

Minutes of the Agenda meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on January 19, 2021 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
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 let's start with the Engineers Report.

Ed Dennis said there isn't much to report. The Red Fern job is just about wrapped up. The Riverfront Job, there is a little bit of work out there. Nick has been checking on it but both jobs are looking good. I think the township just got reimbursed a big chunk of money from DOT for the Riverfront, I think over a million bucks. So, both projects are winding down. Let's see what the 2021 state aid grant that we will work with Pam on for this year's budget. We have another grant application in for some additional work down to the river.

Mayor Vizzard said I do have a question/complaint that has been given to me a couple times. Mayor Vizzards question is about the stuff that was put on the side of the road. Does it have to be that stuff? It is sloppy stuff. I don't know if it is a county requirement or what but people pulling up on the side of the road are getting stuck in this black mud or whatever it is they are putting down.

Ed Dennis said it should be asphalt. I don't know if what your looking at are areas that haven't been paved yet. What they had to do, the shoulder of the road and we did this on the Berry Ave section too, where we raised the road you have a drop off on the side of the road so to stabilize that slop so it doesn't erode away. When the tide goes up and down, the water will eb and flow against the side of the road and if we don't put this asphalt down the road will get undermined from the water

Clint Miller said I think what Mike is talking about in particular is on Red Fern both sides.

Ed said he thought he was talking about the riverfront.

Mayor Vizzard said well it is at both locations, but the biggest thing is Red Fern dr. It's this black topsoil stuff that's been put down the side of the road. They put the same stuff down

on my road when they paved it, it's just junk. I just don't understand why it is there. I understand stabilizing the side of the road, but this stuff doesn't stabilize it at all it just makes mud.

Ed Dennis said I know they will do like a repair strip on the side of the road just to kind of dress it up, but it sounds like what you are describing is bad.

Clint Miller said Nick talked to them this week and in the spring, they are going to replace the topsoil and seeding. Seems like the riverfront is tight but Red Fern bad as far as being mucky.

Ed Dennis said he will check into it.

Mayor Vizzard said we will move on to Correspondence.

Letter from Army Corps of Engineers. Notification and Safety Education Initiative at Department of Defense Formerly Used Defense Sites. Information will be mailed to landowners whose property may be subject to environmental or safety concerns linked to past Department of Defense activities.

Correspondence from Tony Stanzione of the Cumberland Development Corporation (CDC) regarding Commercial township renewing membership with the corporation. 1-year term.

Mayor asked if the committee was in agreement to have this on for the meeting Thursday.

Committeeman Jamison didn't have a problem with it.

Committeeman Broughton asked what the benefits are in being a part of it.

Mayor Vizzard said the biggest thing right now is trying to do something with the Animal Sheltering. There are 10 members right now with CDC meaning municipalities that are trying to come up with a different location for animal sheltering, so we don't have to go back to Vineland.

Solicitor Seeley said he has heard from other towns that it has really evolved and has been beneficial.

Mayor Vizzard said there was a time when he was trying to drop out of it but they have come a long way. I think it's a good idea to have other municipalities join in have a group effort to try and get things done.

Committeeman Broughton asked what the cost is.

Mayor Vizzard said he isn't sure but thought around \$700. He isn't sure but he knows it is half of what it originally was because that is the deal he made with the CDC when we re-joined.

Deputy Clerk confirmed it is \$2,850.00 for the year with four (4) installments of \$712.50.

Mayor indicated that then the regular cost would have been \$5,000.00.

The committee agreed to have on for approval at the regular meeting Thursday.

Tax Collector, Leslie Kraus provided her statutorily required annual report to the Committee. Report shows that the collection rate for 2020 was 91.22%. Despite the difficult year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, collection rate was able to maintain a similar rate as 2019.

Mayor said the only comment I have on that is for Tom, where are we at with the foreclosures, we have to push that through.

Mr. Seeley said as you know, we are in the final stages because we posted all the notices around the Township. I don't want to guarantee anything because of how long things have taken in the courts but everything we need to do is done. It is now up to the courts to finalize that. From what I understand, January 24th is the last day for them to redeem and then it will move forward to final foreclosure Judgement.

Mayor Vizzard said the report says here the township is holding 309 tax sale certificates.

Mr. Seeley said whatever was included in the foreclosure will come off of that. We can do as many as you want, you guys usually give me a list of about 30, it just depends on how much you have in the budget for it.

Nick DiCosmo, RVE joined the meeting. Mayor asked Nick about the black muck at the side of the new roads.

Mr. DiCosmo explained that nothing has been done with that yet. What is there is just what was there. The existing mud that was there. That will get delt with when they topsoil and seed but that won't be until the Spring because it is too cold right now.

Mayor said I'm going to hold you to it. The County did the same thing on his road and they never came back.

Mr. DiCosmo said just know that no topsoil has been put down yet so what is there will not stay there. It will be hydroseeded.

Mayor said last correspondence is a letter from Michael Gruccio, Esquire on behalf of Silvi Concrete asking the Committee to assign the mining license currently issued to U.S. Silica for the Dragston mine to Silvi.

Committeeman Broughton asked the Mayor how that works. Do we just transfer the license from one company to the other?

Mayor Vizzard said I believe we approve the transfer.

Solicitor Seeley said they did just go through the permitting process with the planning and zoning board and they are submitting to the Township Committee for final approval.

Mayor said the next item we have is an introduction to Ordinance 2021-603, Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a Cap Bank.

Mayor said we have resolutions.

Resolution 2021-25 Approving membership in the Cumberland Development Corp

Resolution 2021-26 Approving the Appointment of Gretchen Esquilin to the position of Secretary to Construction Office and Land Use Board

Resolution 2021-27 Authorizing Transfer of Sand Mining License from U.S. Silica Company to Silvi Concrete for Portion of Dragston Mine and accept Replacement Bond as Performance Guarantee

Resolution 2021-28 Budget Line Item Transfer

Mayor asked Deputy Clerk if she knew what resolution 2020-34 was about.

Deputy Clerk said that it was something that came to light today, there is a son and father with the same name, Gerry Passarella. Earlier in the year, one of them came in and there was some confusion with the property that the payment was applied and apparently it was applied to the wrong property. There is now a shortage because of the payment error which would put Mr. Passarella in tax sale without this being corrected.

Mayor Vizzard asked if there were any reports from officials.

Committeeman Broughton said no other than Gretchen to the construction office. It's the only thing new in the Construction office.

Mayor aske Committeeman Jamison if he had anything. Mr. Jamison said no.

Mayor said the only thing he has is, going back to the meeting minutes, we talked about putting signs up on High and Yock Wock. Did that word ever get back to Mr. Ball. I don't want to drop the ball on that. I want to get it done.

Committeeman Broughton said I thought Ed was going to get Clint some information

Ed Dennis said I wasn't sure where that was left but if that's the case I will, we are talking about the Chevrons right. I'll get that over to you.

Mayor asked Deputy Clerk what the status of the Bayshore Centers interest in a liquor license.

Deputy Clerk said she has not spoken to anyone at the state about that. She needs to call the state to find out what needs to be done to proceed with the license we have available which is a consumption license.

Mayor indicated that he has a couple calls from over there. I really don't know what to tell them other than we are working on it.

Committeeman Broughton said is there any way we can respond to Mr. Balls letter.

Mayor Vizzard said that is what he is hoping. He would like to send him a letter that we are working on a fix.

Committeeman Jamison said He did tell Mr. Ball they were working on it.

Deputy Clerk asked if the committee would like her to draft a letter informing Mr. Ball what the Township intends to do?

Mayor Vizzard said yes. We need to let him know we are working on it.

Mayor said the last thing he has is last month we had 91 cases and 3 deaths of Covid in the Township, as of today, we have 164 cases and 4 deaths.

Committeeman Broughton asked if the County put out more information on vaccinations.

Mayor said yes, they have. I have a printout I think would be good to have available to the public.

Deputy Clerk indicated that she also put a link on our website with a link where you can pre-register for the vaccine.

Mayor said there is a state website, but you should also go to the county website, that is the best bet for getting the vaccine.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Heather Sparks, Deputy Clerk