

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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. BAGGSTRTOM, J. BEARD, M. MEDEA,
J. SALISBURY, G. SMITH
ABSENT: NONE**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by J. Beard seconded by R. Baggstrom to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2012.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Beard to approve the minutes from the joint meeting held between the Borough of Califon and Califon Board of Education on January 23, 2012.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

LIST OF BILLS

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Beard to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$144,215.75.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT

The Tax Collector’s Report was reviewed and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

___ letter from Richard and Shirley Slusher requesting approval to rename the annual October 5K run to the Jon Slusher Memorial Scholarship Run

___ letter of introduction for the H.C. Dept. of Public Safety and Health renamed and reorganized in January, 2012 from the H.C. Dept. of Health

___ Califon Board of Education resolution changing the school election date to November from April

___ North Hunterdon-Voorhees H.S. District resolution changing the school election date to November from April

___ Califon Board of Education Certification of Offices to be filled for Califon School District filed with the H.C. Clerk's Office

___ Califon Planning Board minutes from meeting held on November 16, 2011

OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION – FORMAL FILING OF JCP&L COMPLAINT WITH BPU

Mayor Daniel reported that he received a copy of the Robbinsville, N.J. complaint that has been formally filed with the BPU and has forwarded it to our Borough attorney, Peter Jost for editing. Mayor Daniel reported that Tewksbury Township has submitted a formal letter of complaint to JCP&L citing dissatisfaction with services. There will be a meeting in Tewksbury Twp. on February 28th at 7:00 p.m. with JCP&L to discuss problems with energy service. The public is invited to attend. Mayor Daniel stated that Tewksbury Twp. has indicated that they would like to joint in with Califon to file a formal complaint about JCP&L to the BPU, similar to what Robbinsville has done. Mayor Daniel would like to see JCP&L initiate infrastructure improvements; improve communication in emergencies and improve speed and accuracy of services. Councilwoman Andersen stated that, in their complaint, Robbinsville is asking the BPU if they can switch over to PSE&G from JCP&L and she was wondering if Califon would be able to do the same. Mayor Daniel and Councilman Bagstrom questioned whether or not PSE&G was in our service area. Mayor Daniel will speak with the Borough attorney and report back to Council.

B. RESOLUTION – COUNTY WIDE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION OF COUNTY-WIDE SCHOOLS BY THE DEPT. OF EDUCATION

Mayor Daniel reported that he was in attendance at a seminar on school consolidation sponsored by H.C. Freeholder, Rob Walton, who is advocating a study to determine the feasibility of consolidating all school districts in the 26 Hunterdon County municipalities. At this meeting, Lebanon Boro was very vocal in their opposition to this proposal citing that such a proposal would impose a significant tax burden on 13 of the 26 municipalities; Lebanon Boro being one of the 13 municipalities. Mayor Daniel reported that Lebanon Boro has written a letter expressing their extreme opposition to this feasibility study, which he has received and will get a copy to Council. Mayor Daniel stated that Raritan Twp. is promoting a resolution which supports asking the Dept. of Education to conduct a feasibility study for the county-wide consolidation of schools. Councilwoman Andersen stated that the Lebanon Boro letter opposing this study is interpreting a study that hasn't been done yet. Mayor Daniel stated that he would

like the Council to vote on a resolution of support or non-support for this issue at the next meeting. He will make sure that Council gets a copy of the Raritan Twp. resolution and a copy of the Lebanon Boro letter.

C. DISCUSSION – USE OF LOCAL OPEN SPACE FUNDING FOR PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION

Mayor Daniel reported that Borough attorney, Peter Jost, has confirmed that local open space tax money can be used toward the construction of a new playground in Island Park. Mayor Daniel reported that FOCIP (Friends of Califon Island Park) is disbanding and he would like the Parks Committee to take charge of recommending a plan for the construction of a new playground by the compliance date of 2014. Councilwoman Andersen expressed objection to spending money on a new playground when there is so much vandalism and destruction at the park and not enough effort to protecting what is there now. Council members discussed various methods for protecting the Park including better police coverage and surveillance cameras. Councilwoman Andersen said that as Police Commissioner, she will ask for sustained police vigilance and she personally will check the park day and night.

Councilman Medea reported that he will contact playground vendors and invite to a Council meeting. FOCIP has \$13,000 from fundraising to donate to the park and the balance will come from open space funds. Councilman Medea has estimates for playground equipment that range from \$50,000 to \$85,000 and the \$13,000 should cover the cost of demolition of the current structure. Mayor Daniel stated that there are boards with donor's names surrounding the current playground that need to be incorporated into a new structure. Mayor Daniel also asked that the Parks Committee arrange for a group that will take over the project of the engraved pavers for the memorial at the Park. The pavers can be ordered through Pavers Art and then picked up in Lindewald, N.J. Mayor Daniel recommended contacting James Bell, who may be able to assist with this project.

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION – ADOPTION OF THE H.C. ALL HAZARDS PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN

Beth Wolfmayer, OEM Coordinator for Califon, was present at tonight's meeting and she addressed Mayor and Council explaining that Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management adopted this plan in June of 2011 and is giving the local municipalities a year to do a local adoption of this plan. Ms. Wolfmayer handed out printouts of the pre-disaster mitigation plan and she asked that Council read over carefully and then consider adopting the resolution for this plan. Mayor Daniel asked that adoption of this resolution be tabled until the next meeting giving everyone time to digest the information about the plan. Ms. Wolfmayer reported that she asked Braydon Fahey, H.C. OEM Coordinator, if there was any promise of a financial commitment by the municipality if they vote to adopt the resolution and he assured her there was no financial obligation.

Ms. Wolfmayer reported that there has been no reimbursement of money from FEMA for the damage caused by Hurricane Irene and there has been no work done by FEMA to date on the October snowstorm. She will be speaking to Jodi Sergeant who works for FEMA to see if she

can give her any answers. Ms. Wolfmayer reported that she will be meeting with a new FEMA representative on Friday to hopefully move things along.

Ms. Wolfmayer reported that she just completed a 30 hour training and received some great ideas to improve our local emergency management plan. Ms. Wolfmayer gave praise to the Califon Fire Co. and the Califon First Aid Squad for their handling of a structure fire in Tewksbury last week. The Emergency Management Committee has not set a date as yet for their next meeting, however, Police Chief Bailey developed a phone and e-mail chart and Califon just has to plug in our contacts. When the EMC has set a date for their next meeting, they will be discussing identifiable hazards in town and ways to roll out the emergency management plan.

B. RESOLUTION – SUPPORT OF CONSTRUCTION OF COUNTY PROJECT KNOWN AS “COUNTY RT.512 AND COUNTY RT. 513

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2012-29

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon, a municipality in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the Borough of Califon has received and reviewed plans from the County of Hunterdon; Dept. of Road, Bridges and Engineering for a project known as “**County Route 512 (Main St.); County Route 513 (High Bridge-Califon Rd.) in Borough of Califon & Township of Lebanon, Hunterdon County, New Jersey**” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon finds no objection to and fully supports the construction of the aforementioned project, which will be funded by federal monies and which will be executed by the County of Hunterdon and it’s assigned contractor.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by G. Smith to adopt Resolution 2012-29 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

C. RESOLUTION – APPROPRIATION RESERVE TRANSFER

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2012-30

WHEREAS, it appears that the unexpended balances in the following account will not be sufficient to pay outstanding bills:

10510021 Gen Admin: OE Legal Advertising

WHEREAS, it appears that there will be an unexpended balance in the following 2011 account:

10544099 Telephone: OE

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the following transfers be authorized and within Resolution is the authority of the Borough Treasurer to make said transfer:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$300.00	Telephone: OE	Gen Admin: OE Legal Adver.

Motion was made by K. Andersen seconded by J. Salisbury to adopt Resolution 2012-30 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Andersen reported that she contacted Lieutenant Art Adams and asked him to call Califon School Principal, Kathleen Prystash, about communication regarding snow emergencies.

Councilman Smith had no report for tonight's meeting.

Councilman Beard reported that he attended the Board of Education meeting and they discussed their discussion, voted on by resolution, to move the school election from April to the general election in November. The BOE has kept their budget at the 2% cap, with no salary increases for the staff. Therefore, the budget will not be on the ballot to be voted on this year, but will be voted on by the BOE only. Councilman Beard reported that the BOE is meeting with Lebanon Township this week to discuss school consolidation. BOE member, Carolyn Murin, is forming a task force to help with the formulation of a survey that will be distributed borough-wide to garner opinions on the concept of school consolidation with another municipality.

The Recreation Committee is scheduled to meet next Tuesday; however, Councilman Beard would like to reschedule after finding and securing a chairperson for this committee.

Councilman Baggstrom stated that his wife is interested in joining the Recreation Committee.

Councilman Beard reported that the Committee will discuss dates and times for a movie night in March and for the Easter Egg hunt.

The Clerk asked that she be told of the date of the next meeting so that she can notice the newspaper about their reorganization meeting.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that the Planning Board met on January 25th for their reorganization meeting. Councilman Baggstrom reported that he and Lavinia Trimmer were sworn in for their new term. The officers appointed on the Planning Board are:

Bruce Morrow – President

Paul Winter – V. President

Richard Baggstrom – Treasurer

Art Owens – Asst. Treasurer

Councilman Baggstrom reported that all of the previous year's professionals were reappointed for 2012.

At the regular meeting following the reorganization, the Planning Board discussed the draft solar ordinance. Some questions concerning setbacks, etc. were clarified and the Planning Board attorney was asked to review the draft for other possible changes. The draft, when finalized, will go before Council for adoption.

The Planning Board subcommittee is working on a wind ordinance.

Councilwoman Salisbury reported that the Board of Health did not meet in February due to lack of an agenda.

Councilwoman Salisbury reported that Sustainable Jersey green team met on the 31st of January with Chad Rogers and Lynn from Lower Valley Presby. Church to discuss the joint community garden. On Feb. 21st, Councilwoman Salisbury and green team member, Karen Mastro, will present their proposal to the church session. If approved by the session, Sustainable Jersey and the Church will begin advertising the community garden and setting up an orientation and registration day. Councilwoman Salisbury thanked reporter Deb Dawson for her article about the community garden in the Hunterdon Review. Councilman Baggstrom was concerned about the fate of the Christmas trees that have been growing in the area where the garden will be located. Councilwoman Salisbury reported that the trees that are not diseased will be given away and the diseased trees will be cut down.

Councilwoman Salisbury reported that she is filling out the application sent to her by the Solid Waste Utilities Authority for her position as a SWAC member. She asked why they would have need for her to state her income on the application.

Councilman Medea reported that CAMPA met on January 26th. Only 5 or 6 people were present out of a membership of 44 and there were no volunteers for the chairperson position. CAMPA is looking for ideas to get the membership more involved and active and a "meet and greet" has been set up for the end of March at the Raritan Inn. There will be a CAMPA meeting at the end of February to organize this event. CAMPA is considering a street fair in early June, with a band at the event or set up at the park. CAMPA is interested in improving their website with the thought that perhaps they can contact Bob Kelly to discuss establishing a tab on the Borough website. CAMPA is also discussing the idea of landscaping the island in front of the Post Office. Councilman Medea reported that he has 3 possible candidates for membership on the Parks Committee. The Committee is discussing planning the new playground. Councilman Medea drafted a parks committee budget with options 1 & 2, which will be discussed during the budget session.

Councilman Medea would like to discuss with the DPW the possibility of rolling the work on the parks ball fields into Tewksbury Twp.'s work on their ball fields; joint purchase of clay may be more cost effective. Councilman Smith and Mayor Daniel agreed that they would discuss this possibility with the Tewksbury Twp. DPW to move this project forward and get back to the Parks Committee.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor had nothing further to report for tonight's meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Reporter, Deb Dawson, asked about Green Acres involvement with the use of open space funds for the playground construction. The Clerk reported that there will be no Green Acres funding involved in the playground plans.

There being no further comments from the public, this portion of the meeting was closed.

The Clerk reported that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21st due to the Presidents Day holiday on the 20th.

Councilwoman Salisbury asked if Steven Stanaback, Recycling Coordinator, saw the information on the course for Recycling Coordinator certification and the Clerk reported that he has already signed up to attend this course.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by J. Beard seconded by G. Smith and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator