

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 8:00 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: K. DEBLASIO, P. FARMER (arrived 8:05 p.m.),
T. FORRESTER, M. MEDEA, M. RICCIO, G. SMITH
ABSENT: NONE**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by G. Smith seconded by T. Forrester to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 9, 2015.

For: K. DeBlasio, T. Forrester, M. Medea, M. Riccio, G. Smith

Opposed: None

Abstain: P. Farmer

MOTION CARRIED

LIST OF BILLS

Motion was made by M. Riccio seconded by M. Medea to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$6,448.03.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

__ Califon Municipal Court monthly report for month of January, 2015

OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION – 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Daniel reviewed with Council the final printout of the 2015 Municipal budget that CFO Kevin Lifer prepared, explaining that the final budget is under the levy cap by \$300. Mayor Daniel explained further that the tax impact will be an increase of \$62.00 on a house assessed for \$328,000; a 2 cents increase from \$.50 to \$.52.

Councilman Medea asked if the CFO can explain why the Workers Compensation Insurance figure is \$15,500 when the budget estimate is \$14,500. The Clerk will ask the CFO for an explanation.

The Clerk reported that the 2015 Municipal budget will be introduced upon first reading on March 2, 2015.

B. DISCUSSION – STORMWATER PROJECT – STATUS REPORT ON BIDDING

Mayor Daniel reported on the recent bid opening for the stormwater project on February 5, 2015. Mayor Daniel explained that there were 8 bids received and opened. The apparent low bidder had a fatal flaw in their bid; the bid bond was in the wrong amount. This bid therefore must be rejected. The remaining 7 bid amounts were all over the funding amount resulting in the rejection of all bids. A decision was made to readvertise and rebid the project; date to be determined and subject to Council authorization by resolution. EIT funding for this project will now move forward with the Borough applying for a no interest interim loan for 2015 to be paid off when the permanent loan closes in May of 2016. Hopefully the Borough will be able to lock in the loan at 75% - 25%.

Councilman Medea commented that there is a contingency built into the engineer's project estimate of \$1,088,000; so that the figure of \$1,036,000 should be the number that the bid proposals are compared to.

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION – REJECTION OF LOW BIDDER/REJECTION OF ALL BIDS/AUTHORIZATION TO REBID

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2015-38

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION 2015-38

WHEREAS, eight (8) bids were opened and read in public on February 5, 2015 for the project known as “RAILROAD AVENUE/MAIN STREET STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT”; CONTRACT NO. 15-01; and

WHEREAS, following the bid opening, the results were subject to review for determination as to award of Contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the receipt of bids for the above referenced project, opened on February 5, 2015, and the subsequent review of same, is subject to the following actions:

1. Upon review, the bid submitted by Rock Solid, Inc. of Newark, N.J.; the apparent low bidder, was found to contain a material defect having to do with an insufficient amount in the mandatory bid bond, therefore resulting in the **rejection** of Rock Solid’s bid
2. Upon review of the remaining bids, action is taken to **reject all bids**, due to all of the bid amounts exceeding the allocated funding amount
- 3) Due to all bids for this project being rejected, Mayor and Council approve authorization to rebid this project and to **re-advertise** the “Notice to Bidders”; all in accordance with Contract documents, plans and specifications as prepared by Keller & Kirkpatrick, Inc., Engineers, Surveyors and Planners

Motion was made by T. Forrester seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2015-38 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Medea reported that he had no report for the Parks Committee. Councilman Medea reported that he could not make the Stormwater meeting last Thursday due to a work conflict.

Councilwoman Riccio reported that she and the Mayor will meet on Thursday with the Police Chief at Police headquarters.

The Recreation Committee met and reviewed activities for the year and discussed the \$4000 budget allotted for these activities. Plans for the Memorial Day Parade and the Street Fair are on hold until there is clarification of possible time and space constraints, due to the start of the stormwater project on Main St. in the late spring/early summer. Councilman Smith reported that he has received a letter from the County approving the closure of Main St. for the Parade. The next meeting of the Recreation Committee will be held on March 10th.

Councilwoman Riccio announced that Karen Cubberly has agreed to join the Recreation Committee and should be added to the membership list.

Councilman Farmer reported that the Planning Board met for their reorganization and first regular meeting of 2015. It was agreed that the meetings would begin at 7:30 p.m. in 2015; not 8:00 p.m. as in the past and the annual notice will be published to reflect this change.

Councilman Farmer asked Councilman Smith to discuss matters that were considered at the meeting. Councilman Smith reported that the Board approved the recommendations of the Historic Preservation Commission approving Eric Metzler's application to install vinyl siding on his building on Main St. The vote of the HPC was 3 to 2 in favor of approval. There were two members who would have preferred to leave and make improvements to the original stucco siding. The Planning Board will be reviewing the annual report of variances.

Councilman Farmer reported that the Mayor has asked the Environmental Commission to work with the Planning Board on stormwater issues; as a result of receiving a letter from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network requesting that Califon join them in asking the DEP to adopt new stormwater standards. Councilman Farmer reported that he feels this is an important issue facing Califon specifically as it applies to "impervious coverage" issues; as many homes in the Borough are "non-compliant". Mayor Daniel stated that we may have to ask our Planner, Elizabeth McKenzie, for her input on this important issue facing the Borough.

Councilman Forrester reported that the Board of Health will meet tomorrow night.

Councilman Smith reported that the DPW has been busy plowing and removing snow from Borough streets. Councilman Smith reported that he has not received a DPW report for the last couple of months. Councilman Farmer and Councilwoman DeBlasio both reported an incident of the snow plow honking his horn, repeatedly, in the early morning hours, to get a homeowner to remove a car from the roadway. Both reported that it was disturbing to the entire neighborhood and both recommended that in lieu of honking the horn, the police should be contacted to have the homeowner remove the car from the roadway to facilitate plowing. The Police will be contacted and asked to be more proactive on their patrols when roads are snow covered and plowing commences. Councilman Smith will contact the DPW Director to discuss the situation.

Councilwoman DeBlasio reiterated how disruptive the honking of the horn was to the neighborhood at 2:00 a.m. in the morning and asked that this DPW procedure cease immediately.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Daniel had no additional reports for tonight's meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by T. Forrester seconded by G. Smith and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC/Administrator

