

(Revised October 17, 2019)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the number of deer living in the Borough of Watchung have contributed to motor vehicle collisions, damage to the environment and landscaping, and the threat of Lyme disease; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, in an effort to determine the severity of the problem in 2006, conducted an aerial survey which determined the presence of an estimated 270 deer within the Borough's boundaries, and in 2017 conducted another aerial survey which determined an estimated 165 deer, a decrease from the previous survey; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to continue to monitor the deer population the Mayor and Council authorized two studies, one by Raritan Valley Community College's Center for Environmental Studies which utilized a roadside spotlight survey and infrared drone techniques; and a second study by a consulting company recommended by Watchung residents, Steward Green LLC who utilized sUAS Infrared technology, both reports resulting the determination that the current deer density is beyond the Borough's threshold of carrying capacity; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to monitor and maintain a balance of the deer population and gain oversight and monitoring of any other wildlife problems, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung established a Wildlife Management Advisory Committee on September 23, 2004, whose duties were to perform a periodic survey, review and estimate of wildlife populations and, among other duties, make recommendations regarding the use of culling within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung have determined it necessary to continue to take prudent steps to minimize the danger and damage caused by the number of deer in the Borough and wish to proceed with a controlled hunt in 2019-2020 working with Warren Blue Ridge Sportsmen, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife continues to advise that hunting regulations have been expanded sufficiently to allow local governing bodies the latitude necessary to conduct a local management program and continue to discourage submission of an application for a State permit; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung wish to proceed with a controlled hunt and have prepared a Borough Deer Management Program modeled on the State Division program used over the last fifteen (15) years; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung have adopted Ordinance OR:10/19 establishing a Borough Deer Management Program which requires adoption by resolution of rules and regulations for deer culling; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung desire to grant permission to utilize Borough-owned properties and large private parcels of landproperties that have authorized their use ~~fittingthat fit~~ the required criteria as part of a 2019/2020 Borough Deer Management Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung ~~hereby that they do herewith~~ adopt the attached rules and regulations for the culling of deer in the Borough, subject to all rules, regulations and specifics of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung that authorization is hereby granted to utilize Borough-owned property as part of the 2019/2020 Borough Deer Management Plan, which shall be conducted by the Warren Blue Ridge Sportsmen, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung that this authorization is conditioned upon the following:

1. That the deer cull within the Borough of Watchung is limited to Borough owned properties and large private parcels of land, omitting residential lots on which an occupied structure is located.
2. That deer culling stands within the Borough on Borough owned properties or large private parcels of land be located at least 550 feet from any occupied structure.
3. That notices be placed along the property line of the deer culling sites warning that deer culling is occurring on the property. The location of these signs to be selected by the Borough Administrator.
4. That the Borough Clerk issue a general public notice two (2) weeks prior to when the deer cull is to occur identifying the cull sites, the dates of the deer culling within the Borough, along with contact information at the Borough Police Department for more information. The Borough Clerk shall post this notice on the Borough website and other social media and designated notice bulletin boards.
5. That the Borough Clerk send a copy of the notice described in Paragraph 4 above by regular mail to those property owners within a radius of 1/4 mile of the property line of each cull site.

6. That the Borough retain experts, whether paid or volunteer, to review the Borough's Deer Management Plan and make recommendations to the Borough regarding that program.

Date: October 3, 2019
INDEX: Misc.
C: J. Damato, Administrator

Council

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

DRAFT

WATCHUNG BOROUGH DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

RULES and REGULATIONS

A contract will be awarded annually to an Agent chosen by the Borough which will require submission of a list providing each hunting participant's name, address, date of birth and specific firearms hunting license information, as well as a certificate of insurance in an amount not less than \$1,000,000., naming the Borough as additional insured. Hunter participant information shall be provided in a sufficient time to permit verification of acceptability upon advisement by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Written Permission will be requested from property owners for approval to utilize proposed culling sites, with all signed permission slips maintained in the office of the Borough Administrator or designee. The property owners participating in a management plan shall be notified in writing by the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Watchung that their participation in the management plan ~~may~~ become a government record subject to disclosure pursuant to the Open Public Records Act.

The Agent will provide, prior to the use of any property in the Borough, a Certificate of Insurance to the Borough of Watchung and each property owner a Certificate of Insurance naming each as an additional insured.

Culling sites will be staffed by one (1) hunter ~~per 5450' site~~ who will utilize a temporary tree stand approximately twenty (20') feet above ground level.

Baiting will begin at each of the proposed sites and will continue for a short period of time to allow the deer to become familiar with the site. Culling will be conducted during daylight hours (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset) Monday through Friday and all applicable regulations of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife will be followed/adhered to.

Only shotguns with rifled slugs and muzzle loaders will be used. No bow hunting will be permitted.

All shooting will be from temporary tree stands, and over bait. All shooting will be at a downward angle toward the ground. Agents will be required to wear hunter orange, including orange headgear.

Media will be utilized to notify the public of the program. The Borough's public education and governmental Channel 15 will be utilized by providing a written scroll notifying residents of the program. The Borough's radio station 1610 AM, will be utilized to alert motorists of the areas where deer culling is occurring. Local newspapers will be notified of the program and requested to write articles about the program. A specific Legal Notice of the program will be placed in area newspapers including the Star Ledger, Courier News, and the Echoes-Sentinel. The Borough's web site will contain information describing the program in advance and during the hunt with dates of the culling and general vicinity. The same information shall be posted on the Watchung Facebook page.

Specific written notice of the program and the scheduled commencement will be as provided in the authorizing Resolution, delivered to residents adjacent to the proposed baiting and culling sites at least two (2) weeks prior to the program's commencement. ~~All notices will include the Borough's telephone number, which will have a dedicated menu for information regarding the program.~~

Specific letters will be delivered to the property owner's whose property is utilized as a site at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the specific site being utilized.

The Borough's Agents will advise the Administrator and the Office of the Chief of Police of the days they will be present in the Borough for culling purposes a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours ~~two days~~ prior to their appearance.

Culling will take place at the proposed sites beyond a five~~four~~ hundred and fifty (5450) foot boundary from potentially occupied structures. The Borough's Agents will verify the specific distance to a potentially occupied structure prior to establishing the location for the temporary tree stand. When a structure falls within the five~~four~~ hundred and fifty ~~foot~~ (5450) foot mark, written permission from the property owner will be obtained. Where necessary, access points to these sites will be closed while the culling is taking place. Adjacent property owners will be notified in writing with specific dates and times two (2) weeks prior to the program's commencement.

*Culled deer will be eviscerated off site at a location designated by the Borough Administrator and all waste will be removed from that site and disposed of properly. The Borough's Agents will **transport** each culled deer to a state-approved checking station and mark each deer with Division of Fish and Wildlife tags. A **weekly report** will be filed with the Borough Administrator advising of the number of deer culled, the gender of the deer and fetuses carried. A **final report** will be filed with the Borough Administrator holding a summary of deer culled and the locations where taken, following the close of the program.*

*Culling will take place for a **maximum** period of 12 weeks, as allowed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection / Division of Fish and Wildlife. The 2019-2020 Borough Deer Management Program will begin on November 25, 2019 and end on February 8, 2020.*

I hereby agree to follow and conform with all Rules and Regulations set forth by the Watchung Borough Deer Management Program, as authorized and adopted by the Mayor and Council on _____ by Resolution.

Date: _____

Signature of Authorized Agent

Attest:

Borough Clerk

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 2-25.13 of the Code of the Borough of Watchung requires that contracts for purchases or services involving more than two thousand dollars be awarded by a resolution of the Mayor and Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Purchasing Agent be authorized to issue Purchase Orders as follows:

Vendor: Fanwood Crushed Stone, 141 Central Avenue, Westfield NJ 07090

Item: Salt Dome Storage Facility

Total Price: \$33,899.32

Charged to: C-02-702-B13

Vendor: Office Business Systems Inc., 350 Passaic Avenue, Suite 206, Fairfield, NJ 07004

Item: PD- Record Maintenance Contract

Total Price: \$2,976.00

Charged to: 9-01-190-273

DRAFT

Council

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: October 17, 2019

INDEX: Purchases

C: BH

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung require that all divisions, departments or other units of the Borough submit any application for grant funding to the Governing Body for initial review and approval before final submission of said grant application; and

WHEREAS, the Watchung Fire Department desires to apply for a grant from the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation in amount of \$4,313.00, and requests support of this grant application to be used for the following purpose:

Purchase of 5 AEDs and related accessories Fire Department Vehicles and Fire House

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council approve this effort and support its submission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung does hereby authorize the submission of the grant application to the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation

DRAFT

Council

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Index: Finance Misc., Fire Co.
Date: October 17, 2019
c: WH, CP

R3:10/17/19

RESOLUTION

Resolution Urging the County to Address Traffic and Safety
Concerns in the Borough and Implement Pedestrian / Biking
Improvements along County Roads

NOTE:

RESOLUTION IN PROCESS

DRAFT

Council

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

R4:10/17/19

RESOLUTION

Ratify Motion / 2019 - 2020 Deer Management Program

NOTE:

RESOLUTION IN PROCESS.

DRAFT

Council

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, that the Borough Treasurer be, and is hereby directed to pay bills in the amount of \$7,749,661.41 per the attached bill list. The expenditures can be broken down into the following categories:

Affordable Housing Trust	\$	5,180.35
Animal Control	\$	1.20
Assessment Trust Fund	\$	-
Capital Fund	\$	1,294,508.84
Developer's Escrow	\$	12,451.61
Other Escrow	\$	55,357.91
Watchung Board of Education Taxes	\$	1,968,840.00
Watchung Hills Regional High School Taxes	\$	1,327,700.00
Somerset County Taxes	\$	1,499,712.35
Somerset County Library Tax	\$	16,859.26
Somerset County Open Space Tax		138,131.10
Current Fund	\$	1,230,737.82
Grant Fund		179.00
Watchung Community Foundation	\$	-
Total Expenditures:	\$	7,749,661.41

Lindsay Goodloe

Daryl Eisenberg-Knegten

Stephen Black

William F. Nehls

Robert Gibbs

George Sopko

William J. Hance, CFO

Keith Balla, Mayor

James Damato, Administrator

Date: October 17, 2019
Index: Finance
C: Finance

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council is of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action on the closed session of the Special Meeting held on October 17, 2019.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Executive Session: Property Acquisition

3. Minutes of said discussion will be made available as soon as it is deemed in the public interest to do so.
4. The Borough Council may take official action on those items discussed in Executive Session upon completion of the executive session.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Council

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: October 17, 2019
Index: Misc.