

BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Branchville Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 2, 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 Mayor Frato, Council Members Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Also present were Jeff Lewis, Jon and Kait Frato, Keith Whitehead, Chris Carney, Mike Little, Randy Morse, Bill Bathgate and Kelo and Michelle Orr.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve the minutes from January 5, Regular and Reorganization. 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 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.

Steve Leenheer was on the phone to discuss his proposed plan to connect 4 Mattison Ave. to the sewer system. Motion was made Councilman Van Stone, second by Councilman Doremus to approve Steve Leenheer's sewer hookup request pending approval of our Borough Engineer and the Presbyterian Church. The Borough of Branchville will provide a curb hook up on Wantage Ave. once approvals are given. Fees must be paid to the Borough of Branchville and SCMUA. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Chris Carney, Sussex County Commissioner, discussed the County of Sussex's plan to replace the bridge on Route 519. The Mayor and council asked Mr. Carney to contact Dave Simmons to inquire the status of the water line that runs under the bridge. The Borough of Branchville will look into if we are required to cover the water line cost. The Borough will also look for the easement document in regard to the water line and review rights listed.

Motion was made by Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Doremus to approve Jim Ayres request to talk to Jim Cerra about the proposal and to get quotes for the appraisal. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Harold Pellow's presence was requested at the next meeting to discuss the plans for the water run off rectification.

Jim Ayers stated that Frankford Township is interested in the south side of the reservoir property.

Jim Ayers stated that the crown in the road on Mill Street is causing flooding in the Methodist Church parking lot. Harold Pellow has proposed plans to correct this flooding for to the church. Mr. Ayers asked the governing body to financially assist the church in this endeavor. No action taken.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilman Van Stone to approve Ordinance # 01-2022, An Ordinance granting municipal consent for the operation of a cable television system within the Borough of Branchville, New Jersey to CSC, TKR, LLC with changes such as location of free cable, senior discount, programming revision, insurance coverage, plans filed with the borough engineer, interference. The ordinance must be filed with Altice for review before a second reading can take place. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(Ordinance follows minutes)

Ordinance # 02-2022 will be tabled for revisions including weight class and specific location.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to approve Ordinance # 03-2022, COLA, on first reading. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(Ordinance follows minutes)

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to approve the contract with BKJ production in the amount of \$1320.00 annually for another year of web care maintenance. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

David Simmons provided correspondence concerning proposed T-Mobile plans for antennas on the water tower. The plans were reviewed by Mike Little and Mike Robinson and were returned to T-Mobile for further comment.

Motion was made by Councilmen Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to approve the quote from North Jersey pump and controls in the amount of \$1325.00 for labor and travel to evaluate the failure of the well pump starter when called to run on automatic only. The quote was provided by North Jersey Pump and Control, LLC. A second quote was received from SISO in a higher amount. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Bellis to approve a borough wide shredding event on May 7, 2022 from 9 AM to 12 PM at the cost of \$1000.00. This event will be limited to three bankers size boxes and will be \$1000.00 payable to SK shredding. Funds will be charged to from recycling. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

The Branchville Borough Rotary club, several months ago, expressed interest in donating a clock tower to the Borough of Branchville. They stated they would cover the cost of same and zero cost would

be needed from the borough. Current correspondence shows that the Branchville Borough Rotary is interested in collecting funds from borough businesses and has expressed interest in our road department installing same. Discussion concluded that the Rotary will be supplied a letter requesting that the clock donation wait until our businesses are in a better financial spot to donate and until the sidewalks are opened up for street lighting.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilman Van Stone to approve the 4 foot extra opening for William Hill's new driveway on Morris Avenue. Current Branchville code provides approval up to 20 feet driveway opening. 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 Councilwoman Bathgate to approve a request from the United Methodist Church to use Struck Park on April 17, 2022. The \$100 fee and COI will be provided before event. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – Orr.

Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve the purchase of five embroidered T-shirts at \$15 each and one embroidered hoodie per road dept employee at \$25 each. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Bellis stated that he would like to call a meeting with personnel to discuss road department concerns about future supervisor positions.

Councilman Bellis stated that he, Councilwoman Bathgate and Councilman Doremus will be meeting with BHC at Borough Hall on March 14, 2022 at 7 pm.

Attorney Valenti stated his findings on liability in regard to sidewalk cleaning. In the event of the borough were to take over sidewalk cleaning it would have time restrictions and open the borough to more liability.

Councilman Bellis stated that the back window and a cylinder on the backhoe needed to be replaced.

Councilman Bellis stated that the street sweeper needs to be replaced. He discussed leasing options, refurbished options and purchasing options. Councilman Bellis was asked to inquire with companies about a contract with the town for future street sweeping. He will do same and bring the results back to the April 2022 meeting.

Councilman Orr discussed grants with Assemblyman Gottheimer's office.

Motion was made by Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Doremus to authorize Councilman Orr to review water testing levels, standards and regulation for PFOA and PFOS set by the State of New Jersey. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Mayor Frato declared April 29 as Arbor Day.

On motion of Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate a paragraph will be added to both the water and sewer hookup applications stating that the applications will only be valid for one year of signing. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

The following bills were presented for payment. On motion of Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilman Doremus they were ordered paid after being properly audited, paid

Keith Whitehead, BHC, discussed that BHC would like to have a firework display at their food truck event. Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve this request and that the Borough of Branchville would cover the cost of fireworks up to \$5000.00. Attorney Valenti reminded them that they will need additional insurance. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – Orr. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Bill Bathgate reminded the council that he has zero interest in allowing tax payers dollars to be used to rectify the water situation on Broad and Prospect.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to close the public comment portion of the meeting and return to regular session. 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 Doremus to approve Resolution # 11- 2022, Central Municipal Alliance. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(Resolution follow minutes)

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Orr to approve the road opening permit from Elizabethtown Gas for 4 Mattison Ave. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

A facility use form was provided by Wayne Lumkong for an event to be held on July 9, 2022 by Skylands Cycling. Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, second by Councilwoman Bathgate to approve this request pending receipt of \$100 and a certificate of insurance. 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 Doremus to approve Bob Morgenstern's agreement for 2022. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

An excess water committee was created to discuss the water run off issue on Prospect, Broad and Wantage Ave. The committee is chaired by Councilman Van Stone. Committee members are Lee Doremus and Rusty Bellis. A letter will be sent to Harold Pellow concerning same.

The clerk and mayor will contact the Branchville Rotary to see if the clock that they are donating is run by a battery.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve the facility use request form from BBHS for their annual duck race. Insurance and the \$100 has been received. This motion also included the raffle application #02-2022 approval for Easter Basket prizes. The Clerk will forward same to Trenton. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – Bathgate.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to approve a raffle application #01-2022 was received from BHC. The clerk will forward same to Trenton. 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 Doremus to approve a quote of \$808.52(approx.) for the mason dump to be repaired by Nielson Ford. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Bellis listed a few items that the road department personnel is interested in purchasing in the next few years. He will discuss these items at the budget meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to increase the road department boot allowance from \$150 to \$200 annually. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Whitesell. Nay – Van Stone. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Bellis will be getting a quote for each road department to have the following addition to their uniforms: 5 embroidered tee shirts and 1 embroidered hoodie.

Motion was made by Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Bellis to allow Councilman Bellis and the clerk to draft 2 ordinances : amend the 6 wheel ordinance and another that would give the borough the right to tow. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

The clerk was asked to contact Cory Stoner about a letter that was to be forwarded to the Borough of Branchville in regard to the water issue on Wantage Ave.

Councilman Bellis, Councilman Doremus, Councilwoman Bathgate asked BHC to sit with them at a meeting to discuss various concerns.

George Morville will be contacted to see what insurance concerns he would have in the event that the Borough road department took over sidewalk clearing after a snow storm. George Morville will be contacted to discuss same.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Orr to allow the Taylor family to make installment payments to work toward paying off their sewer fine. The payments will be monitored by the governing body. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Mike Robinson, construction, will be asked to visit the Risdon home (Broad St.) to see the status of his sewer hook up to his home.

Motion was made by Councilman Dormeus, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to authorized the clerk to call Lori, Frankford Twsp., to get details of how they run their shred event. The clerk will also contact SK in regard to prices. 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 the purchase of Branchville Borough bags with recycling funds. The quoted amount for the 500 bags is 3.29 per bag, setup \$50 fee. The total being \$1845.50. 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 addition of Steve Worthington as a third alternate on the Branchville Land Use Board. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Dave Simmons is currently reviewing the proposed drawings from T mobile.

The following bills were presented for payment. On motion of Councilman Dormus 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 Bellis, seconded by Councilman Van Stone, 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

Report Printed 2022-02-09 09:32:39 Borough of Branchville

Check Register - (0910101001000) CASH CHECKING

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
2/02/2022	1915	51 JCP&L	373.85			
2/02/2022	1916	61 FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP	270.28			
2/02/2022	1917	31 GARDEN STATE LABS INC.	350.00			
2/02/2022	1918	100 MAIN POOL & CHEMICAL CO.	473.60			
2/02/2022	1919	273 NJ Water Association	4,140.00			
2/02/2022	1920	526 North Jersey Pump & Controls, LLC	1,772.19			
2/02/2022	1921	66 ONE CALL CONCEPTS	22.08			
2/02/2022	1922	140 SCHMIDT'S WHOLESAL, INC.	1,140.64			
2/02/2022	1923	72 Sussex Rural Electric	68.72			
2/02/2022	1924	74 USA BLUEBOOK	254.49			

			8,865.85			

			8,865.85			

Report Printed 2022-02-09 09:09:10 Borough of Branchville

Check Register - (0110101001000) Cash Checking

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
2/02/2022	3651	51 JCP&L	2,290.74			
2/02/2022	3652	11 Allied OIL, LLC	712.53			
2/02/2022	3653	550 American Rock Salt Co. LLC	2,800.84			
2/02/2022	3654	15 Century LINK	1,706.63			
2/02/2022	3655	468 Cintas	389.30			
2/02/2022	3656	18 Cooper Electric	278.95			
2/02/2022	3657	19 D. BECKER PHOTO	525.00			
2/02/2022	3658	425 Elizabethtown Gas	952.57			
2/02/2022	3659	101 FRANKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION	103,527.08			
2/02/2022	3660	502 HBCBS of NJ	132.84			
2/02/2022	3661	45 HOME DEPOT CREDIT PLAN	55.72			
2/02/2022	3662	50 JESCO INC.	755.42			
2/02/2022	3663	116 LAFAYETTE AUTO PARTS SUPPLY	19.98			
2/02/2022	3664	191 LOU'S GLASS	60.00			
2/02/2022	3665	205 Lowe's	138.65			
2/02/2022	3666	430 MicroSystems-NJ	1,920.00			
2/02/2022	3667	196 MIDHURST TREE CARE	2,200.00			
2/02/2022	3668	64 MONTAGUE TOOL & SUPPLY CO.	374.56			
2/02/2022	3669	5 MUNICIPAL SOFTWARE INC.	4,207.00			
2/02/2022	3670	449 NIELSEN FORD	194.89			
2/02/2022	3671	551 NJ Div Comm Affairs Div. Fire Safety	257.00			
2/02/2022	3672	322 North East Parts Group	82.39			
2/02/2022	3673	200 Optimum	10.00			
2/02/2022	3674	67 PETTY CASH	116.00			
2/02/2022	3675	320 R&L Data Centers Inc	927.40			
2/02/2022	3676	137 STAMP FULFILLMENT SERVICES	1,732.60			
2/02/2022	3677	69 STAPLES ADVANTAGE	144.76			
2/02/2022	3678	114 SUSSEX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	340.00			
2/02/2022	3679	290 Sussex County Fire Sales	256.75			
2/02/2022	3680	86 SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL	2,162.64			
2/02/2022	3681	91 SUSSEX COUNTY TREASURER	1,780.50			
2/02/2022	3682	91 SUSSEX COUNTY TREASURER	178,061.42			
2/02/2022	3683	91 SUSSEX COUNTY TREASURER	12,692.47			
2/02/2022	3684	91 SUSSEX COUNTY TREASURER	722.76			
2/02/2022	3685	166 T.A. MOUNTFORD COMPANY	607.50			
2/02/2022	3686	92 TOWNSHIP OF RANDOLPH	1,100.00			
2/02/2022	3687	76 Vital Communications INC	35.00			
2/02/2022	3688	156 WANTAGE TOWNSHIP	10,824.25			
2/02/2022	3689	156 WANTAGE TOWNSHIP	732.25			
2/02/2022	3690	6 WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NJ, INC.	9,726.25			
2/02/2022	3691	515 Custom Earth Promos	2,226.98			
2/02/2022	3692	425 Elizabethtown Gas	486.99			
2/02/2022	3693	75 VERIZON WIRELESS	60.63			
2/02/2022	3694	418 Viking Termite & Pest Control, Inc	50.43			

			348,379.67			

			348,379.67			

Report Printed 2022-02-09 09:13:00 Borough of Branchville

Check Register - (0110101001000) Cash Checking

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
1/12/2022	3650	218 Mike LITTLE	31.98			

			31.98			

			31.98			

Report Printed 2022-02-09 09:31:34 Borough of Branchville

Check Register - (0710101001000) Cash Checking

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
2/02/2022	1232	51 JCP&L	215.80			
2/02/2022	1233	527 Richard Gottemoller	77.46			
2/02/2022	1234	86 SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL	142,000.50			
2/02/2022	1235	86 SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL	12,794.25			

			155,088.01			

			155,088.01			