

REGULAR MEETING  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM – UPPER LEVEL

February 4, 2020

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6.00 p.m.

The meeting was then opened with the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance, led by Municipal Clerk.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Kownacki read the following statement of proper notice:

**STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE:** "Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, has been provided through the posting of the annual meeting schedule of said Council in accordance with Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act." Said Notice was forwarded to The Trentonian, The Times and The Princeton Packet on December 19, 2019.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.  
Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager, David Roskos, Esq., Municipal Attorney and Peter Kiriakatis, CFO.

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Prior to presenting the following resolution Mayor Kownacki turned the floor over to Councilwoman Lewis who read a few snippets from the Resolution with regards to the Municipal Building being lit in purple, one of the colors of the New Jersey Suffrage movement, during the week of February 10, 2020 and expressed her appreciation to the Council and the Township for helping them honor this day which is a little sad being it was only 100 years ago; but, she is happy that they can remind people of the suffrage and hopefully this will remind them in June and November to exercise their right to vote.

Mayor Kownacki then presented the following Resolution in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Anniversary of Women's Suffrage.

Resolution in Support of the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Anniversary of Women's Suffrage

*Resolution*

**WHEREAS**, the year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteeing and protecting women's right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, this centennial offers an opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy; that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied nor abridged by the Federal or State governments due to gender; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a long, storied history in the suffrage movement with New Jersey women playing a crucial role in pursuing the right of women to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1776 women property owners were enfranchised under the New Jersey State Constitution, which was unique in the nation at the time; however, in 1807 the New Jersey Legislature eliminated the property requirement for voting rights and limited the ballot to white males; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1867 New Jersey residents Lucy Stone and Harry Blackwell organized the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association (NJWSA) devoted to gaining women's suffrage and in 1909 New Jersey's first open air suffrage rallies were held in Orange and Newark, led by Dr. Emma O. Gantz and Martha Klatschken with NJWSA collecting 5,000 signatures on a Petition to support the Federal amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, although the 1912 State referendum on women's suffrage was soundly defeated in the New Jersey Legislature a corner was turned for the New Jersey suffrage movement; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1913 an automobile rally led by "General" Rosalie Jones traveled through New Jersey on the way to Washington, DC, in a Suffrage Parade of over 8,000 marchers with many New Jersey women including event organizer Alice Paul; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1915 a second suffrage constitutional referendum was pursued in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts with active campaigns by many suffrage organizations, including the "Passing of the Torch of Liberty" via tug boats on the Hudson River from New York to New Jersey; but, was defeated in all four states in October 1915; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1917 New Jersey suffragists Allison Turnbull Hopkins, Julia Hulburt, Beatrice Reynolds Kinkead and Minnie D. Abbott picketed in front of the White House as part of the Silent Sentinels and subsequently were arrested and imprisoned; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 1919 Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment guaranteeing all American women the right to vote and on February 9, 1920, New Jersey became the 29<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, shortly after the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Margaret Laird and Jennie Van Ness were the first two women elected to the New Jersey Assembly in 1921 and in 1925 Rebecca Estelle Bourgeois Winston of Estell Manor was New Jersey's first woman mayor;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council, of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the Municipal Building will be lit in purple, one of the colors of the New Jersey Suffrage movement, during the week of February 10, 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township of Lawrence supports the efforts of New Jersey's Suffrage Centennial NJ Women Vote and strongly encourages local celebrations of this historic milestone; and

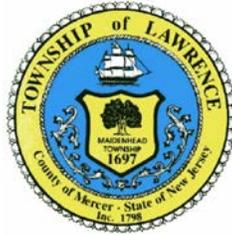
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be forwarded to the Governor, Secretary of State and New Jersey League of Municipalities.

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Carol Chamberlain, Lawrence Township Health Officer, stated last year Mayor Bobbitt signed the Pledge of Participation and that 2006 was the first year that the mayor had signed the Mayors Wellness Campaign which they are asked to do every year. She then read the Pledge which she respectfully asked Mayor Kownacki to sign and advised last year they started tracking their healthy activities and they did 43 programs that were either screenings, educational programs or attended events. They

also implemented a Program in which they display health information inside the restrooms in the Township every month in which they change the topic in addition to sending over placemats to the Senior Center with a health message for the seniors. So, those are a few things they have been doing in addition to screenings and everything else and they appreciate the Council's willingness to work with them on this and she hopes to work with the Triathlon along with Nancy Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation, and add a health aspect to that as well.

Mayors Wellness Campaign – Pledge of Participation



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**Mayors Wellness Campaign**

**Pledge of Participation**

As Mayor of Lawrence Township,

I pledge to work cooperatively with the Mayors Wellness Campaign to implement new programs which will promote active living and healthier lifestyles for the men, women and children of our Township. I am committed to evaluating and reporting the programs we implement in our community.

