

Minutes of the Commercial Township Agenda Meeting held by the Township Committee on August 17, 2020 at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Those present:

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

Those absent:

Ryan Broughton	Committeeman
Clint Miller	Public Works Supervisor

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 the state police have not been in attendance for several meetings. Mayor said he would give them a call to see if they will attend next meeting and give their monthly report.

Mayor called upon Barney Hollinger for any reports regarding riverfront.

Mr. Hollinger said he had nothing to report on the riverfront but that a bus is being parked on Memorial Avenue that is blocking access to his property.

Mrs. Hollinger confirmed and said that the bus should not be parked there.

Mayor said that he would turn the information over to Steve, Code Enforcement Officer to see if there was anything he could do.

Mayor called upon Edward Dennis, Commercial Township's Engineer.

Mr. Dennis stated that township had received bids for the Reconstruction of Red Fern Drive on August 13th and the following bids were submitted:

South State Inc.	\$237,500.00 Base Bid	Alternate 1 \$295,500.00
West Bay Construction Inc.	\$296,420.00 Base Bid	Alternate 1 \$321,220.00
Asphalt Paving Systems	\$267,634.00 Base Bid	Alternate 1 \$306,384.00
Paving Plus, LLC	\$434,523.00 Base Bid	Alternate 1 \$454,323.00

Mr. Dennis said he had reviewed the bids, found them to be in order, and recommends that committee award a contract to the lowest bidder which is South State Inc. With the approval of the solicitor and certification of funds from the chief financial officer, and committees approval, the contract be awarded for Base Bid of \$237,500.00. If the committee wants to include alternate 1 or part thereof, we will submit a change order for that. He asked that a resolution awarding contract be placed on the agenda of the Regular meeting to South State Inc.

Mr. Dennis said the township is accepting bids for the Port Norris Riverfront Roadway Improvements Project on Tuesday, August 18th at 11:00 a.m. He said four companies have received the specifications. He hopes the bids come in under the estimated amount as they did for Red Fern.

Mr. Dennis said previous grants have been closed out and others are in the process of reimbursement to the township.

Mayor Vizzard asked Mr. Dennis if he had been in contact with the county regarding the bridges that will be involved with the raising of roads.

Mr. Dennis said the he has and there's no problems.

Mayor Vizzard said the committee has received the following correspondence.

Mayor said we have received a letter from the NJ Department of Transportation, regarding the Port Norris Riverfront Roadway Improvement. That Executive Order #215 requires the preparation of an Environmental Assessment for projects exceeding (\$100,000,000. 00) one million in construction costs. New Jersey Department of Transportation has determined after review of project documentation, that the project is exempt from F0215 review.

Mayor Vizzard said this is really good news and I feel this should be removed from the regular meeting agenda.

Mr. Dennis confirmed that not having to do the Environmental Assessment is a savings.

Mayor Vizzard said we received a letter from the New Jersey Department of Transportation with the announcement that applications are now being accepted for the 2020 transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. The TA Set-Aside federal funds provide for community based "non-traditional" surface transportation related projects. Applications for this program are due on or before November 24, 2020.

Deputy Clerk, Heather Sparks, sent e-mail to committee asking if funding could be used for Berry Avenue Sluice or the Mauricetown Park from the Alternatives Set-Aside Program.

Engineer, Ed Dennis, said he would find out what qualifies for non-traditional projects. He was sure the Berry Avenue Sluice would not but possibly the Mauricetown Park.

Mayor said we have a letter from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Organization is asking Committee to sign a Proclamation designating September 17-23 as Constitution Week. This is to encourage study and educate the public about the Constitution which was adopted by the American Congress of the Confederation on September 17, 1787.

Mayor Vizzard said I'm not sure what they are really asking of the committee. The Constitution was adopted back in 1787. Let's table this for the time being.

Letter from The Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL) has asked the firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacoms LLC. To develop a new Model Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual for New Jersey Municipalities. The new version attempts to streamline the previous handbook removing policies which are deemed to be unnecessary and not required under the law. Once the new policy is received it will be reviewed for adoption.

Mayor following ordinances will be on the agenda:

**ORDINANCE 2020-601
AMENDING ORDINANCE 97-383**

ORDINANC PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS. THE REGULATIONS AND THE LICENSING OF DOGS; RESTRICTING THE RUNNING AT LARGE AND PROVIDING THE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

Amending Section C: Unlicensed Dog Fines

At Present: Fine \$55.00

Unlicensed Dogs: Fine \$56.00

Amendment in compliance of CS Regional Court.

Mayor said ordinance will have second reading and public hearing at the regular meeting on the Thursday, the 20th.

Mayor introduction of ordinance to be in compliance with Upper Deerfield Municipal Court

**ORDINANCE 2020-602
AMENDING ORDINANCE 97-383**

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS, THE REGULATIONS AND THE LICENSING OF DOGS, RESTRICTING THE RUNNING AT LARGE AND PROVIDING THE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS THEREOF:

Mayor Vizzard said we have several resolutions for the regular meeting:

Resolution: Resolution of the Township of Commercial Increasing Bid Threshold and Reaffirming Appointment of Qualifies Purchasing Agent Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 And N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.4

Resolution: Governing Body Certification Of The Annual Audit.

Resolution: Five Year Sand Mining Permitting License To Sahara Sands for Block 215, Lots 75 & 76

Resolution: Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020-2025

Resolution: List of Uncollectable Taxes

Resolution: Recognizing Samantha Layton, Miss Stars and Stripes Outstanding Teen And Jessenia and Ava Kaganzev For Providing Flowers And Flags and General cleanup at the Commercial Township Veterans Memorial Park In Honor Of Purple Heart Day. Also, Jessenia Is A Stars And Stripes Outstanding Teen.

Resolution: Awarding Contract To South State Inc., Bridgeton, NJ for the Reconstruction Of Red Fern Drive In The Amount Of \$237,500.00

Mayor asked about the drainage pipe on the Red Fern Project.

Mr. Dennis said the township could negotiate with South State, it would be within the grant with the contractor. It could be done Change Order.

Mr. Dennis said lots of specs out on the Riverfront Roadway Project and he hopes we will be able to award on the 20th. He said we are squared up with DOT, get both jobs done in September, there's one small area of conflict with South Jersey Gas. The scenario is they want us to keep patch off of the side of the road.

Mayor Vizzard said hopefully they can do their thing.

Mayor asked Mr. Seeley if he had anything to report with Mr. Raymond White and our township property.

Mr. Seeley stated he had sent two certified letters to Mr. White. He responded and called him on receiving the first letter and asked if he could have time to remove tools from the garage. Mr. Seeley said I told him we would give him time but that he should let him know when he got them out. Mr. Seeley said he has not received any response to the second certified.

Mayor Vizzard said for Mr. Seeley to send him another certified letter telling him that he must remove all tools, that the property belongs to the township.

Clerk asked if committee wanted her to reach out to previous bidder on property to see if he is still interested.

Mr. Seeley said clerk can do that but she must inform bidder that there is still a cloud over this property. We have no idea why Mr. White did not record the deed when he purchased it in 2017, he waited until 2019 after the township had foreclosed for non-payment of taxes.

Mayor told clerk to contact bidder to see if still interested in the property.

Committeeman Jamison said he would like to state that road department went in and demolished the huge boat in Laurel Lake , Robert Givens. He understands there were several people watching and happy that boat was torn down.

Clerk asked committee if they were going to award contract to Perryman's and did they want resolution on the agenda of the regular meeting.

Mayor said they would award to Perryman's in the amount of \$8,950, lowest bidder.

Mayor asked for comments from the public and being none asked for motion to adjourn.

Committeeman Jamison made motion and it was moved.

Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk