

Minutes of an open meeting held by the Commercial Township Committee on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 6:00 P.M., in the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Those present:

Mike Vizzard	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Committeeman
Ryan Broughton	Committeeman
Hannah E. Nichols	Township Clerk
Heather Sparks	Deputy Clerk
Pamela Humphries	Chief Financial Officer

Others Present:

Michael Rothman	Mayor, Downe Township
Robert Campbell	Township Committee
William Hagstotz	Port Norris Properties, LLC
Brian Kelly	Operations Manager
William Henderson	Operator of Trucks
Steve Fleetwood	Bivalve Packing

Mayor Vizzard presided and called the meeting to order with the announcement that the meeting had been advertised. The meeting is open to public and will be held in the Township Hall, it has also been set up for via Virtual Platform so public and Chief Financial Officer could attend. Meeting will be electronically recorded and held in full compliance of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Mayor Vizzard stated purpose of meeting is to hold the public hearing and adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget, due to the advertisement not being statutorily advertised and meeting for April 15th could not be held. Also, representatives from local Sand Companies have been invited to attend to discuss truck traffic.

Mayor Vizzard said we are going to change our agenda since we have representatives from the sand companies and several drivers.

Mayor Vizzard said we've invited you here this evening to let you know that we have had many complaints from our residents regarding speed, noise at 2:00 and 4:00 a.m., dumping, impact on the municipal and county roads, we've even talked about a truck route, right now, its North Avenue, Main Street, High Street, we have to be accountable. We do not want to regulate you. Port Norris Properties LLC. when they went before the board said they wouldn't start until 5:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. is really early for people. We have had complaints that people are being woke at 2:00 and 4:00 a.m., because of dumping at this time and we can't have people being upset by the slamming of the tailgate after dumping your load, come on, you don't have to slam it, there's no reason for it. Mayor said another issue is overload, we have sand coming off the trucks unto the roads, summer is coming we have kids

out riding their bikes and I have followed you and they don't stop at corners, they continue right on around. Our worst complaint is the speed, residents are concerned how fast the trucks are traveling. Our purpose tonight is to come up with a plan to make our residents happy that you are here.

Mayor Vizzard said we have representatives here from New Jersey State Police, Sahara Sand, Port Norris Properties LLC and several dump truck owners that are hauling the sand.

Committeeman Fletcher Jamison stated that the other day he was standing in front of Newcomb's Market and saw a truck coming, I mean really coming, I walked to the road and motioned with my hands to slow down and he looked at me as he went by and never made an effort. Mr. Jamison said, with the school situation and summer coming, kids are always coming out of Newcombs or out front of it riding their bikes. He said there is a purple truck, definitely, has to slow down, I had a complaint that a person was nearly hit and I believe he has been warned before. I somehow believe that the committee is going to have to come up with a regulated truck route.

Mayor Vizzard said we are not going to address route this evening but we have two companies operating now and third on the way. So our concern is to make our residents glad that you're here. Mayor asked if anyone wanted to speak.

Pamela Bevin, Main Street, Port Norris, I'm not involved in any organizations or anything, I'm just a concerned resident. I live between Washington and Lincoln Streets when traffic comes down road from Dividing Creek, speed limit drops to 35 at Berrytown Road and when you come to Washington Street, speed limit drops to 25. I had a truck behind me and I got upset and pulled over and got the number off the truck and called it and nobody answered. We have this day in and day out, this speeding of these sand trucks. My kids are older but across the street from me are four kids and I worry about them, the trucks are going so fast. I have two dogs if they got out, those trucks could not stop. Our elderly, where is the courtesy, where's the respect, oncoming traffic, people afraid. I welcome you to come over we'll have tea and you can see how fast they go. I work in my yard all the time, I have the best looking yard, don't I Fletcher.

Committeeman Jamison said yes you do, but you have never invited me for tea.

Ms. Bevin said the trucks come flying down the road, they are close to the property, they need to move over a little, I'm terribly afraid that something is going to happen. There is no reason for these trucks to be going that fast, sand coming out on the street, no tarps, everybody else has to have a tarp. They need to slow down, show some courtesy what kind of world are we living in that we can't watch out for one and other.

Mayor said I would like to interject that these are all truckers and they are hired by the sand companies and that is why we have the representatives here.

Mrs. Bevin said trucks go too fast, trucks are full of sand coming out on the road, you can't get a tag number. I want you guys to slow down in my town.

Mayor Vizzard asked for additional comments.

Mr. Michael Rothman, Mayor of Downe Township said I've been involved in trucking for a lot of years and our township gets calls from our residents regarding sand on our roads. I understand where you guys are at, but the importance of not speeding with an overloaded truck is the fact that it is stressed you can't stop it. We have two bridges in Downe Township and they can't take the stress of having trucks being overloaded, they just can't, this isn't just for Downe it's for Commercial too. We are glad your business is here, if you have a problem come to us, we are here for you guys and if we have a problem we hope you're here for us. The only thing we ask is to slow down the safety of our residents are utmost, show them some courtesy. That's all I have.

Mr. Bill Hagstotz I own the sand plant and just to show you how concerned I am, I made sure Brian Kelly, Operation Manager was coming, so we brought everybody with us. Bill Henderson operates the trucks.

Mr. Henderson said as of Monday, the 17th no trucks left the plant until 5:00 a.m. and I don't think any actually left before 5:20 a.m.

Mr. Brian Kelly said truck speeding is a bigger concern to us. Our drivers all have zero points. Our trucks are regulated at 72 miles because NJ Turnpike is at 75 miles per hour. If we had to travel roads speed limit, 45 to 50 our trucks would be regulated at 47 miles per hour.

Mayor Vizzard said I'm telling you that they were speeding.

Mr. Kelly said if they are speeding then it is a major concern to us. We do not want any of our drivers speeding.

Mr. Hagstotz said just to tell you how concerned we are and that there is an issue. We only run between four or five trucks per day from the sand plant. We stockpile the sand so we have enough to stock the barge. The other operation is that we have a lay down space to stockpile. Our exposer is set up so we run five trucks a day, maximum is six, so were running between 5:00/7:00, so we're on the road between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and I have seen a big difference already in the last two weeks.

Mayor Vizzard said when I asked you to come to this meeting, it was a while back and the trucks were running at 2:00 a.m., but since the invite a while back, that has stopped and you are right, I saw a big difference.

Mr. Hagstotz said Bill is there every morning to regulate the trucks leaving, some guys would like to start early to get out early, but no truck will leave before 5:00 a.m. The sound issue I believe we can solve. The speed issue is going to be on the drivers and their driving. Summer is coming and they have to respect the neighborhood and we will try to work this all out. What is the feeling of the township with the bump at the church.

Mayor Vizzard said we were thinking of having the trucks go James Moore Road to Strawberry Avenue to Main Street, to High Street and High to Miller, the truck traffic is the reason we applied for a grant to do the bridge, the wooden bridge, all of the trucks will be traveling over the bridge, trucks from Silvi Plant.

Mr. Hagstotz said right now I think the most important thing is the number of trucks and I still want to stick with the five or six trucks, we're a small facility and I want to keep it that way. So I think it might be a deterrent, I don't think the public would appreciate 100 trucks a day, I think they would be perturbed to see that many trucks go through their town every day that's a lot.

Mr. Rothman asked if Mr. Hagstotz owned both sand companies and both barging companies.

Mr. Hagstotz said no, just the one. He said I'd like to see us work together and see how it will work out, the drivers are going to work with the speed.

Mayor Vizzard I have no problem with that we need to work together.

Mr. Hagstotz said if sand gets on the street will clean it up and work on that, if we have a spill we'll clean it up. As long as we work together I think we

Mayor Vizzard said we have invested three million dollars to support the truck traffic on these roads and we have a grant to do the bridge on Miller, but that's not going to stop them from speeding, that's up to you guys.

Mr. Rothman asked what is the projection of truck traffic, you have five or six a day. What is your thoughts on the other facility

Mr. Kelly said he didn't know, six to eight.

Mayor Vizzard, So it could be 12-14 trucks without the third one from Long Reach.

Mr. Kelly said we are working on a 10 hour widow. Trucks from Dividing Creek.

Mr. Bill Henderson asked about James Moore Road.

Mayor Vizzard said James Moore is scheduled for overlay.

Mr. Henderson said there is no truck that leaves our plant that is not compliant.

Mayor Vizzard said then they must not be loaded correctly.

Mr. Henderson said even the wind can have a part in it.

Mr. Steve Fleetwood said only other thing, many, many years ago the road was cement, it has been overlayed and is very nice but afterwards humps and cracks appear, the only thing maybe the county could come in and mill the bumps, this would cut down on the noise.

Mayor Vizzard said he talked to John Knoop and there are no plans for it, there was none for the bridge either.

Mayor Vizzard said he wanted to thank everyone for coming, that he felt it was very productive meeting, he was glad that they had a chance to hear Mrs. Bevin as a resident. He said just tell your drivers to just slow down, that's all.

Mayor Vizzard said to get back to our regular meeting, first we have Resolution 2021-53 and he read same in its entirety.

RESOLUTION 2021-53

Authorizing The 2021 Municipal Budget Be Read By Title Only

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-8, as amended by L.2015, c.95 & 14, 2015, provides that the budget may be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing, a complete copy of the budget has been made available for public inspection, and has been made available to each person upon request; and

WHEREAS, these two conditions have been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the budget shall be read by title only

"2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP"

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-53, to read budget by title only.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to adopt Resolution 2021-53 and Committeeman Broughton seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Committeeman Jamison, Yes

Committeeman Broughton, No
Mayor Vizzard, Yes

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion and second to open meeting to public for comment on 2021 Municipal Budget.

Committeeman Jamison made motion and Committeeman Broughton seconded.

Mayor asked for comments and being none asked for a motion and second to close public portion.

Committeeman Broughton made motion and Committeeman Jamison seconded.

Mayor Vizzard said we have resolution to adopt municipal budget.

**RESOLUTION 2021-54
Adoption Of The 2021 Municipal Budget**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Committeepersons of the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations and authorization of the amount of \$1,601,573.94 for municipal purposes.

Mayor asked for a motion and second to adopt 2021 Municipal Budget.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to adopt 2021 Municipal Budget and Committeeman Broughton seconded. Roll call vote: Recorded in minutes as stated.

Committeeman Jamison, Yes
Committeeman Broughton, No
Mayor Vizzard Yes

Mayor asked committee if they had anything to add and being none asked for motion to adjourn the meeting.

So Moved.

Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk