

Minutes of the Agenda meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on December 16, 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
Heather Sparks	Deputy Clerk
Those Absent:	Hannah Nichols
	Township 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 lets go to our guest, Barney Hollinger.

Mr. Hollinger reported that he left a report from the Bayshore council. That was from last Thursday. I also attended a meeting from December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor also attended with the assistant commissioner for land use. The other girl was the state planning director.

Edward Dennis, Engineer also attended that meeting and recapped what he took from the meeting. Mr. Dennis said it sounds like they are trying to funnel everything through the Planning Boards process which is the states has to go the planning office to have our Master Plan endorsed by the state. When that happens, you open yourself up to certain exceptions in certain regulations. Our big ask when we were there is to help us out with regulations down on the river to make it easier with DEP with certain permits and we weren't the only ones, there were other people with the similar asks. What they were hammering down on was to do that through the plan endorsement process in then we can work through that process to create these exceptions. They were trying to make a commitment to move the process along faster, they talked about bring on additional staff. So that was my take on it. Basically, the next step for us will be to get the plan endorsement process started.

Barney Hollinger followed by saying they are calling it a NODE. We started by asking for this as a SAMP. The assistant commissioner didn't think that is the way to go because that is a very long process and there haven't been any successfully done in the state of NJ. But a NODE has been done. One near an airport up north and one somewhere near Barnagate. I think its going to go forward.

Mayor asked Deputy Clerk if letter went up to Mr. Brown for Center Designation. Heather Sparks indicated that she had sent it to him but has not received a response yet.

Mr. Hollinger said that Meghan Wren was hired by the state planning board and he felt that would help.

Mayor Vizzard asked Mr. Hollinger if they were looking for people to go to meeting in Trenton, He will go. Mayor asked if Mrs. Wren was going, Mr. Hollinger did not know but thought that Mr. Ken Whilden of Maurice River Township would be going.

Mayor Vizzard called on Ed Dennis for the Engineers report.

Mr. Dennis said to put a bow on that I think what is going to be important is to get specific once we get into that process because the planning process can tend to be abstract, you really need to drill down and find what your looking for because you will have an endorsement plan but not much to show for it.

Mr. Hollinger said he wanted to add that the County Engineer is supposed to meet the 18<sup>th</sup> with DEP to go over relief on raising roads, fixing berms and all that. That's another positive.

Mr. Dennis said he spoke to the County Engineer and he is trying to get a county wide permit for some of these routine activities and that way we can piggyback on some of those approvals.

Mr. Dennis going to my report, the 2020 Local Freight Impact Fund, we haven't heard anything on that. This is round 2 we submitted recently; it will probably be a while before hearing about that. We

did hear on the 2020 State Aid Program and we did get \$305,070.00 for the reconstruction of Red Fern Drive. That is great news so we will get that in the works for 2020. We will get the job designed and out to bid, we are looking for a spring bid and late spring construction. We have been applying for that road for years, and it finally came through. Under our existing capital projects, we are getting base plans and survey completed for the river front roadway project. Once we have that information mapped out then we can really take a look at what our highest priorities will be, and we talked about the bridges too. I did bring the bridges to the County's attention to see if there is anything, they can do to help improve their bridges while we do our road work. Whittier, Iris, and Magnolia, the paving is complete. There is a punch list of items on that project and we are trying to set up a meeting with the contractor to go over those items. One of the roads, Whittier didn't come out very good. The contractors are already aware of it, so we are trying to set up a meeting with them to go out and look at it. The good news is that we were able to get that work done and we were able to stretch that grant another block out of Whittier. We were able to get huge bang for our buck out of that job a lot more than we originally bargained for. I don't have the tally, but we got a significant amount of additional work done on this project. I'll figure out what that was. The last two jobs on the list there are on closeout and then tax maps are just routine.

Mayor Vizzard said while you are on your report, I don't know if you got this letter, but I got a letter from DOT is unable to provide municipal aid in the reconstruction of Keron Drive.

Mr. Dennis said yes that was a priority two. We can always roll that up to 1<sup>st</sup> priority next year or we can look at something else.

Mayor moved on to correspondence, we have a letter from Cumberland County Department of Planning requesting the committee pass a resolution in support of the Chando Farm, Block 214 lot 21, 78 acres to sell its redevelopment rights through the Farmland Preservation Program. This has already been approved by the Cumberland County Agriculture Development Board and the State Agriculture Development Committee. In order for the State and County to allocate funds for easement purchase, a resolution will be required by the Township. Mayor asked the other committee members if they are ok with this to go on for Thursday's meeting. Mr. Broughton said yes.

Mayor said we have a letter from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation informing the Township it has been selected to receive funding for fiscal year 2020 Municipal Aid Program for the reconstruction of Red Fern Drive in the amount of \$305, 070.00.

We received the 2020 contract from SJ Regional Animal Shelter for services. Cost for 2020 is \$24,835.00 paid monthly at \$2,069.59. There is an increase with part of that reason being last years contract was for 10 months and this year will be for 12 months. Mayor said he got no where so I'm assuming its ok to put this on for Thursday. Mr. Jamison said yes.

We received a letter from Comcast informing the Township of the commencement of the Renewal Process for providing services to the Township. Comcast would like to reach a mutually agreeable renewal of the cable television agreement through good faith negotiations, thus making formal procedures unnecessary. So, I guess the way we will go is to invite comcast representatives to one of our public meetings and start the process from there.

Solicitor Seeley said one of the things you will want to see if they have anything to give out. Usually you take it or leave it but if you would like, I can reach out to them to see if we can get something extra. Sometimes, they have incentives. Mayor asked what kind of incentives would that be? Mr. Seeley said whatever like if we have bad service in certain areas or they could do something extra for the township hall or it could be nothing.

Mr. Dennis said now would be the time to air any grievances.

Barney Hollinger said years ago we made an agreement with them for up at the State police barracks and that they put service to the whole township, they have done down to waterfront. I would just ask them if there is anywhere in the township that hasn't been done.

Mayor said the Clerk's office received a call from John Bruno of Bruno Associates Inc. Mr. Bruno has over 40 years in grant writing and feels he can help the township. Mr. Bruno has requested a meeting with the Committee to discuss how he can help. He is requesting a meeting on a Monday or Friday. The Mayor feels it would be good to meet with him. He doesn't know what he can do for us exactly, but he would like to talk to him. We don't have a grant writer currently outside of what Ed has been able to get us for the roads.

Barney Hollinger suggested housing rehabilitation.

Mayor said Heather Sparks was on that one already. So, if you guys are good with that, we can get something set up for a Monday or a Friday. Mayor asked Deputy Clerk to set up for a Monday Agenda Meeting.

Mayor said we have resolutions.

Resolution authorizing the Cancellation or Refund of Property Taxes Due to Approval of 100% Disable Veteran's Application

Resolution Authorizing Tax Collector to Refund Credits or Cancel Any Taxes Under \$10.00 Pursuant to NJSA 40:5-17.1

Resolution for Budget Line Item Transfer

Mayor said those resolutions will be on for Thursday night.

Mayor asked for reports from officials.

Mr. Jamison said he has nothing. Mr. Broughton said he didn't either.

Mayor Vizzard said that in reviewing previous meeting minutes Barney has said we had several streetlights out one being at the ballfield. We were going to check to see if we were being billed for that. Mayor asked Deputy Clerk if she knew if it had been looked into. Deputy stated she did not think it had been looked into. Mayor said we need to follow up on that and find out if we are being billed for it.

Committeeman Jamison said speaking of lights, The Sheppard building is to dark and we need more lights around the building. If people are coming in the front, its dark coming in the building. I believe I mentioned this to Clint last week, but we need to get more light up there.

Committeeman Broughton asked Mr. Mayor if he ever heard back from the solar company that was interested in the property across from the school. Mayor said no, he hadn't heard back from him, he hasn't returned any of his calls.

Mayor said at the last meeting it was also mentioned that the Environmental committee is looking for members and He has a letter from a Loraine Shourds and she would like to member of the environmental commission.

Mayor asked if there was anything else and being none, asked for motion to adjourn. Motion was moved.

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Heather Sparks, Deputy Clerk