**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 18, 2019**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the reading of the following Sunshine Law announcement: ***“I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Califon Borough Council has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the annual notice in the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat.”***

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. BAGGSTROM, J. COLLINS, E. HAVERSANG,**

**L. JANAS, M. MEDEA, C. SMITH**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Peter Brandner, resident of Railroad Ave., expressed concern that, although Railroad Ave. is a “no outlet”, buses and trucks are coming down the road and turning around on his property to exit the road; therefore, damaging his property. Mr. Brandner stated that there is a “no outlet” sign at the beginning of the road by the train museum but for some reason it does not keep trucks from thinking that Railroad Ave. is a thoroughfare. Mr. Brandner suggested that another “no outlet” sign be erected down closer to where the residences begin in an effort to control this problem. Mayor and Council agreed and will look into a new sign.

Mayor Daniel acknowledged Boy Scout, Aiden Fitzpatrick O’Neil, in the audience tonight with his dad to observe and take notes as a requirement to achieve a civics merit badge.

Matthew Taylor, resident at 44 Hoffman Drive, addressed Mayor and Council to inform them that his neighbor has constructed a rock wall that sticks out into the driveway close to his property line. This is an additional project undertaken after the neighbor was stopped from moving his driveway back a few months ago. Mr. Taylor is concerned about public safety as he feels it poses a hazard and in addition is an eyesore. Mr. Taylor stated that it appears to him that this rock wall juts out into the town ROW and he is concerned about the liability for the town as well as for himself. The zoning officer, William Skene, has determined that it is not a problem from a zoning perspective. Mayor Daniel stated that he will be in contact with Mr. Skene and perhaps he, Councilman Baggstrom and the Zoning Officer can meet at the site together to determine what, if anything, can be done.

Jim Holland, owner of Shannon’s Fly & Tackle, asked about the status of the land transfer from the County of Hunterdon to Califon of the remnant of the Weis Dam. Councilman Collins reported that he, the Mayor and Clerk met with County Engineer Tom Mathews and he agreed that the County would be removing the concrete slab; however, to date this has not been done. Mr. Mathews will be contacted for a status. Once the concrete slab is gone, the County will formalize an agreement to transfer the lands to Califon. Borough Attorney, Peter Jost, has been in contact with the County’s counsel and there may need to be an Environmental Assessment done before the deed is transferred. Councilman Collins will follow-up with Mr. Holland, once the project is moving forward. Mr. Holland stated that there is a possible project in the works upstream from the Weis Dam in Tewksbury Twp. and this piece and the dam project will both add to the greenway. Mr. Holland also reported that many trees have fallen over the dam since the last couple of storms. Councilman Collins is aware and this will hopefully be remedied when the slab is removed. Councilman Medea cautioned that compromised trees on the parkland is a potential problem; particularly for the town when the lands are transferred. Councilman Collins agreed and said a survey of potentially dangerous trees will have to be undertaken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by E. Haversang to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 4, 2019.

For: R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Abstain: J. Collins, M. Medea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by C. Smith to approve the list of bills in the amount of $256,595.81.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_\_** Rutgers Center for Government Services; Powers & Duties of the Municipal Governing Body; Saturday, April 4, 2020 and Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

\_\_ Elizabethtown Gas Co. to install gas line at 109-111 Philhower Ave.; Scoda Construction

\_\_ Crime Prevention Tips – doorhangers from Police Dept.

\_\_ Election Statement; General Election November 5, 2019; 315 total votes cast out of 825 registered voters; Cathy Smith and John Collins elected to Council for 3-year terms; 200 votes each

\_\_ Police Report and Court Report for month of October

\_\_ Julie Shelly; NJ Water Supply Authority; cost sharing for treatment of Black Ash tree; NJWSA hires a contractor using their procurement method, they oversee the work and bill the Borough for 50% of the cost; also, same agreement for the removal of 9 trees on the Hoffman property.

\_\_ Nick Zemlachenko; NJWSA; prospective tree planting and invasive species removal effort on the Winter tract

\_\_ Lisa Hibbs, Commercial Utility Consultants; HAER; additional municipalities to join; Mendham Twp. Delaware Twp. and Kingwood Twp.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTIONS; STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND (SIF) ANNUAL**

The following Resolutions were introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2019-87**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon (hereinafter “Local Unit’) has joined the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant, as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the “Fund”; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk Management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the “Fund” has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of “Local Unit”, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The **Borough of Califon** hereby appoints Michael Tillich/Groendyke Associates as its local Risk Management Consultant.
2. The Mayor, Charles Daniel and the Risk Management Consultant are hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant’s Agreement for the year 2019 in the form attached hereto.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to adopt Resolution 2019-87 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2019-88**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the Borough of Califon (Member), and Groendyke Associates (Consultant), enter into a Risk Management Consultant’s Agreement for the Consultant to offer to the Member professional risk management consulting services as required by the Bylaws of the Statewide Insurance Fund (Fund) from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are duly authorized to sign and fully execute the risk Management Consultant’s Agreement between the Borough of Califon and Groendyke Associates and the Statewide Insurance Fund.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to adopt Resolution 2019-88 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2019-89**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon (hereinafter “Local Unit”) is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10:36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund’s Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Borough of Califon that Councilman Michael Medea is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the **Fund Year 2020**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Charles Daniel is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the **Fund Year 2020**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit’s Fund Commission is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to adopt Resolution 2019-89 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTIONS – INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP AND CALIFON FOR POLICE AND COURT SERVICES – 5TH RENEWAL**

Mayor and Council reviewed the draft copies of both the Police and Court Interlocal Services Agreements; 5th renewal, forwarded from Andrew Coppola, Administrator for Washington Twp. All agreed to the renewal term of 6 years with the following percentage increases for the Police Agreement: 1.25%, 1.50%, 1.75%, 2,00%, 2.00%, 2.00%. Review of the Court Interlocal Agreement resulted in some confusion as to the breakdown of Court revenue and Califon payments. The two options to be considered are having WT sent the revenue to Califon and Califon pays Washington Township $14,000 or continue to have the court revenue come to WT and reduce the Califon payments for 2020 to $3,052 (WT is proposing a $2,000 reduction.

Mayor and Council felt it would be advantageous to invite Andrew Coppola, WT Administrator to come to the next Council meeting on December 2nd to explain and clarify the two options so that a decision can be made. Until clarification is obtained, Mayor and Council agreed to postpone a vote on approving both Interlocals until Dec. 2nd. Mayor and Council also agreed that the “Termination” clause in both Agreements needs to be re-worded.

1. **RESOLUTION – SUPPLEMENTAL DEBT STATEMENT FOR BOND ORDINANCE 2019-07 – AMENDING 2019 CAPITAL BUDGET – RESURFACING OF MAIN STREET AND RIVER RD.**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2019-90**

**WHEREAS,** the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, desires to amend the 2019 Capital Budget of said municipality by inserting thereon or correcting the items therein as shown in such budget for the following reason:

**Resurfacing of Main Street and River Rd.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon of the County of Hunterdon, as follows:

**Section 1.** The 2019 Capital Budget of the Borough of Califon is hereby amended by adding thereto a Schedule to read as follows:

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE**

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

**Projects scheduled for 2019**

**Method of Financing**

PROJECT ESTIMATED CAPITAL IMPROV. GENERAL

NOTES/BONDS COST FUND OR RESERVES Notes/Bonds

As listed above $700,000 None Required $700,000

**Section 2.** The Clerk be and is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Division of Local government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, within three days after the adoption of these projects for 2019 Capital Budget, to be included in the 2019 Capital Budget as adopted.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Collins to adopt Resolution 2019-90 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2019-91**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS,** a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

**WHEREAS,** Califon Borough strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments as steps to building a sustainable community that will thrive well into the new century; and

**WHEREAS,** Califon Borough hereby acknowledges that the residents of Califon desire a stable, sustainable future for themselves and future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** Califon Borough wishes to support a model of government which benefits our residents now and far into the future by exploring and adopting sustainable, economically-

sound, local government practices; and

**WHEREAS,** by endorsing a sustainable path Califon Borough is pledging to educate itself and community members further about sustainable activities and to develop initiatives supporting sustainable local government practices; and

**WHEREAS,** as elected representatives of Califon have a significant responsibility to provide leadership which will seek community-based sustainable solutions to strengthen our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that to focus attention and effort within Califon Borough on matters of sustainability, the Califon Borough’s Council wishes to pursue local initiatives and actions that will lead to Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Borough of Califon Council that we do hereby authorize Califon’s Green Team to serve as Califon Borough’s agent for the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification process and authorize Karen Mastro, Environmental Commission Secretary, to complete the Municipal Registration on behalf of the Borough of Califon.

