

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on Monday Evening, September 18, 2017 at 6:00 P.M., 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

Those absent:

Edward Dennis	Engineer
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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 he would like a moment of silent prayer for Shirley Taylor, who was an employee of Commercial Township for many years. He said she had passed away on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor stated that Engineer, Edward Dennis, has conflicts for tonight and Thursday's meeting and will be unable to attend.

Mayor called upon Barney Hollinger, Commercial Township's Riverfront Consultant for a report.

Mr. Hollinger stated that he had attended a meeting with Larry Niles regarding endangered species. He also met with representatives from Rutgers and the Cumberland County Improvement Authority and discussed that drones have been seen at the Millville Airport and that there is no doubt that they will be used here in the future. He attended a Bayshore Council meeting and said the state does recognize the council but we are not at the same status as Vineland, we have to file annual reports regarding harvesting.

Mr. Russell Stormes stated that the food pantry will be giving out commodities on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> instead of the 23<sup>rd</sup> for September. He said the Wednesday evening pantry will be cancelled until after the end of the year. Mr. Stormes said he is concentrating on getting enough commodities for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

Mayor said the following are items that are scheduled for the regular township meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017.

Mayor said we have received a letter from Robert Watson, he has offered \$3000 for Block 117, Lots 9807, known as 411 Opal Road, Laurel Lake, size is 120X100.

Clerk informed committee that if they accept, the sale would be November 16<sup>th</sup> because there are only 29 days between September and October's meeting dates.

Mayor said the \$3000 was the minimum bid at the May sale and he felt township should schedule a landsale and to put his offer on the agenda for the regular meeting. Mayor said we had sold this property at the May 20<sup>th</sup> landsale but there was an infringement on the land so the buyer backed out of the sale.

Mayor said we have a letter from the Attorney General's Office regarding a new program "Safe Care Cam". This is where family and friends of senior citizens in institution and

nursing homes can have a camera in their rooms so they can monitor them. He said individuals interested can call 973-504-6375, NJ Division Consumer Affairs. Mayor said this is an item for the agenda.

Mayor said we have a landsale for the regular meeting, Block 60, Lot 606 and Block 60, Lot 611, offer \$200 for each parcel. He said all adjoining owners have been notified certified, return receipt, and regular mail. The sale has been advertised on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in accordance to state statute.

Mayor said we have the introduction of two ordinances for regular meeting:

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 BUILDING AND GROUNDS APPROPRIATING \$15,400 AVAILABLE IN THE CAPITAL FUND RESERVE FOR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

ORDINANCE 2017-583  
BOND ORDINANCE

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR ROAD AND DRAINAGE REPAIRS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$300,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$285,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Mayor said we have a proposal from Remington/Vernick & Walberg Engineers for the administration of the Laurel Lake Drainage Phase III Project at \$44,000, breakdown, \$25,000 Engineering Services and \$19,000 Construction Services. He said put resolution on the agenda for regular meeting.

Mayor stated we have several resolutions for consideration for our regular meeting.

- Resolution 2017-102 Submission of Grant Application For Port Norris Drainage Phase I, (Brown Street)
- Resolution 2017-103 Submission of Grant Application for Laurel Lake Drainage Phase IV
- Resolution 2017-104 Approving Grant Agreement Resulting From Mediation Meeting Of September 7, 2017 with Judge Eugene J. McCaffrey
- Resolution 2017-105 Tax Collector-Uncollectable Taxes Block 214,Lot 4
- Resolution 2017-106 Tax Collector-Uncollectable Taxes Block 203,Lot 7
- Added-Resolution 2017-107 Tax Collector-Uncollectable-ProRated Assessments
- Added-Resolution 2017-108 Tax Collector-Uncollectable-Cancellation of Taxes On Township Owned Property

Mayor said Tower Point had contacted solicitor to see if we would be interested in selling our wireless lease on the Laurel Lake Tower.

Mr. Seeley stated that Tower Point's proposal this year is \$386,430, this is less than 2016. Mayor Sutton said we have a 99 year agreement with our current company and last year we figured it out, we would be taking a loss by selling.

Committee told solicitor to inform Tower Point that we are not interested.

Mayor Sutton asked committee if they had any reports and being none asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public and motion was made and seconded.

Mr. Barney Hollinger said on behalf of Cape May Salt Oyster Company, himself, Steve Fleetwood and Jennie King that he wants to thank the committee for their proposal to raise Berry Avenue, he said this should really help, he said he doesn't feel that it will eliminate all of the water from the road but he believes that it will really help with the flooding. He said that Jennie King was unable to operate, she couldn't even get to her business.

Committeeman Vizzard asked if the storm was the cause of the Mr. Hollinger's truck breaking down.

Mr. Hollinger said no, he really couldn't blame the breakdown on that storm, the truck has made several trips a day for a long time on that road, no he couldn't blame it on that, maybe it's because it's a Ford.

Mr. Judson Moore said this is for Mr. Seeley, once Resolution 2017-104 is adopted that he was going to put in an OPRA request for the Executive Session Minutes from December to mediation meeting.

Mr. Seeley said at this time he believes that the Attorney/Client privilege would still hold.

Mr. Moore said the laws have changed, he believes that once a case has been finalized the minutes have to be released and available to the public

Mr. Seeley said if that is the case he is not aware of it and could Jud send him a copy of the rulings. Mr. Seeley said that the employees that are involved would still have to be protected and that the names would have to be redacted from those minutes.

Mr. Moore asked if the Commercial Township employees were supposed to attend the mediation meeting, because you're not to mention somebody's name without their being present.

Mr. Seeley said no.

Mr. Moore said this is question for Mr. Seeley, I would like to be appointed to the veterans committee. I have been to so many veterans parks, I've had Eddie Dennis keep a look out for me and I have a lot of material regarding them. I would like to volunteer.

Mr. Seeley said we just finalized the mediation meeting and in there the Memorandum of Understanding I'm sure you know it says no association, you know that right.

Mr. Moore said I wasn't aware of the veterans committee at the time of the mediation meeting. He said will the meetings be open to the public. He said all meetings such as environmental commission, recreation committee, and veterans committee are all supposed to be open to the public. Mr. Moore said regarding Ordinance 583, that is a bond ordinance for both Berry Avenue and Lakeshore Drive and I really don't believe they fall under an emergency but I don't understand why the committee did not file an application for Lakeshore Drive, he thought it would be a good road for DOT grant funding.

Mayor Sutton said Lakeshore Drive is in terrible shape, it has been that way for several years and it needs to be done, it is a hazard to the people that use it and Lakeshore Drive was not a good candidate for DOT funding.

Mr. Moore asked the Phase IV is that Laurel Lake Drainage?

Mayor Sutton said that is the final phase.

Mr. Stormes said he would like to serve on the Veterans Committee and asked if there has been a site picked.

Mayor Sutton said he had intended for Mr. Stormes to be on the committee and he would like to see the park by the senior center with benches and brick walkway, etc.

Committeeman Jamison said he would like to see it located in Port Norris.

Mr. Stormes said he hoped that they would include some veterans on the committee and that he would like to see the committee contact the state for help. Mr. Stormes said he would like to see five flag poles, that the committee could contact LoBiondo and get an American Flag that has flown over the Capital Building and then they could put the armed forces flags on the other poles. Mr. Stormes said he would like to see the park centrally located and dedicated to Eldon Johnson, Purple Heart Medal of Honor recipient, his accomplishments during his military service is outstanding and it is an honor to have such a person, his portrait is in the township hall and township should be very proud of him.

Committeeman Jamison said he would like to see it in Port Norris right here next to the Post Office.

Mr. Miller said that's why you guys are going to have a committee, they will decide where it goes.

Committeeman Jamison said we'll let them investigate, check everything out and then make their decision.

Mr. Hollinger said he would like to see the statute that stood in the middle of Memorial Avenue be relocated to the Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Clint Miller said he would like to respond to Jud's request for copies of the minutes, that he wants this committee to do everything in their power to protect the employees, he doesn't care about himself but he does want the employees protected and he doesn't think that the minutes should be made public but if they are released then their names should be redacted. He said I thought with the mediation meeting and the signing of the memorandum that the issue was closed. He asked Mr. Moore what did he want the minutes for.

Mr. Moore said he wanted to see what was said about him.

Mr. Miller asked so you want to put the whole thing out there?

Mr. Moore said I want the minutes from the first December meeting up to the current meeting and everything else, I have been dragged through the mud.

Mr. Seeley said the judge made it perfectly clear that the employees were to be protected, no mention of names, do you agree?

Mr. Moore said if names are redacted, minutes should be made public.

I want to know what was said about me. They are public documents, Clint.

Mr. Seeley said it will be

Mr. Miller said if the employees names are put out there, your name will still be in the mud, I'll see to that.

Mr. Moore asked if that was a threat?

Mr. Miller said Jud amazes me that he wants to bring this out. The employees could have brought all of this out but they didn't, they could have signed a complaint against him and they didn't.

Mr. Moore said I went to LAD Office and they wouldn't even discuss it.

Mayor Sutton asked for additional comments and being none asked for a motion to close public portion and to adjourn the meeting. It was so moved.

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Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk