

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 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
Mike Vizzard	Committeeman
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Hannah E. Nichols	Township Clerk
Clint Miller	Public Works Supervisor
Heather Sparks	Deputy Clerk

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 Act.

Mayor Sutton asked public to stand and join the committee in the Flag Salute and Lord's Prayer.

Mayor Sutton said we have New Jersey State Police with us this evening and he called upon Lt. Horsey for his report.

Lt. Horsey stated that for the month of December 2017 in Commercial Township the officers responded to 239 calls out of 804, 32 motor vehicle stops out of 993, 28 criminal arrest out of 81, 6 motor vehicle accidents out of 18, 1 DWI arrest out of 6, 4 burglaries, one of the calls to Dollar General, they broke in the door and stole cigarettes, had an arrest on Dollar General. He said we had an overdose and there has been three criminal arrest for desecration, for moving the body away from site and we are waiting on a fourth arrest. Lt Horsey stated that residents need to lock their homes, garages, sheds and put anything of value up out of their yards because if anything is salvageable it will be stolen for scrap, he said we don't have a trend in Commercial yet, but in some municipalities they have a trend going on in breaking into cars.

Mayor Sutton thanked Lt. Horsey and asked if the public had any questions.

Mr. Judson Moore said he had two questions, one he has been told by several troopers that out of all the calls they receive most of them come from Laurel Lake area.

Lt. Horsey asked, this area, of this district, yes, Laurel Lake has highest number of calls because of the concentration of residents. You have 2000 people in Laurel Lake out of the 5,000 population for all of Commercial Township.

Mr. Moore said he has been told by several troopers and he believes he has heard it here before, that out of Lawrence, Maurice River and Downe Township, they get more calls from Laurel Lake.

Lt. Horsey said Commercial Township has more calls than Maurice River, there are very little services to Downe Township but Laurel Lake has more of a concentration of population than the others.

Mr. Moore said he believed at one time a trooper said they were going to get a tee shirt that said Laurel Lake State Police.

Lt. Horsey said he wasn't aware of that.

Mr. Moore said number two is about drugs. I've talked with fire companies, EMT's, spoke with Maurice River Township and they tell me that there is a significant amount of drugs

in Laurel Lake, Port Norris, the whole township now. That there are drugs in Maurice River that are coming from here that there was one overdose behind WaWa, there was one in the Maucetown park. What is your take on the drug situation.

Lt Horsey said it is not unique for Laurel Lake, Commercial Township, Maurice River, it is an epidemic worldwide, it is an epidemic everywhere. It is a drug problem, it is in every town. You can't compare drugs here with drugs in the cities that have higher populations. Millville, Vineland and Bridgeton all have the same issues, they have more deaths, the more competition you have the higher the drug problem.

Mr. Moore asked do you get calls on overdoses as a regular routine in Laurel Lake and Maurice River.

Lt. Horsey, they are ordinary.

Mrs. Larea Smith asked Lt. Horsey about the gang problem and do we have many members or gangs in the township.

Lt. Horsey said he doesn't know if there are gangs but there are gang members which is a grey area. Gang members don't want you to know they're in a gang. They don't talk about it. He said it is not a big problem in Laurel Lake, or Commercial Township it is something that is more critical in the larger populated areas.

Mayor Sutton asked if any more questions and being none, said let the record reflect that the Lieutenant said it is not any worse in Laurel Lake than it is throughout the township or in it's surrounding areas, it's just that the Laurel Lake area has a lot more people, so overall it's not worse it's just it has a lot more people.

Mayor Sutton said we have Ms. Kim Burns and Ms. Magie Fye from the South West Council that would like to discuss a smoke free ordinance for the township. Mayor informed them that Commercial Township adopted Ordinance 98-390, March 26, 1998, "AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE PURCHASE AND USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY MINORS IN PUBLIC PLACES." Mayor Sutton said our ordinance prohibits youth 18 and younger to purchase or smoke in public places.

Ms. Burns said she has reviewed our ordinance and it is one of the most comprehensive ones that she has seen because it not only prohibits the smoking in public places it also does not allow minors to purchase products. She said the difference between their ordinance is that it calls for the disallowance of anyone smoking in public places, adults as well as minors. Ms. Burns said that they offer their services to municipalities in helping them write the ordinance, that they give signs to post free of charge, that they are funded by the State Board of Health. She said there are five municipalities in Cumberland County that have adopted their ordinances and the City of Vineland has the most in-depth one that covers the entire city.

Mayor Sutton said that our ordinance has worked very well, we will review the material that you have furnished us and we will let you know what we decide.

Mayor said we have the minutes of previous meetings. Mayor said we held one meeting in December.

Agenda/Regular Meeting held on December 18, 2017.

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor said we have the Bill List for the month of December 2017 as prepared by CFO, Pam Humphries.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Bill List for the month of December 2017 with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Sutton said our Engineer, Ed Dennis, has a conflict this evening and he gave the following report at the agenda meeting that Lakeshore has minor items to cleanup, Berry Avenue is complete, Raymond Drive is complete and stated that the Bivalve Station Project, the responsibility of obtaining the permits to go further with the project has now been placed in the township's lap. Mayor said engineer has filed two applications for municipal aid, Port Norris Drainage Project and Laurel Lake Phase IV Project.

Mayor Sutton said we have received a letter of request from the owner of Block 43, Lot 8307, 208 Robin Road, Laurel Lake to make partial payments on back taxes owed on property. Mayor and committee investigated the circumstances and found owner had nine other properties that were delinquent and has determined that the request be denied.

Mayor Sutton said we have a letter from the Cumberland County Board of Health to participate in the Municipal Alliance For Substance and Alcohol Abuse. Mayor said Leahe Togno is the Administrator of the program and we have a Resolution on the agenda.

Mayor said committee received a letter from Senators Booker, Menendez and Congressman LoBiondo requesting the Army Corp of Engineer's schedule for 2018 includes the dredging of the mouth of the Maurice River. Mayor said a township resolution in support for the dredging will be on the agenda this evening.

Mayor Sutton said we have a letter from the Devilman Triathlon Organization to hold their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Triathlon Event in the Townships of Lawrence, Downe and Commercial on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Committee approved Road Route for Bicycle Race in Commercial. Resolution is on the agenda.

Mayor Sutton said we have a letter from township engineer requesting that we approve change order #2 for Raymond Drive Phase III to decrease the contract amount by \$8,465.05 due to as-built construction quantities. Resolution is on the agenda this evening.

Mayor Sutton said we have received a letter from Clint Miller, Public Works Supervisor, requesting committee approve Shawn Ronan and Chris Drummond to take NJ Compost Operator Certification Classes in the amount of \$255.00. Committee said resolution on the agenda, that they approved.

Mayor Sutton said we have the introduction of two ordinances for consideration.

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
ORDINANCE 2018-586  
CALENDAR YEAR 2018  
**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND  
TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**  
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 1.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Commercial in the County of Cumberland finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2018 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Committee hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 24,953.35 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

**WHEREAS** the Mayor and Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Commercial, in the County of Cumberland, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2018 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Commercial shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$ 87,336.73, and that the CY 2018 municipal budget for the Township of Commercial be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Mayor Sutton asked for motion and Committeeman Vizzard made motion to adopt and Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Sutton said second reading and public hearing will be held at the regular township meeting held February 15, 2018.

**COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
BOND ORDINANCE 2018-587**

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF  
COMMERCIAL, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY,  
APPROPRIATING \$100,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE  
ISSUANCE OF \$95,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO  
FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3(a) of this bond ordinance is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Commercial, in the County of Cumberland, New Jersey (the "Township") as a general improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 3(a), there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$100,000, including the sum of \$5,000 as the down payment required by the Local Bond Law. The down payment is now available by virtue of provision for down payment or for capital improvement purposes in one or more previously adopted budgets.

Section 2. In order to finance the cost of the improvement or purpose not covered by application of the down payment, negotiable bonds are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$95,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law. In anticipation of the issuance of the bonds, negotiable bond anticipation notes are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

Section 3. (a) The improvement hereby authorized and the purpose for the financing of which the bonds are to be issued is the construction of Veterans Memorial Park, including, but not limited to, land clearing, land leveling, filling, hardscaping, landscaping and the acquisition of a remnant to display in the park, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto and further including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of bonds or bond anticipation notes to be issued for the improvement or purpose is as stated in Section 2 hereof.

(c) The estimated cost of the improvement or purpose is equal to the amount of the appropriation herein made therefor.

Section 4. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer; provided that no bond anticipation note shall mature later than one year from its date, unless such bond anticipation notes are permitted to mature at such later date in accordance with applicable law. The bond anticipation notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the chief financial officer. The chief financial officer shall determine all matters in connection with bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the chief financial officer's signature upon the bond anticipation notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of the Local Bond Law or other applicable law. The chief financial officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the bond anticipation notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The chief financial officer is directed to report in writing to the

governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the bond anticipation notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the bond anticipation notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 5. The Township hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this bond ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 6. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvement or purpose described in Section 3(a) of this bond ordinance is not a current expense. It is an improvement or purpose that the Township may lawfully undertake as a general improvement, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefitted thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of the improvement or purpose within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is 15 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Clerk, and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey. Such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided in this bond ordinance by \$95,000, and the obligations authorized herein will be within all debt limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$10,000 for items of expense listed in and permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20 is included in the estimated cost indicated herein for the purpose or improvement.

Section 7. The Township hereby declares the intent of the Township to issue bonds or bond anticipation notes in the amount authorized in Section 2 of this bond ordinance and to use the proceeds to pay or reimburse expenditures for the costs of the purposes described in Section 3(a) of this bond ordinance. This Section 7 is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for purposes of Treasury Regulations.

Section 8. Any grant moneys received for the purpose described in Section 3(a) hereof shall be applied either to direct payment of the cost of the improvement or to payment of the obligations issued pursuant to this bond ordinance. The amount of obligations authorized but not issued hereunder shall be reduced to the extent that such funds are so used.

Section 9. The chief financial officer of the Township is hereby authorized to prepare and to update from time to time as necessary a financial disclosure document to be distributed in connection with the sale of obligations of the Township and to execute such disclosure document on behalf of the Township. The chief financial officer is further authorized to enter into the appropriate undertaking to provide secondary market disclosure on behalf of the Township pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Rule") for the benefit of holders and beneficial owners of obligations of the Township and to amend such undertaking from time to time in connection with any change in law, or interpretation thereof, provided such undertaking is and continues to be, in the opinion of a nationally recognized bond counsel, consistent with the requirements of the Rule. In the event that the Township fails to comply with its undertaking, the Township shall not be liable for any monetary damages, and the remedy shall be limited to specific performance of the undertaking.

Section 10. The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. The obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Township for the payment of the obligations and the interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 11. This bond ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Mayor Sutton asked for motion and Committeeman Vizzard made motion to adopt and Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Sutton stated that second reading and public hearing will take place at regular township meeting held February 15, 2018.

Mayor Sutton said we have several resolutions for consideration and same will be read by title under Consent Resolution 2018-1.

#### RESOLUTION 2018-23

To Attend An Organizational Meeting With Respect To The Potential Creation Of A Cooperative Or Other Joint Services Entity To Address The Animal Shelter Needs Of Communities Within Cumberland And Salem County, New Jersey

WHEREAS, there is a need in Cumberland and Salem County, New Jersey, to provide animal sheltering services on behalf of municipalities which are facing the potential loss of animal sheltering services currently provided through one or more organizations or entities; and

WHEREAS, private animal sheltering services may no longer be readily available for use by communities within Cumberland and Salem Counties to meet their animal sheltering needs; and

WHEREAS, one or more private entities have either ceased, discontinued, or reduced their capability to accept animals; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of ability and resources through public agencies or entities to provide animal sheltering services to municipal and public entities within the region of Cumberland and Salem County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County SPCA in Vineland, New Jersey, presently operates an animal sheltering facility which has heretofore provided sheltering and related services to municipalities in the areas; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County SPCA has experienced financial difficulties and pressure resulting in uncertainty as to whether or not the Cumberland County SPCA will remain willing and able to provide animal sheltering services to the extent needed by communities within the Cumberland and Salem County region; and

WHEREAS, numerous communities within Cumberland and Salem Counties, New Jersey, have come together in an effort to address issues relating to animal sheltering, including but not limited to the possibility of organizing a cooperative association of communities, a purchasing cooperative, a shared service arrangement, or other similar undertaking in order to be better able to address animal sheltering needs on behalf of communities in these counties; and

WHEREAS, the governing body has indicated that it is interested in participating in the possible formation of a group of communities to address the foregoing concerns; and

WHEREAS, the governing body is desirous of having a representative on behalf of the governing body attend one or more meetings among representatives of communities within the Cumberland and Salem County region of New Jersey to further discuss and address potential solutions and the formation of an organization of communities to address and respond to the need to provide animal sheltering services and related services within these communities; and

WHEREAS, a proposed preliminary and/or organizational meeting to explore options, formations and a structure for communities to come together to address the foregoing problems has been scheduled for January 11, 2018, at 6 p.m. the senior center in the Township of Upper Deerfield; and

WHEREAS, the governing body is desirous of appointing a representative to attend this meeting to discuss alternatives, strategies and the formation of a collective group and the operational framework for the public entities to collectively respond to and address animal sheltering needs, among other things; and

WHEREAS, the governing body is desirous of appointing Ronald L. Sutton, Sr., as a representative on behalf of the governing body to attend the foregoing meeting, subject to the condition that any final determination as to whether or not the governing body wishes to formally participate in an organization of communities to address animal sheltering needs, among other things, must be formally adopted and ratified by the governing body;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Commercial that Ronald L. Sutton, Sr., is hereby appointed as a representative to attend an exploratory and initial organization meeting or meetings of communities to address the formation of a collective body of communities to address animal sheltering needs, among other things, within and among the communities of Cumberland and Salem Counties,



New Jersey, and the potential formation of a cooperative, cooperative purchasing association, shared services arrangement, or such other organization or formation as may be deemed in the interest of the participating communities and this governing body and to report back to the governing body as to the course of action this governing body needs to pursue in order that animal sheltering needs, among other requirements related thereto can be effectively provided and managed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the formation and participation of a formally organized association, cooperative, shared service arrangement, or such other undertaking between the communities as will further the interest of this governing body and its citizens with respect to animal sheltering needs and related services must be approved by this governing body. Passed and adopted at a meeting on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018.

RESOLUTION 2018-24

Approving The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Devilman Triathlon On May 6, 2018

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that approval is given to the New Jersey Devilman Triathlon organization to conduct their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Triathlon Bicycle Race on the roads in Port Norris known as County Road 553.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and their request will be forwarded to the Cumberland County Road Department for final approval.

RESOLUTION 2018-25

Municipal Alliance Prevention Alcoholism And Drug Abuse

Whereas, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages, and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Cumberland:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Commercial Township Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2019 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$9,695
CASH MATCH	\$2,424
IN-KIND	<u>\$7,271</u>

2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

RESOLUTION 2018-26  
Approving Change Order #2 For Raymond Drive Phase III Project  
For A Decrease Of \$8,465.05 to Contract Total.

WHEREAS, there has been a net decrease in the contract total of the Raymond Drive Phase III Project due to as-built construction quantities of the following:

- Breakway Barricades
- Construction Signs
- Drums
- Traffic Cones
- Fuel Price Reduction
- Stabilizing Agent, Bituminous Material
- Hot Mix, Asphalt 9.5M64 Surface Course
- Bicycle Safe Grate
- Turf Repair Strip

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the committee adopts Change Order #2 for Raymond Drive Phase III Project, on the recommendation of the engineer, to decrease contract total by \$8,465.05.

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION 2018-27  
RESOLUTION FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE DREDGING OF THE MOUTH OF THE MARICE RIVER

WHEREAS, Commercial Township strongly supports a request for the maintenance dredging of the mouth of the Maurice River by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, the Maurice River is the key water highway for the many businesses including marinas, major yacht, boat and ship repair companies, commercial fisherman and several other businesses of Commercial Township; and

WHEREAS, the shallowness of the mouth currently is such that vessels largely have a very narrow window of about an hour, at highest high tide to leave and enter the mouth of the river; and

WHEREAS, millions of both private dollars and public EDA and USD dollars of investment have gone into the Bayshore businesses, some of which have contracts with the US Navy and Homeland Security. However, without the maintenance of this federal channel, these businesses will be unable to grow, or in some cases, may not be able to renew critical contracts; and

WHEREAS, maintenance dredging of this federally designated channel (7-9') will allow Cumberland County, Commercial Township and its Bayshore municipalities to improve infrastructure, increasing access upstream to the businesses, encouraging economic development and workforce growth in those sectors; and

WHEREAS, Commercial Township has a strong interest in supporting the businesses within the township, which have a rich and historical value to both Southern New Jersey and the State as a whole, including future growth potential.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commercial Township committee supports in moving forward with the long overdue maintenance dredging in this federal navigation channel by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

RESOLUTION 2018-28  
Approving Shawn Ronan & Chris Drummond To  
Attend NJ Compost Operator Certification Classes

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial has always encouraged employees to attend educational classes, seminar's and courses that will further their knowledge, realize the requirements, responsibilities and safety in their positions as employees with Commercial Township; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the committee that Shawn Ronan and Chris Drummond, employees of Commercial Township Public Works are approved to attend the New Jersey Compost Operator Certification Course given by Rutgers University.

RESOLUTION 2018-29  
Authorizing The Installation Of Guardrail On Lakeshore Drive

WHEREAS, Lakeshore Drive in Laurel Lake is a 30 foot, narrow one-way street that borders the edge crest to Laurel Lake waters; and

WHEREAS, many individuals walk Lakeshore Drive for the scenic, picturiose views of the lake; and

WHEREAS, the safety of the residents and the public that use Lakeshore Drive is uppermost in our thoughts; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the township engineer that guardrails will be installed at two designated areas on Lakeshore Drive.

Mayor Sutton asked for committee's thoughts on tonight's resolutions.

Committeeman Vizzard made motion to adopt Resolutions 2018-23 thru 2018-29 and Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion with a unanimous roll call vote taken.

Mayor asked for motion to open meeting to the public and Committeeman Jamison made motion and Committeeman Vizzard seconded.

Mr. Judson Moore asked the committee why they changed their meeting to Tuesday evening instead of on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of January.

Mayor stated that it was a holiday, Martin Luther King and it isn't fair to have a holiday and then expect employees to have to come in the evening to have a meeting.

Mr. Moore said we use to have meeting on holidays, I just wondered but if you are going to do that you should put it on the website or something. I went by here and there were people outside in the cold waiting for the recreation committee meeting.

Mayor Sutton said those people came in here and attended the meeting.

Committeeman Vizzard said all members of the recreation committee were called the week prior to the meeting that it had been cancelled.

Mr. Moore asked the committee if they were limiting their meeting to one hour.

Mayor responded no.

Mr. Moore said it is on the website that township meetings are from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Mayor said he wasn't aware and deputy clerk said they would ask Heather Whitaker if she knew why that was on our website.

Mr. Moore said everything was listed for the Christmas holidays for trash pickup but there was nothing for Martin Luther King day on the website. He said he put his trash out anyway and it got picked up.

Clerk stated that trash contractor's employees only get three holidays off, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, this year the company, according to the manager, the employees were given the day after the holiday.

Mayor Sutton said he disputes that and he was upset because it was highly publicized that a winter snow storm was coming and he felt the company should have doubled up and gotten out there and got the trash before the wind started blowing, he also stated he felt that the company was picking up the trash in the Millville, Vineland areas the day they were supposed to be here in Commercial.

Mr. Moore said he was glad to see the audit and budget on the website that it is really shaping up and coming along. He said he wanted to bring this up about the budget to Mr. Vizzard regarding the street lights, I have this printout that Ron and Fletcher have seen before and it was in regards to a meeting I had with Atlantic City Electric, I don't know if engineer was there, Pam attended. We have approximately 400 street lights and I wanted to convert them to LED. I wanted to be the first municipality to have them but Vineland is going to beat me to the punch.

Mayor Sutton said Vineland has a lot of money but we are installing LED lights in our decorative lights we have and we are installing them right now.

Mr. Moore said in our budget we allow \$63,000 for our lights, it cost \$5,259.81 monthly. If we converted the lights it would cost \$1,477 monthly with a yearly savings of \$45,393.00 that's a savings of two cents on the tax bill. He said he knows that Upper Deerfield is looking into LED lights and the County of Gloucester has put up ten million dollars to offer to their municipalities as inner loans, Gloucester wants to do every light in their county. I don't know if you heard, but at the league of municipalities few years back the Mayor of Atlantic City said he wanted to install all LED lights in Atlantic City. They budgeted six million dollars for all of the lights and now they are savings \$200,000 a year. Mr. Moore said we did a sample light at the corner of Byron and Brown by the school, take a ride over the Mauricetown Bridge and see how much brighter the lights are compared to what they were.

Mr. Moore said my next issue can save us \$100,000 a year I want you to get out of the court business. I looked at income and expenses and the income was \$37,520, we budget \$102,000 for salaries, we pay health and \$6,900 pension for the court administrator, Maryann and I say we have a net loss of \$95,000 and it is probably more than that because a couple of years back it was a loss of \$106,000. I have tried to OPRA the court but you have to go through the superior service but my point is this, how much public uses the court, only 5% of our residents, several years back it was probably 2%. It is just a service that we have provided over the years and nine other courts have combined and went with Deerfield Township. The City of Millville will take us for nothing, they won't need our staff, they have enough staff of their own and it would be a revenue for them. When Jim Quinn was there he was open to the idea. Ten or twelve years ago George and I, he was mayor at the time, we met with Joe Derella, he was Mayor of Millville. Look, over a twelve year period we have lost over a million dollars for a service that could be absorbed by shared services. You don't need to be in the court business,

you could save \$100,000 and combine that with the street light savings, you can save \$145,000 a year. Municipal government cost money to run and I'd like to see you look into it.

Mr. Moore asked how much do you have in surplus.

Mayor Sutton said approximately two million.

Mr. Moore said \$1,700,000 according to the auditor, it is extremely healthy, most municipalities don't have more than \$200,000, they don't have that kind of surplus, last year you used \$323,000, it went down and that's good. What I'm suggesting Ron, Mike and Fletcher is, instead of borrowing for the Veterans Park which is a high priority, I'm all for the veterans park but I'm not in favor of borrowing, but suggesting that you don't go through and adopt the ordinance, use the surplus, it's money just setting there, it belongs to the tax payers.

Mayor Sutton said I'd like to respond, we are borrowing this money at 0.85 per cent, practically nothing but we do have some major projects that we have to take care of, a new septic system at the state police barracks, we have major drainage problem on Brown Street in Port Norris that we might have to take care of out of surplus, we've applied for a grant, we have Phase IV Laurel Lake Drainage that needs to be finalized so everything is tied in and draining, not flooding the roads. We have roads that we can't get grants for, we are going to have to budget them and we have many municipal buildings that need maintenance. We have a letter from the auditors that says we could go either way and the last thing we want to do is raise taxes.

Jud said the park should not cost more than \$50,000 I wanted to start out small.

Mayor Sutton said the flag poles that we got quotes on came in at \$25,000, the monument, \$4,000, the bricks for the walks, We put \$100,000 out there if we don't use it all we can always put it back in the budget.

Mr. Moore asked what is going on with the Robbinstown Library is there a quick answer.

Committeeman Vizzard said the building is good as it is. We had an architect do an onsite inspection and he stated the required statutes regarding our library, we are in compliance.

Mr. Moore said then why did the fire marshal say what he did. Well let's hope it gets resolved.

Mr. Moore asked what is the salary for the committee.

Mayor said \$12,700 I believe.

Mr. Moore said it use to be lower years ago, it use to be everybody got the same raise, everybody got what everybody else got but now you've gotten up to \$12,000. I checked with Maurice River Township because I thought that was what they got but they get \$10,900 and the mayor gets \$500 or \$600 more. I thought that \$12,000 was okay but will you be taking this to \$14,000, are you going to take the four, four, and four on top of the \$12,700?

Mayor Sutton said it is a little different now, there are a lot more meetings to attend, we spend a lot more time involved with things, there's more to it now.

Mr. Moore asked if township's going with state, not a bad idea, this is when Mr. Dean retires. He said he had talked with Gordon Gross and that Gordon told him he put in a resume and did the committee consider hiring him.

Committeeman Vizzard said his resume came in after we introduced the resolution to go with the state.

Mayor Sutton said he had talked with Gordon about a year ago at the rabies clinic in Maurice River Township and he said that Dave told him that he was going to retire, he asked if we knew and I told him that we were not apprised yet. He said he would be interested in the construction official position at \$35,000. We had not talked since. I asked if he had filed an application, I was told he had not and I said to give him a call and that's when he brought in the resume.

Mr. Moore said he didn't believe the state is big on patrolling but they do what they have to do.

Mayor Sutton said we're going to try it and see if it will be beneficial for us.

Mr. Moore asked the salary of the CFO, what does she get.

Committeeman Vizzard said he didn't know what it is but it did go up.

Mr. Moore asked what was the fee of \$150.00 for Animal Control Services on a Saturday Walk a thon.

Mayor Sutton said we had him following the walkers during the walk a thon just in case a dog came after them. There are a lot of dogs in the lake and we thought this was a wise investment in the safety of the participants.

Mr. Moore asked if there are dogs running loose in the lake because he use to ride his bike up there and it was okay then.

Mr. Moore said I see on clean communities that you spent \$10,321 on emergency guide, on recycling cans. He said he thought there was a percentage rate that could only be spent. He said the township better check that out. He said the other thing the money could only be used for clean communities qualifying things. He didn't think the booklet met the criteria.

Mayor Sutton said all of the items qualified, the booklet told individuals how to recycle.

Mr. Moore said he was going to cut this short. He asked Mr. Seeley if he could call him regarding some of his bills he had submitted. He said he didn't know if it would be better for him to call Mr. Seeley or to discuss them tonight.

Mr. Seeley said that would be fine, he didn't have a problem with his calling. He told Mr. Moore to call his office and set up an appointment time.

Mayor Sutton said I'm not paying Tom \$150.00 per hour for you to call and ask him questions.

Mr. Seeley said that he would not charge the township.

Mr. Moore said I wanted to aske Ed Dennis about Phase III, what is it.

Mr. Clint Miller said it is the third phase of the Laurel Lake Drainage Project, this phase comes down Doris and Whittier and then ties into the larger drains. He said to completely finish the project we have applied for grant for Phase IV.

Mayor Sutton said Jud I have never wanted to put a time limit on anyone wanting to speak at our meeting. We have never stopped anyone from wanting to address the committee but I think you should have asked only half of the questions that you have done this evening. If we let everyone speak as long as you have tonight our meeting would last until midnight.

Mr. Moore said you're getting paid \$12,700 and you have 15 to 20 minute meetings. I think you should be responsible to answer any tax payers questions. These are questions I have from the minutes and I want to find out about certain things.

Mr. Seeley said almost every municipality has a time limit ordinance that they adopt for people who want to speak. It is not uncommon.

Mr. Moore asked the committee don't you think four, four, four is excessive. I think employees should be treated fairly but in other township's its two or two and half percent and did these employees give anything back.

Committeeman Vizzard said even with the four, four, and four raises these employees are taking home less than they made before because of paying for their health benefits and the pension rates going up.

Mayor Sutton said he feels the raises are more than justified that we have excellent employees that worry about this township and they work hard and they are still behind other municipalities, they take home less money than they took home five years ago. It's the right thing to do.

Clerk stated that the employees gave back two holidays, election day and Lincoln's Birthday.

Mr. Moore said that's the way it should be, some giving.

Mr. Miller said That's what you did Ron, you just threw it all away. Thank you.

Mr. Moore asked was that a rude and crude remark by township employees

Committeeman Vizzard said some employees here with four percentage is taking home less and there is nothing wrong with being fair, just like we are being fair to you, they are taking home less money and four percent is not a lot of money.

Mr. Moore asked if it would be alright to call you, Ron, you're here for the public, I could debate with you about things.

Mr. Moore asked about if the township is buying a new mower. He said he heard that township was letting one of the public works employees go and if that is so, the township should not hire a replacement but should contract the mowing to outside contractor.

Mr. Seeley asked where did that come from.

Mr. Moore said out on the street.

Mr. Seeley said what does that mean, out on the street.

Mr. Moore said out on the street, I'm not plugged into things like I use to be, but it's did you hear about this, did you hear about that.

Mayor Sutton said he doesn't know where that came from that there has not been any discussion of discharging anyone

Mr. Seeley said you are asking this committee a question from information that came from out on the street. He said this is not an appropriate question, this is filibustering.

Mr. Moore said he would look up filibustering

Mr. Moore said he has some other questions and he wondered if he might give the mayor a call to discuss them.

Mayor Sutton said that would be fine, he didn't have a problem with it.

Mayor Sutton asked if anyone else wanted to speak.

Mrs. Larae Smith said she was here as a member of the Land Use Board and wanted to be sworn in.

Solicitor Seeley stated the Oath of Office to Mrs. Smith and she repeated same and she has been reappointed to the Commercial Township Land Use Board for another four year term.

Mrs. Smith asked how many employees make up the road department.

Mr. Miller, public works supervisor said county himself there are five of them.

Mrs. Smith said should all of the employees take the classes for the Compost Operator Certification.

Mr. Miller said the requirement is only one person has to be certified, I thought that it would be beneficial to have others in case I was sick, on vacation, this is just a precautionary measure so if two of us are off, the land fill can still be open.

Mrs. Smith said she has a new employer and will be available to attend more of the recreation committee meeting and she said she would like to bring up some issues as a member of the Recreation committee. She said I know we have flag football, basketball, flag fishing and down on the wharf we don't have anything for the people to sit on, I think it should be fenced off and in Millville they have made a pathway that people walk down to and benches why can't we do something like that.

Mr. Miller said the public wharf was built for the businesses in Bivalve, a place for them to park and unload their catch of the day.

Mrs. Smith said can't we have that somewhere else.

Mr. Miller said the problem is the township does not own additional land on the river, it is privately owned.

Mrs. Smith said she was not aware of that. She said she would like to get some letterhead with their names on it so they could send to the various businesses for contributions, that they could send out letters to individuals to support a bake sale and raise money for different things. She said she has talked with Mr. Young and he has a good program.

Committeeman Vizzard told Mrs. Smith she had just discussed everything that was on his agenda for their next meeting.

Mr. Miller told her to not forget clean communities money.

Committeeman Vizzard said maybe we can do something when the Bivalve Station Project gets approved.

Mrs. Caruso from Charles Place, Laurel Lake said she wanted to put a \$2,000 bid on 7022 Charles Place, that it is property that adjoins hers and she would demolish the trailer within two months like she did with the other township property she bought. She said she put a letter in to buy it before but we didn't own it.



Mayor Sutton asked do we own it now and if we do we couldn't sell it to you until sometime in March because we have to advertise and notify adjoining property owners 30 days prior to the sale and there are only 28 days between this meeting and February's meeting.

Mrs. Caruso asked could someone else buy it and fix it up and rent it or demolish it and replace it.

Mr. Seeley said someone could out bid you and get a building permit and bring it up to code if they wanted to invest that kind of money.

Mayor Sutton asked what kind of shape is the trailer in.

Mrs. Caruso said it is in bad shape, needs to be torn down.

Mayor Sutton asked Mr. Miller if he would take pictures of the dwelling and property.

Mayor Sutton asked if anyone else wanted to speak and with no response he asked for motion to adjourn.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to adjourn, Committeeman Vizzard seconded.

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Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk