

**BOROUGH OF ROSELAND**  
**COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL  
4:00 P.M. OPEN SESSION

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the September 25, 2020 Special Meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 4:00 PM via teleconference by Mayor Spango. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act in that 48-Hour Notice of the date, time, location, and agenda of the meeting were sent to the official newspapers and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk. The Notice of the meeting was also posted on the Borough's website and social media outlets. The public was invited to join the Special Roseland Council Meeting via computer by logging in to:

[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/97279136245?PWD=NKF0L0D5CKTBDJFXK0C0YKNQNTVQDZ09](https://zoom.us/j/97279136245?pwd=NKF0L0D5CKTBDJFXK0C0YKNQNTVQDZ09) or via telephone by calling +1 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 972 7913 6245, Passcode: 179228

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

James R. Spango, Mayor  
Christopher Bardi, Council President  
Eileen Fishman, Councilwoman (4:09 PM)  
Michele Tolli, Councilwoman  
Marcelino Trillo, Councilman

**ABSENT:**

Roger Freda, Councilman  
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk  
Joni Noble McDonnell, Borough Attorney

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to open the meeting to public comment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 3-0 voice vote (Fishman, Freda, Perrotti absent).

James Piccione	22 Pine road
Michael Anton	50 Oak Drive

Spiros Maragos

24 Pine Road

### DISCUSSION

According to several residents, Ford Pond is located on private residential properties in the Holmehill section of town. Storm water from streets in the neighborhood, Essex Fells Country Club, and the Highlands Development in West Orange, drain into the pond. Over past decades with little or no maintenance, the pond has become silted and clogged with snagged trees, branches, and other debris. As a result, the pond has diminished capacity and does not flow or drain as it did in the past.

This subject has come to the attention of Council because the Borough has a trust fund in the amount of \$30,500.00, plus compounded interest since 2001, for a total amount available of approximately \$46,000.00. The trust was established with funds from a settlement with a developer in 2001 and was intended for repair of a catch basin in the Highlands development in West Orange. The Highlands development has repeatedly denied access to the Borough to affect the repairs. The Borough Engineer was asked to conduct a study to determine if there is an alternative use of the trust funds that will address the original problem.

The Borough Engineer did a thorough study and presented two proposals:

- 1) A temporary solution would be to perform the process of hydro-raking of Ford Pond to remove silt and other obstructions at a cost of \$76,000.00. This price includes the use of DPW trucks and manpower to transport the material removed from the pond to another location.
- 2) The second proposal, also a temporary fix, would be a more comprehensive restoration of Ford Pond, and would cost close to \$300,00.00. A permanent solution would cost substantially more.

Mayor Spango presented three questions for Council to consider:

- 1) Does Council wish to use the trust funds for this project; and
- 2) How much money in addition to the trust funds does Council want to commit to this project; and
- 3) Is this a one-time fix to be facilitated by the Borough due to the available trust funds, or will the Borough assume some future responsibility for maintaining the pond?

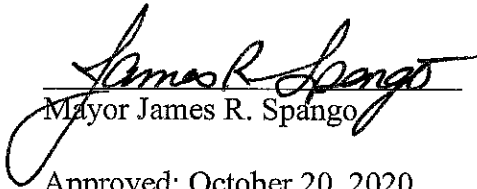
Because the project will exceed the bid threshold, bid specifications will have to be prepared by the engineer and the project will then have to be put out to bid. Councilman Bardi made a motion authorizing the borough Engineer to prepare bid specifications for the hydro-raking of Ford Pond for an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Freda, Perrotti absent). A resolution of memorialization will be prepared for the October 6, 2020 caucus meeting. Mayor Spango suggested that consideration should be given to adding maintenance of the pond to the Borough's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Borough Attorney McDonnell added that the Borough will

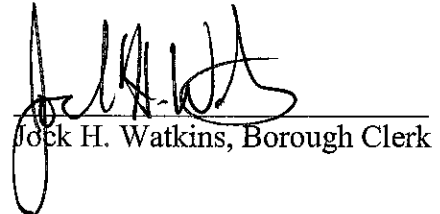
need consent and hold harmless agreements from the affected property owners in order to enter onto private property to perform the work.

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to authorize payment of a stipend to whomever is selected to serve as the temporary secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, in the same amount as the current secretary is receiving. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Freda, Perrotti absent). A resolution of memorialization will be prepared for the October 6, 2020 caucus meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to close the meeting at 4:46 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Freda, Perrotti absent).

  
Mayor James R. Spango  
Approved: October 20, 2020

  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

### **VOICE VOTE**

Aye: Bardi, Fishman, Tolli, Trillo  
Nay: None  
Abstain: Freda, Perrotti  
Absent: None