

Minutes of the Agenda Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on Monday, June 14, 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
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Edward Dennis	Engineer
Hannah E. Nichols	Township Clerk
Heather Sparks	Deputy Township Clerk
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 called upon Barney Hollinger, Riverfront Consultant, for Commercial Township.

Mr. Hollinger said that he attended the last Bayshore Council meeting and that Senator Van Drew had gotten four million dollars for the dredging of the river.

Mayor called on Edward Dennis, Engineer, for his report.

Mr. Dennis said that applications for road program in 2022 grant funding will be submitted by due date of July 1st, 2021 for the following, Priority 1, roads will be Brown and Cobb Streets and Priority 2 roads are Milbourne Drive and Dennis Lane. Mr. Dennis said they will be going out to bid for Keron Drive and Parson's Lane in next two weeks and possibly start date will be in July. He said we will be able to do Parsons Lane to just past the buffalo farm. Red Fern Project has been closed out, Riverfront Project we are leaving that open for now. We are in the permitting process for the sluice and bridge, the County will pay for what the grant won't cover. He said the sluice will be designed how we want.

Mayor Vizzard asked will state be involved in the design.

Mr. Dennis said DOT won't be involved in design.

Mayor Vizzard asked about the fire district map.

Clerk Nichols, said she put all three fire districts in touch with Kevin Zelinsky who is preparing the maps and he has talked with each chief of the three districts and they have

confirmed and verified the boundaries and they will be submitted to the County Board of Elections.

Mr. Dennis said that Grant application for Mauricetown Waterfront Park was supposed to be announced June 11th but he hasn't heard anything yet, hopefully by Thursday.

Mayor Vizzard asked has anything been done on the DOT walking path application.

Mr. Dennis said that is the Green Acres project and I believe that is a loan, not a grant but he will look into further and let the mayor know.

Mayor Vizzard said he would appreciate it.

Mr. Clint Miller, Public Works Supervisor, said on Riverfront grant the grass seed that was planted didn't take, too hot, will they plant again in fall.

Mr. Dennis said that they would.

Mayor Vizzard said we have correspondence and a letter from Margaret Lugo, she owns 37 acres when she purchased DePalma Realty Facility. She wants to purchase township owned property, 171 Somes Drive. She is concerned with people dumping back there.

Mr. Clint Miller said the township closed that road and took the property off of the land sale list many years back. There was a house back there that caught fire and burned down on the piece she is referring to. There are two people that own property on Somes. At one time we fenced it off and we should probably do it again.

Mayor Vizzard said if you closed it off, how will these owners get to their property.

Mr. Miller said they don't need Somes to get to their property. This road now is not accessible for a trash truck, it wasn't when people lived on it, they had to bring their trash out to parking lot, fire truck or emergency vehicle could not get down that road at present, but if people are dumping back there then we should close it and put a gate or something so nobody can get down it.

Mayor Vizzard said we can take Mrs. Lugo's request off of the agenda for Thursday, the committee is not in favor of selling this to her at present time.

Mayor Vizzard said we have a letter from Solicitor, Thomas Seeley, in regards to the letter the committee received from landlord who raised the question, was rental inspections necessary when it came to long term tenants and the cost of yearly inspection fee of \$100. Mr. Seeley investigated and found that the Appellate Division upheld Rental Inspection Ordinances and Inspection fees such as Commercial Township has.

Mayor Vizzard thanked Mr. Seeley and said he didn't feel it needed to go on Thursday's agenda.

Mayor Vizzard said we have a letter from Remington and Vernick Engineers with a proposal for the two State Aid grants for 2022 due July 1st. First application, Priority 1, Brown and Cobb Streets, \$2,100 and for second application, Priority 2, Milbourne Drive and Dennis Lane, \$1,500.

Committee approved and said for resolution on the agenda for Thursday.

Commercial Township Board of Education sent message thanking the Mayor and Committee for their participation in the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony held on June 10th. Committee approved \$100 gift cards and Mayor presented them to students, Gavin Shaud and Anuya McNeil for Outstanding Achievements.

Committee approved for regular meeting.

Mayor Vizzard said we have resolutions for regular meeting.

**Resolution: Authorizing The Transfer Of Overpayments To Other Tax Years
Or Refund Of Overpayment To Owner, Payer Or Their Representatives**

**Resolution: Accepting Proposal of Remington & Vernick Engineering for
Preparation of State Aid 2022 Applications at \$2,100 for First
Application and for Additional Applications \$1,500**

**Resolution: Authorizing The Submission Of An Application For Grant Funding
And The Execution Of A Grant contract With The New Jersey
Department of Transportation Under The Fiscal Year 2022 Municipal Aid
Program For The Reconstruction Of Brown and Cobb Streets, Priority #1**

**Resolution: Authorizing The Submission Of An Application For Grant Funding
And The Execution Of A Grant Contract With The New Jersey
Department Of Transportation Under the Fiscal Year 2022
Municipal Aid Program For The Reconstruction Of Milbourne
Drive and Dennis Lane, Priority #2**

**Resolution: Chapter 159, Budget Insertion, Clean Communities Funds
\$17,270.55**

Resolution: Liquor License Renewal of Mauricetown Gunning Club for 2021-2022

Resolution: Liquor License Renewal of Liquor Warehouse 2021-2022 (Lallis).

Mayor Vizzard said Pam said renovating is not a go.

Clerk said, well, Pam came back to her office and said it looks like the stimulus money, once received, can be put for a capital expense, that was all she said.

Mayor said that is good to know.

Mayor asked reports from the officials. He said he would like to commend the school on the graduating ceremony that they held for the 8th grade students this year. It was a very nice affair for the students. He asked if anyone had attended it.

Mrs. Pamela Bevin asked committee what is happening with the Brown Street School.

Mayor Vizzard said the school would like the township to take it over but it will cost the taxpayers too much money, but I have reached out to the CDC's to investigate and see if they can find someone that would be interested in buying it. He said he has a lot of ideas and uses, for one have the library there, second have a storage facility there, the equipment is already there to store all our records. But the cost and the upkeep would just be too much and we can't put the burden on the tax payers, not now, not at this time.

Mrs. Bevin asked what is, Steve doing, the code enforcement officer, there are many vacant properties that he needs to site people and take to court. In the Laurel Lake area there are many properties that need to be cleaned up and people taken to court, these people need to have complaints signed against them.

Mayor Vizzard said he is out there signing complaints but for this past year there has not been any courts, the state of New Jersey said don't sign any complaints, he tries to talk them into cleaning up but some people just don't care. We can't go on a private property and clean it up, if we go on it we have to put a lien on the property for the work that we do and we'll never see that money, nobody ever pays and we can't afford to do that. From what fees we collect on the vacant property registration fees we are demolishing properties.

Mrs. Bevin said maybe we could have a committee where people go and clean up properties for those that can't.

Mr. Seeley, Township Solicitor, said if you are planning on doing something like that then you had better have an agreement, permission to go on the property, something to protect yourself from the first person you helped that said you did something wrong, something is missing, damaged something.

Mayor Vizzard said I'd like to just say this is our agenda meeting, we normally do not have a public portion where we open the meeting up to the public, but you are here and you have concerns so we will listen and hear what you have to say.

Ms. Tracy Richardson said some people can't afford to fix up their properties.

Mr. Ed Fox asked what can we do to help.

Mr. Barney Hollinger said make it harder and stronger penalties. Upgrade the ordinances, increase the fines, People moving into the township with no CO's.

Mayor Vizzard said the committee is aware of the CO's.

Mrs. Bevin said how can we work together to get the town cleaned up.

Mr. Seeley said make sure you get a release from the property owners and get an indemnification agreement.

Mr. Barney Hollinger, Cape May Salt, said one of the trucks almost ran one of our trucks off the road, one of the purple trucks.,

Mayor Vizzard said we had a meeting with them, truck company owners, and sand company owners. We went over the hours of operation, the speeding of the trucks. We feel that we are doing all we can.

Pamela Bevin, State Police.

Mr. Ed Fox said he has called the state police and sheriffs. They sent out an officer. It is, really, not about the local speeder, it's about an 80,000lb., truck that's going to kill somebody. We can control the sand plants, give an example of a near accident. We cannot accept six months of this. This needs to be fixed now.

Mr. Hollinger said sand not being cleaned up off roadway. Need truck route signs. Truck route needs to be established, pass an ordinance and do it.

Mayor Vizzard said we can do a truck route but the only thing we'll be doing is making someone else in the township angry. At least we have residents such as yourself letting us know what you see out there if we maintain this route. I'll tell you what I'm going to do, I'm going to write a letter to the purple truck company and tell them that we do not want their trucks and drivers in our town anymore.

Mrs. Bevin said I still say trucking is still happening all hours.

Mr. Fox wants proof that it is drawing revenue.

Mrs. Bevin said these companies need to be more responsible for their employees.

Committeeman Jamison said he feels the meeting that they had made a difference, he sees them on the road, they have slowed down, but there again some just don't and they are the problem. Mr. Jamison said he wants to commend Bill Henderson for his performance in driving right. He said he agrees with the mayor and he supports his writing the letter.

Mrs. Bevin said Mayor is going to, he's going to write letter to owner purple truck company that they are not welcome in our town.

Yvonne Mazzoła asked how can we get police to act.

Mr. Fox said call sheriff's department, they will come down.

Question about citizens arrest.

Solicitor Seeley said go to police station and you must have probable cause, documentation.

Debbie Hollinger asked why did Land Use Board allow them to start so early.

Resident 1441 Main St., said believes sand plant responsible. They are making money off our resources. The township needs to reap some benefit from what these companies are doing to our township. They go up and down the roads, speeding, spreading dirt on the highway, they are supposed to clean it up. They are making a lot of money barging this sand but the township is not getting anything to help fix these roads from none of these companies.

Mayor Vizzard said the sand companies do pay taxes and that's what's the matter with the world today, everybody wants to make more money. I want to make it clear, the problems we are concerned with is the speeding of these trucks, we want them to slow down.

Mrs. Hollinger said state overrides local.

Mayor Vizzard said it's not sand plant, it's the drivers.

Mr. Miller said residents need to call about repaving, they hold more weight than the township.

Mayor Vizzard said he wished the residents would call the trucking companies, sand companies, ten, twenty, fifty times a day if they want to.

Mrs. Bevan asked can we get a street sweeper, on a monthly basis, to clean up sand. They are not using tarps.

Ms. Mazzola asked can we get a camera.

Mrs. Bevin said there is a township employee who speeds up and down Main Street all the time. Lives in town. Need larger sign 35 miles

Mr. Miller said I'll call the county.

Mrs. Hollinger said need speed limit sign on Ogden.

Mr. William Henderson said speed limit signs for trucks need to be reduced.

Mayor said he spoke with John Knoop about dual designation on their roads and Knoop said he'd have to take it up with the state.

Mr. Fox asked for update.

Renee Rhubart asked what happens in the fall when kids go back to school. Is someone going to have someone from the school to address these dangers.

Mayor Vizzard said he is not opposed to having someone from the board of education attend a meeting with the sand and truck companies. He said he knows most of the officers by name and he wants them to pull them over, check the tires, check the lights, check whatever they can.

Mayor asked is everybody good, then I make a motion to close the meeting to the public and adjourn this meeting.

Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk