

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on October 17, 2019 at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

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
Clint Miller	Road Supervisor

Mayor Vizzard 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 stand and join the committee in the Flag Salute and Lord's Prayer.

Mayor called upon New Jersey State Police for their report for the month of September 2019.

Lt. Devlin said that Lt. Horsey has been transferred as of October 26th, that he does not know where he is being transferred and that he does not know who the new station commander will be. Lt. Devlin said September was a busy month with the following from Commercial Township residents: 281 calls for service, 58 investigations, 187 motor vehicle stops, 40 DWI, and 3 motor vehicle accidents. Lt. Devlin said that during mischief night and Halloween there will be extra patrols out. He asked if there were any questions from the audience and being none, thanked the committee for having him.

Mayor Vizzard said that the committee had been contacted by the Laurel Lake Property Owners Association about being vandalized at the beaches with port-a-pots being turned over and thrown in the lake, trash cans being destroyed, trash all over. Mayor asked Lt. Devlin if he could ask the officers to patrol the beaches and Laurel Lake Streets.

Lt. Devlin said he would pass the information to the officers and see that they would patrol the areas.

Mayor Vizzard thanked Lt. Devlin and said at this time he would like to adjourn the regular meeting and discuss the one and half million dollars freight impact grant project.

Mayor said he sent letters to all adjoining property owners of the roads along the river front because the township committee is asking for input of the people who use these roads, make their living using these roads and we are asking for your assistance. Mayor said but we are here to discuss the roads, not the sluice, we can discuss the sluice during the public portion of the regular meeting, but right now let's discuss the roads and how we can make them better.

A motion was made by Committeeman Broughton to adjourn regular meeting and Committeeman Jamison seconded.

Mayor called upon Edward Dennis, Engineer, for a synopsis of the Freight Impact Grant. Mr. Dennis said the township applied for the grant funding for projects that provide access to 10% truck volume. Traffic counts were completed on High Street, Miller Avenue, and Memorial Avenue with a 14.3% truck volume; a grant application was submitted for Port Norris Riverfront Roadway Improvements. He said the committee is looking to raise the

Surfside Representative asked if the CAFRA permit could be expedited?

Mr. Dennis said no.

Mayor Vizzard asked if there were additional comments and with none, thanked everyone for attending and that the committee will try to satisfy all of their needs. He asked for a motion and second to reconvene the regular township committee meeting. Motion was made and seconded.

Mayor Vizzard asked for Engineer's report.

Mr. Dennis said that a second application has been filed for Local Freight Impact Funds for 2020, it will be Phase II and the amount requested is \$769,752.50. He said applications have been filed for NJDOT State Aid Program. Priority One is Red Fern Drive, North Ave to North Ave., Priority Two is Keron Drive to Spring Garden Road to William Avenue. Mr. Dennis said township received \$1,500,000.00 for roadway improvements on High Street, Miller Avenue and Memorial Avenue, engineering to proceed upon Township authorization. Mr. Dennis said township received grant \$291,164 for Whittier Drive, Iris Road and Magnolia Drive. Contract was awarded to Arawak Paving Company in the amount of \$209,600, change order was approved to extend improvements to Whittier and construction is being scheduled. The Port Norris Drainage Project, a NJDOT grant in the amount of \$425,000 was received and contract awarded to Landberg Construction LLC, closeout is in progress. Laurel Lake Drainage Improvements is in closeout progress and NJDEP has issued permit for High Street Replacement Pipe on Block 256, Lot 27.

Mayor thanked Mr. Dennis and said we have the minutes of previous meetings for consideration:

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019
Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Thursday, October 17, 2019

Committeeman Broughton made motion to approve, Mayor Vizzard seconded the motion and following roll call taken:

Committeeman Broughton	yes
Committeeman Jamison	abstained
Mayor Vizzard	Yes

Mayor Vizzard said Bill List has been prepared by CFO, Pam Humphries for the month of October 2019 for your consideration.

Committeeman Broughton made motion and Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion to approve Bill List. Roll call vote unanimous.

Mayor Vizzard said the Best Practice Inventory Report for 2019 was completed and copies given to the committee for review. Mayor said through diligent practices, shared services, competent spending, no increase in municipal taxes and no discrimination the township achieved a score of 43.50, the requirement for municipalities to receive Municipal Aid is a score of 30.

Mayor Vizzard said the following correspondence was reviewed at the agenda meeting held on Tuesday, October 15th meeting.

Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance had sent a letter strongly recommending that township adopt a Cyber Risk Management Plan they proposed. Committee tabled the issue until our current plan is evaluated as to what Cyber policies we have in place and what we might have to implement.

Laurel Lake Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company Inc., has filed their 2020 Bingo and Raffle Applications, all were in order, monies received and resolution approving games are needed to send to Division of Games of Chance.

Committee approved Bingo and Raffle applications and said to place resolution on regular meeting agenda.

Mayor Vizzard said Halloween will be observed on Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Vizzard said we have several resolutions and they will be read by title only:

RESOLUTION 2019-100

Resolution To Urge Voters To Support The Referendum On The Election Ballot In November, So That Veterans Or Widowed Spouses Of Veterans Who Reside In Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) Will Be Eligible For Property Tax Deductions

WHEREAS, the State Constitution for New Jersey authorizes veterans and widowed spouses of veterans who served in active duty during war and other times of emergency to receive a property tax deduction, in the amount of \$250 per year, in well-deserved recognition of their service to our country; and

WHEREAS, veterans and widowed spouses of veterans who reside in Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) have been unfairly denied eligibility for the \$250 property tax deduction because they do not own their units, even though they instead contribute to property taxes through a monthly payment, and even though they have made the same sacrifices as all veterans in our great country; and

WHEREAS, there are twenty-five CCRCs in the State which collectively house approximately 2,500 veterans or widowed spouses who are being denied the property tax deduction; and

WHEREAS, Senator Vin Gopal has sponsored legislation (S1331), that has been approved by the Senate and General Assembly, to extend the deduction to veterans and their widowed spouses in CCRCs;

WHEREAS, the extension of the deduction, because it requires an amendment to the State Constitution, must be approved by the voters at the ballot in November before it will become valid and effective; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Commercial now desire to memorialize their support of the referendum on the ballot in November, and to urge the voters of this State to vote in favor of the property tax deduction for veterans and widowed spouses of veterans who reside in CCRCs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee of the Township of Commercial urges voters to support the referendum on the ballot in November 2019, so that veterans and widowed spouses of veterans who reside in Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) will be eligible for the \$250 property tax deduction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee believes that this small benefit to our veterans and widowed spouses of veterans who reside in CCRCs is a proper and warranted acknowledgement of the tremendous sacrifices that veterans have given to protect and serve our great nation.

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.

Certified as true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Commercial on this 17th day of October, 2019.

RESOLUTION 2019-106
Approving Change Order #2 Whittier Drive, Iris Road, Magnolia Drive
Reconstruction Project Amount Of \$8,925.00

WHEREAS, additional work is required to Iris Road For the following:

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
Extra 13	Concrete Vertical Curb	70 I.F.	\$40.00	\$2,800.00
Supplemental				
SI	Concrete Gutter 8" Thick	175 I.F.	\$35.00	\$6,125.00

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township Of Commercial that Change Order #2 is approved for additional reconstruction on Iris Road in the amount of \$8,925.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that contract was awarded to Arawak Paving Company, Inc. in the amount of \$209,600.00 and that Change Order #1, Change Order #2, adjusted amount is \$245,571.00 representing 17.16% increase of original contract amount.

Mayor Vizzard asked for motion and second regarding Resolution 2019-100 thru 106.

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

Mayor Vizzard asked for reports from officials.

Committeeman Broughton said that Code Enforcement Officer, Steve DiSario inspected 177 rentals and issued 115 violations notices.

Committeeman Jamison said that he had spoken to the New Jersey State Police Commander regarding the patrolling of Laurel Lake because of vandalism. It had been reported by the Laurel Lake Property Owners Association that individuals had turned over the port-a-pots at the beaches and thrown them in the lake, upset trash containers and threw contents all over streets. Individuals are getting out of hand. He said commander said that he would see to it that officers would do more patrols in Laurel Lake area.

Mayor Vizzard asked for motion to open meeting to the public. So moved.

Mrs. Maggie Fye, 7328 Keron Drive, Laurel Lake, had been informed that complaint had been filed regarding her having chickens and a rooster that roam loose and get into neighbors yards.

Mrs. Fye appeared before the committee, introduced her two daughters and read a letter requesting the township committee amend the zoning ordinance to allow residents to have chickens in Laurel Lake. That the chickens provide food for the family, that the children

belong to the 4-H and show them at county fair, that she is involved in many organizations that benefit the residents. She said she would pen her chickens up. That she has six neighbors and only one complained and she presented a letter from her next door neighbor that she said the letter stated that she was the best neighbor that he has ever had and the complainant was angry because a chicken laid an egg on her grass. Mrs. Fye felt amending the ordinance would benefit everyone. Mrs. Fye said she enjoys living in Laurel Lake that she has moved back, that she lived her before, moved but has returned.

Mrs. Fye's daughter read a letter to the committee asking them not to take the chickens away.

Committeeman Broughton asked Mrs. Fye if this complaint was the only complaint she has had.

Mrs. Fye responded no, this was the second notice.

Mayor Vizzard told Mrs. Fye that the committee was in agreement, that they will not amend the ordinance to allow anyone that wants to have chickens to do so. Laurel Lake is a residential area, many lots not big enough for residents to have chickens. He said the committee does not want to make her get rid of her chickens, she is to pen them up as she said she would do and she needs to get rid of the rooster. If she does this, her neighbors will have nothing to complain about and she and her children will still maintain their chickens.

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

Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk