



**LAKE COMO BOROUGH  
1740 MAIN STREET  
LAKE COMO, NJ 07719  
(732) 681-3232  
MINUTES**

**DATE: APRIL 7, 2020 – VIRTUAL MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:35pm and went over to ground rules for the Borough's first virtual meeting.

**SALUTE TO FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**SUNSHINE LAW**

Introduction as required under the Sunshine Law: Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the adoption of a Resolution by the Mayor and Council on the seventh day of January 2020 in which Resolution the time and place of Agenda and Regular Meetings commencing with January 7, 2020 were set forth. Notice of same was delivered to the Asbury Park Press and the Coast Star and a copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall. Notice of the virtual meeting was notice to the papers on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and a copy of the notice was posted on the door of Borough Hall and posted on the website. All meetings are open to the public.

**ROLL CALL**

Douglas Witte	Present
Virginia Kropac	Present
Hawley Scull	Present
Christopher D'Antuono	Present
David Gardner	Present
Nick DeMauro	Present

Also present were Borough Clerk/Administrator Louise Mekosh, Borough Attorney Peg Schaffer, Public Works Superintendent Brendan Maas, Belmar Police Captain Tom Cox and Deputy Borough Clerk Amy Boney.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman DeMauro made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting seconded by Councilwoman Scull, all are in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None on the agenda

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- Councilman DeMauro reported that he spoke to Debbie Russo from the Board of Education and asked if she would forward the budget information

- to him. Their next meeting will also be a virtual meeting. Councilman DeMauro reported that all parks are closed, including Behrman Park in Lake Como. Councilman DeMauro also reported that the Belmar-Avon-Lake Como Little League will be merging with the Spring Lake Little League. Lastly, Councilman DeMauro reported that he is waiting to hear from the Borough Engineer for their recommendations for Behrman Park. All other matters are in order.
- Councilman Gardner reported that the last Environmental Commission meeting was cancelled and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Gardner reported that he is trying to catch up to Williamsburg High School regarding the lake project. The good news is that the students that were working on this project were all underclassmen who will be able to work on it next year. All other matters are in order.
  - Councilman D'Antuono report under DPW he wanted to take a moment to thank Brendan and his whole team who have been keeping the DPW open and operating every day through all of this. They've been keeping safe and healthy working rotating shifts but are keeping things running as close to business as usual as possible. So thank you guys for what you do for Lake Como and our residents every day, but now more than ever. Councilman D'Antuono reported so all residents are aware, the schedule for brush and bulk pickup are operating as usual. Residents who need bulk pickup stickers can contact Borough hall by phone and we can have the stickers mailed to their house so they don't need to come in in person. Under water and sewer, Councilman D'Antuono reported to let residents know that NJ American Water has announced that beginning on April 20<sup>th</sup> they will be resuming the use of chloramines at their local water treatment plants. In the past some customers may have noticed a slight chlorine taste and odor in their water, but with this resumption of the use of chloramines that should subside. They're reminding customers that chloramines have long been an effective method of water disinfection and meet all NJDEP and EPA standards. All other matters are in order.
  - Councilwoman Scull thanked first responders, hospital staff, and grocery store worker for all they are doing at this time. The Belmar PTO is hosting a social distance egg hunt. Residents are encouraged to hang eggs in their window and there will be two special eggs. The first people to find those eggs and email the PTO will win a prize. There is more information on the PTO Facebook page. Councilwoman Scull reported that the Easter Bunny will be coming around town with the Police Department delivering treats. If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Police Department by Friday. April 18<sup>th</sup> will be the Great Jersey Shore Take Out and proceeds will go to the employees of the participating restaurants. It was started by the Fahey's of Joe's Surf Shack and as of now, Joe's Surf Shack and Bar Anticipation are participating. All other matters are in order.
  - Councilwoman Kropac reported that under Community Development Block Grant we finally got clearance from the state to move forward and

- we will be introducing a resolution to award the contract to JCP&L tonight. The next step is he schedule with JCP&L to have the work done. Under finance, Councilwoman Kropac reported that the state moved the budget deadline back to the end of April so we won't be introducing the budget until the next meeting when we have a better sense on how the current situation will affect the numbers. All other matters are in order.
- Councilman Witte reported that that there will be a resolution at the next meeting extending the temporary budget. Currently, there are 4 cases of Covid 19 in Lake Como and thankfully, none in the Police Department. Councilman Witte urged residents to stay home, and if they need to go out, wear masks and gloves. Councilman Witte yielded the rest of his report to Captain Cox and all other matters are in order.
    - o Belmar Police Captain Tom Cox reported that he is the Belmar liaison and gets updated lists from the Health Department daily and there are currently 6 cases in Lake Como, 4 in Belmar. His department is responding as normal to calls and do have personal protective equipment when responding. All other matters are in order.
  - Mayor Higgins' report is as follows:

First, I would like to thank all of the people who have been taking care of us all during this time in quarantine. Nurses, Doctors, First Responders, and Police to be sure, but also the other workers who have been deemed essential, postal workers, mechanics, food service providers, and all others who are really putting themselves in harm's way to keep life moving. I would also like to thank our teachers who are still working and our parents who are working harder than ever before.

I would very much like to thank our borough employees who have been working everyday whether remotely or in the office. Louise, Viveca, Amy, Patty, and Toni in the borough office and Brendan, Sean, Joe, John and Tom in our DPW. Thank you for everything you do.

With that being said, our borough is open for business, at least on a limited basis. The doors are locked, but by contacting the office and you will be directed on the best course to serve your needs. I recommend using digital payment options and dropping off or dropping of payment and materials in the drop box in front of borough hall. One exception to this is our building department, which will be closed for two weeks. As you know our inspectors are part time employees and they work in other municipalities as well. One of the municipalities they work in had an employee who tested positive for COVID-19 so they are staying away from the other municipalities they work for. The building department will be closed until April 16<sup>th</sup>.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, I issued a declaration of Emergency for the Borough of Lake Como. This was in accordance with Governor Murphy's Executive Order #103. Additionally, Executive Order #107 asked NJ residents to stay home as best they can and Executive Order #108 in essence super cedes any municipal emergency order. So any current restrictions and any

restrictions moving forward will coincide with orders from the governor's office. Currently for the Borough of Lake Como there is a stay at home order unless the travel is deemed a necessity. Exercising and walking the dog is permitted, but other than that please stay home. Behrman Park has been closed since March 21<sup>st</sup> and will remain closed until such time the stay at home order is lifted. The Governor today ordered all state and county parks closed as well. As far as rentals are concerned. The borough will not be issuing any inspections or certificates of occupancy for any short-term rentals. This includes online rental properties from Air BnB, VRBO, or other places. This order will last until the end of April when we will make further decisions about short-term rentals for the summer months. Long-term rental properties are still permissible, and you should call borough hall to set up some type of inspection with our code enforcement department. By long-term I mean any year-long or longer rental. As of today, there are 7 residents in Lake Como who have tested positive for the virus, but 1 has recovered and is no longer infected. So the total current positives is 6. All other matters are in order.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No Unfinished Business

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Scull made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Witte, all are in favor.

No Public Comments

Councilwoman Scull made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Kropac, all are in favor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

All items listed under this section are considered to be routine by the Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Resolution 2020-73  
Refund of Overpayment

Resolution 2020-74  
Refund of Overpayment

Councilman Witte made a motion to approve the resolutions on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, roll call vote as follows:  
Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, Gardner and DeMauro  
No: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 2020-75

Awarding Contract for 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project

Offered by Councilman Witte, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, Gardner and DeMauro

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Resolution 2020-76

Awarding Contract for Main Street & North Boulevard Project

Offered by Councilwoman Kropac, seconded by Councilman Witte, roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, Gardner and DeMauro

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Resolution 2020-77

Payment of Bills

Offered by Councilman D'Antuono, seconded by Councilman Witte, roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, Gardner and DeMauro

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Resolution 2020-78

Payment of NJNG Bill

Offered by Councilwoman Scull, seconded by Councilman Witte, roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, Gardner and DeMauro

No: None

Abstain: Councilman D'Antuono

Absent: None

Resolution 2020-79

Awarding Community Development Block Grant

Offered by Councilwoman Kropac, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, Gardner and DeMauro

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Councilman Witte made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, all are in favor.

No Public Comments

Councilwoman Scull made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Kropac, all are in favor.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, immediately following the 7:30pm Workshop and will be a virtual meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Councilman Witte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, all are in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Amy L. Boney

Deputy Borough Clerk

The minutes of this meeting are not verbatim. Please call Borough Hall at (732)681-3232 to schedule an appointment to hear the tape(s) of this meeting in its entirety. All tapes are subject to being destroyed 80 days after the approval of the Minutes.