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James S. Kownacki, Mayor

February 4, 2020

**❖ Mayors Wellness Campaign**

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Department Budget Presentations

**2020 Municipal Budget Presentation**

**Construction Department, Anthony Cermele, Construction Code Official**

Mr. Cermele greeted the Council and distributed copies of his 2020 Budget Report for Council, Municipal Manager and CFO consideration and advised that he put together a (5) five year comparison (2015-2019) of what the Construction Code Division collected in construction fees and Lawrence Township being a very healthy municipality as far as construction is concerned.

Mr. Cermele went on to discuss that he roughly has a \$1.3M annual budget and his department has collected a little over a million dollars in fees in excess over their budget. And, for the last 12 years they have been in excess of \$400,000 to \$1,000,000 over the budget. And, although, Lawrence is 22 square miles his department issues almost as many permits as Hamilton Township which is 60 square miles and Hopewell Township that is approximately 58 square miles. So, Lawrence is a busy town with 10 percent of town's fees coming from new construction and the other 80 percent from the commercial construction they have in the Township such as Bristol-Myers-Squibb who will be doing major renovations again this year; Lawrence Shopping Center who is moving forward with projects which he is glad to see; The Lawrenceville School who he will be meeting with tomorrow to discuss (5) five upcoming major projects and Rider University who he met with last week who also has (5) five major projects coming up and those are just some of the larger projects which does not include potential projects at the (12) twelve malls in Lawrence Township - that include five stores or more which is considered a mall.

Mr. Cermele indicated that on Page 2 of his Budget Report is just a recommendation for Council's consideration as it relates to the 13 computers in his department, 8 of which are already 10 years old, that break down constantly and one of his main sub code officials having to use other people's computers just to do land orders. So, he is requesting 8 new computers to replace the old ones that would at least put them on track for the type of permits they issue now. The last item of discussion is his departmental staff in which he has 15 employees that includes 4 clerical position – 3 three full-time, 1 one part-time employees and 11 inspectors (5 part time – 20 hours per week) which brings him to his next budget request for 8 new 4x4 Ford Explorer type vehicles (leased) being he has 11 people on the road and only 9 cars of which were handed down from the police department with over 150,000 miles or more that are constantly breaking down so they are switching cars around to keep the inspectors going and he suggested to the Municipal Manager and Mr. Kiriakatis that they consider leasing the vehicles which would be almost the same amount of money as if they purchased a 4x4 SUV which would cost about \$33,000 very close to 8 leased 4x4 SUV type vehicle which the Construction Code inspectors do need for most of their inspections being a lot of their inspections take place in construction areas with lots of mud and stones.

After the presentation a general question and answer period took place between members of Council and Mr. Cermele relative to his budget request to lease 4x4 SUV and splitting his request between four-wheel drive and electric vehicles being a lot of the inspectors' work is done within the community and they will not have a lot of high mileage daily; hardship inspections and the inspectors having a more flexible schedule

for inspections to accommodate residents; the wait time and issuance of commercial and residential permits depending on how well the plans are submitted by the contractor or resident; future submission of construction applications and plans being submitted electronically and larger organizations such as BMS, Rider University and The Lawrenceville School bringing in co-consultants to expedite their permit process; coordinating an annual open house to help contractors and residents planning projects and the new website having tools to help residents with future projects. Mayor Kownacki thanked Ms. Cermele for his presentation.

Mr. Nerwinski noted since the hiring of the additional staff he barely hears complaints about a delay in the issuance of permits like he used to when he first started as the Manager and that the Construction Department staff has a lot on their plate, they work really hard, they do really good work and they have worked hard to turn things around. As for Mr. Cermele's request for vehicles, he is in support of new vehicles for the inspectors who work hard and deserve to have better quality vehicles to do their job and not hand-me-down from the police department and he has already spoken with Mr. Kiriakatis about looking into the leasing option. Furthermore, it makes more sense to have better quality vehicles that will take some of the pressure off of the Public Works mechanics.

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**2020 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Municipal Court – Lewis J. Korngut, JMC**

Municipal Court Judge Lewis Korngut greeted Council and members of the public and imparted that he has been the Judge for three years as he took over for Mr. Nerwinski and is just trying to follow in his footsteps and he would like to thank all of Council for giving him the opportunity to serve the community in a positive way. And indicated he has been a resident of Lawrence Township for 33 years and he raised his family here in Lawrence and it has been a great experience and he has tried to better the lives of the people in the community that come before the Court.

Judge Korngut stated to refresh everyone's memory the Municipal Court has (5) five sessions: all day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and on those days they regularly have trials taking place in the afternoons with some of the cases pleading out at the last moment. In addition, they have Special Sessions (two this month) which are usually the more complicated cases with a multitude of witnesses that cannot be scheduled during the regular session such as DUI's and complicated domestic violence cases. They also have a lot of transfer cases which they have no say-so over and they take with no questions asked so that is what the Court System does in terms of caseloads. And, the cases in terms of comparison from 2018 to 2019 have pretty much been the same so there has not been any substantial change in caseloads that they have seen in the Court.

Judge Korngut advised that the Court is also regulated by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) which kind of sets the courts rules, regulations and guidelines in terms of policies and procedures they have to follow and the Municipal Courts have been under scrutiny for the last two or three years in New Jersey so they have actually adopted a lot of oversight into the Municipal Courts in terms of fines, contempt fees, etc., so they follow those regulations by the AOC.

Judge Korngut stated in terms of the staff, the Court has an incredible staff that is outstanding and he cannot say enough about the people that work in the Court System. Lawrence Court has five permanent staff members who really do all the work behind the scenes and he is the face of the Court. They are professional in their approach and they carry him so he is deeply indebted to them and he cannot thank his staff enough for all the hard work they do and the professionalism that they show. The Court also has a Court Officer who is in the courtroom at all times with a number of officers as security outside of the courtroom. In the Court System, they have a permanent prosecutor, Alfred Vuocolo, who took over a number of years ago for the former prosecutor and Mayor of Trenton, Reed Gusciro, and is doing a fantastic job, and a public defender, Raymond Staub, who also does an outstanding job and sends his associate on occasion. Additionally, they sometimes have interns who help the prosecutor and public defender on occasion in the Court System.

Judge Korngut stated he thinks it is important for everyone to understand that he and his staff as the Court System are the face of the Township being the majority of people do not have interaction with the legislative or executive branch they usually have interaction with municipal government or municipal court so for him it is critical and important for him to always keep in mind they are the face of this community and essential for him as the Judge to make those experiences as positive as possible in the Municipal Court. Obviously, people coming into court are there for some sort of criminal matter, motor vehicle, etc. and some of them have never been to court before so it is important for him to make that first experience positive. And, his style is to greet people with a smile, say hello or make a joke as much as he can and they would be surprised as to how that person's demeanor changes when he or she feels they were treated fairly and with respect and dignity which makes a world of difference. So, for him his huge emphasizes is to be sure that when a person leaves his courtroom they feel like they were treated with justice where they had a chance to make a statement and a voice to say what they needed to say in the court which he feels is critical to the Court System in Lawrence Township.

Judge Korngut imparted that the Municipal Court also has a number of programs that they do inside the Court System. They have what is called Mediation in some cases includes thefts for writing bad checks, neighbor disputes, and they recently started a program with New Jersey TIPS which he feels is one of the best programs the Court System has ever come up with which he thinks they have them throughout Mercer County. The Program consists of a gentleman who is a retired law enforcement officer and he is the liaison between the defendants and the alcohol and drug programs throughout the county and he advises them on the types of programs they can follow through with which is rewarding for him as there are a lot of people that come through the Court System who need help, guidance and direction such as first time drug

offenders who are not going to go to jail but need help to try and push them in the right direction and to have leverage on them to ensure that they are going to undergo counseling, treatment and urine testing for those with very bad addiction. And, New Jersey TIPS kind of advises them of the proper places they can go to seek treatment. So, that is another program the Court has adopted in Lawrence Township in the last year or so that he thinks has been very effective. In closing, Judge Korngut stated he loves his job and thanked the Council for affording him the opportunity to serve the community. He then opened the floor for questions and comments.

There was then a question and answer period after Judge Korngut's presentation relative to the difference between New Jersey TIPS and Drug Court and him having no request for additional funding or staff in his budget. Thereafter, Mr. Nerwinski and the Council noted the great job the Judge has been doing and thanked him for a job well done.

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**2020 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Health Department, Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer**

Ms. Chamberlain greeted the Council and advised that the State requires the Health Department to submit an annual report based upon the State's "Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health, N.J.A.C. 8:52 and to review it with the Township Council." She then thanked the Council for an opportunity to present the 2019 Annual Report and her 2020 budget request.

Copies of the 2019 Annual Report were distributed for the Council to view at their leisure regarding the Health Department's day-to-day functions, mission, full-time and per diem staff, services provided, health department activities, programs, vital statistics, various public and health services, cooperative purchases, grants, inter-local agreements, shared services and partnerships they have with other agencies that are governed by the State Health Department, Department of Environmental Protection, Licensing and Inspections, public health preparedness, animal control and future initiatives. Ms. Chamberlain stated 85 percent to the services listed in the Report are State mandated services and proceeded to highlight the following items:

- Social Media – Social media health promotion messages increased in 2019 on Lawrence Township Facebook and Twitter sites which helped the Health Department increase its reach to the community. Steve Groeger, part-time employee, being a great help in getting out health messages as there were over 140-health-related posts on Facebook and Twitter with topics ranging from upcoming health department events, health promotional messages and guidelines for current public health issues.

- New Jersey Department of Health Audit – Health Audit took place in March 2019 where the Department of Health, Office of Local Health, reviewed the Health Department’s procedures and administrative items and check to see that the Health Inspectors were documenting the work they reviewed and specified in their inspection reports and to make sure that the health department was following the Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey. As a result, the Department had two corrective actions for two standards which they did corrective action plans for and was submitted on September 26, 2019.

Continuous Quality Improvements includes the Health Advisory Board development of the Vision Zero Policy which they would like to see spread out a little bit further in the Township and is continuing to work on. And the Board selected interns to work on that project for them and develop a policy based on the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnerships policy. The Health Department’s continuous work on the Mayor’s Wellness Campaign to increase programs, and the Cultural Diversity in-house they do with the staff of the Health Department as requested by the State.

- Emergency Management Plan Update – Health Department staff in the early months of 2019 updated and revised the annexes of the Emergency Management Plan. The health department staff currently being responsible for the Public Health Annex, the Shelter, Reception and Care Annex and the Social Services Annex. And, within the Public Annex is the Pandemic Influenza Supplement as well as an emergency shelter plan. With the help of some interns both procedural revisions were made and contacts and resources were updated and submitted to Jack Oakley, Director of Emergency Management, by mid-year.
- Influenza Honor Roll - Health Department was honored with the New Jersey Department of Health Influenza Honor Roll Award along with nine community based health departments in New Jersey for activities completed in 2018-2019 which she credits the nurses and Health Educator for who does a wonderful job in promoting influenza awareness and prevention within the community. The public health nurses also work throughout the flu season to educate residents, promote flu shots and share information on disease prevention to individuals as well as a variety of groups in Lawrence Township.

Additional activities performed by the Health Department - Vital Statistics Program; Inspection Program; Nursing Program that included an increase in the Child Health Clinic due to an increase in children entering the country and needing their shots to attend school; monthly health clinics shots, well baby visits and other health services for children that do not have health insurance; monthly screenings performed by the nurses in the

Health Department (225 cancer screenings); Animal Control Program where Chris Buck, ACO, took in 48 stray dogs, 93 stray cats and performed 36 dog bite investigations, two rabies clinics with 194 dogs and 82 cats being vaccinated in 2019. In January of this year at the Rabies Clinic they vaccinated 189 dog and cats in about a two hour period and the Clerk's Office was present and issued 110 licenses at the Clinic which works out really well given the resident can get the dog its rabies shot and license at the same time; Drug & Alcohol Alliance Committee new members Councilman John Ryan (liaison), Detective Ryan Dunn who works in the schools with the D.A.R.E. program and other members that include staff from Board of Education, Nancy Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation, Susan Staley, Rider University, Kelly Nitti from Camp Fire NJ and a couple of community representatives who all attend and do a great job in making the program run and advised of the recent Needs Assessment that was performed where funding was increased from \$21,711 to over \$34,000 proposed for July.

- Community Health Improvement Plan – Health Department in participation with Greater Mercer Health Partnership updated the Community Health Improvement Plan for Mercer County developed in 2019. The development started with a review of the results of the Community Health Assessment completed in 2018-2019 with the priority health areas identified to address that included the following: Underserved population/ Health Equity, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Food Security/Obesity, Safe Transportation/Safe Recreational Spaces and Maternal and Child Health which the health department will be cognate about when planning activities and programs in the future with a goal of addressing each year one of the six topics identified as community needs. The Health Department continuing to work on the Mayors Wellness Campaign in partnership with the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership
- Briefed the Council on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus that started back in December 2019 when it was first passed on to humans from animals. To date, the virus sadly has spread to 20 different countries and five states in the United States by person-to-person transmission but has been controlled with the travel ban put in place on flights coming in from China. The State is currently setting up a process for monitoring the situation and she has contacted schools with international students, nursing homes and St. Lawrence Rehabilitation, Rider University, Princeton University and The Lawrenceville School and everybody has a protocol in place or they are working on one. They have also provided information for concerned seniors at the Senior Center.

Ms. Chamberlain concluded her presentation by recognizing the Health Advisory Board and Leo Brummel who they loss last year and thanked the Council for recognizing him as his family was very appreciative of the recognition. She then reviewed her 2020 budget request that included the following: an increase in fees for Retail Food Establishment licenses that has not been increased since 2011 and based on a survey of other towns is a bit below average; new computer equipment for the Health Department and ACO; a new variable message sign that can be shared with other departments and electronic ability to process dog licenses which falls under the Clerk's Office. In closing, she thanked Greg Whitehead and Clyde DeAngelo from public works who found money from the budget to get a new vehicle for the Animal Control Officer.

A brief comment and question period followed relative to her budget request and no staffing needs, after which the Council and Municipal Manager thanked Ms. Chamberlain for critical role and great job her and her staff does in the Health Department.

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**2020 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Gregory Whitehead, Director of Public Works**

Public Works Director Gregory Whitehead greeted Council and provided a general overview of the divisions within the Public Works Department. It is comprised of (32) thirty-two employees encompassing (6) six divisions – Administration, Streets Division, Parks Division, Building and Grounds, Vehicle Maintenance and Ecological Facility. They are responsible for maintaining all Township parks, roadways, municipal facilities, vehicle maintenance, ecological facility operations which is run jointly with Princeton, and a multitude of contracts they have with vendors for trash removal, recycling, engineering, capital improvement programs and general services.

Mr. Whitehead stated he is not going to review the entire report but he will be touching on the biggest services in public works and a one hour video regarding brush pickup and other items. He then gave a detailed review of the following items:

- Staff accomplishments for 2019 including the 2019 Direct Install Project - LED Light Conversion for the Slackwood Fire Company, Lawrenceville Fire Company, Lawrence Road Fire Company, Municipal Building and the Police Building
- Streets Division major services to the residents and cost associated with the following services: Leaf Collection Program, Brush Collection Program White Goods Collection, Street Sweeping Program, Roadside Mowing, Snow Removal, Brine and Salt and Mercer County Inmate Litter Patrol Program

- Other Areas of Service Public Works Manages on a Daily Basis – Solid Waste Program, Sinkholes and Shared Services. 2020 Budget request for the replacement of PW 35 - 1997 Oshkosh 20 cubic yard refuse truck utilized for brush and leaf collection – Replacement Cost: \$195,000, Replace PW 42- 2004 McCormick Tractor (roadside mower /tractor) – Replacement Cost: \$100,000 and Replace 2005 GMC Topkick – 2020 Dump truck replacement program (plow and salter) – Replacement Cost: \$150,000
- Future Personnel Needs – The need for five (5) new employees based on the difference between available hours and unavailable hours of 8,736
- Street Division Daily Job Labor Hours Pie Chart for 2020 Projected Labor Hours for various services.
- 2020 Tree Removal Plan, Targeted Tree Removal and Trimming, Removal and 2019 Progress as it relates to tree removal, trimming, cost and labor hours
- Vehicle Maintenance Division – Division services and maintains over 350 vehicles and pieces of equipment; outsourced (20) works orders, maintains above-ground and underground storage tanks and programs to continue to increase efficiency and provide services that reduce equipment down time. Firetruck maintenance update and summary of major repairs for Lawrenceville Fire Ladder 23, Lawrenceville Fire TS 23, Lawrence Road Fire TS 22, Lawrence Road Fire Rescue 22 and Slackwood Fire Engine 21; the number of efficiency vehicles utilized by the town. 2020 Budget Request for 2020 Electric vehicle -\$30,000.
- Joseph H. Maher, Jr. Ecological Center – 4,193 visits from residents and landscapers in 2019, Free Compost Program – leaf compost and double-grounded wood chips, Materials Received (tons) – leaves, brush and grass from Lawrence and Princeton, Compost Sales - leaf mulch and wood chips, Mulch Delivery Program (174 Deliveries/528 cubic yards) and Landscaper Registrations (78) running smoothly with Janice, Brokofsky, Secretary, doing a great job in the registering the applicants and the landscapers complying with the law; five year shared services agreement completed with Princeton to include budget funds in the coming years to replace aging equipment at the site and the installation and completion of new signage, newly paved driveway and new gate office at the facility for the future improvements.
- Division of Buildings and Grounds – The Department’s 2020 goal to start planning for the roof replacement project at Town Hall for 2021 - 2020 Budget Requests for First Phase: \$150,000 and Vehicle Maintenance Garage Floor Rehabilitation Project on the mechanic side the public works facility – 2020 Budget Request for Project Cost: \$50,000. Mr. Whitehead noted buildings and grounds have been one person down for a while as they have not found the person with the right talent and skillset needed for the job and commended Joseph Sliwinski, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, on the excellent job he has done with all the work orders, LED light conversions, solar and other projects.

- Reviewed pictures of the Community Center and the square footage of other facilities in the Township covered by public works totaling 145,470 square feet.
- Parks Division – Division comprised of (7) employees is responsible for all aspects of park maintenance thousand acres of public property which includes all the sports fields, playground equipment repair, check and empty over 100 garbage and recycling receptacles on a daily basis and cleans and maintains the restroom facilities at Village Park, Central Park and Veteran’s Park. The crew is also responsible for Twin Pines field lining and maintenance, cutting, trash removal and trail maintenance. Mr. Whitehead noted while all aspects of park maintenance gets done they are still short one laborer position which they are actively seeking to fill before the spring. And, because of the unseasonably good weather the Division was able to get ahead of schedule with park maintenance, public property and ground work associated with township facilities. 2020 Budget request is for (2) tow Zero Turn Mower – Replacement Cost: \$30,000 and 2020 Pickup Truck with Plow and Power Tailgate Lift to replace PW 18 that has \$125,000 miles – Replacement Cost: \$45,000
- The Public Works Department co-sponsored with Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association a Spring Clean-up in 2019 for Colonial Lake Park which they booked again for 2020. Last year, they had 18 volunteers from Rider University and collected 220 pounds of trash around the woods and the lake during a six hour period.
- The Public Works Department continued efforts with the Curbside Organic Collection Program (122 residents/38.50 fee paid directly to vendor), 2019 Organic Waste (savings of \$25,990.68), Electronic Recycling Program (504 residents/33,084.76 pounds recycled in 2019), Community Shredding Event (5.6 tons) and the Municipal Auction 2019 on-line auction for sale of surplus property through Municibid resulted in sales of \$28,180.97.
- A Look Ahead 2020 – Refurbishment of Village Park dog park, Continue replacement of park benches, Refurbishment of the Veterans Park comfort station/restrooms, Second year - wood chip delivery program, Replace cedar shake roof at the Brearley House, Replacement of commercial screener at the Ecological Facility with Princeton, Organic collection programs – Trenton Biogas, Power wash and seal gymnasium at the Community Center , Continue rehabilitation of dugouts and scorer building at Central Park and Johnson Trolley Line improvements.

After the presentation, an exchange of dialogue took place relative to the mulch delivery program; legalities surrounding landscapers list being posted on the website; the benefit of organic waste going to Trenton Biogas and the cost savings of \$26,000; lowering organic fees for residents, benefit of the water bottle filling stations at the parks and traffic radar signs; preliminary plans being worked on for Veterans Park drainage situation by the playground area that floods, contracting and expanding outside services for grass cutting and the lease of vehicles to help with the car fleet, green infrastructure

on the streetscapes to reduce mowing cost and the benefit the environment, maintenance of the retention basins, tree replacement and LED light conversion at Colonial Lake, Town Hall roof replacement being white same as the firehouses and the great job public works do on snow removal, trash pickup concerns and staffing needs for public works. The Council thanked Mr. Whitehead for the great job he and his staff do based on the report and his staff of 32 employees.

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### Public Participation

Mr. Paul Larson, Chair of Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee and Trustee for the Historical Society, stated he would like to thank the Council for the Resolution on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women Suffrage and related to the subject on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Lawrence High School is the annual meeting of the Lawrence Historical Society and Dr. Brooke Hunter, Lawrence Township Historian, is going to be giving a lecture on the Ninth Amendment so it ties in with that very well.

Mr. Larson stated he also appreciated Ms. Chamberlain's comments about wellness and everything and one of the things that has been very successful in the area which he mentioned before is the Lawrence Hopewell Trails Walking Club that meets on Saturday mornings and this Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. they will meet at the Hunt House on Autumn Blackwell Road and they will be walking a segment of the trail there which is about a mile and three quarters which is a great way to see asset of the LHT.

Mr. Larson advised that the Mercer County Park Commission will be doing some prescribed burnings in the park which may raise some questions in the community as to why the smoke and fire in the park and information will be posted on the LHT website. Mr. Nerwinski noted information will be put on the Township website as well.

Mr. Larson stated he would like to personally thank Greg Whitehead, Director of Public Works, and his staff, particularly, Joe Sliwinski, for all the work that they do in maintaining all of the parks and trails. He would also like to thank the Public Works Department for the use of their lights to help light up the trail at Hogmanay on New Year's Eve. Further, he will be requesting a meeting with Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Sliwinski about some maintenance issues at the Brearley house that need to be addressed which he put in an email last year.

Mr. Larson advised that more and more studies are coming out that talk about the wellness benefit of trails and parks and spending time out there and although the milder weather helped the Public Works Department get a lot work and maintenance done they are experiencing more and more problems with tick-borne diseases. And, one of things the Committee has discussed and plan to discuss with Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer, is developing some guidance to give to people about how they can protect

themselves against this disease and proceeded to discuss the Kay Hagen TICK Act signed into law by the President about six weeks ago aimed at bringing awareness to tick-borne diseases by expanding research, testing and federal planning; a disease Senator Hagen passed away from back in November. In closing, Mr. Larson further advised that the Mercer County Green Fest will be taking place on the February 1<sup>st</sup> at Rider University.

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#### Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that Resolution 66-20 (18-H.4), Authorizing a Closed Session of Council Immediately Following the Regular Meeting to Discuss Labor Negotiations and Personnel Matters, be removed from the agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Agenda was amended to include the above revision.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

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#### Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

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#### Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Awarding Contract for Emergency Painting and Remodeling of 4 Dorothea Terrace, was presented for adoption.

#### Resolution No. 67 -20

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, bids were received and publically opened for emergency rehabilitation of 4 Dorothea Terrace; and

WHEREAS, two (2) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Silviu Nedelcu Painting & Remodeling that submitted a bid in the amount of \$1,820.00 to perform the tasks required in the rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is 9-19-56-853-299 (Affordable Housing Trust Fund); and

WHEREAS, Silviu Nedelcu Painting & Remodeling has performed satisfactorily; and

WHEREAS, the owner's Henry and Kathleen Stricker of 4 Dorothea Terrace has been deemed eligible to participate in the rehabilitation program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Manager, the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk hereby authorize the acceptance of the bid and the execution of a contract with Silviu Nedelcu Painting & Remodeling, 4475 Route 27, Princeton NJ 08540 in the amount of \$1,820.00 for the purpose of an emergency rehabilitation at 4 Dorothea Terrace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Manager is hereby authorized to draft the necessary agreement, subject to the approval of the Municipal Attorney as to form and content thereof.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.  
Absent: None.

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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Awarding Contract to Rehabilitate 106 Michigan Avenue, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 68-20

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, bids were received and publically opened for the rehabilitation of 106 Michigan Avenue; and

WHEREAS, two (2) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Think.Paper.Hammer that submitted a bid in the amount of \$17,160.00 to perform the tasks required in the rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is 0-19-56-853-299 (Affordable Housing Trust Fund); and

WHEREAS, Think.Paper.Hammer has performed satisfactorily;

WHEREAS, the owner, Roysa D. Swint, of 106 Michigan Avenue has been deemed eligible to participate in the rehabilitation program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Manager, the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk hereby authorize the acceptance of the bid and the execution of a contract with Think.Paper.Hammer, 62 Morris Avenue, Suite 2, Summit NJ 07901 for the purposes of rehabilitating 106 Michigan Avenue;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Manager is hereby authorized to draft the

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.  
Absent: None.

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#### Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

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#### Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 435 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED "MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC" – Handicapped Parking

Ordinance No. 2355-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 435 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED 'MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC'

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 435 of The Lawrence Township Administrative Code entitled 'Motor Vehicles and Traffic' be and is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Article II – Stopping, Standing and Parking

Sec. 13-4 – Parking prohibited – At any time, except by vehicles bearing special identification for handicapped persons.

**(5)** Special Vehicle Parking (Handicapped)

Restricted parking spaces shall be established as set forth below and only those persons who are handicapped and who possess a special vehicle identification shall park in such designated parking space.

- a. 64 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Pike and Valley Forge Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet on Valley Forge Avenue on the south side of 1894 Brunswick Pike.
- b. 138 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Pike and Pear Street (N/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 766 Pear Street.
- c. 340 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Rt. 206 (Lawrence Road) and Fairfield Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 81 Fairfield Avenue.
- d. 285 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Princeton Avenue and Myrtle Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 55 Myrtle Avenue.
- e. 180 feet westbound from the prolonged curb line of Hopewell Avenue and Slack Avenue (S/W corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 115 Slack Avenue.
- f. 263 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Princeton Avenue and Myrtle Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet, in front of 57 Myrtle Avenue
- g. 204 feet westbound from the prolonged curb line of Ohio Avenue and Puritan Avenue (N/W corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 716 Puritan Avenue.
- h. 324 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Princeton Avenue and Myrtle Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 51

Myrtle Avenue.

- i. 141 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Slack Avenue and Princeton Pike (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet, in front of 143 Slack Avenue.
- j. 99 feet northbound from the prolonged curb line of Pine Street and Brunswick Avenue, for a distance of 22 feet, in front of 1117 Brunswick Avenue.
- k. 518 feet westbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Avenue and Lanning Avenue (N/W corner) for a distance of 22 feet, in front of 944 Lanning Avenue.
- l. 70 feet westbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Avenue and Lanning Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet on the side of 1279 Brunswick Avenue.
- [m 37 feet southbound from the prolonged curb line of Pear Street and Michigan Avenue for a distance of 22 feet in front of 139 Michigan Avenue.]
- n. 56 feet southbound from the prolonged curb line of Greenfield Avenue and Rupert Street (S/W corner) for a distance of 22 feet on the side of 49 Greenfield Avenue.
- o. 268 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Princeton Avenue and Lanning Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 961 Lanning Avenue.

Section 2. This ordinance supercedes all previous ordinances that relate to the designation of handicapped parking on streets and roadways within the Township of Lawrence.

Section 3. Severability.

If any provisions of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, which shall be deemed severable therefrom.

Section 4. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of same inconsistent with any provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days following the adoption thereof in accordance with law.

Deletion in Brackets [ ]

The Ordinance was adopted after public hearing thereon, on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Bobbitt    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Powers     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Ryan       | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mayor Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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**Manager’s Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski submitted invoice listings for the month of February 2020 in the amount of \$1,103,723.39.

Mr. Nerwinski distributed copies of a letter Jim Parvesse, Municipal Engineer and Brenda Kraemer, Assistant Municipal Engineer, regarding potential open space acquisition of 0.5 acres of property located behind 11 Fairfield Avenue which is advertised for sale. He advised that it was formerly a day care center on Princeton Pike and Fairfield Avenue and behind that property is land that could give the Township the opportunity for a trail connection along the Shabakunk Creek that could ultimately link Notre Dame to Colonial Lake. And, although, that piece is not offered for sale he is sure the present homeowner or the future property owner will not miss it in the least as it abuts the creek and would be pretty cool for the town to acquire and link it to the Trail for public use. He then asked the Council’s wishes as to how to proceed and explained that the Township would receive 40 percent of the certified market value from Mercer County Open Space funding and the Township Engineer would have to further explore the cost which they believe would not be significant.

A general discussion took place relative to the property being and in a floodplain and the land only being used for the purpose of a trail network and acquisition not impacting the current or future use of the remaining property that will be subdivided off. After the discussion, there was no objection for the Manager to advancing to the next step by obtaining the value and speaking with the Broker of Record to describe what they are looking to acquire.

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**Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos reported that the Sheft property is at a point where they should be able to close and DOT ended up giving them many comments most of which were plan related; but, they still need an easement to gain access to the rear of the property on the piece of land they are purchasing and he needs a Mortgage Release Subordination over those easement areas which might have been forgotten about on the Sheft's side of the ledger; but, their attorney who was sidelined due to surgery is now working on the matter and once that issue is resolved they should be able to close on the property.

Mr. Roskos reported that the Patrol Officer Caponi of the Lawrence Township Police Department and that group are still proceeding with the litigation against the Township and they responded to the Township's Motion to Dismiss with an Amended Complaint and request to the Court that they be able to file an amended complaint which was an admission that the complaint they filed was inadequate; so the Township will be responding to that argument sometime down the road. And, he has other items to discuss with the Council which he will bring forth at the next meeting after he speaks with the Municipal Manager.

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**Clerk's Report –**

Ms. Norcia inquired as to who would like tickets to the Mayor's Legislative Day Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. After a brief exchange of dialogue three members of Council requested tickets.

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**Unfinished Business –**

There was no unfinished business.

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**New Business –**

Mayor Kownacki stated at last meeting there was some discussion about moving the Council Meeting to 6:00 p.m. permanently not just for the summer months so he would like a recommendation from Council at the next meeting to settle the matter. In addition, he would like to discuss with the Municipal Clerk and the Municipal Manager the procedure for moving the Boards and Committee meetings to 7:00 p.m. to make all the meeting times uniform and discuss the possibly of the liaisons to the boards and committees becoming members with full voting authority.

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**Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –**

There was no public participation.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 44-20 (18-B.1) through 69-20 (18-H.5) with the exception of Resolutions 45-20 thru 47-20, 49-20 and 66-20 (Closed Session) were approved by the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Bobbitt    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Powers     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Ryan       | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mayor Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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Resolution Nos. 45-20 (18-D.1), 46-20 (18-D.2) and 47-20 (18-G.1) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X						X
Ms. Lewis					X		
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mr. Ryan	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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**Authorizing Appointments to Boards and Committees**

Mayor Kownacki advised that the Liaisons will be casting their nominations for the nominees appointed to the following Boards or Committees:

Affordable Housing Board – 3-year term ending 12/31/22  
Jean Washington

Resolution No. 49-20 was approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X						
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mr. Ryan	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Senior Executive Board – 4-year term ending 12/31/23  
Thelma Feder

Resolution No. 49-20 was approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X						
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mr. Ryan	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Planning Board – Alternate #1 - 2-year term ending 12/31/21  
Jonathan Dauber

Resolution No. 49-20 was approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X						
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mr. Ryan	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Zoning Board – Alternate #2 - 2-year term ending 12/31/21  
Jonathan Forte

Resolution No. 49-20 was approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X						
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mr. Ryan	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

There were a no liaison reports.

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**Written Communications –**

There was no written communications.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at Council went into Closed Session.

8.36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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James S. Kownacki, Mayor