

## TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING – JULY 12, 2021

Deputy Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and requested the Clerk to call the roll. The following members were present: Robert Lane, Jr., Tassie D. York, Keith Cafferty, and Deputy Mayor Nicholas Williams.

Also present at the dais were Pamela D. Howard, Deputy Municipal Clerk; and Vito D. Gadaleta, Business Administrator.

The Mayor led the Flag Salute.

Deputy Mayor Williams announced that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in the Asbury Park Press and The Coaster on July 1, 2021, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk.

### PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Vito Gadaleta, Business Administrator presented the application by stating the Township was eligible to participate in the Green Acres Grant Application. The Township has done various Green Acres projects and have completed them. He stated they were looking at the development of a community center at Loffredo Fields as well as improvements to the field but the site was scratched for a community center because indoor sports were not allowed if applying for this grant.

Mr. Gadaleta stated the Township would like to use the field for a multi-use field and 75% would be funded by the grant and 25% would be funding by a low interest loan for 40 years. He stated the grant was due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. He stated the Township looked at projects that Green Acres would cover and they decided to have a synthetic turf field that would be utilized by all sporting goods, it provides for module bathrooms, drainage would be improved and so would parking. The parking lot would remain granular, except handicap parking. The total cost not including design cost would be 2,354,498.60 and as he mentioned he hoped to get 75% in Green Acres funding and 25% in a low interest loan. If the Township received more than 50% of the funding they would bond for the rest. The application would be submitted after tonight. He stated this site was previously a dump and garbage would have to be removed.

The Committee had no comments.

The meeting was opened to the Public:

Scott Imbriaco 102 Sheldon Avenue, member of Recreation Committee and Soccer Association. Mr. Imbriaco questioned how Loffredo Field was chosen to be the field most in need of improvements. He stated they've been asking for improvements to the soccer field at Sunshine as has been denied. He stated Sunshine has issues that haven't been rectified. He stated they receive a lot of push back when they have to cancel games and the kids go to other towns.

Mr. Gadaleta stated they were originally looking at a larger scope for this site and when the Committee learned the Community Center was not feasible, they need made a decision to move forward. Mr. Imbriaco questioned whether anyone on the Committee asked the residents what they wanted. Mr. Gadaleta stated it was discussed with the Committee.

Robert Podlaski, President of Soccer Association, 124 Prospect Avenue, stated they've been asking for years for improvements to Sunshine. They are not asking for turf just basic field improvements.

Dianna Harris, 17 Willow Avenue questioned whether the grant could be split. Mr. Gadaleta stated not at this juncture. Ms. Harris questioned what could be played there. Mr. Gadaleta stated just about any sport. Ms. Harris questioned whether it could be used for activities that her organization host. Mr. Gadaleta confirmed that it could. Ms. Harris questioned whether the Recreation Dept. could move up there. Mr. Anthony stated no it could only be for what's there. Ms. Harris questioned parking and could two different games go on at the same time Mr. Gadaleta stated there would be no expansion, just improvements. As far as two games going on at the same time would have to look into it.

Michael Gomes, 27 Cliffwood Drive stated he was present to support improvements to Sunshine Field. He reiterated the problems at the fields and questioned why haven't their field been addressed. Mr. Cafferty stated he hears what they are saying and would like to meet with them after the meeting. Mr. Gadaleta stated if there were concerns with the facilities why hasn't administration been advised.

Deputy Mayor Williams stated he would have DPW go out and take a look.

APPLY FOR A GREEN ACRES PROGRAM GRANT FOR LOFFREDO FIELD IMPROVEMENTS  
– PHASE 2

Mr. Cafferty offered the following resolution, moved and seconded by Ms. York, that it be adopted:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to non-profit organizations for assistance in the acquisition and development of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Neptune desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$1,765,873.95 (75% grant)/ \$588,624.65 (25% loan) from the State to fund the following project(s): Loffredo Field Improvements – Phase 2 at a total cost \$2,354,498.60; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an Amendment of the Agreement with the State for the above named project,

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body/board resolves that Michael J. Bascom or the successor to the office of Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to:

- (a) make application for such a loan and/or such a grant
- (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required
- (c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above named applicant, and

WHEREAS, the State shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above named project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Committee of Neptune as follows:

1. That the Chief Financial Officer of the above named body or board is hereby authorized to execute an agreement and any amendment thereto with the State known as Loffredo Field Improvements – Phase 2.
2. That the applicant has its matching share of the project, if a match is required, in the amount of \$0.00.
3. That, in the event the State’s funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project.
4. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project.
5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

The resolution was adopted on the following vote: Cafferty, aye; Lane, aye; York, aye; and Williams, aye.

Mr. Lane offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Cafferty to adjourn. All were in favor.

Pamela D. Howard, RMC  
Municipal Clerk