

**JANUARY 3, 2019, COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM  
BOROUGH HALL MEETING ROOM**

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT**

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 7:04pm with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and the “Open Public Meetings Act” statement.

**ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gilmore, Commissioner Tovinsky and Mayor Wolk present. Also on the dais were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineers Joe Federici and Doug Akin and Clerk Terry Shannon.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS**

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the October 23, 2018, caucus meeting and the December 6, 2018, commission meeting were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$750,423.03 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky second by Commissioner Gilmore, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

**RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the resolutions that are to be approved by Consent Agenda. She read them as follows:

- 01-19 Authorizing Contract with Main Community Care Services for Animal Control
- 02-19 Approving Agreement with TTI Environmental to Finalize Tank Removal Project
- 03-19 Approving an Agreement with FJMA for Financial Consulting Services
- 04-19 Renewal of the Shared Services Agreement with Barrington for Clerk Services
- 05-19 Amending the Personnel Policies Handbook Relative to Vacation Time
- 06-19 Resolution to Appoint Brent Bowne as a Class II SLEO

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the resolution consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. Resolution consent agenda was approved.

**REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Police Department report for December 2018. They had 635 calls 293 of which were motor vehicle stops and they assigned 321 case numbers. He read highlights of the offenses. He also reported they had 25 adult arrests and read highlights of some the arrests. They served 20 out-of-town warrants and issued 293 summonses. Commissioner Gilmore then read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Fire Department report for December reporting they had 27 calls for service including one building fire,

and he read highlights of the calls. They held the “Night of Lights” parade on December 8 which went very well and then on December 23 they drove Santa Claus around town passing out candy canes. The Fire Department received a call from a resident who had no money and could not buy any presents for her two teenage daughters so they took a Christmas tree to the resident and went out and bought a turkey and all that goes with it and then gave the resident gift cards so she could buy gifts for her kids. Not only are they a volunteer fire department but they are very conscientious people who do what they can for the community. He asked the Chief to pass that on to the members. He hopes for a good year for all.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported the Construction Office issued eight permits for a total of \$1,775 in fees. They also issued two resale CO’s for a total of \$240. He also reported that for the year, the Construction Office issued 199 permits for a total of \$57,676; received 33 vacant property registrations for a total of \$43,857; and issued 93 resale CO’s for a total of \$11,160. Single stream recycling for December was 73,900 pounds and we collected 150 tons of trash for a total cost of \$10,300. We had six sewer calls in December—good thing we are selling the system. We had to have Municipal Maintenance come out to pump the Harding Avenue pump station as it could not handle the flow. We also had Pioneer Pipe make various repairs in town and we installed new gas pumps at the Borough garage.

Engineer Joe Federici from Federici and Akin reported on the following items:

- The NJDOT 2018 James Street project survey work is completed and it is under design for construction and the work will be done this summer.
- Also to be done this summer is improvements to Harding Avenue which is the Discretionary Aid project.
- Bell Road Drainage, which is also a Discretionary Aid project, is also scheduled for this summer.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector’s report for December 2018, reporting total receipts of \$190,048.78 and \$10,039.07 in lien redemptions. The Tax collector reports that collections for the year were 98.48% which was a very good job by the Collector. He then reported that Joann Wright is here tonight as she wants to do a senior citizen project for 2019 offering various programs for seniors. We will include information about the program in the Messenger. He then stated we will be here again on January 29 for the caucus meeting at 3pm and February 7 at 7pm for the commission meeting. He all the volunteers for all the events they ran in December.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. Mike Rossano from Green Avenue said his daughter asked if the pet chip scanner has been utilized. Chief Conte responded that is has been utilized and allowed them to return some dogs. Lucy Potts, 341 Davis Avenue, spoke about her neighbor. She said he is dumping all kinds of trash, compost, wood and more on his property. He is feeding peanut shells to all the rodents causing a problem. He has animals living under his deck and she has peanut shells all over her property. His fence is falling down and she feels like she is living next to a pig sty. She also has water draining into her yard which she believes is coming from his yard. The governing body responded that we will send our property maintenance officer out to look at the situation.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion was closed and the meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk