

**MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
7:00 PM PUBLIC MEETING
CLOSED SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
Monday, January 11, 2021**



PUBLIC SESSION:

Mayor Putrino called the meeting to order, asked for a moment of silent prayer and/or reflection and led the flag salute. Mayor Putrino read the Open Public Meeting Law and Mission Statement. The meeting was held by electronic means, in accordance with law. The Mayor read an announcement regarding public comments during remote meetings.

Councilwoman Thea Sirocchi-Hurley	Present
Councilman Matthew Seymour	Present
Councilwoman Randi Duffie	Present
Councilman Ira Grotsky	Present
Councilwoman Lisa Sandhusen	Present
Council President Hedy Grant	Present
Mayor Michael Putrino	Present

Also present: K. Kelly – Borough Attorney; C. Demiris – Administrator/Borough Clerk

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2020 Closed, Work/Public Session and the January 4, 2021 Reorganization meetings. Council President Grant seconded the motion. The motion carried. All present in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Duffie made a motion to add an item to the agenda, under the heading of Mid-Bergen Vaccination Site. Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote. All present in favor, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chain of Command – Police Department

Mayor Putrino referenced the recent retirement of Lt. LaMorges and the upcoming retirement of PO Wilde on February 1st. He said a Lieutenant's test was administered and Sgt. George Herrero was the successful candidate. He said with the promotion of Sgt. Herrero there will be a vacancy in the rank of Sergeant; there is an active list and Detective Brian Carlino is next on the list.

Councilman Grotsky said filling the vacancies left by the retiring officers will result in a savings of \$175,000 to \$180,000 to the Borough. He said Chief Clancy has two candidates

ready to go from the last round of interviews and is asking for the Council's approval to move forward with two new hires.

Mayor Putrino said it would bring the staff back to thirty-seven sworn personnel. He said filling the slots and maintaining the chain of command are both essential to the accreditation process. He said if approved at the next meeting he would swear the officers in at a private ceremony on January 26th with an effective date of February 1st.

Mr. Kelly asked to confirm that the proposed promotions and new hires would be budget neutral. Councilman Grotsky said it would actually be to the Borough's benefit.

Councilman Grotsky asked to confirm that everyone was in favor of proceeding as outlined. All agreed.

2. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

The Administrator said the Community Development Block Grant can only be used in eligible areas, one of which is in the vicinity of the Brookchester/Milford Estate Apartments. She said there are two streets in the area in need of resurfacing – Faller Drive from 265 Faller Drive to Bulger Avenue and Pacific Street from Reichelt Road to Faller Drive. She said she asked the engineer to provide construction estimates for both. The Faller Drive estimate came in at \$81,675 with an additional \$18,000 in engineering expenses. The Pacific Street estimate came in at \$55,175 with \$15,500 in engineering expenses. The Administrator said it is unlikely that CDBG will fund both with one application and that Pacific Street is the priority based upon the condition of the street. She said there is a resolution on the agenda to authorize the application for Pacific Street.

3. DOT Grant – Boulevard – Project Scope

The Administrator said the engineer updated the construction cost estimate for the full scope from McKinley Avenue to Main Street, which came in at \$337,459. She said the grant is for \$214,000 and the estimate does not include engineering expenses. She said the project can be split into a base bid, for McKinley to Milford, and an alternate from Milford to Main. She said the governing body will need to decide whether to award just what will be covered by the grant or to fund the balance.

Councilman Grotsky said he believed there may be funds remaining in the prior year's road program, which could be used to fund the balance of the project.

Mayor Putrino said it makes sense to split the project into a base and alternate bid. All agreed.

4. Schedule Updates

Mayor Putrino said he spoke to the Recreation Director about doing a Hippity, Hoppity Trail on Cecchino Drive, similar to the event held for Halloween. He said it is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 27th with a rain date of Saturday, April 3rd.

Council President Duffie said the Fire Department will be holding its annual remembrance for Firefighter Bill Entwistle, who lost his life in the fire at the Borough Hall on January 17, 1983. She said the ceremony will take place at 9:00 AM on Sunday, January 17th in front of the Fire Department memorial on the front lawn of the Borough Hall.

5. Administrator's Report

- The Covid-19 Task Force met on January 7th. There were reports from the NMPD, NMFD, OEM, Ambulance Corps, Health Department, Administration, DPW, Recreation and the Board of Education. Some of the topics discussed included recreation sports (winter/spring), the possibility of hosting a vaccination site in New Milford, and the status of borough buildings and services. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21st.
- The Borough received notice of a grant receipt from Bergen County Community Development to fund an ADA walkway at Prospect Park. The grant is enough to cover the estimated cost of \$18,840.
- The pre-construction meeting for Knights Field is scheduled for Friday, January 15th.
- Information on the 2021 budget has been forwarded to the members of the budget committee and the CFO in advance of a meeting at the end of this week. The committee will start with the capital budget so it can be completed by the end of the month and the ordinance can be introduced and adopted prior to the planned bond sale scheduled for the spring.
- The borough's Public Health Nurse, scheduled to retire on 4/15/21, has decided to postpone her retirement in order to assist the borough through the next few months of the pandemic. She has extended the date through June 30th and will reevaluate as the date approaches.
- Borough Hall will be closed on Monday 1/18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- The next meeting of the Mayor and Council is scheduled for Monday, 1/25

6. Mid-Bergen Vaccination Site

Councilwoman Duffie said the Board of Health has been in discussions with the borough's health services provider, Mid-Bergen Regional, and it is likely that New Milford will be a vaccination site. She said in order for this to happen, the borough would need to purchase a refrigerator that meets the vaccine storage requirements. She said the refrigerator will cost approximately \$3,000, of which we could recoup up to 75% from FEMA with an additional contribution from Mid-Bergen.

Council President Grant noted the two types of vaccines have different storage requirements. Mayor Putrino said it is likely that we would receive just one type and the unit would meet the requirements for both.

Councilwoman Duffie made a motion to authorize the purchase of the refrigerator. Council President Grant seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote. All present in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Duffie said the Board of Health, along with the Public Health Nurse, the Mayor and the Administration have worked hard to bring this to fruition for the town. She said this is important for the residents of New Milford and she thanked the Council for their unanimous support.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 2021:52 Closed Session
- 2021:53 Authorize Submission of Bergen County Community Development Block Grant Application
- 2021:54 Authorize Mayor to Sign Novation Agreement with Maser Consulting, Inc. and Collier Engineering & Design, Inc.
- 2021:55 Authorize Mayor to Sign Memorandum of Understanding with Holy Name Hospital Occupational Health Service

Council President Grant asked why both Maser and Collier were listed in resolution 2021:54. The Administrator said they are both party to the agreement. Mr. Kelly said the purpose of the agreement is to effectuate the name change; Maser has been subsumed by Collier.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Councilman Grotzky made a motion to open the meeting for public comment. Councilwoman Duffie seconded the motion. The motion carried. All present in favor, none opposed.

Before taking public comment, Council President Grant noted that Tonia Andrews was in attendance and congratulated her on being elected as Board of Education President.

Tonia Andrews – 348 Shea Drive. Ms. Andrews thanked Council President Grant and said she looks forward to continuing the good working relationship between the BOE and the Borough.

Mayor Putrino congratulated Ms. Andrews and thanked former BOE President Paige Ryan for her service.

Being no other member of the public who wished to comment, Councilman Seymour made a motion to close to the public. Council President Grant seconded the motion. The motion carried. All present in favor, none opposed.

COUNCIL

Councilman Grotzky said he is busy working on the 2021 municipal budget.

Councilwoman Sandhusen said the Environmental Commission recently held their reorganization meeting and Lynn Torpie was reelected as the chairperson. She said they also enjoyed a presentation by the Hackensack Riverkeeper. The Riverkeeper commented on the work that has been done in the New Milford Woods and the opportunity it presents for outdoor education and partnership with the Borough. Councilwoman Sandhusen said the Environmental Commission will be hosting the Hillsboro Environmental Chair at their next meeting, where they will be discussing the process for the Environmental Resource Inventory.

Councilman Seymour said the Recreation Committee met last week and they are eager for the Knights Field construction to begin. He said they also discussed the possibility of an abbreviated winter indoor sports season.

Councilwoman Duffie said the new slate of officers for the Fire Department were recently sworn in. She said the Board of Health is pleased to have the opportunity to host a vaccination site and the Beautification Committee would like to participate in the Easter event. She asked if the new members have been appointed to the 100th Anniversary Committee. Mayor Putrino said there are five open positions and asked if Councilwoman Duffie had any names she wished to bring forth at this time.

Councilwoman Duffie made a motion to appoint Kelly Greco-Langschultz, Roberta Whitley-Gomez and Maura Henyecz to the 100th Anniversary Committee. Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley seconded the motion. The motion carried. All present in favor, none opposed.

Council President Grant reported that Superintendent Polizzi offered the use of school buildings as a vaccination site, at the recent Task Force meeting.

Mayor Putrino said the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be adding two new directional signs – one at River Road and River Edge Avenue and another near the New Milford/Oradell border.

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of resolutions 2021:52 through 2021:55. Council President Grant seconded the motion. The motion carried. All present in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Putrino announced that the governing body would be going into closed session. He said no further action would be taken and the meeting would be adjourned immediately upon returning to open session.

Councilwoman Duffie made a motion to go into closed session. Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley seconded the motion. The motion carried. All present in favor, none opposed. Time 7:45 PM.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Personnel – Board of Health

Upon conclusion of the closed session, Council President Grant made a motion to return to open session. Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley seconded the motion. The motion carried. All present in favor, none opposed. Time 7:53 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the governing body, Councilman Grotsky made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Duffie seconded the motion. The motion carried. All present in favor, none opposed. Time 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Demiris, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 2021:52

Offered by: Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley Seconded by: Council President Grant

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent
SIROCCHI-HURLEY	/			
SEYMOUR	/			
DUFFIE	/			
GROTSKY	/			
SANDHUSEN	/			
GRANT	/			
MAYOR (tie)				

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

1. Personnel – Board of Health

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from this meeting.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of New Milford at the meeting held on January 11, 2021.

SEAL

Christine Demusio

BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 2021:53

Offered by: Councilwoman..Sirocchi-Hurley Seconded by: Council president...Grant

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent
SIROCCHI-HURLEY	/			
SEYMOUR	/			
DUFFIE	/			
GROTSKY	/			
SANDHUSEN	/			
GRANT	/			
MAYOR (Ite)				

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

WHEREAS, a Bergen County Community Development grant totaling \$55,175.00 has been proposed by the Borough of New Milford for the Pacific Street Resurfacing Project in the municipality of the Borough of New Milford; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of the Borough of New Milford; and

WHEREAS, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite expenditure of the aforesaid Community Development funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of New Milford hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Bergen County Community Development Program so that implementation of the aforesaid project may be expedited.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution passed by the Council of the Borough of New Milford at the meeting held on January 11, 2020.

SEAL

Christine Demus

BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 2021:54

Offered by: Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley Seconded by: Council President Grant

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent
SIROCCHI-HURLEY	/			
SEYMOUR	/			
DUFFIE	/			
GROTSKY	/			
SANDHUSEN	/			
GRANT	/			
MAYOR (lie)				

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN NOVATION AGREEMENT WITH MASER CONSULTING, INC. AND COLLIER ENGINEERING & DESIGN, INC.

WHEREAS, the Borough of New Milford entered into an agreement on January 1, 2020 with Maser Consulting, P.A. for professional services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 for the position of Borough Engineer for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, effective on January 1, 2021 Maser Consulting, Inc. will transfer to Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc. certain assets relating to Maser's contracted services, which assets include those pertaining to the contract between the Borough of New Milford and Maser Consulting, P.A.; and

WHEREAS, Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc. will assume all obligations and liabilities of Maser Consulting, Inc. under the contract with the Borough of New Milford by virtue of the above transfer; and

WHEREAS, a Novation Agreement has been drafted to memorialize the transfer and assumption of obligations and liabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Mayor Putrino is authorized to sign the Novation Agreement dated January 1, 2021 with Maser Consulting, Inc. and Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of New Milford at the meeting held on January 11, 2021.

SEAL

Christine Demaris

BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 2021:55

Offered by: Councilwoman Sirocchi-Hurley Seconded by: Council President Grant

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent
SIROCCHI-HURLEY	/			
DUFFIE	/			
SEYMOUR	/			
GROTSKY	/			
SANDHUSEN	/			
GRANT	/			
MAYOR (tie)				

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of New Milford wish to enter into an Agreement with a health facility to provide drug testing for compliance with the Department of Transportation Drug testing standard for the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, Holy Name Hospital Occupational Health Service has been providing this service to the Borough of New Milford for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding has been submitted by Holy Name Hospital Occupational Health Service for review and approval by the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, upon their review the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to enter into this agreement with Holy Name Hospital Occupational Health Service for 2021 to provide services for compliance with Department of Transportation Drug testing standards.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of New Milford hereby authorize Mayor Putrino to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Holy Name Hospital Occupational Health Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution, with the a copy of the signed and sealed Memorandum of Understanding be forwarded to Karen Notarangelo, Practice Manager – Occupational Health Services, 718 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 and that a copy of this resolution also be forwarded to Vince Cahill, Director, New Milford DPW.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of New Milford at the meeting held on January 11, 2021.

SEAL

Christine Demus