

Council President Bloom called the regular meeting of the Mine Hill Township Council to order at 7:30 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mr. Bloom announced that adequate notice for this meeting had been given as required by law.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mr. Bloom; Ms. Kanzenbach; Mr. Pepperman
Absent – Mr. Coranato; Mr. Willis
Also Present – Mr. Morris, Mayor; Mr. Oostdyk, Township Attorney; Ms. Macchia,
Township Clerk
Public Present – 5

CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Bills List

Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Pepperman and seconded by Ms. Kanzenbach to approve the bills list as presented. Seeing no discussion, the motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Kanzenbach; Mr. Pepperman; Mr. Bloom
Nays: none
Absent: Mr. Coranato; Mr. Willis
Abstentions: none

PRESENTATIONS

Freeholder John Krickus presented an overview of the 2014 Morris County Budget on behalf of the Freeholder Budget Committee. He noted that 2014 is the second year in a row of 0% increase, that a reduction in the Open Space Tax is bringing taxes down while maintaining a satisfactory balance in the Open Space Fund, that debt is being reduced, and that services will remain uncut. He added that the County has 63 fewer positions than previously, but that this has been accomplished through restructuring after retirements with no layoffs. The budget focuses strongly on repairs and improvements to roads and bridges.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Mr. Morris announced that the concrete was poured for the Dolores Walking Path and that it would need a couple of weeks to cure before the remaining work could be done.

Mr. Morris reported that he met with Morris County MUA regarding water and that progress is being made. Discussions with NJ Natural Gas are also ongoing regarding providing gas service to more of the Township.

Mr. Morris announced that Township Engineer Paul Sterbenz would be coming to the next meeting to discuss energy aggregation.

Mr. Morris noted that two abandoned septic collapses had residents fearing additional mine collapses. The holes left by these collapses are approximately 10 feet deep and they are filled with clean ground water.

Mr. Morris discussed plans to expand participation in SwiftReach.

Mr. Morris announced that he has several grant applications in progress. He and Mr. Sterbenz have been discussing attempting a federal sidewalk grant, and an additional Safe Routes to School grant has been applied for to install sidewalks from the Spartan Gas Station to Wharton Avenue.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS

Recreation/Community Committee

No report.

Board of Education

Ms. Kanzenbach noted that the BOE Budget will be presented at a meeting in April, and that restructuring of curriculum is in progress to improve NJASK scores.

Fire & First Aid

No report.

Police

No report.

Open Space Committee

Mr. Bloom reported that a new version of the trail map is in progress. The committee is also working to improve enforcement against motorized vehicles on the trails. Mr. Pepperman will set up a meeting with the Police to discuss.

Planning Board

Mr. Morris noted that a subcommittee of the Planning Board is working on the problems with the Land Use Ordinance.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 040-14 Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement Accepting the Defense Offered by Brandywine Group re: Strategic Environmental Partners, LLC

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzenbach and seconded by Mr. Pepperman to approve the resolution. The roll was called, and the resolution was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Kanzenbach; Mr. Pepperman; Mr. Bloom

Nays: none

Absent: Mr. Coranato; Mr. Willis

Abstentions: none

WHEREAS, the Township of Mine Hill is a party-defendant in a matter filed in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, Newark Vicinage, under Civil Action Case No. L-2:12-CV-03252-SDW-MCA, captioned "Strategic Environmental Partners, L.L.C. v. State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, et al."; and

WHEREAS, Brandywine Group, under letter dated February 11, 2014, has offered to provide a defense to the Township of Mine Hill in connection with the above-captioned matter under certain conditions set forth in the correspondence; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds that it is in the best interest for the Township of Mine Hill to accept the offer to provide a defense being made by Brandywine Group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Mine Hill in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, that the Township hereby accepts the offer made by Brandywine Group to provide a defense in a matter captioned "Strategic Environmental Partners, L.L.C. v. State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, et al." filed in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, Newark Vicinage, under Civil Action Case No. L-2:12-CV-03252-SDW-MCA, subject to such terms and conditions as are set forth in correspondence from Brandywine Group dated February 11, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED that the appropriate municipal official is hereby authorized to execute the letter attached hereto setting forth the terms and conditions of the defense.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution 041-14 Authorizing Agreement with Fidelity Alarm Co. for Fire Alarm System Repairs

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzenbach and seconded by Mr. Pepperman to approve the resolution. The roll was called, and the resolution was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Kanzenbach; Mr. Pepperman; Mr. Bloom
Nays: none
Absent: Mr. Coranato; Mr. Willis
Abstentions: none

WHEREAS, the Township of Mine Hill requires fire alarm system repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Township obtained a quote from Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co. to provide the services as set forth in a proposal for fire alarm system repairs dated March 11, 2014 and attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council desires to utilize the services of Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co. and the contract amount of \$710.00 is less than the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Mine Hill has certified that funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Mine Hill, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. A contract for payroll and related services is hereby awarded to Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co. in accordance with a proposal for fire alarm system repairs dated March 11, 2014 attached hereto.
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement with Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution 042-14 Authorizing Agreement with Fidelity Alarm Co. for Security Monitoring

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzenbach and seconded by Mr. Pepperman to approve the resolution. The roll was called, and the resolution was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Kanzenbach; Mr. Pepperman; Mr. Bloom
Nays: none
Absent: Mr. Coranato; Mr. Willis
Abstentions: none

WHEREAS, the Township of Mine Hill requires a fire and security alarm system upgrade and monitoring; and

WHEREAS, the Township obtained a quote from Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co. to provide the services as set forth in a proposal for a fire and security alarm system upgrade and monitoring dated March 11, 2014 and attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council desires to utilize the services of Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co. and the contract amount of \$2,060.00 is less than the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Mine Hill has certified that funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Mine Hill, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. A contract for payroll and related services is hereby awarded to Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co. in accordance with a proposal for a fire and security alarm system upgrade and monitoring dated March 11, 2014 attached hereto.
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement with Fidelity Burglar & Fire Alarm Co.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

NEW & OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Oostdyk reported that he has done some research and found that the Township's existing sign ordinances are very lacking. Mr. Morris added that signs along Route 46 require State zoning approval as well, which was not received for the LED sign that is currently on the westbound side. Mr. Morris would like to move in the direction of eliminating backlit signs and having all signs be lit from below to improve the look of Route 46.

Mr. Bloom noted that Ms. Wild advised him that \$62,000 was spent on materials and labor to handle snow removal this season. Mr. Morris added that he may seek some compensation for the emergencies.

Mr. Morris reported that he is looking to renovate the tennis courts using grant funds. Originally he had intended to repair the surface, but the quote to completely rebuild the court is substantially less expensive.

Mr. Morris discussed quotes obtained for video surveillance of the municipal complex and the beach. Cameras would be installed to aid in the enforcement against illegal dumping. Clean Communities funds can be used to pay for a portion of this equipment.

Mr. Morris also reported that the Township is currently pursuing improper subdivisions and other violations.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pepperman and seconded by Ms. Kanzenbach to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda G. Macchia, RMC
Mine Hill Municipal Clerk

Approved on this _____ day of _____, 20____

Council President