

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on July 18, 2019 at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Those present:

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

Mayor Vizzard preside 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 asked everyone to join the committee in the Flag Salute and Lord's Prayer.

Mayor Vizzard said we have Lt. Horsey of the New Jersey State Police present this evening.

Lt. Horsey said the following is a report for the month of June 2019, from Commercial Township there were 268 Service Calls, 169 Motor Vehicle Stops, 42 Crimes, 5 Accidents, 2 DWI's, 6 Thefts, stuff taken from yards, metal, anything that could be sold. Dollar General was robbed, this was very well planned and I can't respond to any questions regarding Dollar General due to fact that this is an ongoing investigation. Lt. Horsey said they just had a graduating class of New Jersey State Troopers and that Commercial Township will be getting nine new officers. He asked if there were any questions, one question was in regards to Dollar General and he said since it is an ongoing investigations he would not make any statements regarding the robbery. He said a Dollar General had been robbed in Vineland. A second questions was asked regarding Bike Patrols in the Laurel Lake, that they have a lot of new residents. Lt. Horsey said there are none at this time but he would look into it. Lt. Horsey asked for additional questions and Committeeman Broughton asked if there were any suspects and Lt. Horsey said no not at this time but he really couldn't comment on it.

Mayor Vizzard thanked Lt. Horsey and said we'll call on Engineer, Edward Dennis for his report.

Mr. Dennis said the 2019 NJDOT Local Freight Impact Fund Program announced on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 that Commercial Township has been awarded a grant for Port Norris Riverfront Roadway Improvements in the amount of \$1,500,000.00. Mr. Dennis stated that funding is available for projects that provide access to freight with 10% truck volume and traffic counts were completed on High Street, Miller Avenue and Memorial Avenue with results of 14.3% truck volume, we put in an application in the amount of \$2,231,230.00. Mr. Dennis said NJDOT is accepting grant applications for 2020 and committee has decided to submit two, one for Red Fern Drive as Priority 1 and one for Keron Drive as Priority 2. He said that design for Whittier, Iris and Magnolia have been submitted to NJDOT, looking to go out for bids in August, grant was in the amount of \$291,164. Township had received a NJDOT grant in the amount of \$425,000 for Port Norris Drainage Project Phase I for Brown Street, construction is in progress and Laurel Lake Drainage Improvements Phase III is in closeout process. Tax Map and GIS Maintenance is at the request of the tax assessor. Verizon has nothing planned for 2019 for cell tower. Permit application has been submitted to NJDEP for installation of replacement pipe on High Street.

1. An emergency appropriation is hereby made for unanticipated Legal Expenses due to a Legal Judgement and no adequate provision was made in the 2019 budget.
2. That said emergency appropriations shall be provided in full in the 2020 budget; and is requested to be excluded from 2020 cap pursuant N.J.S. 40A:4-53.3c(1);
3. That the statement required by the Local Finance Board has been filed with the Clerk and a copy transmitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.
4. That two certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

**RESOLUTION 2019-74**

**Approving Raffle Application Of Duck's Unlimited For Raffle  
To Be Held On September 6, 2019 At Mauricetown Fire Hall**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that upon the approval of Findings and Determinations that the request from Duck's Unlimited to conduct a raffle on September 6, 2019 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Mauricetown Fire Hall is approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of raffle is for the preservation and enhancement of wetland habitats for waterfowl and other birds and animal species.

**RESOLUTION 2019-75**

**A Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of An Application For Grant Funding and The Execution Of A Grant Contract With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation Under The Fiscal Year 2020 Municipal Aid Program For the Reconstruction Of Red Fern Drive ( Priority 1)**

WHEREAS, there is a need for roadway and drainage improvements within the Township of Commercial; and

WHEREAS, funds for roadway and drainage improvements are available to the Township of Commercial under the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Program; and

WHEREAS, an application must be filed with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in order to be considered for said funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Commercial formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers is hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2020-Reconstruction of Red Fern Drive-00307 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Commercial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Commercial and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

RESOLUTION 2019-76

A Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of An Application For Grant Funding And The Execution Of A Grant Contract With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation Under The Fiscal Year 2020 Municipal Aid Program For the Reconstruction Of Keron Drive (Priority 2)

WHEREAS, there is a need for roadway and drainage improvements within the Township of Commercial; and

WHEREAS, funds for roadway and drainage improvements are available to the Township of Commercial under the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Program; and

WHEREAS, an application must be filed with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in order to be considered for said funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Commercial formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers is hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2020-Reconstruction of Keron Drive-00308 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Commercial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Commercial and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Mayor Vizzard asked for motion on foregoing resolutions and Committeeman Jamison made motion to approve Resolutions 2019-72 thru 2019-76. Committeeman Broughton seconded the motion and a unanimous roll call vote was taken.

Mayor Vizzard said for your consideration Pam Humphries, CFO, has prepared a Bill List for the month of July 2019.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to approve the bill list for July 2019.

Committeeman Broughton seconded the motion and a unanimous roll call vote was taken.

Mayor Vizzard said we have consideration of minutes of previous meetings that were held, minutes were included in your agenda meeting packet for your review.

