

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**December 15, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting**

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Scott at 7 p.m. noting the meeting date, time and place were duly published in the New Jersey Herald and posted at the Town Hall and advised those present that this meeting was being held in compliance with provisions of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13.

Roll Call was taken and the flag was saluted.

PRESENT: Committeewoman Chammings, Deputy Mayor Fisher, Committeeman Gross, Committeeman Morrison, Mayor Scott, Municipal Clerk Lynda Knott, Township Attorney Richard Stein.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

After the reading of the following Resolution to enter into Executive Session, a **motion** was made by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Gross and carried by roll call vote to adopt the resolution permitting the Committee to go into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Personnel; Attorney Client; Public Safety
3. As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

There being no further business to attend to, a **motion** was made by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Ms. Chammings to conclude the Executive Session at 7:03 p.m., unanimously carried by roll call vote.

**Regular Session:**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ALL MATTERS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE IN NATURE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THE ITEMS. IF ANY DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT PARTICULAR ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY ON THE REGULAR AGENDA.**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**2015-124** Refund of Zoning Escrow – Block 801, Lot 10

**2015-125** Refund of Zoning Escrow – Block 1601, Lot 6.03

**2015-126** Authorizing Compensation of James Cutler, Construction Official, half the smoke certification fee for completing the certifications

**2015-127** Authorizing Payment of Redemption – Block 2701, Lot 20.02

**2015-128** Authorizing Payment of Redemption – Block 4209, Lot 11

**2015-129** Authorizing Payment of Redemption – Block 2401, Lot 44.03

**REPORTS:**

Tax Collector's Report of November 2015

Building Department Report of November 2015

**MINUTES:**

December 1, 2015 Regular and Executive Meeting

November 10, 2015 Executive Meeting

Mr. Gross made a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Fisher.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**RESOLUTION 2015-130 Authorizing Reimbursement to the Nature Conservancy for the Acquisition of the Schuler Tract, Block 2702, Lot 2, Stillwater Township**

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP  
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 2015-130**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT TO  
TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF  
THE SCHULER TRACT, BLOCK 2702, LOT 2,  
STILLWATER TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Nature Conservancy heretofore applied to the Township of Stillwater for a Resolution of support to acquire premises known as the Schuler tract, Block 2702, Lot 2 on the Tax Maps of the Township of Stillwater, consisting of 58.75 acres; and

WHEREAS, said tract also included lands in the Township of Hardwick, designated as Block 503, Lot 5.01, consisting of 21.01 acres; and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2010, the Township of Stillwater adopted Resolution 2010-62 in support of the Nature Conservancy's application to Sussex County Open Space Fund for funding toward the purchase of the property; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2010, the Township adopted Resolution 2010-73, wherein the Township of Stillwater recited that it had received a planning incentive grant from the Garden State Preservation Trust in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township had been notified by the New Jersey Green Acres Program that those funds were in risk of cancellation for non-use; and

WHEREAS, the Nature Conservancy expressed its desire to own the Schuler tract in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, Stillwater Township did not wish to own the property in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, said resolution resolved to authorized spending up to \$200,000.00 of Stillwater Township Green Acres Planting Incentive Grants by the Nature Conservancy for the purchase of the property and any associated soft costs incurred by the Nature Conservancy on behalf of Stillwater Township; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2011, the Township of Stillwater purchased the Schuler tract for a purchase price of \$410,000.00, which funding was provided by the Nature Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater then simultaneously transferred the Schuler tract to the Nature Conservancy for \$1.00 by Deed dated March 23, 2011, and recorded April 15, 2011 in the Sussex County Clerk's Office in Deed Book 3269 at Page 717; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater heretofore applied to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection under the non-profit acquisition payment program to utilize funding from its Planning Incentive Grant for the Schuler tract acquisition; and

WHEREAS, said application was approved by the New Jersey Green Acres Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater has now received funding from New Jersey Green Acres under the Township's Planning Incentive Grant in the amount of \$174,773.25; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to reimburse the Nature Conservancy for the Township's portion of the cost of the acquisition of the Schuler tract as funded through New Jersey Green Acres;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater that the Township does hereby approve payment to the Nature Conservancy in the amount of \$174,773.25 for the Township's contribution to the acquisition of the Schuler tract.

Mr. Morrison made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2015-130, seconded by Mr. Gross.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chamblings, abstain, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**RESOLUTION 2015-131 Authorizing the Township of Stillwater to Advertise for Bids for Tanker/Pumper for Stillwater Area Volunteer Fire Company  
STILLWATER TOWNSHIP  
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION 2015-131**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER  
TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ONE 3,000 GALLON ELLIPTICAL TANKER FOR THE  
STILLWATER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater is in need of a new tanker for the Stillwater Area Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the Township must publically bid for the purchase of the needed tanker with associated equipment pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township has heretofore adopted upon Ordinance 2015-14 to provide the necessary funding for the proposed bid; and

WHEREAS, the Township has obtained technical specifications for the proposed 3,000 gallon elliptical tanker;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater that the Clerk be and the same is hereby authorized and directed to publically advertise for the receipt of sealed competitive bids for the new 3,000 gallon elliptical tanker for the Township's Fire Department.

Ms. Chamblings made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2015-131, seconded by Mr. Morrison.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**BILLS LIST #21 \$302,747.82**

**RESOLUTION 2015-132 PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mr. Fisher made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2015-132, seconded by Mr. Gross.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**Open Public Session:**

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public.**

**There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Emergency Services:**

Mr. Morrison referred to an issue of concern and liability with the Swartswood Fire Department. He explained that in certain circumstances the Committee must take action and there have been a series of events over the last few months involving members of the fire department where action was necessary. The response to that action has been unacceptable and if those members involved want to continue to act in the manner they are, then he would ask that the current ordinance be amended in January to recognize only the Stillwater Fire Department in the township and eliminating any liability issue.

Following further discussion, it was agreed a subcommittee would be formed to allow the Swartswood Fire Department members the opportunity to provide their input to try and resolve the matter before any further action is taken.

Mr. Fisher made a **motion** to form a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Morrison and Mayor Scott to meet with the Swartswood Fire Department to allow their input on the matter, seconded by Ms. Chamblings.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ms. Chamblings** reported the Environmental Commission (EC) met and finalized their 2015 Annual Report to be forwarded to the Committee. The PSE&G final grant report was submitted for the Paulinskill River Clean Up. Rene Casapulla from SCMUA will be invited to provide a presentation on recycling at a future Township Committee meeting.

A representative from Waste Management will also be scheduled to provide a presentation to the EC on water management. The EC will apply for an ANJEC grant to build and maintain a trail between Camp Neveda and the old Stabile property along the river. Mayor Scott reported that he and the Clerk met with a shredding company to discuss scheduling a “Shredding Day” at the Recycling Center.

**Mr. Fisher** reported the Recreation Commission held their Annual Tree Lighting on December 4<sup>th</sup> with an excellent turnout.

**Mayor Scott** reported the DPW has been trimming along the roads. The employee holiday party will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **Annual Statewide Loss Control/Safety Meeting:**

A needs assessment memo was provided to the Committee, DPW and emergency services. Ms. Knott provided a summary of the memo and indicated all volunteers and employees who drive on behalf of the township are required to provide a copy of their driver’s license and insurance card. Rates should remain about the same.

#### **Gypsy Moth Survey:**

Ms. Knott reported the formal State survey was received and spraying will be conducted in 2016 on 2,326 acres at a cost of \$130,000. The State will cover approximately 30 to 50 percent however the town must budget for the total amount, with a commitment by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Knott will ask the CFO for the budget cap figure for next year.

Mayor Scott made a **motion** to participate in the gypsy moth program spraying, funds permitting, seconded by Mr. Fisher.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

#### **Budget Hearing Dates:**

Following a discussion, the Committee agreed that budget meetings would be held on Wednesday evenings.

**Sean Mendres:** Mayor Scott asked Ms. Knott to forward a letter to Mr. Mendres thanking him for his many years of service to the community.

#### **Open Public Session:**

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public.**

**Janice Bonavita, 918 Dove Island Road** stated her son has been with the Swartswood Fire Department for 10 years and has made it a priority. She realizes there are issues that need to be resolved and asked the Committee to reconsider going to one fire department. She asked for openness in resolving the matter. Swartswood Fire Department and its equipment is an asset and the township would be less protected without them. Ms. Chamblings noted the newly formed subcommittee will invite the fire department members to discuss the matter and express their concerns.

**Kathleen Draghi, 1016 Route 619** commented that both fire departments should be able to offer the township the same service. A majority of the one department consists of fire police who are not able to enter a structure or fight a fire. The volunteers receive LOSAP and the departments receive a stipend. She was in favor of the attempt to resolve the matter. She commended the Committee on their cooperation and respectfulness of each other.

**Janice Bonavita, 918 Dove Island Road** asked for Mrs. Draghi to clarify her comments on the fire police. Mayor Scott noted the fire police are important and control the traffic during a call. Mr. Morrison commented the matter is more extensive than fire police, active firefighters, funding, etc.

**Rebecca Dey, 907 Marigold Way** was a volunteer for Swartswood Fire Department for over three years and recently resigned. She appreciated volunteering for the township and had 350 hours of training while attending college full-time. Mayor Scott thanked Ms. Dey for her service.

**There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.**

Mayor Scott wished all a safe and prosperous year, and a very happy holiday.

**Reorganization Meeting:** Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 6 p.m. followed by refreshments. The regular meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

**Attorney Report:** No report

There being no further business, Mr. Fisher made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gross. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder