

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on May 17, 2021 at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Those present;

Mike Vizzard	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Committeeman
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Edward Dennis	Engineer
Hannah E. Nichols	Clerk
Heather Sparks	Deputy Clerk
Clint Miller	Public Works Supervisor

Absent: **Ryan Broughton** **Committeeman**

Mayor Vizzard presided and called the meeting to order with the announcement that the meeting had been advertised, that it was being electronically recorded and being held in full compliance of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Mayor Vizzard said first item on the agenda this evening is a matter brought to the attention of the committee by the tax collector and tax assessor regarding 6252 Doris Drive, Laurel Lake owned by Eleanor VanNote who had purchased multiple lots, all listed on one deed but the previous assessor only picked up the leading lot and put same in Mrs. Van Notes name but never picked up the other two lots. Mrs. Van Note sold the lots but when title search was done it picked up that two lots did not belong to her. After review by the tax collector and current tax assessor it was determined that an error had been created by the township and that Mrs. Van Note was willing to pay the back taxes on the lots but did not feel that she should have to pay the interest or costs on the two lots that she thought she was paying since 2009. Tax Collector and Tax Assessor both agreed and felt that the interest and costs should be waived in the amount of \$1,266.11. Mayor Vizzard asked how did Committeeman, Jamison feel about the issue.

Committeeman Jamison said he had talked with Leslie and felt that Mrs. Van Note should not be charged interest and costs and that if she is willing to pay the back taxes he would be in favor of waiving interest and costs.

Mayor Vizzard said he agreed and asked for motion.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to waive interest and costs of \$1,266.11, as long as Mrs. Van Note paid back taxes.

Mayor Vizzard seconded the motion.

Clerk stated that Tax Collector will have a resolution for the regular meeting on the 20th for adoption.

Mayor Vizzard asked for Engineer's report from Edward Dennis.

Mr. Edward Dennis, Engineer, Commercial Township said on the Red Fern Drive Grant, the repairs have been made and the project is complete. On the Riverfront Improvement, we have a little striping and infa repairs. He said he knows committee is not satisfied with repairs but that South State is responsible for the repairs and will we accept the repairs, he said the contractor has been very cooperative.

Mr. Clint Miller, Public Works Supervisor, said regarding the repairs the colors are blending in from the daily traffic and it really doesn't look that bad.

Mr. Dennis said we have over \$100,000.00 left in the grant and we could do an overlay, High Street is the worse, and probably have \$25,000 left. We would bump into 20% Cap Change Order for an overlay but coloring would all be the same, if that is what you would want. He said no decision needs to be made tonight. We need to wait and see the blemishes from the repairs, it just might blend in given enough time. Mr. Dennis said we can leave the job open.

Mayor Vizzard said, we can wait, they were supposed to do some repairs on Ogden.

Mr. Dennis said the repairs at the end of Ogden Avenue have been done.

Mr. Miller, said they put some soil down on the edge of the road.

Mr. Dennis said they will be hydro-seeding in couple of days.

Mr. Miller said I believe they did that Thursday or Friday.

Mayor Vizzard asked Mr. Dennis if he had anything to offer on the State Plan.

Mr. Dennis said he would provide an update on the State Plan at our next meeting on Thursday. He said permitting is being done on Freight Impact 2022. He said a resolution will be required in order to apply for the Mauricetown Waterfront Park which I'll supply to Hannah for Thursday's meeting. Mr. Dennis said on the bridge and sluice gate, we are having a difficult time getting them to understand that there will be water for the estuary, conservatory, marsh lands are still going to have water with the sluice only opening one way. This is the way it has worked in the past and we don't want them to tell us that we have to change it.

Mr. Miller said to leave it that way.

Mayor Vizzard said committee has received a letter from Governor Murphy, that applications are being accepted for NJDOT Fiscal Year 2022 State Aid Grants. Applications must be submitted by July 1, 2021 and grants will be awarded in November.

Committee said that roads had been discussed and they will let engineer know what roads to submit.

Mayor Vizzard said the NJDOT is going paperless in filing documentations for municipal DOT grants. The title of the program is PMRS-Project Management and Reporting System. Classes are required for Mayor, Engineer, Clerk and Chief Financial Officer. Hopefully this will go as well as they are hoping that it will. Mayor didn't feel item needed to be on regular meeting agenda.

Mayor Vizzard said committee received a request from Laurel Lake Triathlon which is a run race, bike run race and a swim in Laurel Lake at the club house. Event takes place on Millville and Commercial Township roads on July 31, 2021. Applicant has submitted certificate of insurance and this has been forwarded to Bob Conners for review, once certified, application will be submitted to the county for approval. Hold Harmless Agreement has been sent for signatures.

Mayor Vizzard said committee has received a letter from the Board of Education that there will be an outside 8th Grade Graduation Program this year at the Haleyville-Mauricetown School. Event is scheduled for June 10th at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Vizzard said the township normally gives two awards \$100.00 each to two qualifying students. Mayor asked Committeeman Jamison and since Committeeman Broughton is absent to check with him at the regular meeting to see if he wants to attend. He asked clerk to reserve three tickets.

Committeeman Jamison said he certainly would like to attend but he will get in touch with Ryan. He also approves of the gift certificates.

Mayor Vizzard said we have following resolutions for regular meeting.

Resolution: Local Examination of 2021 Municipal budget

Resolution: Approving Bond Anticipation Note With Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority At Interest Rate 0.345%.

Resolution: Budget Insertion \$5,323.80 Recycling Tonnage Grant

Resolution: Budget Insertion \$1,300,000.00 Fiscal Year 2021 Local Freight Impact Program For The Port Norris Riverfront Roadway Improvement Project

Resolution: Approving Laurel Lake Triathlon Saturday, July 31, 2021

**Resolution: Approving two \$100 Awards for 8th Grade Graduation, Thursday, June 10th, 2021
At 6:00 p.m., Outside**

Resolution: Tax Collector's Resolution Regarding Van Note's Dilemma

**Resolution: Hiring of Stefanie Muessig As Technical Assistant In Construction Office
At \$21.02 Per Hour, 30 Hours Week**

Resolution: To File Application For Repairs to Mauricetown Waterfront Park

Mayor asked for reports from the committee.

Committeeman Jamison said he didn't have anything at this time.

Mayor Vizzard said he had two items. He asked Solicitor Seeley where are we on the Bateman issue.

Mr. Seeley said Hannah called me today and asked if I had any response to my certified letter. I told her I had not. Hannah said she talked with Bateman and that he could not afford to pay \$5,000 for the property and \$8,000 for the demolition of the house because it has asbestos siding and roofing. That he would offer \$1,000 for the property and tear the house down. Mr. Bateman said he had gotten a quote from Port Norris construction on tearing the house down and separating the materials, cost \$8,000. He said when he lost the property, township sold it to a man for \$750. Man never paid taxes and lost it.

Committeeman Jamison said it time to put this to bed.

Mr. Miller said if you are going to accept his offer, then you need to put specifics in the agreement that he doesn't get the deed until money is paid, that the house needs to get torn down with what six months, and we need receipts for the disposal of the asbestos and other material.

Committeeman Jamison said I suggest \$1,000 for property and house must be torn down in 30 days or 60 days and whatever else is needed.

Mayor Vizzard said for Mr. Seeley to take that back to Mr. Bateman.

Mr. Seeley, \$1,000, tear down house, 60 days, no deed until all money paid and receipts for disposal.

Mayor Vizzard said his second issue is that he has received a letter from Green Acres regarding the proposal from our letter supporting the Haleyville School Principle to take our Green Acres tennis court and turn it into a combined tennis and basketball court. That the combination tennis court and basketball court will be an acceptable program for a Green Acres Project. Also they were glad to see that the site will be available to the general public after school hours.

Solicitor Seeley asked mayor if the letter came from Green Acres. He said that is a first, they are very hard to deal with, and do not accept many proposals for a change in menu on the programs that they sponsor.

Mayor Vizzard said asked if anyone had anything further and being none, stated meeting is adjourned.

Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk