

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Mayor Charles Daniel 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: K. ANDERSEN, R. BAGGSTROM, M. MEDEA,
J. SALISBURY, T. WEILER
ABSENT: G. SMITH**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by K. Andersen seconded by T. Weiler to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 18, 2011.

For: K. Andersen, R. Baggstrom, M. Medea, J. Salisbury, T. Weiler

Opposed: None

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

LIST OF BILLS

Motion was made by J. Salisbury seconded by R. Baggstrom to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$162,054.54.

For: K. Andersen, R. Baggstrom, M. Medea, J. Salisbury, T. Weiler

Opposed: None

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT

The Tax Collector’s Report was reviewed and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

__ letter from Comcast re: renewal of cable franchise with check in the amount of \$15,000. in payment of the grant for local access related needs

__ letter and voucher from Eileen Swan, Executive Director of the Highlands Council re: reimbursement of \$15,369.45 from Plan Conformance Grant for completion of plan conformance activities for compliance; voucher to be signed by Mayor Daniel

- ___ Califon School; public notice of Annual School Election on April 27, 2011
- ___ Thank you letters from Mayor Daniel to Gary Deckhut and Matt Nanna for their work and donations on behalf of the Califon community
- ___ Township of Tewksbury; Department of Public Works; Monthly work report for January 2011
- ___ Thank you card from Cathy Smith for gifts from Borough for her work on the Califon Crier

OLD BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION – PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2011-01 – COLA

The Clerk read Ordinance 2011-01 by title: **AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14).**

Mayor Daniel opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2011-01. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2011-27

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2011-01 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)** is hereby adopted upon final reading; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Notice of Final Passage of Ordinance 2010-01 will be published in the February 16, 2011 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2011-27 as read.

For: K. Andersen, R. Baggstrom, M. Medea, J. Salisbury, T. Weiler

Opposed: None

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

B. SCHEDULE OF 2011 BUDGET WORK SESSIONS

Mayor and Council concurred that there will be a 2011 budget work session on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Bldg. Councilman Medea will be unable to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – 2 NEW MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION: FRED THIESEN AND PATTI KEARNS

Mayor Daniel reported to Council that, as of this date, he is appointing two new members to the Environmental Commission, Fred Thiesen and Patti Kearns, residents of Pershing Ave. Mayor Daniel reported that they will be in attendance at the next Environmental Commission scheduled for tomorrow evening. Mayor Daniel stated that this leaves one seat on the Environmental Commission to fill. Councilman Weiler said that he might have a candidate to take that seat.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Andersen reported that the school board meeting was cancelled so that they could attend the shared services meeting sponsored by Freeholder Walton. Councilwoman Andersen reported that she had no report of work recently accomplished at the Nellie Hoffman house.

Councilman Weiler had no report for tonight's meeting.

Councilman Bagstrom reported that the Planning Board met and reorganized; however, he left his notes at home and will have his report for the next meeting.

Councilwoman Salisbury reported that the Green Team for Sustainable Jersey met on January 20th and got a great deal accomplished. Cheryl Suydam compiled information about recycling odd items and she gave this info to the new recycling coordinator, Helen Brennan, who was in attendance at the Sustainable Jersey meeting. Helen plans to write an article for the Califon Crier and the website which will earn the Green Team points towards the Borough's certification. The Green Team is also working on a collaborative project with Washington Township for paper shredding for residents of both municipalities; a project that will earn the Borough more points. Councilwoman Salisbury reported that Tara Sheppard from HART will attend the next meeting of Sustainable Jersey to assist the team with moving forwards toward certification.

Councilwoman Salisbury reported that she and Dep. Clerk, Karen Mastro will participate in a webinar on Thursday February 10th for Sustainable Jersey certification.

CAMPA held their last meeting at the Raritan Inn. Connor Daniel presented drawings and plans for his Eagle Scout project and he received huge support from CAMPA. Their support will help him to earn the money to fund the veteran's "memorial" project.

Councilwoman Salisbury reported that the last Board of Health meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks Committee met and reorganized and decided to change their regular meeting time to the first Thursday of each month. At their first regular meeting the Committee worked on and completed their 2011 budget request for submission to Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Daniel reported that he read in the newspaper that Bloomsbury has drafted an ordinance regulating chickens in their Borough by using Califon's recently adopted ordinance as a model which they modified for Bloomsbury.

Mayor Daniel reported that he and Councilman Baggstrom attended a meeting sponsored by H.C. Freeholder Rob Walton on shared services for schools. There were many speakers present and one of the topics discussed was shared services of school district's Administrative offices and officers. Mayor Daniel reported that the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools, Gerald Vernotica, recently dismissed from his position by Governor Christie, was scheduled to speak at this meeting, but he did not attend. Also discussed at this meeting was the issue of "choice" schools and transportation. Mayor Daniel and Councilman Baggstrom both agreed that S. Hunterdon Regional H.S. and elementary school, both in Amwell, have a very good dialogue and communication with each other. They coordinate their school calendar, the bus routes and curriculum. Both agreed they would be a good model to follow for shared services among school.

Mayor Daniel reported that there will be another meeting sometime in March, again sponsored by Freeholder Walton, on shared services among municipalities. Mayor Daniel spoke at length to Council about the acquisition of the Gary Winter's property. Mayor Daniel explained that there were still some issues to be worked out; primarily having to do with easements and access to the property once the acquisition is finalized. Mayor Daniel explained that originally the draft agreement was for a 5 year access from Railroad Ave. with a 5 year renewal. Mr. Winter built a large Morton barn, surrounded by grass that he planted. Access to the property now requires going around the barn potentially disturbing the planted grass and making it difficult to access the property. There is a potential access to the property from the Academy St. side, however, three trees will need to be taken down and a bridge built over the stream to allow for access with heavy equipment. Mayor Daniel stated that the Borough is negotiating these easement issues with Mr. Winters. The Borough is asking for 5 years and Mr. Winters wants 3 years. The N.J.W.S.A. is helping with these negotiations.

Mayor Daniel, once again, discussed the flooding mitigation issues with Council and read some details from the report. He informed Council that the results of the soil sampling that was conducted in late fall on this property confirmed that the soil is "frazipan", meaning it is heavily clay with limited ability to drain. Mayor Daniel reported and N.J.W.S.A agrees that storm water mitigation on this property will be "minimal", but there will be things that can be done. Council concurred with Mayor Daniel that they want this property to be purchased and conserved for "open space", using open space tax funds, even if there is no

possibility of storm water mitigation. Mayor and Council agreed that plans for closing on this property should proceed and be finalized as soon as possible. Mayor Daniel also reminded Council that the Borough's share of funding in the amount of \$46,250, for the purchase of this property, can be used toward our matching share toward the \$500,000. STAG grant. Mayor Daniel said that if this money can't be used for storm water mitigation, we will find other areas where the funds can be utilized. Mayor Daniel reported that the Highlands Council awarded the Borough \$35,000. toward our Stream Corridor Study and our Borough Engineer, Donald Scott, will use this funding to move us forward with meeting the NEPA standards for the STAG grant.

Mayor Daniel reported on the "pond" or water retention problem on the Suydam property. Mayor Daniel reported that the N.J.W.S.A. will work with the property owner above the Suydam's property to create a "rain garden" on their property which will help divert water from flowing down onto the Suydam's property. The property owners are very interested in working with the N.J.W.S.A. Councilman Medea said a "rain garden" will help to increase infiltration in the wet area. Mayor Daniel thanked the N.J.W.S.A. members, many of whom he has met with and worked with, who have been very helpful and interested in assisting the Borough with the purchase of the Winter's property and with the storm water mitigation issues.

Mayor Daniel read the thank you card from Cathy Smith to the Mayor, Council and municipal staff for the gift she received in honor of her many years of work on the Califon Crier.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Deb Dawson, editor of the Hunterdon Review, asked what a "rain garden" was. Councilman Medea answered that rain gardens are a way of dealing with runoff on properties. He explained that gutters collect the water and discharge it onto an area that is planted with native plants that like wet environments and the water recharges the groundwater. The area has to be able to drain within 24 hours. A larger area using this same application is called a bio-swale.

Councilwoman Andersen asked that a new schedule be set for the Council to write the lead articles for the Califon Crier. The Clerk said she will have it on the next meeting agenda.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by T. Weiler seconded by R. Baggstrom and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC, Municipal Clerk/Administrator

