

Minutes of the Agenda/Workshop Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on May 16, 2016 at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Those present:

Ronald L. Sutton, Sr.	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Deputy Mayor
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Hannah E. Nichols	Township Clerk

Those absent:

Edward Dennis	Engineer
Clint Miller	Road Department
Heather Sparks	Deputy Clerk

Mayor Sutton presided and called the meeting to order with the announcement that the meeting had been advertised, it was being electronically recorded and being held in full compliance of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Mayor Sutton said we have received correspondence from Cumberland County Positive Youth Development inviting the committee to attend a meeting on June 8, 2016 at 6:30 P.M., at the Luciano Center at Cumberland County College. The township adopted a resolution supporting Gun Safety Awareness Month in June, which is what the meeting is about.

Committeeman Jamison said he would like to attend and will check his schedule and he will get back to Shelby Tucker, Coordinator of the event.

Mayor Sutton said Monica Hayman had sent a letter to the committee requesting the adoption of a Proclamation honoring her father Sam Owens.

Mayor Sutton said told the clerk to contact Ms. Hayman to provide information for the proclamation since the mayor and committeeman didn't know Mr. Owens very well.

Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion with unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Sutton said the township is interested in purchasing a side-arm tractor for the road department but in order to do that we will have to adopt a bond ordinance and first reading will be at the regular meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

COMMERCIAL  
ORDINANCE 2016-577

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION  
OF A SIDE-ARM TRACTOR IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP  
OF COMMERCIAL, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND,  
NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$120,000 THEREFOR  
AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$114,000 BONDS  
OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF  
THE COST THEREOF.

Mayor Sutton said we have several resolutions for consideration at the regular meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Resolution: Approving Bond Anticipation Notes as follows:  
Oppenheimer & Company Note in amount of \$751,908.00 at 2.1230%  
Net Interest Costs  
Newfield National Bank Note in the amount of \$114,000 at 0.80%  
Interest Cost

Resolution: Authorizing The Transfer of Overpayments To Other Tax Years  
Or Refund of Overpayment To Owner, Payer Or Representativ

Resolution: Authorizing A Green Tem Advisory Committee, Final Step in  
Recertification of Sustainable Jersey

Resolution: Closing James Moore Road for Road Scramble June 5<sup>th</sup> & Sept. 11.

Resolution: Authorizing Engineer To Obtain Quote of Cost of 25/30 Municipal  
Street Lights and Provide Proposal for Specification, Advertisement  
And Solicit Bids for Installation of Lights on Highland Street, Haleyville

Resolution: Appointing Barney Hollinger as Commercial Township's Riverfront  
Consultant

Resolution: Budget Insertion Clean Communities Funding

Mayor Sutton said I'll make a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Committeeman Jamison seconded.

Mr. Barney Hollinger said there is money available for waterproofing municipal facilities fire houses, and rescue squads. It's something you might want to check into, some of your buildings need to be raised. He said the township needs to do some type of study on the riverfront in order to get flood control, the study will help you to know what it will cost to raise the roads and this is not something that you as committeemen can sit back and wait. He said the master plan is coming up for review this year and you'll have to spend money on that this year.

The township clerk said the township solicited quotes at the end of last year and a contract was awarded to Frailinger Engineer's in the amount of \$6,500.

Mayor Sutton said he didn't believe that there will be many changes to the previous plan.

Mr. Hollinger said he believed that there should be. He said something needs to be done down at the river. You can't just continue to letting it go and whether you know it or not the economic drive is down there. The employment down there will probably put the sand companies to shame. He said nothing is going on down there, the roads are falling apart, pot holes all over the place.

Mr. Seeley said do you know what can be done, what is DEP appropriate.

Mr. Hollinger said what needs to be done is these guys need to sit down with the engineer and develop a plan for flood control. He said there are these meetings and no one from the township shows up. He said there is a meeting on Wednesday of the Bayshore Council, and that is a big important meeting because, right now it's not so much, but what it's going to be is a county board for projects that are going to happen on the bay and river and it covers all of Cape May County, it covers the whole bay.

Mrs. Debbie Hollinger said the problem is you need somebody that shows up to these meetings, a representative that knows what Commercial Township needs, what the riverfront needs and to find out what you have to do to achieve it. You don't have representation right now.

Mr. Seeley said does this cover the dike systems you are talking about.

Mr. Hollinger said the whole bay front where are all your roads. He said he knows they did a study on Maurice River and Commercial Township as far as dollars for the riverfront and it is in the millions and Maurice River has a lot of people involved and they are trying to do things. He said Maurice River has a lot of people going to these meetings and they are trying to do things and here I am not seeing any of this.

Mr. Hollinger said what is going on with PSEG, it has been four years since hurricane sandy and the boardwalk and the skydecks were destroyed and nothing has been rebuilt, nothing has been replaced. In fact they have placed 2X4 across the entrance, you can't even go down there. Somebody needs to get on these people.

Mr. Seeley asked Mr. Hollinger do you have a contact.

Township Clerk said there was a representative that attended the meetings by the name of Ken Straight. Clerk said PSEG approached the township and requested not to rebuild the boardwalk back to the 700 feet. They wanted to build one that is 200 feet in length and in exchange PSEG would purchase the Bansch Property turn it over to Surfside and Surfside was to build the berm and maintain it. Clerk said top negotiator was a woman but I don't remember her name, she was tough.

Mr. Seeley asked Mr. Hollinger and clerk if they could get him some contact information and he will see what is going on.

Clerk stated PSEG'S Engineer has filed an application with DEP for permits, this was done recently.

Mayor Sutton asked Mr. Hollinger who is putting this big meeting on in Maurice River you talked about.

Mr. Hollinger said it is the mayor or deputy mayor of Lower Township, and I think it is held in Dennis Township.

Clerk said Jud Moore said he attended several in Dennis Township where they had VanDrew, LoBiondo, Army Corp of Engineers, DEP Representatives and they were applying for Seven million dollars but that the process would take approximately seven years to finalize.

Mayor Sutton said township tried to get monies for Basket Flats.

Mr. Hollinger said He got three million dollars out of Assemblyman Jack Collings and they submerged the barges and attached them with riprap but because Maurice River Township cost so much they couldn't finish Commercial Township side.

Mr. Seeley said look at what DEP did at Bay Point, they basically bought it up.

Mr. Hollinger said we don't have the problems that they have, all we need to do here is raise the road, tremendous drainage system that when we get flooding it goes in and if you raise the roads the property owners will raise their properties.

Mayor Sutton asked if we raised the roads how would you prevent them from washing out underneath.

Mr. Hollinger said it won't wash out because the property owners will raise their property up. He said on the riverfront side the township would have to put gabions down and dirt on top of that and it will grow grass and it will never wash out. He said the township is going to have a problem right now down in front of the restaurant, where you put the guardrail up that's goes straight down now, it's been washing out. He said the township raised the road up to the bridge from the bridge down to the restaurant on that one side it has washed away. He said the bridge on Miller Avenue, which is a county bridge has a hole in the bridge it's between the marine police and Wayne Robinson's properties. The road is ours, the bridge belongs to the county.

Mayor Sutton said the Mauricetown Bridge he feels that is going to let go soon. He said it is in bad shape and they're not doing anything about it. He said they should be thinking about a third bridge really. He said when traffic is detoured to this area that bridge can't handle it, the traffic is backed up all the way to Laurel Lake.

Mr. Hollinger said they did do some repairs a year or so ago.

Mayor Sutton said yes, they band aid it.

Mr. Hollinger said I guess it is no different than the rest of the bridges in the country. He said the township is going to have to have a study, come up with the plan for the riverfront and then go after the grants to complete the plan. Without a plan you can't apply for anything.

Clerk said there was a grant from the empowerment zone and Ed Dennis was doing the work but eventually it was voted to send the balance of the funding back, something like \$65,000. A total of \$77,000 was made.

Mayor Sutton asked Mr. Hollinger if he had anything further and then asked if anyone else had anything addition, being none asked for a motion to close the public portion and to adjourn the meeting.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to adjourn.

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Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk

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