

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on November 19, 2020 at 6:00 P.M., Via virtual Platform Zoom.

Those Present:

Mike Vizzard	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Committeeman
Ryan Broughton	Committeeman
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Edward Dennis	Engineer
Heather Sparks	Deputy Clerk
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 asked that attendees join him in the flag salute and the Lord's Prayer.

Mayor said We have no Officials Present.

Mayor said we have consideration of previous meeting minutes. The agenda meeting from October 13th was cancelled. We have the minutes of the regular meeting of October 15, 2020. Do I have a motion to approve and a second? Committeeman Broughton made a motion and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison, Roll Call, all were in favor.

Mayor said we have the bill list for consideration for the month of November as prepared by the Chief Financial Officer. Do I have a motion and a second to approve the bill list? Committeeman Jamison made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Broughton, Roll call, all were in favor.

Mayor aske Ed Dennis for the Engineers report.

Mr. Dennis said not much has changed from Monday. Mr. Dennis indicated the Red fern Drive and Riverfront project is moving along. Mr. Dennis reported that notice has been received that we received the 2021 grant from the DOT for Keron Drive and Parsons Lane and that grant amount is \$280,000.00. Mr. Dennis expects to wrap up the current projects by the end of the year.

Mayor said we have correspondence

Mayor said, we have a letter from the Cumberland County Purchasing Office soliciting bids for Rock Salt. Contract to Mid-Atlantic Salt LLC at \$49.90 a for Public Works as a member of Cumberland County Cooperative.

Mayor said we have a letter from Bayshore Center in Bivalve requesting a consumption license to sell alcoholic beverages. The committee feels this would help them financially and has contacted the state and other officials to find out which license would best fit them.

Mayor said we have a letter from the Weaver Group, LLC. They are a company that buys up leases that have Cellular Towers on Municipal owned property. They would offer \$500,000. Committee said they would have to look into whether it would be a lucrative move for the Township over the long hall, towers are not going away.

Township Clerk said she asked the CFO to give a breakdown of what we have received over the course of the years just so we can get a better idea how lucrative it has been.

Mayor said he feels that it will most likely be best to keep the lease intact.

Mayor said we have a letter received from the Cumberland County Law Department; they want feedback on allowing residential vehicles into convenience centers with the agricultural tags. Monday, we said the committee would discuss the issue and get back to the county. Mayor feels they all agree they don't want the Commercial Tags.

A letter from Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance fund requesting we adopt a resolution appointing Robert Conner, Mints Insurance as Risk Management Consultant. The resolution is on the agenda.

The Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance has prepared a policy "The Protection and Safe Treatment of Minors" This becomes part of our Policy and Procedures manual. We are in favor, a resolution is on the agenda.

A letter from Attorney Michael Gruccio requesting the Committee approve a five-year sand mining license to US Silica. The Land Use Board passed Resolution 2020-12 approving five-year license to US silica. Resolution on the agenda.

Committee received letter from Mr. John Ball, corner of High and Yock Wock Road, he is requesting a guide rail on his corner because it is on a curve and his home has been hit back in 2016 and almost again October 10th.

Mayor said we have looked into that. As stated before, that bend does not justify us putting in a guide rail. I don't think it is a good thing for the township to do as far as assuming responsibility.

Committeeman Jamison asked what the County had to say about it.

Mayor said he did speak with the County and they specifically said they would not do it. It does not meet the criteria in regard to the state, to put a guide rail in. There is no reason for a guide rail there to protect the traveling public. The only reason the state would allow a guide rail is to protect the traveling public. It is not to protect private property. If someone were to hit that guide rail and get killed, the township would be the one who put the guide rail in and would be responsible. I don't believe we should be responsible.

Ed Dennis said think of it this way. Guide rail is meant to prevent someone driving on the road from running into a hazard on their side of the road. So, you have a ditch on the side of the road and you don't want someone drifting off to the shoulder and driving into that ditch. Guide rail is not meant to protect someone from crossing over the entire roadway to the other side of the road so another words if you were to put guide rail in front of that persons home you would need to put it for the vehicles that are driving in the opposite direction. You don't put guide rail in for traffic across the street, the direction of travel, that's number one. The other thing I would say is you do have a curve and what we can do is and it is a low cost option is put in some chevron signs in front of this property so the cars coming down Yock Wock... this is an approved standard to help vehicles guide around that curve. That is something that is low cost and comply with standards for this type of situation.

Mayor said that the County did suggest we put up something reflective there to draw the attention of the driver to show them there is a curve there.

Committeeman Broughton asked what the cost of the signs might be in comparison to the guide rail.

Ed Dennis said guide rail properly installed is expensive. Chevron signs and I'd have to look at that curve, but it would probably be 3 or 4 signs and its something Public works can do, not that im trying to put work on them.

Committeeman Broughton said well it is an alternative. Its not exactly what he wants but it does provide some obstruction.

Mayor said it is better than doing nothing. We don't want to just do nothing. We need to do something, but a guide rail is not the answer.

Committeeman Broughton said I vote for the signs. It is a better alternative.

Ed Dennis said he could provide a little sketch, I can get it to Clint, whatever you need to be in compliance, and we can go from there.

Mayor said ok good.

Committeeman Jamison said he is good with putting something out there because it has been an ongoing problem.

Mayor said I think we all agree with you Fletcher. I think putting reflective signs is a good thing to do so that's what we are going to do.

Committeeman Jamison said its better than not doing anything at all.

Mayor said we have received a letter of resignation from Jose Esquilin, Jr. resigning as regular member of the Land Use Board. Mayor asked for a motion and a second to accept the resignation.

Committeeman Jamison made the motion to accept and was seconded by Committeeman Broughton. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Mayor said we have a memo from Heather Whitaker, Secretary to the Land Use Board that with the resignation of Mr. Esquilin that she recommends that Alternate 1, Heike Wheatly be appointed to fill his unexpired term as regular member to December 31, 2020 and move Alternate 11, Mat Wheatly to Alternate 1 expiration date December 31, 2021.

Mayor said we received a response from Joseph Derella, Freeholder Director of County of Cumberland., to the Committees letter to the county requesting that in 2021 the Freeholders would be mindful and carrying of the many taxpayers that are unemployed, our many seniors on fixed income when they prepare the 2021 county budget. Mr. Derella responded that the county Commissioners are committed to fiscal responsibilities and are keenly aware of the impact that the tax burden has on our residents, including those in Commercial township.

Mayor said we have resolutions.

Resolution 2020-96 Awarding contract to Mid-Atlantic LLC for Rock Salt at \$49.90 per ton for Public Works.

- Resolution 2020-97 Appointing Robert Conner, Mints Insurance, as risk Management Consultant 2021.
- Resolution 2020-98 Adopting Policy “The Protection and treatment of Minors” as part of Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Resolution 2020-99 Authorizing Remington & Vernick to file application and execution of a grant with DOT Under Fiscal Year 2021 Local Freight Impact Fund for Roads and Bridges.
- Resolution 2020-100 Authorizing Tax Collector to place billing back onto property
- Resolution 2020-101 Authorizing Tax Collector to transfer Overpayment to other tax Years or refund to Owner or Payer Representative.
- Resolution 2020-102 Five Year Sand Mining License to U.S. Silica Company to run concurrent with current license, March 1, 2021 thru March 1, 2026
- Resolution 2020-103 Approving Bond Anticipation Note with Newfield National Bank at 1.80% percent Interest
- Resolution 2020-104 Heike Wheatly appointed regular member to land use board to December 31, 2020 and Matt Wheatly Appointed as Alternate 1 to December 31, 2021.

Committeeman Broughton asked what the Bond Anticipate Note was for.

Clerk replied it is for the \$400,000 to buy road equipment. They originally came back at 2.50%. Bond Council said to go back and tell them that is too much money and they came back with 1.80 so it was a big savings on interest.

Committeeman Broughton asked if the amount went up.

Clerk replied no.

Committeeman Brought made a motion to approve Resolutions 2020-96 thru 2020-104. Committeeman Jamison seconded. Roll call, all in favor.

Mayor asked if any officials have anything to report.

Committeeman Broughton said he had nothing to report.

Committeeman Jamison said he had a text from Fred Hundt. He is saying there are tractor trailers passing through stopping to see which way to go trying to get to the sand plant. They are turning down Highland Avenue and them making a left at that intersection. And going by his house. He suggests these sand companies put out more signs, so the truckers know better where they are going.

Mayor Vizzard said he doesn't have a problem with that. I think putting more signs up is a good idea.

Committeeman Jamison said it is US Silica correct? Do they put up the signs or do we?

Clerk indicated that it is a County road and maybe they have directional signs. They put the signs up saying No Truck Traffic.

Committeeman Jamison briefly went over where he though signs could be placed.

Committeeman Jamison said we can get in touch with US Silica and also the County and see what they say.

Mayor Vizzard said I'm looking at a message I got from the County today. Commercial Township has 58 Covid cases and 3 deaths.

Clerk indicated that we have been increasing every day.

Mayor asked for a motion to open to the public. Committeeman Jamison made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Broughton.

Seeing no public wishing to speak, Mayor asked for a motion to close to the public. A motion and second was made.

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



Heather Sparks, Deputy Clerk