

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**

**6:00 p.m. February 28, 2012**

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. On the motion of Council President Rummler, seconded by Councilmember Bugdon, and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Donna Riegel, Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson, Craig Rummler

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Charles Endicott, Kevin Wessler, John Adams

**MAYOR:** Gary B. Giberson

**DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK/ACTING CFO:** Gina Simon

**ATTORNEY:** Kristopher Facenda, Esq.

**AUDITOR:** Nancy Sbrolla, CPA, RMA

Council President Craig Rummler called the meeting to order and lead the flag salute. This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the minutes, in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the "Open Public Meetings Act". The Municipal Clerk of the City of Port Republic posted at City Hall, 143 Main Street, Port Republic and mailed and/or faxed to the Atlantic City Press and the Mainland Journal, a meeting notice setting for the time, date and locations of this meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**36-2012- RESCIND RESOLUTION 35-2012**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried.

**YES:** Riegel, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Endicott, Wessler, Adams

**ABSTAIN:**

Council President Rummler stated the reason for rejecting bids: first, Trico was due to absence of needed document in their bid package and the second, Jessco was because the machine that they bid did not meet the specifications put out. Namely the speed of the vehicle, bucket width which was a lot wider then spec'd out and the arms for the stabilizer were wider than what we spec'd out. There were other minor issues but those are the main ones. For that reason we are asking to reject those bids.

**37-2012- REJECTING ALL LOADER/BACKHOE BIDS RECEIVED AND AUTHORIZING A REBID FOR LOADER/BACKHOE**

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried.

**YES:** Riegel, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Endicott, Wessler, Adams

**ABSTAIN:**

Kris Facenda discusses the reason for rejecting the particular John Deere machine is because certain specifications were substantially different. We are not rejecting it because it's a John Deere. It's being rejected because the specifications of the machine itself don't meet the specifications of Port. There were several things that were materially different from what we spec'd and a lot of those things dealt with power trains and torque converters, travel speeds and forward travel speeds and reverse, bucket cylinders, dual parallel bucket cylinders were spec'd, they weren't provided, the bucket size was substantially different, the length of the extend-a-hoe. There were a lot of differences. What this Council has to determine or what this Council has determined is that the machine spec'd by Jessco doesn't meet the material specs that we wanted and in Council's opinion is an inferior machine for those reasons.

Councilmember Bugdon then asked, why do we have to go to bid if the one company met all those specifications?

Kris Facenda stated that part of the bid documents required a consent of surety form. It was part of the packet that every bidder received. A sample form was provided in the packet. Trico failed to include that in their bid response and the statute which is right on point states that if your bid documents require a document and it's not submitted it's a material defect that can't be cured by this council.

He went on to say that information was in the letter we sent – the specific statutory reference. We looked at this every way from Sunday to see if there was a way we could accept one or the other. Unfortunately we've come to the conclusion that the fatal defect coupled with the material changes in the other machine, just don't enable us to do that.

Mayor Giberson and Councilmember Bugdon expressed their concern that they hoped the equipment would come in for the same price.

Councilmember Giberson stated for the record: Out of all the great States in the United States of America, New Jersey, of course, is the only one that requires this document that they failed to provide. So...there we go again.

**OPEN TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:**

Councilmember Bugdon moved, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried to open for public portion.

**CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC PORTION:**

Hearing nothing further from the public, Councilmember Bugdon moved, and seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried to close the public portion.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

Nancy Sbrolla, indicated that right now we are \$1800 below the levy CAP. So, we are in good shape. Due to changes submitted, the local tax rate is going down a penny. Per Ken Moore's recommendation \$10,000 could be used to pay down the BAN which would not increase the levy CAP and would help to get rid of a little bit of debt.

Councilmember Giberson, discusses the bond referendum for \$1,000,000 and that \$750,000 has been allotted for the building of City Hall, out of that figure we did not allocate engineering costs, emergency generator, some needed furniture, telephone system, etc., so depending on what we want to go above and what we need to add we need to think about that. The good thing is we budgeted a lot more for the backhoe than what came in and in talking with Ken we can use the money from the bond to pay some of these expenses. We are hoping the backhoe comes in at the same price. The only other thing we were thinking of using the bond was for the drainage pipe over by the beach but I think we budgeted high on that number too. When received the figures from Matt that was low too. So I still think we will be able to get the backhoe, do the repair to the pipe across the parking lot by the beach and still have enough money left over to pay for anything else we might require for City Hall, and agrees with the recommendation from Ken to pay off the BAN and stay even.

Mayor Giberson expressed his wanting council to consider a new filing system – not something with bells and whistles but, something that would triple the filing.

Council President Rummler discusses the personnel committee meeting, agreeing to give 3.5% raise to hourly employees. Gina Simon would get a yearly compensation of \$4450 for her position as Acting CFO, as well as, tuition toward her CFO certification. Salaried employees would not be receiving an increase.

Mayor Giberson discusses the school budget. The school budget, the way it stands right now is at 13.5 cent increase. I'm sure when we go over the budget there is some fluff and I'm sure we will find some fluff. According to School Superintendent Janet Wilbraham, there is no fluff – this is minimum. There is a meeting in March for 7pm, no more 4pm meetings. Council President expressed his concern over the increase of \$103,000. Per his conversation with Jeff Ropiecki \$60,000 is for the health increase and not sure how the \$103,000 was derived from that number. Councilmember Giberson once again expressed his concern that something was not right about the school's budget from last year. Mayor Giberson stated that \$40,000 of that was tuition increase. Councilmember Giberson commented on the large number of personnel at the school. Council President Rummler suggested a shared service. Mayor Giberson suggested hiring an interim superintendent for two years which would help save money. Additionally, Mayor Giberson is considering making some changes to the Board of School Estimates Committee. Councilmember Giberson also asks that councilmembers attend Board of School Estimates meeting. Mayor Giberson further advised that Jeff Ropiecki who heads the budget committee was not advised of the budget which Janet made up. Councilmember Bugdon advised that she noticed an article in the newspaper that dealt with government money and that Port Republic was the only school not mentioned.

Mayor Giberson advised that he was approached by someone at the meeting who is willing to write grants.

Mayor Giberson thanks council, personnel committee, acting CFO and auditors and; for the record, thanks Ken Moore for steering the City of Port Republic off of the rocks and kept us in the channel for a bright future – smooth sailing – thank you Ken.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded by Councilmember Giberson and carried.

**CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:**

Hearing nothing further from the public, Councilmember Bugdon moved, seconded of Councilmember Reigel and carried to close the public portion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, seconded of Councilmember Reigel and carried to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly A. Campellone  
Acting Municipal Clerk