

BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH  
Regular Meeting  
January 5, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Branchville Borough Council was held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Branchville Municipal Office, 34 Wantage Ave, Branchville, New Jersey.

Mayor Frato opened the meeting with the flag salute and the reading of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Branchville Borough Council has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof sent to the New Jersey Herald.

The roll was called. Those present were Council Members Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Also present were Jeff Lewis, Michelle Shelton, Bill Bathgate and Keith Whitehead.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve the regular minutes from December 1, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to open the public comment portion of the meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Keith Whitehead, stated that the food truck festival, that the Branchville Hose Company will host has been moved to the fire house. This event will be May 14, 2022. Railroad Avenue will be closed from Broad Street to the intersection of Maple Avenue.

Bill Bathgate expressed concern about the Borough being asked to help with Frankford Township development and water runoff issue in the Prospect - Rossmore section of town. Mr. Bathgate does not agree that the Branchville residents should have to use Branchville tax dollars or a portion of a grant to correct this issue. Discussion took place about contacting Frankford Township and asking them how they plan to handle the water issue that is expected after development in that area.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, that Branchville Borough should sue Frankford Township land-use for not enforcing a land-use ordinance in regard to the proposed Mc Mahon development. This motion did not receive a second, therefore, is dead. Mayor Frato will send a

letter to Harold Pellow to inquire on what Frankford Township's plans are to rectify the water issue.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve the deer carcass removal agreement as presented from Space Farms. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to approve the MCCPC renewal as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilman Orr to approve the recycling tonnage grant agreement with Marguerite Nemeth. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to approve the clock tower donation from the Branchville Borough businessman's group. Discussion on exact location will be discussed. The Branchville Borough Council will make the final determination. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilwoman Bathgate discussed that the Borough of Branchville has two residents that are not in compliance with the sewer ordinance tie in date. On motion of Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Doremus, Councilman Orr was given permission to speak to both of these residents to discuss the current issue and the amounts due on same. Councilman Orr will report his results at the next meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Bellis stated that a commercial flatbed is being parked on Lloyd Avenue. He will inquire with Mike Clune about current ordinances on the book to deal with same.

Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Doremus to approve the purchase of a police commissioner badge in the amount of \$119.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Orr questioned the other governing body members on various items to do with Steve Shechner and his zoning board approval for a business in his home. Councilman Orr was concerned about Shechner's sewer rate, and possible variance approval violations. Clarity on all concerns was given to Councilman Orr by other governing body members.

Councilman Orr discussed Kate Leissler's job position (until Mayor Frato intercepted) and various aspects of her employment with the Borough of Branchville. Councilman Orr made a motion to give notice to Kate to discuss the terms and conditions of her employment and none of the other governing body members seconded this motion. The motion died. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to approve future recording of Branchville Borough Council meetings. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve the hire of an electrician. The electrician is only needed if the Borough finds that the portable Kohler generator and transfer switch are working properly. This motion includes approval up to \$2000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve the \$2900.00 agreement from Gen Serve for a service contract of the 34 Wantage Ave. Generator. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to authorize Mike Little to get a quote for placement of a fence around the generator located at 34 Wantage Ave. The amount approved was not to exceed \$2,400.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to remove 2 trees by the wellhouse not to exceed \$1300.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Mayor Frato thanked the council and the staff at the Borough of Branchville for all of their hard work last year and he states he looks forward to another good year. Mayor Frato also reminded all attendees in the room that each department/employee has a council member that represents them. Mayor Frato stated that these officials should be overseeing their appointment list duties and making decisions. Mayor Frato stated that due to personal reasons that this goes into effect immediately.

Attorney Valenti stated that T-Mobile is expected to send their revised plans to the borough within a week. Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to authorize the clerk to forward T-Mobile plans to Dave Simmons to review. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Attorney Valenti stated that the agreement between the State of New Jersey and Branchville Borough in regard to the Mattison Reservoir sale is now at the attorney general office and waiting to be signed.

The following bills were presented for payment. On motion of Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell they were ordered paid after being properly audited, paid out of correct account and subject to the availability of funds. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(List of bills follows minutes)

On motion of Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate the meeting was adjourned. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.



Kathryn Leissler-CMR CTC RMC

# Check Register - (0110101001000) Cash Checking

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
12/03/2021	3612	506 North Church Gravel, Inc.	540.39			
12/03/2021	3614	294 Third Base Pub	1,475.00			
12/31/2021	3615	128 Crystal MOUNTAIN SPRINGS	57.96			
12/31/2021	3616	50 JESCO INC.	755.42			
12/31/2021	3617	205 Lowe's	349.70			
12/31/2021	3618	95 NEW JERSEY CONFRANCE OF MAYORS	295.00			
12/31/2021	3619	200 Optimum	9.95			
12/31/2021	3620	320 R&L Data Centers Inc	620.00			
12/31/2021	3621	71 SUSSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	7,040.00			
12/31/2021	3622	243 TRI STATE RENTALS	91.44			
12/31/2021	3623	6 WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NJ, INC.	9,442.92			
12/31/2021	3624	83 Abcode SECURITY	240.00			
12/31/2021	3625	11 Allied OIL, LLC	635.59			
12/31/2021	3626	15 Century LINK	1,643.77			
12/31/2021	3627	468 Cintas	233.58			
12/31/2021	3628	59 DOLAN & DOLAN P.A.	262.50			
12/31/2021	3629	425 Elizabethtown Gas	661.45			
12/31/2021	3630	2 HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOC INC.	918.13			
12/31/2021	3631	2 HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOC INC.	1,268.25			
12/31/2021	3632	502 HBCBS of NJ	132.84			
12/31/2021	3633	51 JCP&L	1,740.07			
12/31/2021	3634		17			
12/31/2021	3635		12			
12/31/2021	3636		10			
12/31/2021	3637		25			
12/31/2021	3638		10			
12/31/2021	3639		32			
12/31/2021	3640		53			
12/31/2021	3641		27			
12/31/2021	3642		10			
12/31/2021	3643		76			
12/31/2021	3644		10			
12/31/2021	3645		36			
12/31/2021	3646		13			
12/31/2021	3647		10			
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			57			
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			57			

January  
meeting  
print outs  
(Don't fall  
over lol)

# Check Register - (0410101001000) CASH CHECKING CAPITAL

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
12/31/2021	1053	18 Cooper Electric	81,486.52			
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			81,486.52			
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			81,486.52			

# Check Register - (0710101001000) Cash Checking

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
12/31/2021	1230	193 J. BATTISTA PLUMBING & HEATING, LLC	1,811.50			
12/31/2021	1231	51 JCP&L	194.57			
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			2,006.07			
			=====			
			2,006.07			

# Check Register - (0910101001000) CASH CHECKING

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
12/31/2021	1909	226 FOLEY, INC.	948.21			
12/31/2021	1910	66 ONE CALL CONCEPTS	40.04			
12/31/2021	1911	2 HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOC INC.	2,665.00			
12/31/2021	1912	2 HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOC INC.	2,054.51			
12/31/2021	1913	107 STATE OF NEW JERSEY-PWT	52.63			
12/31/2021	1914	72 Sussex Rural Electric	68.61			
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			5,829.00			
			=====			
			5,829.00			



# Check Register - (1210101001000) CASH-DOG LICENSE

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
12/31/2021	1095	102 NEW JERSEY STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH	1.20			
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			1.20			
			=====			
			1.20			