

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
March 14, 2022  
Via Remote Meeting Access Only

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vallone called the remote meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Vallone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Councilman Kevin Welsh, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo

**REPORTS**

**Councilman Welsh – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds**

Councilman Welsh provided an update on the improvement projects at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds.

He informed the Borough Council he would be meeting with representatives from the Atlantic Visiting Nurse Association to review the track and fairgrounds in preparation for the spring Rummage Sale which will be held May 6-8, 2022; and the collection of donations will run from April 6-26, 2022.

**Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

Councilwoman Tweedie reported the Borough's grant application in the amount of \$109,900.00 for five sewer infrastructure and maintenance projects through Somerset County's funding via the American Recovery Plan was not approved. The County Commissioners received numerous grant applications that exceeded the funding allocation and made the determination to not award any grants for the infrastructure category. Councilwoman Tweedie stated while the grant would not be funded, the County was reviewing potential shared services to assist municipalities for the maintenance, cleaning and televising of the sewer lines.

**Councilman McLean – Roads**

No report.

**Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance**

No report.

### **Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections**

Councilwoman Chimenti reported Municipal Court receipts for the month of February 2022 were \$3,087.16. She stated the Municipal Court proceedings were still being conducted remotely via Zoom, however, it was anticipated that DWI hearings would be soon held in person.

Councilwoman Chimenti informed the Council that she would be hosting a small gathering in honor of Judge Mark Adler who will be retiring on April 26, 2022.

### **Council President Karner – Police**

Council President Karner reported interviews for a Class II Officer have been completed and it was anticipated a resolution for the appointment would be on the agenda for the next Borough Council meeting.

### **Mayor Vallone**

Mayor Vallone reported he would be meeting with the Borough CFO, Debra Stern on March 18, 2022, to review the 2022 Budget.

He stated that he had a meeting with representatives from the Atlantic Visiting Nurse Association and they were amenable to contributing to the restoration of the two barns at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds.

Mayor Vallone stated the Far Hills Center, located along Route 202, was the recipient of the Somerset County Planning Board's 2021 Land Development and Planning Award for excellence in commercial adaptive use planning.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **02/28/22 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman McLean, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content and release.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The items listed within the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting have been referred to the Borough Council for reading and study; a copy placed on the table in the meeting room and is considered routine and will be enacted with one motion the Borough Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is required, the item may be removed from the Agenda by Borough Council action and placed on the Regular Agenda under New Business.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution 22-055 – Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations
2. Resolution 22-056 – Authorizing Contribution to Raritan Headwaters Association  
via the Clean Communities Grant
3. Resolution 22-057 – Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes – Various Accounts
4. Resolution 22-058 – Payment of Bill List

Regarding Resolution 22-056, Mr. Sordillo advised the contribution to the Raritan Headwaters Association was supported solely by the Clean Communities Grant and not through public funds.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman McLean that Resolutions 22-055 through 22-058 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Moorland Farm – Skeet Flurry Event**

Mr. Guy Torsilieri provided an overview of the Skeet Flurry event planned for May 19, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with the skeet shooting occurring from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event would consist of 20 teams of five members each competing in the morning and afternoon sessions for a total of 200 competitors. He noted this was the third annual event and this year would benefit the Morristown Medical Center.

Mr. Torsilieri also informed the Borough Council of upcoming events to be held at Moorland Farm including the Essex Horse Trials on July 2, 2022 and the Far Hills Race Meeting on October 15, 2022.

Mr. Sordillo advised that based upon the presentation this evening, a memorializing resolution authorizing the Skeet Flurry event could be presented at the next Council meeting.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that based upon the presentation this evening, a private, invitational clay-shooting competition event to be held at Moorland Farm on May 19, 2022, be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

### **Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department**

In attendance representing the fire department were Chief David Groendyk, President Ron Kennedy, and Treasurer Brian Wilde.

Mr. Kennedy and Chief Groendyk presented a report on the 2021 activity for the department consisting of 523 calls encompassing over 10,000 hours for training, public events, and firefighting. Currently, there are 29 active members with 5 new members who joined in 2021.

Mr. Kennedy provided an overview of the 2022 Capital Budget requests which included the following: three handheld thermal imaging cameras; five new sets of personal protective equipment; and a mobile light tower for either Engine 1 or Engine 2 for a total of \$65,000.00. Far Hills would be responsible for 20% of the total cost and the remaining 80% would be the responsibility of Bedminster Township.

He also apprised the Borough Council of the portable and mobile radios that may be required in 2024 as Somerset County is upgrading their system from 500 MHz to 700 Mhz making the fire department's current equipment incompatible. It was estimated that the cost would be \$500,000.00 and grant opportunities would be reviewed in the next few years. Mr. Kennedy stated that this radio upgrade

was a mandate from Somerset County. He added that the County was allocating approximately \$7,000,000.00 to upgrade their system but to his knowledge, there was no funding currently available to the individual fire departments and suggested that this concern be brought to the attention of the Somerset County Commissioners.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the number of emergency calls originating from state highways and the potential for reimbursement from the state agencies. Chief Groendyk provided additional information regarding the various mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments who offer assistance to the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department. He also outlined the current recruitment efforts to promote the department and reach potential members.

Councilman Welsh noted that the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department was a strictly volunteer organization and needed our full support.

Mayor Vallone echoed those sentiments and expressed donations were encouraged to support the purchase of the necessary equipment to ensure their safety as they work to ensure the safety of our residents. He also suggested a concerted effort to request financial support from the County regarding the mandated radio upgrade.

Representatives from the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department left the meeting at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – *The Mayor and Council welcome comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 5 minutes.*

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to open the meeting to public comment.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills suggested that residents be reminded, perhaps through the next newsletter, not to flush medications due to the potential adverse impact upon the water supply and environment. He also expressed his concern regarding a Council member's response at the last meeting to a resident's comments as being a continual protestation to the Pulte/Residences at Overleigh development falling on deaf ears as the project had already received approval from the Planning Board. Lastly, Dr. Mellendick inquired as to the timing of public comment during meetings and the process to obtain copies of correspondence listed on the agenda.

Mayor Vallone responded he would include a reminder regarding the proper disposal of medications in the next newsletter and thanked Dr. Mellendick for the suggestion.

Mr. Sordillo and Ms. Hicks responded by reviewing the procedures established by the Open Public Meetings Act and the Open Public Records Act, respectively.

Karen Reilly, 5 Fox Hunt Court, Far Hills informed the Council that a rectangular top of a basin located near the culvert along Route 202 had become dislodged.

Council President Karner thanked Ms. Reilly for the information and would inform Chief DeCarolis to have the area reviewed.

There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman McLean to close the meeting to public comment.

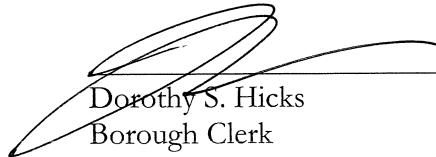
Council President Karner reminded the Borough Council of the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department and First Aid Squad annual dinner planned for March 19, 2022, and asked Ms. Hicks to coordinate the RSVPs.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Welsh was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED – 03/28/22



Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk