

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST  
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 1, 2021  
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 PM BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT STEVEN OGLESBY.

ALL STOOD FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE.

PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT READ INTO RECORD BE MUNICIPAL CLERK CAPASSO:

“IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4, OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, NOTICE WAS GIVEN TO TWO NEWSPAPERS, AND POSTED, THAT A WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST DAY OF APRIL, 2021, WITH THE WORK SESSION TO BEGIN AT THE HOUR OF 7:30 P.M. AND THE REGULAR MEETING TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AT THE LAKEHURST COMMUNITY CENTER, 207 CENTER STREET, LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY, AT WHICH TIME, THE BUSINESS OF THE BOROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED.”

ROLL CALL:

COUNCILMAN DAVIS: PRESENT	COUNCILMAN LOWE: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN DiMEO: PRESENT	COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT	COUNCILMAN OGLESBY: PRESENT
MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS: ABSENT	

WORK SESSION:

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK:

Council President Oglesby presented National Library Week proclamation to representative Erin Batalla of the Ocean County Library (Manchester Branch)

Ms. Batalla thanked the Governing Body and informed everyone the library is now opened to the public, hours being Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ms. Batalla stated virtual programs are available, information is on the library website and added in-person programs could begin this summer.



Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Robert McCarthy

To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

#### COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hodges reported the Finance Committee met Wayne Sabilia, Chief Financial Officer, to discuss the budget. Mrs. Hodges stated it is going to be “tight” this year and tough decisions may have to be made adding the committee will be meeting with the department heads, the Mayor, and the CFO to have a closer look.

Council President Oglesby asked if this was in part of collection of taxes and utilities being down.

Mrs. Hodges responded that is part of the issue as well as an increase in pensions and health care cost adding there is no clear guidelines with the American Rescue Plan as to how the money can be used.

Councilman DiMeo reported the Youth and Recreation Committee “Easter Egg Bombed” resident’s lawns in place of the Easter Egg Hunt adding about 30 families pre-registered. Mr. DiMeo stated the event was enjoyed by all and added pictures have been posted to the Youth and Recreation Facebook page. Mr. DiMeo stated with the warm weather approaching, the committee hopes to have more outdoor events.

Councilman Lowe reported Dave Winton, Public Works Department Head, will be getting a third opinion on the backhoe adding the engine might not have to be replaced. Mr. Lowe also reported the police department was initially thinking of having a gym upstairs at the Community Center but, after much thought, the police will utilize the bays. Mr. Lowe stated that all the gym equipment was donated adding there is no cost to the borough.

Councilman Davis reported the Public Works Committee met with Dave Winton. Mr. Davis stated the tree removal project is on hold adding Mr. Winton is waiting on Borough Attorney Ian Goldman to draft a letter to the residents regarding “nuisance trees” and that they have the option to opt out of having it removed. Mr. Davis also reported Mr. Winton is getting a third estimate on the roof at Borough Hall. Mr. Davis further reported Public Works will begin putting in a concrete ramp verses wooden ramp to the restrooms at Lake Horicon adding concrete is “vandal proof”. Mr. Davis reiterated Councilman Lowe’s report of the backhoe adding it would be in the best interest of repairing the engine at the cost of \$22,000 verse buying a new one at the cost of \$100,000.

Mr. Oglesby asked if security cameras are part of the restroom project.

Mr. Davis responded cameras are a part of the project.

Councilman McCarthy reported the Board of Education had their monthly business meeting along with their tentative budget adoption meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McCarthy

stated the proposed budget is a total of \$9,836,527 adding the borough's responsibility is \$1,246,203 with an additional debt service of \$105,040 totaling \$1,351,243, that is up \$25,000 from last year. Mr. McCarthy also stated no explanation was offered adding there is good possibility that the state is "starving" the single district schools out, forcing the issue of consolidation. Mr. McCarthy further stated the adoption meeting will be April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Mr. McCarthy went on to say the school returned to virtual learning on March 30<sup>th</sup> due to an uptick in cases of COVID-19 and hope to return after Spring break and added Pre-School will remain virtual due to staffing. Mr. McCarthy also reported the Board of Education signed-off on the Hold Harmless Agreement for snow removal. Mr. McCarthy further reported the Board of Education's monthly bills totaled \$338,921.68 with a balance of, as February 28<sup>th</sup>, \$1,000,013 and added By-Laws and policies were approved on first reading.

Mr. McCarthy reported the Fire Department will be having a mutual aid drill on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Lake Horicon from 8:30 to noon adding they will create a large pumping scenario.

Mr. Lowe asked if the Public Safety Committee has met with the Fire Department.

Mr. McCarthy responded the committee last met in January adding most communications with the Fire Department is through emails.

#### COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:53 p.m.

Bruce Margenson, 5 Geneva Road, asked, with Spring weather here and Lake Horicon drawing in people, has there been any thought of crowd control.

Council President Oglesby responded the Ordinance Committee has had several meetings adding they are working on a final draft for approval and publication. Mr. Oglesby stated the ordinance will restrict parking in certain areas of the lake making it more inconvenient for crowds to come in. Mr. Oglesby also stated the borough legally cannot close the beach to outsiders and added it is too problematic to have the lifeguard patrolling the beach for badges. Mr. Oglesby further stated residents will get preferential treatment to parking and once those slots are filled, parking will be further away, making it more difficult.

Mr. Margenson asked if there will be parking stickers for the borough residents.

Mr. Oglesby responded yes adding the police will be given the "tools" to patrol the parking adding the lifeguards can then focus on the lake.

Mr. Margenson questioned the potholes and if the borough has met with County Road Department.

Mr. Oglesby answered Union Avenue, Center Street, and Pine Street are being held off due to the upcoming water main project. Mr. Oglesby stated the water main project will be a joint effort with the Manchester Township and the base due to the problems they are both having. Mr. Oglesby further stated the base has “deadlines” to met and once they are met, the project will move forward.

Time closed: 7:59 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Gary Lowe

To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative. Time: 7:59 p.m.

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Maryanne Capasso, RMC  
Municipal Clerk