-251**

## A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin                      Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, State law permits the exclusion of public in certain circumstances; and,  
**WHEREAS**, The Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst finds that such circumstances currently exist; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Board of Commissioners will make public, minutes of the closed session when confidentiality no longer exists;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** By the Board of Commissioners that they are hereby authorized to enter into closed session to discuss legal/contractual matters which are exempt from the public meeting under the Sunshine Law.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2019-252**

## A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BILLS (11/1/2019 to 11/30/2019)

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin                      Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That bills totaling \$1,077,560.96 be approved for payment; and,  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the November 30, 2019 consolidated bill list be attached hereto and made a part thereof.

**VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE**

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

The Mayor expressed condolences on the passing of Glenn Heckman.

The Mayor discussed the recent meeting with the New Jersey Department of Transit (NJDOT) regarding the closing of the Allen Avenue Railroad Crossing. The Mayor stated that the Commissioners have met with with the NJDOT several times to fight the closing since it was announced in 2016 that it would close. Where the conversations stood, prior to the most recent meeting, was that the Borough was trying to come up with funding for the over \$1 million dollar it would cost to keep the crossing open. At this most recent meeting the DOT stated that self-funding was no longer viable due to the federal mandate that crossings must be closed. They stated that Allenhurst is so small it does not require 3 crossings. They did offer the option of closing the Spier Avenue Railroad Crossing instead of the Allen Avenue Railroad Crossing. The NJDOT also stated that the Borough does not have a lot of time to make a decision and should do their homework. The Mayor stated that the Borough is going to have a professional traffic study done to determine if Spier if more suitable to close. The Mayor stated that the Commissioners will keep everyone posted on the progress; a newsletter will be released at this time, and another when updates are available.

Lisa Russo asked if access to the lake is needed for the fire hydrants. The Mayor responded that the Borough had already provided that concern to the NJDOT numerous times during the many meetings.

The Borough Administrator discussed the request from New Jersey American Water (NJAW) for a 3x3 street opening on Allen Avenue to address a potential water main break. The Borough Administrator advised that Allen Avenue is under a 5 year moratorium for street openings due the recent repaving. The Borough Administrator advised the Borough Engineer reviewed the request and recommended approval. The Commissioners agreed.



Update on findings regarding the Dispatch Services - The Chief of Police discussed the research being done on Dispatch Services. The Chief met with Bradley Beach and the Monmouth County officials regarding the services they would provide.

The Police Chief reported that Monmouth County would provide services for around \$75,000 per year. There would also be additional capital costs that have not yet been disclosed. Monmouth County also advised that there was currently no other town for Allenhurst to be “paired” with and if the Borough used their services it is likely that the Borough would be the third town handled by a single dispatcher. The Chief also advised that he had spoken with other police chiefs regarding their experiences with county dispatch and, in general, they were not favorable. The Chief was warned to be careful of additional charges that are not included in the proposal.

The Police Chief reported that Bradley Beach would require a shared services agreement that would be under \$100,000 per year. Additionally there would be capital expenditures of approximately \$100,000.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dennis Sternberg spoke of how blessed he feels to live in a great, historic town filled with treasure. Mr. Sternberg stated that he would not want to give up how efficient the Borough is to go to another town for dispatch services. Mr. Sternberg feels safe in his home with people that work here to keep them safe. Mr. Sternberg stated that it is his opinion to keep what the Borough has and that the Borough is lucky to have them.

Lisa Russo stated that she feels Mr. Sternberg’s statement as well. Ms. Russo hopes that the Borough will consider the experience of Spring Lake and another town with Monmouth County Dispatch when making the decision. She stated that they were not pleased and did not feel the savings. Ms. Russo also stated that she did not feel that Shared Services would have the same personalized service. They may make mistakes on streets etc. Ms. Russo states that she hopes they will consider that residents like knowing that they can call dispatch in Allenhurst and that they are present on weekends. Ms. Russo also stated that when Chief Schneider took over he has been building bridges with the community. When her husband’s first wife passed away, officers arrived in under 3 minutes. Ms. Russo stated that she hopes that when the Commissioners make this decision they won’t act on purely governmental or political grounds. Ms. Russo stated that she is happy to consider paying for these services and is happy with them.

Randy Sternberg stated that she likes to brag that everyone knows her name and that she is thrilled with the services they receive. She stated that she hopes the Commissioners listen to the residents and that they pay the taxes.

Elizabeth Naster, who works at a business in the Borough, stated that she always feels safe. She has called police to escort her to her car. She loves the Police Department.

The Mayor stated that he agrees with what everyone has said. The Mayor stated that three years ago the Commissioners toured the County Dispatch and feels that it works well for a big town, but not for the Borough. He also clarified that the Borough is looking only at dispatch services, not the Police Department itself.

The Mayor stated that he wants to make sure that everyone understands that the Borough is in an exploratory phase looking at the dispatch services. Nothing has been decided, nothing is a done deal. The Borough is trying to determine if it makes sense. The Mayor stated that the Board of Commissioners are responsible for keeping the budget. The Borough is exploring ways to potentially save money and limit tax increases. The Mayor repeated that he is happy with the services dispatch currently provides, but has to look at the numbers.

The Mayor also advised, that in government when investigating something that could impact an employee’s job, a RICE notice is required. This is why the current dispatch employees were notified that a discussion was taking place. The Mayor advised that the Borough is not at the point of making any decision.

Lisa Russo asked if the Borough has looked at any other ways to raise money/cut costs. Ms. Russo asked about the Lease at the Restaurant at the beach club. The Mayor explained the Request for Proposal (RFP) process that goes into leasing the restaurant. The current tenant signed a five year lease, and recently exercised that lease’s option to extend for another five years. After that point another RFP will be done.

The Mayor explained that at the time of the prior RFP, forty two interested parties picked up bid packages, but the Borough received only a few actual bids. The current restaurant contract places the responsibility for many expenses on the tenant, in exchange for a lower rent. The Borough, in the past, experienced some difficulties collecting a higher rent. The Borough also tried to run the restaurant themselves, but without success. There is also limited parking at the restaurant, and the Borough is also mindful of the type of establishment that would be operating on Borough property and the Borough always wants to ensure that the quality of life of the surrounding homes are not affected.

Lisa Russo stated that she feels better that she now knows that the town is looking into things. She asked about the possibility of paid parking at the train station. The Borough Administrator advised that she is looking into it already. Ms. Russo stated she is aware the state is encouraging shared services agreements and asked if there were other agreements that could be researched that would keep services, save money, and not cost people their jobs. Ms. Russo stated that she does not want to lose any services. She hopes the Borough continues to look into ways to keep the services by making revenue in other ways and would not want to see people lose their jobs if there are other solutions.

The Mayor stated that the state is encouraging shared services and that the Borough already participates in some. The Mayor stated that the process is going to be transparent and that the Board of Commissioners will keep everyone informed.

There being no further business or comments, Commissioner McLoughlin moved, seconded by Comm. Bolan that the meeting move to executive session at 8:05 PM. Motion carried. After reconvening, Commissioner McLoughlin moved, seconded by Comm. Bolan that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 PM. Motion carried.

Donna M. Campagna, RMC  
Borough Clerk/Administrator