Motion was made by J. Collins seconded by C. Smith to adopt Resolution 2019-91 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **DISCUSSION – DATE FOR 2020 REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Mayor and Council discussed the favorable date for the 2020 Reorganizational meeting and 1st meeting of the new year. All agreed that the 2020 Reorganization meeting and 1st regular meeting would be held on Monday, January 6th, 2020. Also, the second regular meeting date in January is Monday, January 20th, which is the MLK holiday. All agreed to reschedule this meeting to Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Newspapers will be notified of the Reorganization meeting date and the alteration in meeting date in January.

1. **MAYORAL APPOINTMENT – PARKS COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Mayor Daniel formally appointed Michael Bergeron to a one-year membership on the Califon Parks Committee.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that Justin Pill from Coldspring Landscaping placed new mulch in the playground at Island Park. Justin will also be planting the new 12’ Colorado Spruce Christmas Tree on the town property in back of the Post office; hopefully before Thanksgiving.

Justin has called in a utility mark out prior to planting.

The LTAA Jr. Vikes have asked and put in their application to use the baseball fields this spring.

Councilman Medea will check to see if the new decorative lighting outlet on the Main St. pole is live. If not, the Clerk will call JCP&L to activate.

Councilman Medea asked about bases for the pedestrian signs in the bays. The Clerk reported that Ryan from GoHunterdon will be providing a base when one becomes available.

Councilman Haversang reported that the Recreation Committee met on November 13th and discussed the upcoming Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on December 8th. Decorating of the tree will be held on December 1st. Councilman Haversang reported that Stephanie Ruggiero had a baby boy the other day.

Councilman Janas reported that the November Planning Board meeting was cancelled. The PB rescheduled the December meeting to be held on December 18th.

Councilman Janas reported that the Steering Committee met on November 12th. They met with the long-range planning sub-committee of the BOE. Board member Mike Reaves was not in attendance. Member, Jeff Dahl, was in attendance. The BOE attorney advised that the Steering Committee should not be giving the BOE formal recommendations; only fact-finding information.

The Steering Committee will prioritize information and meet with the BOE in January. There will be a public meeting in February.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee with the long-range Committee will be held on December 10th.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the BOE met on the 13th of November. Califon boy scouts were in attendance with 3 girls joining them for a total of 7 scouts in attendance. The BOE has spent $32,000 in security measures at the school. In 2020 they will install security cameras. Councilwoman Smith reported that there is no access to the school building without “scan” cards so it has been a problem for the public when attempting to enter the building. Councilwoman Smith reported that there will be a continuation in 2020 of the “Gloria Winter” grant of $2,430.

NJ Advance Media’s marketing proposal of $10,000 was rejected by the BOE.

The BOE is actively searching for a new CSA/Principal. There have been 27 applicants.

The BOE is still working on an update for the school facility use policy so the status of volleyball and basketball is unknown.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that the Police Dept. has recommended that Califon use the services of Space Farms for removal of dead deer on Califon roads at $38 a deer. There was an arrest in the Park of a juvenile. The Chief is recommending that a new 25 mph sign be placed ½ way down on S. Main St. The Police Dept. will be placing door hangers on resident’s homes advising of security measures residents can take to protect their homes.

Councilman Baggstrom read the police and court reports for the month of October.

Councilman Collins reported that the Board of Health met on November 6th. The rabies clinic will be held on January 11th, 2020. The Board of Health will participate in the State of New Jersey radon awareness program. This is a pilot program offered to the public and each radon canister will cost residents $10.00.

Councilman Collins reported that the Environmental Commission has been discussing the formation of a new Green Team and reviewing a list of action items from the State. There was a suggestion that the Green Team enlist students from the Califon school to participate in the Green Team.

Councilman Collins reported that there is another program thru the State that will be giving away 1000 tree saplings to interested municipalities.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that he, the Clerk, Councilmen Baggstrom and Medea met with the Tewksbury Twp. Administrator, CFO and DPW to discuss the Public Works Interlocal Agreement Renewal between Califon and Tewksbury Twp. The time was spent exploring the current agreement; the charges and rates for labor and equipment. The agreement will probably be signed for one year with the hope that the agreement is fair and equitable to both parties.

Mayor Daniel will be attending the annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City and will report at the next meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no further comments from the public. Comments were expressed at the beginning of the meeting.

There being no further business to come before Council, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator