

BOROUGH OF PINE BEACH

WORK MEETING

April 6, 2020

Mayor Cuneo called the meeting to order, stating that these are extreme circumstances and we are utilizing remote access to complete the meeting. He asked all to identify themselves when speaking. He then read the STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE 'OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW' P.L. 1975 C 231 NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS AND THE STAR-LEDGER AND POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS OF THE PINE BEACH MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND THE PINE BEACH POST OFFICE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL BECOME A PART OF THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THIS MEETING

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: MR. BUDESA, MRS. COLETTI, MR. NEWMAN, MR. POLHEMUS, MR.SAXTON, MR. WIECK

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Municipal Alliance funding has been withdrawn, and the funds redirected to needs related to COVID 19. So many of the worthwhile programs will not be done, such as the Night Out, Senior Move, Egg Hunt. The Alliance fund raiser of the town wide yard sale is canceled. Council suggested the town withdraw from the Alliance program at this time, perhaps temporarily. If funds become available we could reinstate the Alliance. It was suggested that any money for the budget match will be put in playgrounds or celebrations.

Mr. Polhemus added that some celebrations should be done, such as the Egg Hunt. Perhaps a shared service agreement for the Alliance with another town could be a possibility. The Mayor added that perhaps businesses can help fund some of the programs.

Mrs. Coletti mentioned that the Alliance pays for the Egg Hunt now, but in the past other organizations, such as the Civic Association did it. Mr. Polhemus suggested that the Egg Hunt and July 4 celebrations are nonpolitical.

In light of what we are dealing with and our budgetary obligations it's important to keep a certain number of events, perhaps with business partners. This is a positive thing going forward.

The Mayor mentioned the budget should be introduced in May, the date keeps being pushed later due to the state and aid and other grants. The energy receipt grant might not be available for our budget.

Mr. Budesa asked how much money we receive in energy receipts, and it is approximately \$270,000. We don't get state aid. Utilities pay the tax and the state divides it to the towns. The state is looking to keep the funds this year.

Linda Picaro Covello, Finance officer, added that we were notified that we will get the same energy receipts and state aid as last year, but the distribution will be on a payment schedule. This creates a cash flow problem. We might get the money but not know when.

The Mayor added that the TR Schools are short on money and have asked the Borough to contribute extra money to the school. The Mayor sent a letter that extra money would not be coming from the Borough.

Mr. Budesca mentioned that the school wanted \$30,000 to have a police officer present in the school. The Mayor stated that we can't pay for personnel for the school, our budget has no extra money and it would put us over our cap. He thinks the school has to ask for participating towns to contribute as part of their funding request.

There are many bills in Trenton, one would allow towns to hold their school taxes, and pay at a different time. If it is passed, the Mayor doesn't think we should hold it if the money comes in.

Mr. Budesca agrees that the bill delaying the time we have to pay school taxes, if it's budgeted and if we get the money in we should pay it. Mayor Cuneo commented that we do pretty well with tax collection.

The building is closed to the public, the clerk's office, tax collector (Wed. morning 10 – 12), tax assessor (Monday night 6 to 8) Zoning Officer (Tuesday 3-4:30) and utility clerk (Tuesday 4:30 – 6:30) are working at different times to ensure social distancing.

The personnel committee is working together to structure the office staff.

The employees are doing an awesome job, working to keep things moving in town. The mayor is proud of the work they are doing.

On Wednesday, at 7 PM please ring a bell or make a noise outside for 2 minutes to show our unity.

The Mayor has observed many people walking along the road but keeping the social distance. They wave but keep a respectable distance apart. He is proud that the people are following health suggestions.

Mr. Simon mentioned that the fire company is keeping a social distance and could not do a Bunny Run at this time. He suggested if someone wants to do it they can.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WIECK

Mr. Wieck is checking into having a Memorial Day service on the bluff on May 25. In light of the COVID-19 situation it might not be possible to have the Veterans group there.

The July 4 committee met and has chosen celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote. They are looking for nominations for the grand marshal. We have a Zoom meeting planned for April 16 at 6 PM. All are welcome to comment.

Mayor Cuneo commented that it is a great suggestion to honor the 100 years that women have the right to vote. We hope to have a Memorial Day service and the July 4 parade.

R. BUDESA

Mr. Budesca reviewed Resolution 2020-39, amending the temporary budget. It's an extension of the temporary budget and he asked if it mirrors our prior budget. Ms. Picaro-Covello, CMFO, explained that it will take more time to pass the 2020 budget this year.

The Mayor commented that the resolution is 4 pages long; the previous CMFO presented a temporary budget more condensed.

S. COLETTI

Mrs. Coletti mentioned that the Borough usually sends letters to businesses soliciting funds through advertisements in the July 4 program but there are so many businesses not open now she doesn't think it's the time to ask. It was discussed to do without the mailing, to have flyers made, advertise on Facebook and the website.

Mr. Wieck suggested having a few changes in the July 4 program, he would like to see a cardboard boat race and cardboard boats could be in the parade.

Mrs. Coletti asked about the resolution entitled Dedication by Rider. Mrs. Picaro-Covello explained that typically it is used for emergencies such as snow, to have a budgeted line and if it is not used it can go for another year. When Superstorm Sandy hit it became storm recovery, and now with COVID 19 the same trust fund can be used for the emergency. It must be approved by the state.

R. NEWMAN

Mr. Newman mentioned that the parks at the county are closed because people were not doing social distancing. Mayor Cuneo mentioned that our police officers have been vigilant in keeping people reminded of the social distancing. Mr. Newman also questioned if citizens are being exposed on the boardwalk and on the walking path.

Mr. Newman also asked if the police have enough PPE equipment. The Mayor replied that right now we are good.

Mr. Newman added that the town looks great; the public works employees are doing an outstanding job.

R. POLHEMUS

Mr. Polhemus made note that the police have conserving the PPE as much as they can, it is difficult to get. We don't know when we can reorder as supplies are not available now. He urged all to be safe; these are trying times for everyone.

Mr. Polhemus echoed the Mayor's sentiments on the amazing job the employees are doing, public works, police and clerk are all doing what they have to do

The Personnel Committee have been discussing details of staffing, state requirements about employees taking time off, safeguarding employees and the vacant position. They are taking the opportunity to look at various positions and to have Pine Beach running the way it should.

J. SAXTON

Mr. Saxton brought up a question about employing a beach badge checker this year. The Mayor suggested we wait; our fees are less than normal. He suggested we hold off to see if there is enough money and even if we can open the beach.

Mr. Saxton met with employees and discussed technology systems.

The Mayor Reviewed Resolutions:

2020-35, Bills List payments in the amount of \$108,598.55

2020-36, Dedication by Rider for Storm Recovery Trust Fund

2020-37, Authorizing a change in the date for the dog license delinquent fee to take effect

2020-38, authorizing the Mayor to sign the Prosecutor's Program agreement

2020-39, Amending the temporary budget

Ms. Picaro Covello stated that there will be further discussions about the budget. There is a lot happening in the world right now.

POLICE CHIEF
FINANCE OFFICER
PUBLIC WORKS

There are problems with people flushing items that should not be flushed and it is causing problems with the sanitary sewer system.

CLERK

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

The Mayor thanked the members of the public for being present.

Seeing no further business to discuss, the Mayor called for a motion. Mr. Wieck made a motion to close the meeting and Mrs. Coletti seconded. All were in favor.