

March 27, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Quinn who issued the formal statement in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.

Roll call was taken and present were: Deputy Mayor Quinn, Councilman Gibbs, Councilman Murphy, Township Attorney Thomas Ryan, Township Manager William Close, and Township Clerk Kate Chambers. Chief Financial Officer Sam Rome and Councilwoman Whilesmith were absent.

Salute to the Flag:

Mayor Hertzberg led the assembly in a salute to the flag.

Proclamations:

Mayor Hertzberg presented a proclamation to Ernest Hofer, former Planning Board Chairman, and thanked him for his dedication to Sparta Township by serving on the Board for the past fifteen years. He stated that he had also served on many community groups within the Township, among them being the Lake Mohawk Country Club, Knoll Heights/Knoll View Ecumenical Council on Aging and was always seeking ways to make the quality of life better for all Sparta residents. Mayor Hertzberg congratulated Mr. Hofer on his retirement and wished him well in the future.

Mr. Hofer thanked the Council and staff stating that it was his pleasure to volunteer his time to this community. He stated that as an engineer he had spent many years traveling and wanted to give back to the community that he lived in for so many years.

Mayor Hertzberg presented a proclamation for Donate Life Month to Kelly Bonaventure and several volunteers who had donated their time for this organization that promotes saving lives through tissue and organ donation. The Mayor also acknowledged Allison Ognibene who was celebrating her thirtieth anniversary on receiving a double lung and heart transplant. He stated that her story epitomized the value of organ donation. Mayor Hertzberg further stated that eight lives could be saved by one organ donor and seventy five lives were impacted by one tissue donor. He further stated that twenty people in the United States die daily waiting for a transplant.

Councilman Murphy invited Commander Pete Litchfield of the VFW Post 7248 along with several veterans to join him as he read the proclamation dedicating March 29th as National Viet Nam War Veterans Day. He stated that this day was dedicated to all the veterans from the Viet Nam war that had never been acknowledged or recognized for their service.

Mayor Hertzberg called for a recess at this time.

Minutes:

On motion by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quinn and unanimously carried, the minutes of the special meeting held on February 28th and the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on March, 13, 2018 were approved as presented.

On motion by Deputy Mayor Quinn, seconded by Councilman Gibbs and carried, the executive session meeting minutes held on February 13, 2018 and the minutes of the executive and regular meeting minutes held on March 8, 2018 were approved as presented. Councilman Murphy abstained.

Open to the Public:

No one wished to be heard this portion of the meeting was closed.

Manager's Report:

Recent Storm Event

Mr. Close stated that the Township experienced the fourth Noreaster storm this past week. He stated that this followed the two most recent storms Riley and Quinn which had created a number of challenges in the community particularly with the loss of electric power. He stated that we had been fortunate because we did not get the brunt of the storm which had a greater impact on the coastal section of the state. Mr. Close commended the DPW for the excellent job they did in keeping the roads clear and passable for residents. He further acknowledged the efforts of the Police Department, Fire Department, and Ambulance Squads for their public safety efforts with the storm response. He stated that the Township had been spared from any loss of power during the storm. He further stated that a meeting had been scheduled for the end of the week with JCP&L, the Mayor, Chief Spidaletto and Jim Zepp to do a post event critique of the recent storm to what items can be addressed moving forward to help minimize future impacts with future storms.

JCP&L Winter Storm Conference Call

Mr. Close stated that the Township, along with other Municipalities, had been invited to participate in a Conference Call with the President of JCP&L on March 21, 2018, where they were presented with an update on the recent Winter Storm Toby. He stated that Attendees that had been on the call were able to ask questions and were provided answers. He further stated that fortunately, our area had been spared the brunt of this particular storm. Mr. Close stated that JCP&L had also performed helicopter patrols around the New Jersey transmission lines on Thursday, March 22, 2018.

Sparta Township Station Park Turf Field

Mr. Close informed Council that the Township Parks & Recreation Division had opened the turf field this past Monday. He stated that those who had coordinated with the Recreation Office for field use would be able to use the field, weather permitting.

Township Bids

Mr. Close informed Council that the Township will be taking bids for the following projects:

- **CN-18-02 Coating of Seneca Lake Water Storage Tank** – On March 15, 2018, the Township held a bid opening for this project. Bragaton Construction, Inc. had been the lowest bidder with a complete bid package in the amount of \$163,300.00. Mr. Close stated that this bid was on the Agenda for Resolution adoption.
- **CN-18-03 Concrete Curb Removal and Replacement on Township Roads** – The Township has scheduled a bid opening for Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 11:00 a.m.
- **CN-18-04 Ductile Iron and HDPE Pipe, Mechanical Fittings, Fire Hydrants, Water Service Repair Hardware and Related Accessories** – The Township has scheduled a bid opening for Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 11:00 a.m.

The Scope of Work on both bids may be reviewed and obtained at the Township Clerk's Office during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday). Information is available on the Township Website www.spartanj.org under Bids RFP/RFQ.

Annual Sparta Township Water Utility Fire Hydrant Flushing Program

Mr. Close informed Council that the Water Utility will be conducting hydrant flushing **starting the week of April 16, 2018** in the **Lake Mohawk, Highlands** and **Sunset Lake** water systems and that flushing would occur between the hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday thru Friday. He stated that they anticipated completing the program in five (5) weeks. He further stated that flushing should not disrupt service but sporadic water discoloration may occur and we caution you to watch your laundry water while the program is in effect. He stated that if anyone should you have any questions, to please visit our Hydrant Flushing Program link on the Township

website at www.spartanj.org, and if problems should arise, please contact the Sparta Township Water Utility @ (973) 729-7133 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mr. Close stated that to keep the residents aware, the week of April 9th, a Notice would be placed in the New Jersey Herald and Sparta Independent, and on the Township's Website and Facebook Page, Police Facebook Page, Visual Message Boards as well as the Honeywell Alert for those directly affected by the flushing.

Vial of Life Program

Mr. Close informed Council that there will be a major town-wide initiative in the community by the Sparta Woman's Club, in conjunction with the support of the Township, particularly the emergency service personnel, to implement a Vial of Life program for residents of the municipality. He stated that they will be distributing Vial of Life Kits to interested residents which it is hoped will make a difference in how quickly they are treated by having the Kit available for responders to treat them. He further stated that the Kit will contain: 2 decals, a medical information sheet, a note, magnet or double-sided tape, and a baggie. It will work as follows:

- Complete the Medical Form and place it in the Vial of Life baggie. (If additional Medical Forms for family members are needed, copies should be made from the original form included in the Kit.)
- Affix the baggie to the front of your refrigerator with the Decal facing forward.
- Place the second Decal on your front door. (This alerts responding personnel to the fact that your Emergency Information is readily available on the door of your fridge).

Mr. Close stated that the Vial of Life Committee is looking to spread the word, have local organizations put the info on their websites, help distribute the kits, supply copy service, and consider a donation or sponsorship. For information, please contact Marjorie Strohsahl, Vial of Life Chair, Sparta Woman's Club. Information can also be found on the Township's Website.

Attorney Award for LCR

Mr. Close took a moment to recognize the Township Attorney, Tom Ryan, for having recently been chosen for the 2018 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers. He stated that there had been nine attorneys from the firm that had been included on the list of Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

Cram the Cruiser

Mr. Close had reminded our residents of the "Cram the Cruiser" event which was currently underway. He stated that the Sparta Police Department, along with other local police departments in Sussex County, the Sussex County Sheriff's Office, and New Jersey State Police Troopers of Sussex County were holding the second annual food drive for area collecting food donations for Sussex County residents who were in need of assistance. He further stated that donations were being accepted at all Police Departments in Sussex County and the NJ State Police Barracks lobbies in the County beginning on March 15th and running through March 31st. He stated that they would be collected at the Sussex County Sheriff's office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. He stated further that donations could be also be dropped off at the Mohawk House Restaurant located at 3 Sparta Junction in Sparta from noon to 10:00 p.m. daily. He hoped that everyone would support this charitable activity that specifically benefited persons in Sussex County.

Honeywell Instant Alert

If Residents haven't already done so, please sign up for Honeywell Instant Alerts on our website at www.spartanj.org. You can sign up for what type of instant alerts you would like to receive, like the Storm Alerts, Hydrant Flushing, etc.

Sussex County Board of Elections

Mr. Close stated that the Board of Elections was looking for poll workers, and that a current list of available poll worker training classes was available on our website along with information on how to get in touch with them if anyone is interested.

SCMUA Electronic Waste Recycling Program

Mr. Close stated that the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority would be holding an E-Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, March 31, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at their facility at 34 State Route 94, Lafayette. He further stated that this program would be available to Sussex County residents, businesses, local school districts, municipalities and county agencies. Information is located on the Township website and www.scmua.org.

Approval of Manager's Report:

On motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Gibbs and unanimously carried, the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Introduction of Ordinance

18-03 An Ordinance Appropriating the Total Sum of \$1,700,000.00 From General Capital Improvement Fund for Funding Various Capital Improvements or Purposes by the Township of Sparta, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey

On motion by Deputy Mayor Quinn seconded by Councilman Gibbs and unanimously carried, the following resolution was duly adopted as amended:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE TOTAL SUM OF \$1,700,000.00 FROM GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR FUNDING VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY: is hereby adopted on first reading and the same shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish notice of the introduction and final hearing according to law.

Hearing of Ordinance

18-02 Township of Sparta Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

The second and final hearing of the ordinance entitled: TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) was given and held open for public discussion.

No one wished to be heard and this portion was closed.

On motion by Deputy Mayor Quinn, seconded by Councilman Gibbs and unanimously carried, the following resolution was duly adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that an ordinance entitled: TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) is hereby adopted on second and final reading and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish said notice and the ordinance will take effect in accordance with the law.

Open to the Public – Resolutions:

A resident from Hardyston Township addressed Council stating that she was happy that Sparta Township would be establishing a domestic violence response team by adopting Resolution 7-5 that was listed on the agenda and stated the importance of having this response team for these situations.

Resolutions:

On motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quinn and unanimously carried, Resolutions 7-1 through 7-5 were duly adopted:

7-1 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Township Tax Sale Certificates

WHEREAS, certificates of sale were issued to the Township of Sparta for delinquent taxes on various blocks and lots at the 2016 tax sale held by the Township; and

WHEREAS, Block 35002, Lot 60 was redeemed on March 19, 2018, and the certificate on this property is paid in full amount of the delinquency to the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk of the Township of Sparta are hereby authorized to endorse the following Certificates of Sale for cancellation.

<u>Certificate #</u>	<u>Block/Lot</u>
16-00077	35002/60

7-2 Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Personal Property No Longer Needed for Public Use on an Online Auction Website

WHEREAS, the Township of Sparta has determined that the property described as Surplus Personal Property and is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit Technology Pilot Program and Study Act (P.L. 2001, c. 30) authorizes the sale of surplus personal property no longer needed for public use through the use of an online auction service; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Sparta intends to utilize the online auction services of USGovBid located at <http://usgovbid.com>; and

WHEREAS, the sales are being conducted pursuant to the Division of Local Government Services’ Local Finance Notice 2008-9.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Sparta is hereby authorized to sell the surplus personal property as indicated on an online auction website entitled <http://usgovbid.com>; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into between USGovBid and the Township of Sparta are available at <http://usgovbid.com/> and in the Township Clerk’s office.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MAKE/MODEL</u>	<u>VIN #/ IDENTIFICATION#</u>
1985	Hahn Fire Truck	HCP1514272985

7-3 Award of Contract – Painting of the Seneca Lake Storage Tank

WHEREAS, the Township of Sparta received bids for CN #18-02 on March 15, 2018 for the painting of the Seneca Lake water tank; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council utilized bidding procedures as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the contract be awarded to Bragaton Construction, 74 East McClellan Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039 in an amount not to exceed \$163,300.00

7-4 Resolution Approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement with F.O.P. Spartan Lodge #26 (Rank and File) and the Township of Sparta

WHEREAS, the Sparta Township Council has negotiated a Collective Bargaining Agreement (“Agreement”) with the F.O.P. Spartan Lodge #26 (Rank and File) for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sparta Township Council that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Township of Sparta and the F.O.P. Spartan Lodge #26 (Rank and File) for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020 is hereby approved and the Mayor is authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Township of Sparta; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase in this resolution is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Resolution.

7-5 Resolution Authorizing Agreement With Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Intervention Services (DASI) Regarding the Establishment of a Domestic Violence Response Team

WHEREAS, the Police Department of the Township of Sparta is responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991 (N.J.S.A. 2C:25-17); and

WHEREAS, said act requires the Police Department to establish Domestic Crisis Teams or participate in established Domestic Crisis Teams; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department of the Township of Sparta has a Domestic Crisis Team in effect; and

WHEREAS, said team may include, social workers, clergy or other persons trained in counseling, crisis intervention or in the treatment of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Intervention Services (DASI) has offered to enter into a Domestic Violence Response Team Affiliation Agreement with the Sparta Township Police Department to create a regional domestic violence response team.

WHEREAS, a proposed form of Agreement has been provided by DASI, which Agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by the Township Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Township be and the same is hereby authorized to enter into a Domestic Violence Response Team Affiliation Agreement with DASI; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Chief of Police are hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agreement with DASI is contingent upon a reciprocal agreement being entered into with the Township of Sparta Regional Domestic Violence Response Team.

Council Liaison Reports:

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that planning and zoning minutes had been provided to Council. She stated that the town continued to be in a good position as far as new businesses opening. She stated that Council received information packets and information had been posted online as well.

Councilman Gibbs stated that the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny had been a success and the Recreation Committee and the Recreation Department had done a great job. He stated that seniors had volunteered to distribute the food. He stated also that Tex Flex was a new sponsor of the program. Councilman Gibbs informed Council that UNICO was holding a rescheduled Easter Egg Hunt on March 31st.

Old Business:

Councilman Murphy asked if the Township Engineer could expedite repairs on the bridge spanning the Wallkill River in Station Park by drawing up specifications or if an engineering firm needed to be utilized. Mr. Close responded that he believed an engineering firm needed to be involved and the Township Engineer was working to expedite the specs and he was hoping to have that in place very soon.

In response to a question by Councilman Murphy as to whether an outside engineering firm was necessary, Mr. Close stated that he was going to be cautious when it came to public safety. Mr. Close stated that he would be willing to meet and go over the plans with Councilman Murphy and the engineer and answer any questions he may have.

New Business:

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that she wanted to commend the Chief of Police and the Township Manager for their part in the increase of people signing up for Honeywell notifications. Mr. Close stated that so far almost 3700 people have signed up.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that the Township website would be updated in a couple of weeks to add a link to various new services that will be provided.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that she had attended an ad hoc health meeting and she would be providing an update regarding that at a later time.

On motion by Mayor Hertzberg, seconded by Councilman Murphy and unanimously carried, Mary Coe was appointed to the Library Board of Trustees to serve a five-year term.

Open to the Public:

Mike Vrabel, 16 Boulder Ridge Crossing, Sparta addressed Council and stated that he was there to support Kate Madison and everyone involved in the local Sussex County Chapter of the Brady Campaign. He stated that he was a veteran and also thanked Council for recognizing the Vietnam War Veterans. Mr. Vrabel also spoke about the destructive force of a military style weapon and different events he had been involved in with regard to assault style weapons. Mr. Vrabel asked Council to consider adopting a resolution that had been adopted by Byram Township and had passed the State House and was now being considered in the State Senate that would not allow a gun owner of another state that has a concealed carry permit from their home state to bring it over state lines into New Jersey.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that Mr. Vrabel and his organization could make updates to the resolution and send it to Council for their review.

Mr. Vrabel stated that he would be willing to do that and he was in favor of more sensible gun legislation.

Sue Hannon, 218 South Brookside Drive, Sparta, President of the Sussex County Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, addressed Council that she had sent Councilwoman Whilesmith a copy of the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. She stated that towns across New Jersey have been indicating that they are against the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. She stated further that the bill did not make sense with regard to public safety and was not in keeping with New Jersey's strict gun laws. Ms. Hannon indicated that she would send a sample resolution to the Council for their consideration.

Dan Chiariello, 15 Cambridge Drive, Sparta addressed Council concerning the 2018 municipal budget. He stated that over the years Sparta has made major investments in the high school, middle school and town hall. He asked if there were any other major projects scheduled to be done in the near future.

Mr. Close, Township Manager, stated that he would be happy to meet with Mr. Chiariello to discuss future plans. He stated that the 2018 budget provided slightly over one million dollars in pay as you go infrastructure costs which consists mainly of roadways. Mr. Close stated that the township had worked very hard to limit the need for bonding. He stated that money had also been set aside to purchase equipment and would be looking at possible bonding for water improvements.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that the town was also doing maintenance projects that might not be visible to residents. She stated that public safety was also Council's foremost concern. She stated that work would also be done to upgrade the Town's parks and facilities particularly at White Lake and Station Park.

Expenditures:

On motion by Deputy Mayor Quinn, seconded by Councilman Murphy and unanimously carried expenditures in the amount of \$6,662,543.48 were approved as presented.

Adjournment:

No one else wished to be heard and no further business was brought up, motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quinn and unanimously carried to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Chambers, RMC
Municipal Clerk