



Michael Shapiro



Government

EMS Resolution, Marina Improvements and Other Updates at Belmar Council Meeting



Borough of Belmar leaders discuss municipal matters during March 15 meeting.
Borough of Belmar

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Published March 17, 2022 at 6:31 AM

BELMAR, NJ — Is a regional shared service for emergency medical services in Belmar's future? A resolution supporting the borough's participation in negotiations for such a service appeared on the consent agenda during the Mayor and Council Meeting on March 15 at Belmar Municipal Court.

Belmar/Lake Como Fire Marshal Ryan Dullea updated the council about a joint working group, consisting of neighboring municipalities, that is examining EMS trends. The group's goal, he said, is "to look at creating a sustainable, efficient emergency services operation. The resolution tonight gives us the ability to move forward with our discussions and begin the grant processes. Right now,

we're seeking federal, county, state grants...the state grant needs a resolution to move forward so we can keep discussing these operations."

That state grant is a Local Efficiency grant for \$250,000.

Dullea clarified that the possible towns for this shared service are Manasquan, Sea Girt (both have passed resolutions to move forward), Lake Como (their resolution was pending at the time of Belmar's meeting), Spring Lake and Spring Lake Heights (both uncertain). The Council adopted the Consent Agenda by a vote of 4-0; Councilman Thomas Carvelli was absent from the meeting.

Also during the meeting, Councilman Thomas Brennan reported that the Harbor Commission is working on capital improvements to the marina, including "revamping the electric on some docks," addressing problems with some pilings, and the major concern of dredging. Brennan said Belmar's marina does not have many pilings, so those are on hold until a nearby marina needs similar work so that a contractor is willing to work on a bigger job. For dredging, he said the question is, "what's the cheapest way to get the best job done?"

Brennan also updated the council and the public about three of the Environmental Commission's major activities. First, Spring Lake has been encouraging landscapers to use electric leaf blowers instead of gas-powered blowers — electric blowers have become quieter with improved technology while gas prices have increased — and Belmar may follow suit. Second, the self-guided walking tour of Belmar known as the "Treasure Trail" is progressing: It now has 50 stops, up from the original 38, its podcast is complete and posted and a brochure containing a map is being finalized. And third, the commission is exploring why other nearby towns can recycle plastics that Belmar does not, and how the borough can do the same.

On the subject of Belmar alerts, Councilwoman Jodi Kinney says those who want to turn off their Nixle alerts can visit nixle.com to update their profile with preferred methods for receiving them.

Finally, Mayor Mark Walsifer commended everyone involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade — the parade committee, the Police Department for "keeping it safe," and the Department of Public Works. "My hat's off to them because everything went off without a hitch. We had a great parade, and everybody did what they were supposed to do." He also thanked the businesses that participated in Sunday's "Dine & Discover" food tour. "They really wanted to show what Belmar has to offer, and they went above and beyond."

The council also offered the first reading and introduction of ordinances amending beach badge fees, amending Chapter 34 for the Special Improvement District, and amending Chapter 35 to adopt flood hazard maps, designate a floodplain administrator, and provide for severability and an effective date.

Greg Waxberg, a writer and magazine editor for The Pingry School, is also an award-winning freelance writer.