Minutes of Agenda Meeting of June 17, 2019  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 20, 2019  
Minutes of Personnel Meeting of July 5, 2019

Committeeman Jamison made motion to approve minutes as stated and Committeeman Broughton seconded the motion with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Vizzard asked for reports from the committee.

Committeeman Jamison said on the Brown Street Drainage Project that the contractor is moving right along.

Committeeman Broughton said with the Construction Office there have been 105 violation notices from various officers of the Construction Office, 23 unpaid registration fees and 12 Summons issued.

Mayor asked for motion to open the meeting to the public.

Mrs. Christina Smith said that she has a group that does cleanups for non-profit organizations and they did one this past weekend for PTA and they went to the park in Laurel Lake which it wasn't too bad as far as debris.

Mr. Clint Miller, Public Works Supervisor said the Veterans Memorial Park Committee did a cleanup just the Saturday before and they did it at the Laurel Lake Park.

Mrs. Smith said what they did find was a lot of high weeds under the playground equipment, no mulch to cushion a fall. Mrs. Smith did say that she has seen improvements in the lake as far as cleaning up.

Mr. Miller said the road department was short on help, one out with surgery and one quit, so it only left two guys and they were trying to catch up on the brush pickup but that they certainly will take care of the issue.

Committeeman Jamison confirmed that the road department would take care of the matter as soon as possible.

Ms. Cynthia Coverdale from Gooseberry Road, Laurel Lake said that she had attended the talk to the Mayor meeting and could he clarify the issue of public sewage and water.

Mayor Vizzard said he would be glad to do that. At that meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> Ms. Coverdale, you, asked the question on how the committee could lower taxes and my respond to you was in order to lower taxes we would have to get businesses to come into the township but in order to get businesses to come in here we would have to have public sewage and water. I said nothing that evening that this township committee was looking into public sewage and water, or that we have talked to anyone about sewage and water. You asked how can we lower taxes and the only way to do that is to have businesses come in here. Mayor Vizzard said the township committee has not raised the municipal taxes for five years, the county has, the school has but the township did not.

Mrs. Coverdale thanked Mayor Vizzard for clarifying the sewer and water issue.

Mr. Seeley said to Mrs. Coverdale what is a Laurel Lake resident going to do if he wants to sell his house and the county comes in and states you have to install a new septic on a small lot where is it going to go, where's he going to put it. So he can't sell it because he can't bring it up to code. So they just walk away from it and you end up paying their share of taxes, then the township owns it and it needs to be torn down, we don't have the money.

Mr. Seeley said it is hard not to raise taxes particularly when new families are moving into the township with a lot of children who are entering school. The Board of Education has no choice but to raise taxes with an influx of students.

Mrs. Susan Stowe said she has a group of volunteers that do cleanups for various organizations such as Little League, PTA and they did a cleanup in the Laurel Lake Park and it wasn't bad, there was not a lot of stuff.

Mr. Clint Miller, Public Works Supervisor said the Veterans Park committee did a cleanup just the week before.

Mrs. Stowe said the park has a lot of tall weeds under the playground equipment, there isn't any mulch.

Mr. Miller said he is aware and that public works will try to get out there sometime next week. He said manpower was down because of one employee having surgery and one employee just up and quit, leaving only two guys to get the brush, which was behind because of all the rain.

Mrs. Stowe said another problem some of Laurel Lake residents have is no way to get rid of their bulky items and wouldn't it be possible to have the township pick it up.

Mayor Vizzard said there is no way that the residents can afford to have bulk pickup added to trash and recycling contract, cost per year is well over \$300,000 now.

Mrs. Stowe said she realizes that but could we have a once a month bulk where people can call.

Mr. Miller said last year we had two months where we added to extra days for bulk item to be brought into the convenience center and nobody showed up, even though it was in the tax flyer and it was on our township calendar.

Committeeman Jamison said that is something that we might try to do again add extra days.

Mrs. Stowe said some residents hire people to take it for them but they might be from out of town and they can't get into our landfill because they don't have a permit.

Mr. Miller said the resident gets the permit and they can certainly go with them and use their permit.

Mr. Seeley said it is illegal for residents to pay the contractor to take their trash or bulk items, they aren't allowed to pay them.

Mrs. Stowe said I'm talking about to hire a friend, neighbor, family member.

Mr. Seeley, that's different, yes they can do that, take their permit with them.

Mr. Miller said the township use to have dumpsters throughout the township for the residents to take their bulk items to until they set them on fire. They cost too much money to let people set them on fire.

Mrs. Stowe said we do cleanups and we see the same household with the same three television sets out front, they've been there forever, is it possible to get them picked up.

Mr. Jamison said if you have a cleanup and you come across a household that has two or three items give us a call and we'll see if we can help.

Mr. Miller said Millville use to have brush and tires picked up and it cost too much money, they don't do it anymore.

Mrs. Stowe asked can we have an additional dump day.

Committeeman Jamison said it is something we can discuss.

Mayor Vizzard said the cleanups that you have done they do make a difference and you are commended for what you have been doing. I see a difference.

Mayor Vizzard asked for additional comments and being none asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Committeeman Jamison made motion and Committeeman Broughton seconded, meeting adjourned.

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Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk