

MINUTES FOR
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
April 2, 2020

1. Montgomery Township Committee met at the Municipal Building, 2261 Van Horne Road, Belle Mead, NJ at 7:00 p.m. on the above date. Those present were:

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Mayor Jaffer, Deputy Mayor Schuldiner, Committee members Gural, Keenan and Huang

Also present were:

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY - Kevin Van Hise, Esq.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR - Donato Nieman

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER - Michael Pitts

TOWNSHIP CLERK - Donna Kukla

2. Mayor Jaffer stated the following: "Although this meeting is the regularly scheduled meeting of the Montgomery Township Committee, due to the State of Emergency that exists as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with Executive Order No. 104 issued by Governor Murphy on Monday, March 16 limiting public gatherings, this meeting is being held virtually by webcast, simulcast on Comcast Cable Channel 29, and public participation is enabled by Zoom Meeting. Instructions for participating in this meeting are provided on the Township's website at www.twp.montgomery.nj.us. In light of these special circumstances, it is the Committee's intention to limit the agenda during this State of Emergency to items necessary for the continued operation of the Township and to conclude this meeting as soon as practicable.

3. Mayor Jaffer led the Salute to the Flag.

4. **RESOLUTION - Health Department National Public Health Accreditation**

WHEREAS, The Montgomery Township Health Department is committed to transparency, accountability, and doing what works to improve health in our communities; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery Township Health Department has been awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) a nonprofit organization that administers the national accreditation program, which aims to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and transforming the quality and performance of governmental public health agencies in the U.S. and abroad; and

WHEREAS, By achieving accreditation through PHAB, people living and working in Montgomery Township can rest assured that the Montgomery Township Health Department is strong, has been rigorously examined, and has the capacity to protect and promote the health of everyone in the community; and

WHEREAS, This announcement, coming as it does in the midst of the Country's rapidly unfolding public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, will reassure our community and our partner organizations, that the services the Health Department provides are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community; and

WHEREAS, Health Officer Stephanie Carey, her staff, members of the Board of Health, and volunteers have worked around the clock to educate, assist and guide the citizens of Montgomery, Hopewell, Pennington and Rocky Hill during this COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee is appreciative of the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices made by members of the Health Department during this national crisis and congratulates Stephanie Carey and staff members Devangi Patel, Jennifer Foster, Kristen Sargent, Evan Stampoulos, Katie Williams, Briana Retsis and Jennifer LaStella, on their successful Public Health Department Accreditation.

- 4-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Gural and carried unanimously.
- 4-2. Mayor Jaffer congratulated the Health Department on this wonderful achievement. She believes that Montgomery is the smallest municipality to have achieved this accreditation. It seems timely that it came through right as we are experiencing this COVID-19 crisis. She hopes that this shows the residents of Montgomery and neighboring communities that use the services of our Health Department to realize what a wonderful group of people Montgomery has serving the community.
- 4-3. Stephanie Carey, Township Health Officer, stated she was grateful to the Governing Body and Board of Health for their support through the many years it took to reach this milestone. The robust public health system that has come about as a result of this accreditation effort in these dire times is needed more than ever.
- 4-4. Committeewoman Gural congratulated Ms. Carey, her staff and the Board of Health on being awarded the accreditation.

5. **COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE**

5-1. Health Officer Stephanie Carey stated that New Jersey is up to 25,000 cases of COVID-19 as of this date, as opposed to under 3,000 cases last week. Montgomery has had 20 cases, but she advises that all of these numbers are a gross under representation of the true impact of disease in the communities. This is because so many people are having a hard time getting tested. This will be a struggle for weeks or months to come. She stated the importance of following the "Stay At Home" direction. The important message to get across is "Stay Home, Save Lives, and Stop the Spread". This social distancing is how to keep this virus from spreading. The Board of Health has also expressed its desire to embrace a policy of encouraging the public to wear homemade masks or scarves when they are out in public. The idea is that the professional masks are necessary for hospital workers and those who are on the frontline of this battle to save lives. There are greater and greater concerns about spread that occurs before people are symptomatic as more is learned about this virus. There have been some heartening projects happening, such as a group of sewers who have been making masks for the public and the posting of instructions on to make masks.

5-2. Administrator Nieman stated that Township IT Consultant Joe Adams has begun producing face masks using 3D printers. They are not N95 quality, but they are useful for the Police Officers. They are using materials that are in the Municipal Building to produce these masks. He stated that the Township is working with "Folding at Home", which is a group of scientists and engineers who are trying to develop a virus and model simulation to fight the Corona Virus. They are desperate for computer availability. The Township has three servers which are off-line. The Township is going to donate the electricity to run this. It will not affect the Township's firewalls.

Mr. Adams stated that the "Fold at Home" project is an open source project that anyone with a computer can jump in to help analyze these viruses on a deeper level. This can be done one simulation and one model at a time. The Township recently did some IT upgrades so there is the availability to take some of these servers at no cost to the Township and run them to do these calculations. This project has already been started. He explained the production of the face masks. This is in a Beta production phase with six printers going. He explained the make-up of the masks which are disposable and inexpensive to make.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brett Borowski, York Drive, thanked the Governing Body for working out the problems with the Nixle. He felt the recent messages were more timely and had links that worked. He noticed there is a link on Nixle for the Montgomery Township Police and he didn't see it on the Township's homepage.

Mr. Borowski asked if Montgomery Promenade is going to be built and how that is going to affect the finances for the library. He thought that the library project was supposed to be out to bid, but he is guessing that COVID-19 has thrown a monkey wrench into that. He asked if there was a contingency plan. Administrator Nieman responded that there was a contingency plan. The Township has started analyzing its revenues and making budget decisions. They have discussed the situation with Somerset County on the building. It's a situation that is both a disadvantage in that the market right now is frozen but the interest rates are good. They are delaying the bid until the market quiets down. It may be advantageous because of the rates being so low and the lack of work for contractors. That decision will be made in several weeks. Mr. Borowski inquired as to the possibility of the Mary Jacobs Library remaining open until the new library gets built. Committeewoman Keenan stated that there has been a proposal made to the Mary Jacobs Library Foundation and she is meeting with the Foundation on April 3. Things are still progressing.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All matters listed hereunder are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any Township Committeeperson may request that an item be removed for separate consideration.

A. **RESOLUTION #20-4-94 - DECLARING CERTAIN GENERAL EQUIPMENT AS SALVAGE FOR DISPOSAL**

WHEREAS, The Township MIS Coordinator desires to declare certain property as salvage to be disposed of.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Township Committee does hereby authorize the disposal of the following items:

- 11 Dell Optiplex GX620 Desktops
- 3 Dell Optiplex 755 Desktops
- 1 Dell PP04X Laptop
- 3 Dell PP18L Laptops
- 3 Toshiba Laptops
- 1 HP Laserjet Pro m201dw Printer
- 1 HP Officejet Pro 8100 Printer

(Item #7 Cont.)

B. **RESOLUTION #20-4-95 - APPROVING CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE AGREEMENT FOR BLOOMBERG BUSINESS PARK LIGHTING** (Block 34001, Lots 38.01, 38.001 and 38.03) PB-07-19

BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a construction sequence agreement with Bloomberg, LP related to Bloomberg Business Park Lighting (34001, Lots 38.01, 38.001 and 38.03), subject to the review and approval of the Township Attorney and the Township Engineer.

7-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the **CONSENT AGENDA**. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Huang and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

8. **RESOLUTION #20-4-96 - AWARD OF BID - Collection and Disposal of Solid Waste from Various Montgomery Township Facilities**

WHEREAS, The following bids for the Collection and Disposal of Solid Waste from Various Montgomery Township Facilities were received and publicly opened on April 2, 2020:

<u>BIDDERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Republic Services of New Jersey, LLC	\$242,503.58
Central Jersey Waste & Recycling, Inc.	\$270,090.00
Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc.	\$306,548.60

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and the Superintendent of Public Works that Republic Services be awarded the bid; they being the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, A certificate as to the availability of funds has been signed by the Chief Financial Officer and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, There exists an account #01-201-32-465-269 which will fund this service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that effective July 17, 2020 a three-year contract, expiring July 16, 2023, for the Collection and Disposal of Solid Waste from Various Montgomery Township Facilities is hereby awarded to Republic Services of New Jersey, LLC, 9 Frontage Road, Clinton, NJ 08809 in a not to exceed amount of \$242,503.58; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contracts.

8-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

9. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Regular Session minutes of March 19, 2020 were approved as printed.

10. **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery has received bills to be paid as listed; and

WHEREAS, The Chief Finance Officer and the Township Administrator have reviewed these bills and have certified that these bills represent goods and/or services received by the Township, that these are authorized and budgeted expenditures and that sufficient funds are available to pay these bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery as follows:

1. That these bills are hereby authorized for payment; and
2. That checks in the proper amounts are prepared and that necessary bookkeeping entries are made; and
3. That the proper Township Officials are authorized to sign the checks.

10-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Huang and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

11. COMMITTEE COMMUNITY UPDATES

11-1. BUSINESS TASK FORCE

Committeewoman Keenan reported on a task force meeting with the Montgomery Business Association and some of the local businesses to find out what their needs are and figure out how those needs can be addressed. She noted that there have been some additions to the Township's website to provide information.

11-2. PEOPLE WITH NEEDS

Deputy Mayor Schuldiner stated that he has been working on organizing volunteers who would like to volunteer to assist anyone in need of services.

11-3. COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Jaffer stated she has been working on communications, getting feedback from the public on things they would like to see, and trying to give daily updates. She stated she was also trying to get a breakdown of the ages of the positive cases for Montgomery. There are daily calls held by Freeholder Director Robinson, weekly calls with the Governor's office as well as with Senators and Congressman. She stated that if members of the public have ideas that could or should be implemented at the federal, state, or county levels, they are welcome to reach out to her at sjaffer@twp.montgomery.nj.us and she will try to pass that message along. She advised that people should abide by the COVID-19 guidelines and stay at home as much as possible.

12. COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

12-1. AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committeewoman Keenan reported that Agricultural Advisory Committee elected their new chair and vice chair. They discussed deer management extensively.

12-2. BOARD OF HEALTH

Committeewoman Gural stated that a number of members of the Board of Health have been observing gatherings of adults and children in public space. She reminded people that they should practice social distancing. They are also working on a "masks in public" resolution. She stated that even though Montgomery's COVID-19 numbers are on the low side, this should not give people a false sense of security. They want to express a sense of urgency in their messaging, but not to alarm people.

ADJOURNMENT was at 7:36 p.m. on a motion by Deputy Mayor Schuldiner. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried unanimously:

Date of Approval:

Donna Kukla, Township Clerk