

**Florence Township Council Executive Session 2/13/19**

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**February 13, 2019**

**8:00PM**

**CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Sandusky called the meeting to order and led the Salute to the Flag.

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board on January 3, 2019; published in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2019; placed on the Township website, and given to the Trenton Times for information on January 3, 2019.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Ted Lovenduski, Paul Ostrander, Dave Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie, Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Township Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; James Biegen; Township Engineer; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public at this time. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public comments. Roll call vote – all ayes.

**BUSINESS**

A. Budget Discussion and Overview

Administrator Brook said the budget is being prepared for introduction on March 13. It would have been done earlier, but the State of New Jersey is having some issues with what they call their portal. That is how they want budgets sent to them. It is possible it may be done in a paper version and then subsequently sent in electronically. He, the Mayor and the governing body worked together to keep the overall rate and the Water & Sewer rates stable for the community. He anticipates there will be no change in the Tax Rate or the Water & Sewer Rate. The Auditor will be coming at the end of the month to finalize his information and then the budget will be ready for introduction. As part of that process, the township likes to bring some of the department heads in to talk about their departments, where they are going and what they've done. It also provides an opportunity for Council to ask questions. This evening Police Chief Brian Boldizar, Recreation Director Marty Eckert and Director of Water & Sewer Dave Lebak were here to provide some information about their respective departments.

Chief Boldizar had a powerpoint presentation. He said he wanted to provide a review of the past year. Last year there were a total of 9,633 incidents and 14,076 quick calls. There were 523 arrests,

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3,622 tickets issued and 6,499 motor vehicle stops. There were a few officers on the Field Training Program. When there are two people in a car, only one of them is writing a ticket; usually the trainee. These numbers will increase as more officers are hired and riding alone.

Mayor Wilkie said the department is averaging 10 summonses a day and about 20 motor vehicle stops. He said he just divided the numbers by 365 for an idea. He was at a meeting with some residents recently and they said there were a lot of police officers. He told the resident that in comparison to other municipalities there aren't that many here. He asked for the provided information to be posted to the website.

Mayor Wilkie said he spoke to the chief about the history of the department. In the 90's the township was ranked fourth in the county for domestics. Now the township is well below that. Chief Boldizar said when he was first hired in 2000 the number was still very high. It has really come down.

Chief Boldizar said in policing there is a lot more than just the numbers, tickets and arrests that are made. Policing is changing. It requires officers to be involved in the community more than ever. People can see what happens when that doesn't occur. The Community Policing Unit was very active in 2018. He provided some examples, including DARE Graduation, Coffee with a Cop at various locations, Read Across America, participation in local events throughout the year, Bring Your Child to Work Day, and many other events. This year the Law Enforcement Officers Run was a little different. The department was able to get the schools involved. He noted the Annual Bike Rodeo and said this year's National Night Out was one of the best for attendance. The support from the community for the event was phenomenal. Cops and Bobbers was a new event that was well received. The officers enjoyed it as much as the residents in attendance.

There is a child who lives in town who is ill and could not attend school or socialize and he had been very sad about it. For his birthday officers went to visit - with Bolo in tow - to try and cheer him a bit. The family and the boy were very appreciative. Mayor Wilkie said Assistant Administrator first learned about the boy and his situation and made local organizations aware. The Police Department also participated in the annual Fire Department Open House and the St. Stephen's Annual Blessing of the Vehicles. The officers attend it with their families and they enjoy the interaction with the parishioners.

The police try to have a good relationship with local children but sometimes are met with a cold shoulder. There was a local girl who stepped up and aided police in finding her friend. To thank her, the officers visited her for her birthday and took a cake to her.

Every year, Nothing but the Word Deliverance Church provides a Thanksgiving meal. The officers enjoy it. Usually the church members come in during the roll call. It gives the officers a chance to sit down with them and discuss various issues and events. For No Shave November \$2,090 was raised for charity. There was a nice turnout for the annual Hoops for the Holidays basketball game. He noted the police won the game over the teacher's team.

The department sponsored a tree at the Roebing Museum. Detective Chris Powell was there to interact with the public for the Christmas in Roebing. There were many donations for Santa's gifts

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to needy families. Local businesses really stepped up and provided generous donations. The department was able to deliver to five needy families. He said he was sure everyone remembered the car that was stolen with Christmas gifts inside. He can't say enough about what his officers did. They took it upon themselves to go out and go shopping and put out much of their own money along with a donation from the Fraternal Order of Police. B&H heard what happened and donated an I-Pad for the family. Again, the local businesses stepped up to help the community.

Chief Boldizar said there were some awards and graduations over the past year. Officer Korey Linico graduated from the Mercer County Police Academy. Lieutenant Albert Jacoby graduated from Command and Leadership. That is very intense program that all of the command staff is sent to. Officer Paul Wright won the MAD DWI Award for a second year in a row. Lt. Jacoby and Detective Chris Powell won the US Attorneys Award. It was presented in Connecticut for the work they did on a luring case. An adult tried to lure a local girl to Connecticut. Officer Michelle Koroseta was awarded the Domestic Violence Liaison of the Year Award from Providence House. Officers Ryan Miller, Michael Chianese and Kate Poltrictzky graduated from the Mercer County Police Academy. Officers Miller and Poltrictzky are on the final phase of the Field Training Program. It is basically their probationary period. They are being evaluated monthly and are riding alone in the police vehicle. They now count toward the minimums. Officer Chianese is in what is referred to as the Ghost Program. It the second to the last phase of the Field Training. He is riding alone but for each call he goes on another officer meets him there.

Chief Boldizar said a couple of year ago, he approached Council about additional personnel for the Detective Bureau and he appreciates what was done for that, especially in situations like what is currently happening. February has been very busy for them. He noted an incident on Seaman Drive. An arrest was made there within eight hours. There was a nine-year-old girl sexually assaulted in early February. Working with the Prosecutor's Office, the detectives were able to have the perpetrator jailed. There was another juvenile sexual assault of a thirteen-year-old girl who had been abused by a family friend since she was three. He was apprehended within twenty-four hours of the family reporting it. There was a swatting incident in January where someone called and said there were five armed people trying to break into a house. A call like that is a high priority and it turned out that it was not true. A short time later there is a call about the same address reporting that there was a house fire. Again, it was not true. The detectives identified the suspect and that was very hard to do because today's technology allows people to disguise their phone numbers.

Administrator Brook asked how the courts handle swatting and if they consider it serious. Chief Boldizar said it is taken very seriously. There has been a high number of incidents. There is a greater chance of an officer getting hurt or someone in the community being hurt.

Chief Boldizar said there are three School Resource Officers. Corporal Jason Shafer is the primary and Officer Darrell Fisher and Detective Powell are the fill-ins. All three received the same training, as did Lieutenant Jacoby. He is in charge of the program. From September 2018 through December 2018 the SRO participated in twenty-three safety drills, spoke at three teacher-in-services, attended seventeen school events, attended fourteen meetings with staff members, made nine arrests and had forty-nine incident reports. These are all things that officers on the road would have had to take time to address.

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K-9 Officer Bolo now has his ballistic vest. Some of the funds for the vest were donations. He seems to like it but it is a little stiff. He has found drugs a few times already. Chief Boldizar provided a video of Bolo in action. He described what was happening and how the officer signals the dog.

This year the department went with new uniforms. The officers are very appreciative. They are able to take the vests off when they are working on reports and it provides ventilation for them and they aren't getting as hot. There are fewer complaints of back pain. The equipment is better dispersed over the officer's shoulders and it is a lot more comfortable.

Something else that was implemented in 2018 was Project Medicine Drop. There has been a very good response. There were 140 pounds of medication collected for destruction and the program wasn't started until mid-way through the year. It is being emptied every two to three weeks. The program accepts any legal prescription drugs as long as it is not a liquid.

He outlined some items that are planned for 2019. The DARE Graduation was already held and it went very well. Lieutenant Jacoby has been working with the organizers of the Eats and Beats event because they are hoping to incorporate a 5-K Run this year. That will require some traffic planning. He noted some of the annual events the department holds or participates in.

He said something that needs to be considered is tasers for the officers. Florence is one of the few municipalities in Burlington County that doesn't have tasers. The department hesitated to get them in the past because the thought was that it put the officers in a position of having to decide if they were going to draw their weapon or the taser. The laws have changed and now an officer can use a taser to de-escalate a situation before it becomes a situation that could be life threatening. He has been told by other departments that when the taser is pulled the situations tend to de-escalate very quickly, even without actually using it. Using the tasers often prevents the situation from becoming potentially deadly.

Council President Sandusky asked if they would be provided for each officer or be a piece of equipment that would be transferred at shift changes. Chief Boldizar said in the budget, he proposed buying twelve of them. This would allow one for the School Resource Officer and enough for the shifts and four to be charging.

Chief Boldizar said the Service Agreement for the current fingerprinting machine expires in June of 2019. That means from that point forward the company will no longer be servicing the machine. Once that happens, there would be two options. The first is to take the chance and not renew the service agreement. If the system were to go down, every time there was an arrest the department would have to transport the person to another area department for fingerprinting. The other option is to get a new machine. Many departments are in the same situation right now. The machine is working fine right now and there aren't typically issues with it, but in the event that there is a problem, it would be down for good and all subsequent people who were arrested would have to be transported to another municipality.

Administrator Brook said the 2019 Budget was created to fund, with a bond ordinance, both the tasers and the replacement of the fingerprinting machine. He noted regarding the tasers, there is a

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great deal of training involved. Chief Boldizar said Detective Powell and Corporal Anthony Cardone attended a training to get some insight as to what the taser program entails. They went to the basic introductory course. If the department acquired the tasers there would be more training involved and the program would not go into effect until sometime in the fall. He realizes there is more and more equipment being added to what the officers need to carry. More than likely the taser would take the place of the expandable baton. It is very rarely used.

Mayor Wilkie said the Community Policing is very important. It is good for the residents and officers to get to know each other in a non-emergency situation. It makes a difference, and when there is an emergency situation that relationship can help.

Marty Eckert, Recreation Coordinator, said he would like to begin with a recap of the year. He wanted to briefly discuss the last five years. When he was hired, it was instilled that the goal was to try and create things that were community friendly and would bring the community together. One program that came back after a ten-year absence was the carnival. The township was able to work with the Roebing Museum to bring the event back. It was a huge success. This year will be the fourth year of the carnival. He spoke to the ride company and learned that Florence is one of the few municipalities that actually manages a carnival. It is usually a private group. Just about all of the municipal departments are involved; police, fire, public works, water and sewer, administration and Council. It is something that is good for the community and he is glad it will be held again this year.

Mr. Eckert said the summer program was also revived. It went away in 2008. Right now, there aren't many affordable summer camps. There are larger camps, but they can be very expensive. The township was able to find a way to provide an affordable, two-week camp for families in their own community for hours that work with many people's work schedules. There were local activities within the community parks. There were many youth volunteers that served as mentors to the younger children. The police and fire departments also got involved and interacted with the children. The response to the program has been very positive and there have been requests for it to expand.

To continue the theme of expansion, tennis was added to the recreation offerings. There are core sports and in recreation there are peaks and valleys with participation. He wants to continue to refresh things. Adding tennis through the USTA was a positive way to do that. There were qualified instructors and over eighty participants. Almost every child that participated in the fall tennis program did not normally play a fall sport. The parents were very appreciative. The tennis courts were cleaned and new nets were installed. There was a tennis carnival to kick off the program with various giveaways. It was a very successful program.

The Annual Patriotic Day Celebration continues to grow every year. Everyone involved is very conscious of the veteran presence. The participation of the various local groups also helps to make it a very successful event for all to enjoy. This year it will be growing even more. The township is making arrangements for a mobile military museum to be on-site for the evening activities. Having it there will remind residents that the township is honoring the veterans on that evening. The event allows residents to enjoy the evening, the music and all that is involved.

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Another program that is being rekindled is the Music in the Park series. It is aimed at bringing a sense of community and having people come out of their homes and enjoy spending time with their neighbors and families. There are beautiful riverfront parks in the township and they should be utilized. He tried to select dates that would not conflict with neighboring communities. On the third Thursday of each month, beginning in May, there will be live music. It will alternate each month between Wilkie Park and Roebling Park. There will also be a variety of genres of music. He is currently working on finalizing what the budget would be. Some local businesses have expressed an interest in becoming involved.

Local businesses have been very supportive of all the programs every year. They want to get involved and the township is very appreciative of that. Many people ask what the large businesses in town do to contribute and sometimes think they aren't doing anything. Mr. Eckert explained that the large businesses don't advertise the support they provide but they are very much community partners.

The core recreation sports have had ups and downs, but there are some new officers and some new volunteers. The numbers for the spring sports are well ahead of what they were this time last year. The collaboration with Burlington Township brought some variety to the league and people seem excited. The softball numbers had been declining the last couple of years but this year they are up from where they were last year.

Council President Sandusky said he noticed on the handout provided that there is a July 5<sup>th</sup> event and it looks like it is going to be nice. He asked for information about it. Mr. Eckert said the Patriotic Celebration is always a great event but very busy. Last year a group approached him and explained they do a program called This is my Country. It is a patriotic-themed musical arrangement and they sing songs to honor various branches of the military. The township thought it would be a nice idea to have it the evening before the Patriotic Day Celebration. It will also utilize the community center for the residents.

Council President Sandusky said for the Music in the Park, he suggests in case of rain it be moved to the community center. Mr. Eckert said that was a thought and he would look into it. He would hate to have to cancel things.

Mayor Wilkie said there was recently a brief conversation about honoring Paul and Loretta Varga. The township is trying to select a date in the springtime at the Roebling Park. He remembered they were very helpful when there used to be Music in the Park. They would put the sound system in place, check the lights and much more. They were people who always tried to make the community better and he would like to honor them.

Mayor Wilkie said Mr. Eckert highlighted many of the items he is working on. He has multiple tasks and handles Economic Development as well as recreation. He has been able to blend the two together. He didn't discuss Economic Development but one thing he does is meet with new businesses when they open in town. He doesn't tell them what to do but he tells them about the area and shares ideas with them. Businesses have told Mayor Wilkie they appreciate it. Mr. Eckert has done an excellent job. He takes the big business and the small business and tries to bring them together. He and the Economic Development Committee are working on some kind of activity to

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connect the two. Mr. Eckert said an example of this effort is that the local bagel shop already has a relationship with Amazon. Amazon is going to order 1,500 green bagels for St. Patrick's Day. The larger businesses do ask about local resources and look to work with local businesses.

Mr. Eckert thanked the Mayor and Council for all of their continued support. He noted every event is a team effort and all done in the spirit of community. Administrator Brook said there are two words the chief and his officers often use – call Marty. They work together more than one can imagine on different projects. It may be a police project but they still call him and get his thoughts. Mr. Eckert has clearly shown himself as someone who makes the community better, not only through his efforts but it's also the fact that he cares, he interacts and he is the conduit to recreation. Those who sit on the Recreation Committee know of his efforts and all of his hard work. The township is truly a better community. Marty opened up an avenue that the township didn't always have the time to do in the past. It can be seen through the projects that he takes on. The township is very appreciative. Administrator Brook thanked him for all that he has done.

Dave Lebak, the Director of Water & Sewer, said he wanted to thank the Mayor and Council for their continued support of the utility over the years. He said it feels good going to work knowing there is good equipment, the facilities are in good shape and the vehicles are reliable. That is a direct result of the support that is received from the Mayor and Council. It allows the workers to do the things they do.

Mr. Lebak said he wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of Kenny Babula. It was a big loss. He was known to be a very good man. He was good for the morale in the department. It is hard to imagine that he is gone. It is also a tremendous loss in terms of knowledge. If someone gave him an address, he could tell you where the line came in and where the meter was in the house. He had a photographic memory of the town. The department is impacted by that. The staff is trying to fill the void that Kenny left.

Mr. Lebak said he would like to review some highlights of the previous year. There were a couple of major projects. The department is always doing hydrants, repairs and work within the system. There was also a very large project in the Water Plant. Phase I was completed and it was a huge improvement to the drinking water system. The improvement was made prior to having to make it, so it was a proactive move.

In the spring PSE&G was going to be paving a section of Front Street. There was a 100-year-old main there and it was brittle and cracking. The original estimate from the engineer was more than \$1 million. The department decided a lot of it could be done in-house. The bid price was reduced to about \$340,000. It was four weeks of tough work, but the department came together and replaced the main. The department is now looking and budgeting for other projects it would like to take on.

Regarding staffing, the department is in the process of hopefully filling two positions. No one will fill Kenny's shoes any time soon but the positions do need to be filled. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is 19-years-old. Equipment begins to wear out and break down. There is some process piping that is becoming unraveled. It is still working but it needs to be replaced this year before it falls into further disrepair.

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He is always looking for new technologies for processing sludge. That is a big part of running a Wastewater Treatment Plant. When upgrades to this process were done in the past, the township was able to find new revenue sources to further justify the new equipment.

Another upgrade would be a nice piece of equipment that would streamline what is being done to process sludge and will gain manpower for the department because it is a stop/start machine. It is tight, concealed and very automated. He went to another municipality and saw the equipment and was impressed with its function.

He is hoping to build on what has been done at the Water Plant so far and proceed to Phase II. Phase I involved treatment, in terms of aeration, which increases the PH. That has been discussed at length over the last year. There are four new service pumps that put water out into the system and a new clear well that holds that water and a disinfection pipe underground. These systems are the heart of the plant. For Phase II, he would like to add the new control systems and chemical feed systems, as well as new electrical equipment and feeds in the building. This would include a generator. He is hoping to have a design ready to present by the fall.

The second aerator was completed. The contractor who originally did the plant worked on it, along with a few members of the department. Both aerators are functioning at a point where the township is getting higher than seven coming off the aerator. The department is adding about 7-8 gallons of Sodium Hydroxide a day. He would like to keep the PH level around 7.5 and that is happening with both aerators functioning.

Water Tower #2 is something that was looked at for this year but it was moved to next year because of timing. It really should be done in the spring. The project needs to be bid in the fall so the work can begin in March and be painted as soon as the weather allows. The tower and Phase II can be done at the same time because there are four service pumps. They can put out the water that is needed into the system. When the tower is down and the town is only running off Tower #1 on Cedar Lane there might be some hydraulic inconsistencies but there is plenty of pumping to make up for that. He doesn't see it being an issue. Phase II is more the controls and chemical feeds.

When Water Tower #2 is done, he and Assistant Administrator Sahol have discussed putting foot markings inside the tower in the bowl. He climbs the tower and one or two young guys will climb it, but not everyone wants to climb the tower. There will be foot markings every five to ten feet, very bold with a mounted light. With the light on, from down below, the level of the water can be seen.

As for the fleet, there is nothing to complain about in terms of the vehicles, but he still needs to look toward the future. In terms of every day vehicles, the department is one vehicle short. It is not a burden right now but that vehicle needs to be replaced. He is hoping to assign everyone a vehicle with the hopes they will take better care of them. Administrator Brook said Mr. Lebak's budget is set up so that the vehicle can be replaced and the fleet can be kept well-equipped on a cash basis. Larger vehicles like the jetvac may need to be bonded in a couple years. Mr. Lebak said he is looking ahead. The jetvac vehicle is 20-years-old and there has been some repair work done on it. The saddle tanks on the side have been replaced. They hold about 1,000 gallons of water that is



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used to jet the mains. They rotted out after about 10 years. Another 7-8 years went by and they started springing leaks again. It was going to be very expensive to replace the tanks. He found a company that would come in and seal them from the outside with a very thick, durable epoxy. There have also been some mechanical repairs done on the vehicle. The pump has been replaced several times. Much of the work is done in-house. The entire boom was replaced last year. It was rotted out from the inside. He wants to look ahead. That is an important piece of equipment. If a call comes in and there is a major sewer backup he needs to have that truck on site in thirty minutes and fired up. It has been down in the past for several days and the department worked with Bordentown. The towns have a good working relationship.

Mr. Lebak said he knows there has been a lot of talk around town about water meters. The township is in very good shape regarding water meters. The Radio-Read Replacement Program began in 2003. They can be read right from the truck and are extremely successful. The department went from several days of man power to read meters to having a route that can be read in about a half day driving around. There is sometimes some follow-up but for the most part the reading time is cut down. There are probably a couple hundred of the old meters left and they are being updated. In 2003 the department knew the batteries were supposed to work for 10 years. They are still working and it is coming up on 16 years. He would like to take the 2003 meters and change out the heads. The brass is fine; changing out the head takes about five minutes. He would like to swap a year every year. He spoke to the administrator about budgeting it in. They aren't cheap; each head is about \$200.00. It is an investment, but it is the revenue stream so it needs to be accurate.

He assured the Mayor and Council that the meters are accurate. The department will test meters for people. If the bill is high the meter would be checked. Lately people have been calling because their gallon usage is higher. The bills are higher because more water was used. Most of the time it is caused by a toilet running. Mr. Lebak said that he educates people to try and monitor the meter and the toilets. It is difficult because something hits social media and people start testing the validity of the meters and the billing. He tries to talk to residents and find the problem. There was a call today and the resident said there was a large jump in his bill and there was no way a toilet could do that. A pinhole leak will lose about 74,000 gallons in a quarter.

Fire hydrants are always being replaced. There are new requirements for the quality of water. Under these rules each hydrant must be flushed each year and certain information must be recorded. While they do that they also note if a hydrant needs attention and if so it is put on a list to be changed out. Right now there are seven or eight on the list. They are roughly \$3,000 each. He is open to looking into newer hydrant technology.

The Mallard Creek Pump Station was built in 1998. Over the years, that well has sunk and the concrete pad itself has sunk about 8". The conduits have snapped and it looks like the wires are the only things keeping the pad up. He would like to move the controls up top and fix the issue of the pad and the surrounding area. It will make it safer for the workers.

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Mr. Lebak said he would like to look into having the maps of the location of the utilities throughout the town put in an electronic format. The maps are very old and have to be handled very carefully. He would like to have them accessible on a laptop to be used out in the field.

He asked if there were any questions. He thanked everyone for their time and invited them to take a tour of the facilities if they would like.

Administrator Brook distributed an example of how well things have been going with respect to the department. He provided a chart with the debt service for the next couple of years. Now that it has begun to moderate to a very low level, the township will be able to take on some of the large projects that were discussed this evening. Some of them in the 2019 Budget will be addressed by cash but some will just have to be bonded for. The utility is in good shape from a financial standpoint. The rates for residents are kept very low for a utility of this size. There is a comparison study that shows Florence's rates are one of the lowest in the area.

### B. Legal Counsel Review of S-2534 Prohibiting Smoking in Public Places

Mayor Wilkie said he wanted to know how this new legislation would affect the community. It seems to be steered more toward beaches but he wanted to know if there was something the township would now have to enforce. He is aware that there is a state law prohibiting smoking on school grounds. This also applies to instances when there is a school function being held off-site. If a facility is being used by a school the law is in effect. He isn't trying to create more enforcement for the police, but wanted to see how this would affect the community. Based on what he read that was provided by the Township Solicitor there is now no smoking at the township parks, except for in the parking lots. It isn't specific who is responsible for enforcing them, but most likely it would have to be the police. If someone calls and reports someone, the police would become involved. Mayor Wilkie suggested the information be send out through the Recreation Department so the coaches and parents can be made aware. The township has to enforce it but it is also the township's responsibility to make sure the public is aware. Based on this law, the parks are no smoking, including at the athletic fields.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the township could draft something to share with the recreation leagues and post signage. He thinks the first step should be education through the various groups. The state mandated it and it is not something the township has the ability to opt out of. Mr. Eckert said he will be attending a Recreation Conference in the near future and would see what other municipalities are doing.

### C. 2019 Road Program – Discussion

Mayor Wilkie said over his last eight years as Mayor, and years ago when he served as a Councilman, he always asked what the logic was on how the roads are being paved. Before, there was a ten-member Council with five wards, and each Councilman wanted the roads in their ward done. That is not how he has operated during his tenure. The township evaluated and looked at what areas were the worst and worked from there. Over the last seven years, the township has tried to refine it some. If the township is working in a neighborhood it looks at the roads in that area.

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One reason is so the contractor doesn't have to keep stopping and starting. Another reason is to avoid inconveniencing the residents of a neighborhood over multiple years.

The 2019 Road Program list is broken into parts A and B. He noted Cherry Street and Alden Avenue need attention. This is the Hoffner Tract area. Sixth Street is bad. James Street is very small, about 200' long. The list also includes Fourth Avenue from Main Street to Riverside Avenue, Sixth Avenue from Hornberger Avenue to Riverside Avenue, Seventh Avenue from Hornberger Avenue to Main Street, Fifth Avenue, Olive Street from Fifth Street to Sixth Street, East Third Street from Broad Street to Walnut Street, Walnut Street from Front to East Second Street, Grove Street from Delaware Avenue to Oak Street, and the pump station on Seventh Street. There needs to be some work done around the Treatment Plant, right now it is not paved so it will be cleaned up. The township wants to use the county grant it received last year to create additional parking at area parks and work on some of the walking paths at Wilkie Park. Last year Potts Mill Road was paved from Old York Road to Creekwood Drive, the township has applied for a State grant to go to the next phase to Archibald Lane. Sidewalk would also be included. Engineer Biegen said the current sidewalk goes to the culvert. From there it will cross to the other side of the road because there are some topographical issues if the sidewalk continued on the same side. There is also a ditch near Crossroads that would be piped to make it easier.

Councilman Woolston if there was any thought about installing a raised crosswalk on Olive Street. Mayor Wilkie said it is something that can be considered, perhaps near Legacy.

Some of the roads in Section B are Morris Court, East Second Street from Grove Street to Oak Street, Spring Street, Summer Street, Winter Street and Church Street. Eyre Street is also on the list but it will require some work because there is no curbing or sidewalks and there are drainage issues. Walnut Street from East Fourth to East Sixth Street, there are railroad tracks. He asked the engineers to recommend how Fifth Street should continue. He discussed some of the options for the transition. Station Road from Delaware Avenue to Route 130 is a very narrow road. Last year there was a horrendous water leak. Drainage is a problem there, there is no real curbing or sidewalk. The township needs to look at what is best for the residents in the area and also what would be the safest thing to do. It will take the engineer some time to design it. The last piece is an initiative from the Police Department and Assistant Administrator Sahol. The Roebing School has been using the Nyikita parking lot for years for pick-up and drop-off of students. It has a reputation of being hard to navigate at times. There have been comments on social media, recently there were comments that the parking installed on Tenth Avenue has provided some relief. The proposed improvements would be to use acquired open space adjacent to the parking lot on the other side of Hornberger Avenue to use to expand and create a loop and additional parking. It will require drainage and it is significant. The school administration is supportive of the township proceeding with the project. It is a large item and it would take some time to design it.

Administrator Brook said if Council was in agreement there would be a combined program that would incorporate A and B. However, in all likelihood, A is what would be bid and completed this year. The items on B would take more time with respect to surveying, sidewalk work and there are just some locations that are much more time consuming. Engineer Biegen is comfortable that everything on A can be accomplished this year. If Council was in agreement a resolution could be prepared for the next meeting and start the process for the bond ordinance. The ordinance would

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incorporate both A and B. Residents affected by A would be notified of the work that was going to be done. Under B they would be notified that work was going to be scheduled for next year. An example is Morris Court. Many residents have been calling about water issues. There is a lot of sump-pump water and the water table is at an incredible high. Some residents would say it is because of the nearby basin. The basins are designed, approved and engineered in accordance with state law. It could just be the water table. There has been no relief from rain. Engineer Biegen is going to take a very close look at the drainage in the area to see if anything can be done to improve the situation for the residents. That will take some time. With respect to the Roebling Elementary School, the engineer will look at the engineering, price it out, prepare the plans and review them with Chief Boldizar. It would be incorporated into the bond ordinance and next year it could be decided if it was something Council wanted to pursue.

This year's roads concentrate on the Village of Roebling. They are in the same vicinity and are definitely in need of attention. They were not just chosen off a map. Next there will be another area that would be concentrated on. The roads on Program B are in another part of the community for the most part, but those roads will require more time and attention from an engineering standpoint. There is no reason they can't be done next year but bonded this year.

Engineer Biegen provided a slide of what is tentatively proposed for the Roebling School parking lot. He noted where the additional parking and retention basin would be located. Mayor Wilkie said the parking is an issue on a day-to-day basis that could be resolved with some engineering. When there are events during the day at the school the parking fills up quickly and now there is a business in operation. He hopes they do well, but that eliminates some parking. The parcel in question was purchased with Open Space Funds for exactly this reason. The fund will probably need to be repaid for the land that is being taken out but this is what was necessary.

Mayor Wilkie said there is a lot for the 2020 and 2021 Road Program already. They have been tentatively planned. He reviewed some of the streets that would be included. Administrator Brook said the most important thing is to get 2019 underway, and then come back in the fall to begin talking about the upcoming years. Some of the roads on the 2020 and 2021 tentative programs will require some lengthy discussion. He provided some examples. This gives a good starting point.

Mayor Wilkie asked for the map of roads that have been done. It shows what roads have been done over the past twenty years. It shows there are only a few that have not been done. This has been made a priority and it is not just guessing. The roads are inspected and evaluated. Administrator Brook said it doesn't mean roads won't be added but it is a very good start. He thinks the residents have noticed the improvements over the past several years. These have been significant road programs that have been undertaken, along with the sidewalk and curbing work.

### D. Final Payment No. 2 and Change Order No. 2 for Hornberger Phase III to Richard T. Barrett Paving Company, Inc.

Engineer Biegen said this would be the final payment for Hornberger Avenue, Phase III. It will be on the next agenda. Then the township will be able to receive its final payments from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

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Administrator Brook said there was also paperwork presented for a resolution for next week for the final payment for the work at the Water Treatment Plant. All were in agreement for both.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said today the township received a notification that a private well on Old York Road was tested recently and was positive for lead. The lead was found in the home, not in the well. Six people within 200' of the home were notified. The lead is not coming from the ground, it is coming from the pipes in the home. He wanted Council to be aware. He thinks this is being alarmist, and it is not in the ground.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilkie said he is having a proclamation prepared for the next meeting for Katie Wilcox. She is a 17-year old racer and she won the Atco Junior Division. She lives in town and is a high school senior. She has been racing since she was 9-years old.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public present.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED**

9:53 PM it was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to adjourn to closed session. All ayes.

10:27 PM, returned to open session.

Mayor Wilkie said in Closed Session the position of Township Solicitor was discussed. He is recommending staying with Kelly Grant, Esq., and Thomas Hastie, Esq. If Council is in agreement there will be a resolution for the next meeting. Then there will be an open and fair process for proposals. This interim contract will be until April 30, 2019.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve Mayor Wilkie's recommendation.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

AYES: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**ADJOURNMENT**

10:29 PM MOTION of Woolston and seconded by Ostrander to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston  
Township Clerk