

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on October 16, 2017 at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Those present:

Ronald L. Sutton, Sr.	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Committeeman
Mike Vizzard	Committeeman
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Hannah E. Nichols	Township Clerk
Clint Miller	Public Works Supervisor
Heather Sparks	Deputy Clerk
Absent:	Edward Dennis
	Engineer

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

Mayor said the committee had received a letter from Heather Whitaker regarding the assessment on property she purchased at the township land sale as having a dwelling on the property and the amount of taxes reflecting same. Mrs. Whitaker said the property was sold as vacant land for \$500.00. She said she was requesting that the committee authorize the tax assessor to remove the taxes for improvements and assess her for land only.

Mayor asked to check and see if the property Block 241, Lot 11 was sold as vacant land or with a dwelling on it.

Clerk stated the property had a house on it which the township demolished and the question is was it demolished prior to the sale.

Mr. Clint Miller, Public Works Supervisor said the dwelling was demolished about a month prior to the land sale on May 20th under the Cumberland County Improvement Authority Demolition Program free of charge.

Heather Sparks, Deputy Clerk, said property was listed on land sale list for \$500.00 and no listing of house must be demolished. Sold as vacant land.

Mayor Sutton asked committee what were their intentions?

Committeeman Vizzard said if it was sold as vacant land then the assessment should be adjusted.

Committeeman Jamison said he agrees and assessor should be apprised.

A motion was made and seconded to have a resolution for the regular meeting prorating assessment on Block 241, Lot 11.

Mrs. Whitaker thanked the committee and said this would save her approximately \$500.

Mayor said the committee has a letter of recommendation from the Township Engineer, Edward Dennis, to award a contract to Jerry & Son, Exc. Inc., 5981 Scranton Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ 08330 in the amount of \$213,140.00 for the reconstruction of Berry Avenue and Lakeshore Drive.

Mayor Sutton said we have the following resolution for consideration

RESOLUTION 2017-111

Awarding Contract For Reconstruction of Berry Avenue And Lakeshore Drive
To Jerry & Son, Exc. Inc.

WHEREAS, Commercial Township advertised and accepted bids for the Reconstruction of Berry Avenue, Port Norris and Lakeshore Drive, Laurel Lake; and

WHEREAS, Bids were received and opened on October 12, 2017 at 11:00 A.M., therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that a contract be awarded to Jerry & Son, Exc, Inc., 5981 Scranton Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ 08330 for the Reconstruction of Berry Avenue, Port Norris and Lakeshore Drive, Laurel Lake in the amount of \$213,140.00;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jerry & Son Exc. Inc., was the lowest bidder and contract is awarded on certification of funds by Chief Financial Officer.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Sutton said a letter was received from Christopher Lanterman, Athletic Coach at the Port Norris School requesting the township committee to consider donating funds to the athletic teams to buy uniforms, fuel to transport athletes to games and intangibles.

Mayor discussed what or how much of a donation was being asked, did they need a vehicle to get the kids to the games, just exactly what was Mr. Lanterman requesting.

Committeeman Vizzard said they are looking for a donation to help them financially to have an athletic program.

Committeeman Jamison said he suggested a \$500.00 donation.

Mayor said he doesn't remember them ever coming to the committee.

Clerk said we have had request from the Panthers coaches in the past.

Committee asked clerk to contact Mr. Lanterman to see if he could attend the regular meeting on the 19th.

Mayor Sutton said we have a letter from John Kildea who has purchased a house at 122 Mist Road, Laurel Lake. Mr. Kildea said the previous owner has advised him that if he is going to do any renovations that Mr. Kildea remain on the property with his equipment and supplies because he had everything stolen when he was trying to make improvements to the property, his tools, cooper wires ripped out, and all building materials stolen. Mr. Kildea was requesting permission to put a camper on the property for three months while doing renovations.

Mayor Sutton said when we sell a property we have never had to allow someone to live in a trailer while fixing it up.

Clerk stated this is not a township property that Mr. Kildea bought at a land sale, he purchased this from a private individual who had a lot of problems trying to fix the property up.

Committee discussed if Mr. Kildea was going to fix the property to live in it or was 122 Mist Road going to be a rental. Committee asked clerk to contact Mr. Kildea and see if he could attend the meeting on the 19th.

Mayor Sutton said we haven't received a letter from Patty Gross, Mayor of Maurice River Township requesting a \$500 donation for Memorial Signs on Route 55 honoring Trooper Williams who lost his life last December, but he had spoken to the mayor regarding the matter and Mayor Gross was going to send out letters requesting donation.

Committee said to put the item on the agenda of the regular meeting, they were willing to donate \$500 but would like to have her letter of request on file.

Mayor said we have received a letter inviting the committee and residents to attend a slide show of the Mauricetown Historic District on October 25, 2017 at 7:00 P.M., at the Mauricetown Fire Hall on Noble Street. He said he had just signed a letter for the endorsement of the Historic District this morning.

Committeeman Jamison said he had a prior commitment.

Mayor Sutton said this is Land Use Board meeting night. It was decided that Committeeman Vizzard would attend the Mauricetown Historic District Meeting and Mayor Sutton would sit in on the Land Use Board Meeting. Mayor said we were also invited to attend the nomination of the Mauricetown Historic District to the New Jersey State Preservation Review Board on November 9th, committee would check their calendars regarding attendance. Committee said to remove the November 9th invitation from the agenda.

Mayor Sutton said we have a letter from the South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter and the Cumberland County SPCA that the SPCA will be terminating animal sheltering services as of December 31, 2017.

Mayor said this is not surprising, with all of the new state regulations being instituted shelters can't afford to comply. He made statement that as of December 31, 2017, RS Animal Shelter will be closing.

Mayor Sutton said we have an e-mail from Joe Derella, Cumberland County Freeholder Director, stating that the freeholders office will be asking their solicitor to research on who statutorily must provide animal shelter services and that the freeholders are requesting budget information over the previous five years regarding animal shelter services costs to the municipalities. Once all information gathered a meeting will be scheduled with all municipalities concerned.

Mayor asked Deputy Clerk, Heather Sparks, to compile number of dogs and cats that were housed by the SPCA for Commercial Township over the past five years. He also requested that chief financial officer compute amount of monies that have been paid to the SPCA by Commercial Township for the past five years. Mayor stated all information should be forwarded to Cumberland County Freeholders Office as soon as possible.

Mayor said for regular meeting we have second reading and public hearing on following ordinances:

ORDINANCE 2017-582

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL, COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2017-581, FINALLY ADOPTED ON AUGUST 17, 2017 TO AMEND SECTION 1 TO READ "VARIOUS REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS" APPROPRIATING \$15,400.00 AVAILABLE IN THE CAPITAL FUND RESERVE FOR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

ORDINANCE 2017-583

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR FUNDING OF AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR ROAD AND DRAINAGE REPAIRS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$285,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

Mayor Sutton said we have several resolutions for consideration.

Resolution: Encouraging New Jersey Homeowners to Plant Native Plants That Support Bee Populations And Create Habitat For all Pollinators

Resolution: Opposing Senate Bills Regarding Changes To The Open Public Meeting Act And Open Public Records Act Proposed By Senator Loretta Weinberg As Requested By League of Municipalities And NJ Clerk's Association

Resolution: Authorizing Application To Cumberland County Empowerment Zone For Construction Of Veterans Memorial Park.

Clerk informed committee that she has been informed by the tax collector that a pro-rated resolution will possibly be on the regular meeting agenda for Block 241, Lot 11. Also two resolutions will be forwarded by the engineer to the committee for a change order for Raymond Drive and one authorizing Remington & Vernick to do the required inspections created by the change order.

Committeeman Jamison said he had called Ed Salmon and told him that we wanted to build a veterans park and was he aware of any grants we could apply for and he informed him that he didn't but to get in touch with Mike at Triad to see if any grants available for veteran's parks.

Mayor Sutton said that he has a letter from Leahe, Family Success and she wrote no grants available for veteran's park. He said he has a letter from Triad from Mike that there aren't any funds out there for veteran's parks. Mayor said Joe Klaudi told him that he contacted Congressman LoBiondo and there aren't any federal funds for veteran's parks.

Mr. Seeley read letter to Mayor Sutton from Triad, stating no funds available for veterans parks and he also read Mr. Jamison's letter from Triad stating that Mike would be glad to meet and discuss the issue with the committee.

Committeeman Vizzard said why don't we invite him to our next meeting and discuss it, we won't pay him anything.

Committeeman Jamison asked Mr. Seeley to contact Triad and have Mike attend next month's meeting.

Mayor said he put the resolution on the agenda just open the door with the Empowerment Zone.


Mayor asked for motion to open meeting to public.

Mr. Edward Adams, Laurel Lake Property Owners Association asked solicitor if a deed had been finalized for land donation to township Block 63, Lot 2.

Mr. Seeley said a quick claim deed was prepared, signed and forwarded to county clerk's office for recording.

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.



Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk