

Minutes of Regular meeting of Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on November 19, 2015 at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Those present:

Judson Moore	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Committeeman
Ronald L. Sutton, Sr.	Committeeman
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Hannah E. Nichols	Township Clerk
Edward Dennis	Engineer

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

Mayor Moore asked everyone to stand and join him in the Flag Salute and Lord's Prayer.

Mayor stated that we have the New Jersey State Police Station Commander who will give report for the month of October.

Commander Horsey said they had 8 motor vehicle accidents, 252 motor vehicle stops, 273 property checks in 31 days, 7 thefts which is a decline and that's probably because the price of metal is down. Lt. Horsey said he still recommends that all residents keep their homes, doors, windows, garages, sheds and vehicles locked at all times. To remove anything from their yards of any value because if it can be sold for cash it will probably be stolen. Lt. Horsey said they use to have a card that officers could hang on door knobs when they did a property check but they haven't had any lately and maybe it is a money crunch. He said he was going to check it out because he feels the residents should be aware that the state police are out there looking after the resident.

Mayor Moore said the township would be willing to help with the expenses, just let us know.

Mayor Moore asked public if they had any questions for Lt. Horsey and being none thanked the lieutenant for his report.

Mayor said we have the minutes of previous meetings for consideration.

Minutes of Agenda Meeting held October 15, 2015 held prior to regular meeting due to fact that October 12<sup>th</sup> was a holiday.

Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 15, 2015.

Committeeman Sutton made motion to approve, Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion, with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore called upon Edward Dennis, Engineer, for his report.

Mr. Dennis said he just has a couple of items to add to the report that he gave Monday evening and that was that Maurice Street had been paved and that Solar Bids will be coming in on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. He said basically most of our projects have been completed. He said we have applied for Laurel Lake Drainage Phase III and Samuel Drive Phase II but has not received any decision at this time.

Mayor thanked Mr. Dennis and called upon Thomas Seeley, Solicitor.

Mr. Seeley said the last In Rem List has had final foreclosure and that he strongly recommends that when township incorporates the properties with dwellings on them that an investigation be done by the code enforcement officer regarding if properties are safe to sell, should be torn down, knocked down or whatever and that all properties included in an In Rem List be checked before we file. He said we had over 300 properties we have done three foreclosures this year with thirty some properties in each list. He said in talking with Leslie that she is going to be a little bit more selective on what is put on the list and possibly that will help.

Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Seeley.

Mayor said our next item is the Bill List for the month of November 2015 as prepared by CFO Pam Humphries. Mayor said that Pam wanted to add bills for Manna to the bill list. Mayor asked committee if they had reviewed list and could he have a motion.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to approve Bill List for November 2015 with additions and Committeeman Sutton seconded the motion with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore said that he had a memo from Paul Campanella, regarding Jud's e-mail, that Mr. Campanella has been out of the office but did not have additional information on the state police lease.

#### MOTIONS

Mayor said we have several items of correspondence that we reviewed at the agenda meeting and will approve this evening by motion.

Mayor said we had a request from the Commercial Township PTA for a donation to help with the Saturday with Santa. Committee approved a \$500. Donation.

Motion was made and seconded to approve \$500 donation. Roll call vote unanimous.

1&2 Mayor said we had a request from Attorney Michael Gruccio regarding extensions of Unimins and US Silica's mining licenses which will expire before the next Land Use Board meeting. He said Mr. Gruccio requested extension to March on one and June of the other. Mayor said we have decided to extend both licenses until June 1, 2016, US Silicia Block 196, Lot 3 and Block 197, Lot 1, for Unimin Phase 7 & 8, Block 170, Lots. 10.01, 10.02, 11,12,13, Block 171, Lots 9, 10, 11, 11.01, Block 173, Lot 4, Block 269, Lots 2 and 3.

3. To expend up to \$26,000 to retrofit all Municipality owned decorative lights with LED lights.

4. To further discuss installation of municipal lights for Haleyville from Bypass to North Avenue/Steep Run Road if a grant can be found to buy the lights. Mayor said he would not be in favor of taking same from municipal budget. He said he would be for it if grant found.

5. To refund Bivalve Packing for Block 261, Lot 5 in the amount of \$700, which was sold to them at the landsale, sold by error.

6. Professionals will be appointed for 2016.

7. To extend contract with Manna to do our Website for six months.

Mayor asked for a motion on items 1 thru 7.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to approve and Committeeman Sutton seconded with an unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor said we have two ordinances that were adopted on first reading on October 15<sup>th</sup> and tonight is second reading and public hearing.

Ordinance 2015-571

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COMMRCIAL  
ADOPTING A FEE FOR ALL LAND DONATIONS

Mayor said we have decided to set a fee for taking land donations, to do the title searches and correspondence and deed preparation and recording it is costing almost a thousand dollars. He asked for comments from the public and being none asked for a motion to close the public portion and to adopt the ordinance.

Committeeman Sutton made motion to close public portion and to adopt ordinance and Committeeman Jamison seconded same with a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance 2015-572

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL  
SETTING FEES FOR COLLECTION BY COMMERCIAL  
TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Mayor made comment that tax collector will be having an electronic tax lien sale this yar and this ordinance will allow her to collect fees for notices and advertisements etc., He asked for motion to open meeting to public and with no comment being made asked for motion to close public portion and to adopt the ordinance.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to close public portion and to adopt the ordinance and Committeeman Sutton seconded the motion with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore said we have some resolutions.

RESOLUTION 2015-118

Budget Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that the following budgetary transfers be made to avoid over-expenditures in the 2015 Municipal Budget as requested by the Chief Financial Officer.

Line-Item	Amount
From:	
Mayor & committee OE	3,000
Finance OE	2,300
Recreation SW	5,000
Tax Title Line Coordinator	10,000
Total	\$20,300
Line-Item	Amount
To:	
Public Works OE	6,600
Legal Services	10,000
OEM-OE	3,700
Total	\$20,300

RESOLUTION 2015-119

Approving Purchase Of 2009 Ford Escape In The Amount  
Of \$7,700 For Office Of Emergency Management

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that  
Purchase of 2009, Ford Escape in the amount of \$7,700 from Car Corner Inc., 2392 South Delsea  
Drive, Vineland, NJ be approved.

RESOLUTION 2015-120

Authorizing An Increase In The Change Fund For The  
Tax Collector Of The Township Of Commercial

WHEREAS, The Tax Collector and the Deputy Tax Collector are required to make change  
for cash payments received; and Whereas, there exists a need to maintain such a fund for use  
of operations of the Tax Collector's Office; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey State regulations allow change funds to be established by an  
initial resolution and to continue from year to year without additional governing body action  
until such time as they take action to have funds returned; and

WHEREAS, SUCH FUND WILL ALLOW FOR EASY SEPARATION OF ACCOUNTS

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of  
Commercial in the County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector's  
Office increase their change fund to an amount not to exceed \$800.00 for the purpose of  
making change to insure the proper exact payment due is paid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said change fund be safely secured in keeping with  
established prudent business practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said change fund be used to make change only and shall  
not be used to purchase goods and/or services of any kind.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Township of Commercial's Chief Financial Officer is  
hereby authorized to issue the increase to the respective change funds in the amount of five  
hundred dollars (\$500.00) for use as set forth in the resolution.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion on Resolutions 118, 119, 120.

Committeeman Sutton made motion to adopt resolutions and Committeeman Jamison  
seconded with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore asked for reports and being none made motion to open to public.

Mrs. Carol Hickman said she feels the ordinance that the township has that animal  
control has to follow needs to be amended so that when she traps a feral cat that has been  
neutered/shots/released that she be able to let that cat out of the trap and not take it to the  
SPCA or that make it so animal control has to call her or the SPCA has to call her because the  
township has spent all of this money to get the cats fixed and animal control is taking them to

SPCA where they are being put down. Mrs. Hickman said that the only way this could be accomplished is with the help of the committee.

Committeeman Sutton told Mrs. Hickman that if she is called how is it that she is going to know where the cat belongs.

Mrs. Hickman said it is a feral cat that has been neutered and released, but regarding the cats that she has taken under the Pet Smart grant she knows which cats have been done and where they were returned.

A resident spoke regarding fact that her neighbor has asked animal control to set traps on his property and one of her cats was caught she went on his property and let the cat out of the trap. She said all of her cats are fixed and when they get caught in a trap the animal control officer should see that the ear has been clipped and let the cat back out, we just paid all of this money to get it fixed and shots and everything, why take it to the SPCA. She also feels animal control very rude because she told her she would not let the cats out of the traps.

Committeeman Sutton said basically what you're asking is impossible, any resident that does not want cats roaming on their property has a right to ask animal control to trap the cats. He does not have to have cats on his property, but the animal control officer does not have the right to release that cat because our contract with her says she must take them to the SPCA, our animal shelter provider. He asked resident how long had she had her colony and how many cats does she have.

She said she lives by game reserve and people are always putting cats out in the woods, she didn't know just how many she has.

Committeeman Sutton said it sounds like she needs to have the animal control come out and help trap some of her cats, if they are sick or diseased. He said he is animal control officer and once a cat is trapped he has to take it to the shelter, now if a cat owner realizes their cat is missing they can call the SPCA, take the rabies certificate, the cat license and redeem the cat for a cost. He said it is up to the pet owner to notify the SPCA to see if their cat has been turned over to them. He said at this time there is no way that the animal control nor the SPCA is going to call people with cat colonies, or designated individuals, the responsibility lies with the cat colony owner to be aware of their cats and when one is missing check with the shelter, they can get it back.

Mayor Moore asked for additional comments and being none asked for a motion to close the public portion and adjourn.

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Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk