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HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 13, 2021

7:00 P.M.

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of April 13, 2021 with instructions for internet access was included in a meeting notice sent to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post On January 6, 2021 and advertised in said newspapers on January 8, 2021, and January 9, 2021 respectively posted on the website and the bulletin board in the municipal building on January 9, 2021 and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public. It is posted on main doors the Friday before the meeting and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

1. CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENT FOR REMOTE MEETINGS

2. FLAG SALUTE

- 3. ROLL CALL** - present were Mayor Gilmore, Committeeman MacLachlan, Committeeman Levinson, Committeeman Clauss and Committeeman Montgomery. Also present were Township Clerk/Administrator Paula Kosko, Attorney John Gillespie and Auditor Robert Nehila.

4. MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2021

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Clauss. All yes.

5. REPORTS

- A. Tax Collector** – March 2021, 1st Quarter Ending March 2021
- B. Code Enforcement** – March 2021
- C. Fire Official** – March 2021
- D. Construction** – March 2021
- E. Emergency Services Reports** – March 2021

Motion: Committeeman Levinson. Second: Committeeman MacLachlan. All yes.

6. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. Proclamation Presentation – Zachary Ross

Mayor Gilmore presented Zachary with an honorary Proclamation for his kindness in suggesting his family give their 2020 recreation commission-sponsored house decorating contest prize money to local food charities.

B. 2021 Budget

Administrator Kosko gave a presentation of the 2021 budget. Ms. Kosko began the presentation showing for 2021 we are utilizing \$1.2 million, or 27% of Hainesport's total surplus. The balance of the surplus continues to remain healthy for future years. The budget is under both the State Appropriation Spending Cap and the State's Tax Levy Cap. The increase to the local purpose tax is .007 cents – from .325 for 2020 to .332 for 2021. The increase to be raised by taxes this year is \$61,958, or 2.5% more than the 2020 budget. This equates to \$1.64 a month, \$4.93 a quarter, or \$19.71 for the average homeowner per year, with the average home assessed at \$278,857. Some of our Capital Improvement projects include the Municipal Park playground renovation, which is being supplemented by grant funds and around \$200,000 in Open Space funds. It also includes \$180,000 for a new brush truck, additional equipment for the Fire Company, carpet for the Municipal building, Edwin Street and Bancroft Lane stormpipe lining, the Ark Road resurfacing project along with grant money and money for the next town-funded road program. She showed charts and graphs highlighting the breakdown of the funds and how the tax money is divided. The total operating budget for the municipality is \$4,819,122, not including the school and County taxes. \$2,257,764 is to be raised by taxes. The charts will be posted on the website for the residents to see. **Mr. Montgomery** commented on the large percentage of taxes that go to the schools. He thinks very highly of the schools, but feels most residents are unaware, as he was, how small a percentage of taxes goes toward the municipality. Ms. Kosko added that The American Rescue Plan funds have not been received yet and are not in our budget at this time. Township Auditor, **Bob Nehila** stated that the budget is in compliance with state statute and it is under both the tax levy cap and the state appropriation spending cap without utilizing any of the available CAP bank.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda items only (Comments are limited to 5 minutes)

No comments.

6. ORDINANCES

A. **ORDINANCE 2021-4** – Amending Chapter 180 Entitled Vehicles and Parking to Establish a Restricted Parking Zone in Front of a Residence (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption**)

No comments.

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Clauss. All yes.

MOTION TO TABLE RESOLUTION 2021-63-4 - Cancelling Taxes on 2813 Lake Avenue for Certain Tax Period While Owned by Hainesport Township

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Clauss. All yes.

MOTION TO ADD RESOLUTION 2021-69-4- Approving a Block Party for Stonehaven Lane

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Montgomery. All yes.

7. CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The items listed below are considered routine by the Township of Hainesport and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- A. **RESOLUTION 2021-59-4 – Establishing Rate of Compensation for Certain Positions for 2021**
- B. **RESOLUTION 2021-60-4 – Awarding Contract for Turf Grass Maintenance Services**
- C. **RESOLUTION 2021-61-4 – Supporting S-3522 Creating Local Part of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)**
- D. **RESOLUTION 2021-62-4– Authorizing the Hainesport Volunteer Fire Company to Conduct a Christmas Tree Sale**
- E. **RESOLUTION 2021-69-4 – Approving a Block Party for Stonehaven Lane**

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

8. 2021 BUDGET

- A. **RESOLUTION 2021-64-4 – Authorizes Self Examination of the 2021 Budget**

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

- B. **RESOLUTION 2021-65-4 – Authorizes the 2021 Budget to be Read by Title Only**

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

- C. **Public Hearing on 2021 Budget**

No comments.

D. RESOLUTION 2021-66-4 – Adopts 2021 Budget

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Clauss. All yes.

9. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Business Licenses (See Attached)

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Clauss. All yes.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Comments are limited to 5 minutes)

Anna Evans, 63 Parry Drive – said that she is honored to be running as the Democratic candidate for the Township Committee seat. She has spoken with her opponent, Committeeman Clauss and they are in agreement to conduct a civil and respectable campaign.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Kosko said the Bancroft Lane road project should be starting next month. Residents will be notified by Arawak Paving. Arawak has completed the stormpipe video recording and we should be getting a report on it. **Mayor Gilmore** asked how long the project would take. Ms. Kosko responded one or two weeks. The project includes ADA compliant curbs and traffic calming devices.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR

No comments.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Levinson, as a member of the Environmental Committee, encouraged everyone to buy native plants when working on their gardens this spring. Native plants support native creatures. **Mr. Montgomery** asked if Bamboo was native. Mr. Levinson replied that it was not and should be removed as it is invasive. Saturday, May 1st will be the dedication of the Honor Tree at the Municipal building, recognizing essential workers and those who have passed from COVID-19. The ceremony will be held at 11 am. It is the same day as the yard sale.

Mr. MacLachlan reminded everyone about Clean Up Day on Saturday April 17th. He will be there to help out. **Mr. Montgomery** added that Burlington County had some upcoming shredding events. Mr. MacLachlan congratulated Gerry Clauss for being the Republican candidate for Township Committee. He said the County Committee seats are filled on the ballots.

Mr. Clauss thanked Bruce MacLachlan and Anna Evans. He said he received his second COVID shot and now he can travel. He encouraged residents to get the shot.

Mr. Montgomery had no comments.

Mayor Gilmore reported that on March 19 she attended a ribbon cutting for Mobile 1 Krav Maga Training with Bruce Levinson and Ken Montgomery. We are excited to welcome them to the community and they will participate in the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. On March 27th, the Easter Bunny arrived by fire truck to about 200 people. April 16th is Storytime at the Community Center for children ages 2 ½ to 5 years old. April 17th is Clean Up Day. Morning walks with the Mayor are taking place at 9 am at the Municipal Building each Monday. April 24th from noon to 1 pm there will be an intro class for Tai Chi at the Municipal Building with Tsuru Ki Martial Arts. They will also be offering a free lesson at their facility. April 25th the Mayor will be walking in Sage Run, starting at the Village Green Park with Ken Montgomery at 3 pm. This is the last week to order Veteran Memorial Banners. She has asked Paula Kosko to help develop a Township app to provide greater access to Township events, news, storm updates, etc. Maybe money from the American Rescue Plan could be used for this purpose.

The Mayor would like to start the discussion about cannabis next month. **Ms. Kosko** suggested an outreach to the community to share their opinions. **Mr. Levinson** asked if Planner Scott Taylor will be available to report on locations. Ms. Kosko reminded the Committee that they could "opt out" for now if they want more time to examine the issue. **Mr. MacLachlan** asked if Scott Taylor had started researching the locations yet. Ms. Kosko answered that she would find out. **Attorney John Gillespie** reminded the Committee that they need to decide not only where they would want these facilities, but also which types they want for the Township. The State Legislature has had four years to figure this out and they are only giving the towns six months to decide. Many towns are opting out to give themselves more time. Ms. Kosko added that we have been approached by many people interested in opening a cannabis business in Hainesport. Mr. Levinson asked if one business could operate "vertically" in more than one capacity, for example cultivator and retailer. Ms. Kosko said we are not sure at this time. We will have a presentation next month.

14. **BILL LIST**

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. **RESOLUTION 2021-67-4** – Entering into Executive Session

1. Attorney/Client Privilege

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeeman MacLachlan. All yes.

Motion to re-enter open meeting

Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

MOTION TO ADD RESOLUTION 2021-68-4- Resolution of Need for Senior Affordable Housing

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

RESOLUTION 2021-68-4 - Resolution of Need for Senior Affordable Housing

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

16. ADJOURNMENT @ 8:57 P. M.

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeeman Montgomery. All yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula L. Kosko

Administrator/Municipal Clerk

OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA