

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on April 15, 2019 at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ 08349

Those present;

Mike Vizzard	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Committeeman
Ryan Broughton	Committeeman
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Edward Dennis	Engineer
Hannah E. Nichols	Township Clerk
Heather Sparks	Deputy Clerk

Mayor Vizzard 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 Vizzard said Ed Dennis was running a little late due to traffic so committee will continue with Barney Hollinger's report.

Mr. Barney Hollinger, Riverfront Consultant said that at a Bayshore Council meeting there was discussion of dredging the channel, not something that will happen soon but couple years

Mayor asked Mr. Hollinger if he had heard anything about installing windmills out in the bay.

Mr. Hollinger said he hadn't heard anything lately. He asked if township had ever heard anything from South Jersey Gas or Atlantic City Electric Company since they met this past year. He said he heard they were discussing installation of gas line to Money Island.

Mayor said South Jersey Gas seemed very interested, electric company not so much, but he hasn't heard anything from them.

Mr. Ed Dennis, said they had said they would do a study and then get back to the committee. He hasn't heard anything but he will reach out.

Mayor Vizzard said we have received a letter from the Commercial Township Board of Education asking if the committee would once again give an award to a boy and girl for "School Involvement".

Committee discussed that \$100 would be awarded to each student and all three officials will attend. Clerk said she would contact the Board of Ed for an extra ticket.

Mayor Vizzard said Heather Whitaker, secretary to construction office, volunteered to do a walk-a-thon for the Commercial Township Baseball Association who are trying to raise funds for a playground and dugout. The walk-a-thon will be held at the Charles Sheppard Community Center and funding could come from recreation.

Mayor Vizzard said baseball association came before committee requesting support and he feels this is a good idea that Heather has. Committeeman Jamison and Committeeman Broughton agreed depending funding available. Regular Meeting

Mayor Vizzard said we received a letter from the NJDOT that we received a grant in the amount of \$291,164.00 for our application for Whittier, Iris and Magnolia Drive.

Mayor Vizzard said we have notice from JIF stating the state NJDOT has adopted a policy for Substance Abuse, Alcohol Use and Testing Policies that municipalities must adopt. Also a Designated Representative must be appointed to make sure testing is carried through.

Committeeman Broughton asked how Commercial Township's program works.

Committeeman Jamison said that Clint contacts our company that does the testing when a new person is hired. All testing is random, employees do not know when they will be approached.

Committeeman Broughton inquired if the designated representative who schedules the testing is tested.

Clerk confirmed that all road department employees are tested they never know who is going to be pointed out on any specific day and that includes all employees.

Committeeman Jamison said that when he worked for the gas company he said he got picked three times in a row, it doesn't matter who or where when they ask you comply.

Committeeman Broughton said he didn't have any problem with it as long as everyone was being tested.

Mayor said we have a policy in place so do a resolution to amend the Personnel Policy Procedure Manual to incorporate the NJDOT requirements for the regular meeting.

Mayor Vizzard said our application for Reconstruction of Red Fern Drive was denied and we will resubmit next go round.

Mayor Vizzard said Pam Humphries, Chief Financial Officer, has notified banks that our Bond Notes are up for renewal.

Mayor Vizzard said chief financial officer has obtained quotes for a new construction office program from MC Systems Solutions in the amount of 44,100.00. Mayor said the system they have is not capable of handling vacant properties, their system is outdated.

Committee said to put on the agenda for approval at the regular meeting.

Mayor called on Ed Dennis, Engineer, for his report.

Mr. Dennis said he has not received any word on the application filed under the Freight Impact Fund program. The township was awarded \$291,164 from state aid program for Whittier Drive, Iris Riad and Magnolia Drive. He said that Commercial Township received the third highest award in the county. Mr. Dennis said there will be a pre-construction meeting held on the Port Norris Drainage Project Phase I that township received an award of \$425,000 from NJDOT.

Mayor Vizzard thanked Ed Dennis for the update and stated we have several resolutions for the regular meeting on the 18th.

Resolution: Read Budget By Title – Public Hearing

Resolution: Budget Insertion \$291,164.00 Municipal Aid

Resolution: Commercial Township Resigns Membership In Cumberland Development Corporation due To budget restraints

Resolution: Requesting Change In Title Text Or Amount For Appropriation Pursuant To NJS40A:4-8 Amending Budget To Include Appropriation Matching Funds Into The Budget.

Resolution: Amending the Commercial Township Personnel Policy Procedure Manual To Include NJDOT State Mandate procedure for Substance Abuse, Alcohol Use and Testing Policies. Designate Personnel required.

Resolution: Authorizing Remington & Vernick Engineers To Prepare Proposal To Prepare Design, Advertise and Solicit Bids for Whittier, Iris and Magnolia Drive.

Mayor Vizzard asked for reports and being none said the only thing he had was that it was important to get the updated program for the construction office that has programs for all of their needs. He said Pam had gotten the quote from MC Systems Solutions and he thought it was a good price at \$4,100. He hoped it could get approved at the regular meeting so it can be installed.

Mr. Frank Donahue said the state did a rezoning of flood zones of municipalities and now he is in the flood plain and has to have flood insurance and this is difficult when you have a mortgage to pay, flood insurance is very expensive. He said he had read an article in the Press that discussed how township can get involved and help or if the township will get involved.

Solicitor, Thomas Seeley, said when they did the rezoning the bayshore township's got hit hard and there's really not a whole lot the townships can do. He said to talk to Barney Hollinger, he probably knows more about this than the township

Mr. Hollinger said he is aware of the rezoning and most of the properties are in the flood zone.

Mr. Ed Dennis, Engineer, said the first study and rezoning that was done was a fiasco and the municipalities complained, this was not because of storm Sandy. The first rezoning created a lot of problems for property owners. Mr. Dennis said FEMA did the rezoning again and 17 new flood maps came out.

Mr. Donahue asked how are they going to dispute it.

Mr. Hollinger said municipalities are going to have to do something to lower the tax rate.

Committeeman Jamison said he had to get flood insurance for his Mom, the cost \$1,700 and before the rezoning his mother was never in the flood zone.

Mr. Seeley asked what would the cost of flood insurance on a 200 year old historic house cost?

Mr. Hollinger said he dropped his flood insurance down to the river, lower populated areas in flood zone just can't afford the insurance.

Mr. Dennis said he would look into it and see what the township could do to get points to lower the cost for people in the flood zone

Mayor Vizzard asked Mr. Dennis if he could research the CFR program and report back to the committee in a couple of month with a plan.

Mr. Dennis said that he is not fully aware of the CFR but township can change construction requirements to have homes, buildings, to be built on a higher elevation height.

Township gets points every time they adopt a new requirement that lessens destruction from flooding the township gets points 5%, 10%, 15% percent reduction in the cost of flood insurance if the township raises the elevation of the foundation from four feet to 10 feet. If the whole township is in a flood zone, then everybody has flood insurance and with the point system everybody would benefit.

He said Cape May has points and maybe he could get some ideas of what they did that the township could institute, it probably won't give much of a return, but he'll see what he can do.

Mr. Donahue thanked the committee for listening to him.

Mayor asked for additional comments and being none asked motion to adjourn.
Motion was moved.

Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk