

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on March 17, 2022, at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall at 1768 Main St. Port Norris, NJ

Those Present:

Mike Vizzard	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Deputy Mayor
Joseph Klaudi	Committeeman
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Heather Sparks	Township Clerk
Nick DiCosmo	Engineer

Those Absent: Edward Dennis Engineer

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 asked for reports of officials.

Lieutenant of State Police, Port Norris, Jack Blizzard was in attendance. Lt. Explained there is a new system used at the barracks and he cannot provide specific numbers as to stops, burglaries, etc. but assured the public they are patrolling the township and aside from the truck traffic, things have been relatively quiet.

Mayor asked public if there were any questions for the Lt., there were none.

Mayor said we have consideration of prior meeting minutes  
Regular Meeting, February 17, 2022

Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi to approve the minutes. Roll call, all in favor.

Mayor said we have the bill list. Consideration of the bills received for the month of March as prepared by the Chief Financial Officer.

Committeeman Klaudi made a motion and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison to approve the bill list for the month of March. Roll call, All in favor.

Engineers report – Nick DiCosmo said Meghan Wren has contact USDA looking for search grants for additional feasibility studies for a wastewater treatment plants. We have done it for the riverfront, but we are looking for Laurel Lake or Haleyville. Nick doesn't feel that we will need to do another study for the riverfront. The search grant may be applicable to Laurel Lake.

Nick said the 2022 Local Impact fund applications, still haven't heard anything, hopefully we will hear before the end of this month.

Nick continued, Reconstruction of Brown St. is ongoing, design rather. He reached out to the company in regard to underwater investigation for the Mauricetown bulkhead. They are going to get him a detailed proposal hopefully tomorrow with exactly what they will do. He talked to them about reducing the fee and they said it was possible. It depends on whether they need divers or not. If we decide to go with the in-water inspection, we'll get it done and get the report of findings, we can take that and do the engineering with our firm and get the repair plans.

Mayor Vizzard said alright I just want to make sure we can get that feasibility study done for Laurel Lake.

Nick DiCosmo said we will have to see what we can get done. Meghan did approach the subject and it looks do-able. There was some question about the population threshold, but we are well within that. The grant is definitely applicable to Laurel Lake.

Mayor wanted to confirm another feasibility study wouldn't be needed for the riverfront.

Nick DiCosmo said the study was from 2015, not a lot has changed other than the sand barging and I don't think it would impact it that much. It may involve the purchase of property to locate the wastewater treatment facility. They may be thing we want to reconsider and look at again, but I don't think it will warrant a full feasibility study.

Mayor thanked Nick and moved on to correspondence.

Mayor said we have a letter from NJDEP regarding the Green Acres Program. An inspection of 3 Green Acres sites was performed on February 15, 2022. Some compliance issues were found. A written response is required and has been prepared as to how the township will address these issues.

Mayor said a PEOSH inspection was conducted on March 2, 2022. Some issues were found. All issues were abated and response to corrective action taken was submitted.

Mayor said we have an Ordinance for second reading and adoption. Ordinance 2022-611, an Ordinance of the Township of Commercial, Cumberland County, NJ providing for use of funds for equipment repair to Backhoe available in the Capital Fund-Reserve for equipment and replacement. Funding is for a backhoe, total amount not to exceed \$8,000. Ordinance will take effect upon publication of notice of final adoption as provided by law.

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

Mayor asked if anyone from the public had any comments on Ordinance 2022-611 to repair a backhoe.

Seeing none, Mayor asked for a motion and second to close to the public. Committeeman Jamison made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Mayor asked for a motion and a second to adopt ordinance 2022-611. Committeeman Jamison made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Roll call. All in Favor.

Mayor Vizzard said we have resolutions.

**RESOLUTION 2022-41**

**2021 COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, c has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

**WHEREAS,** The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

**WHEREAS,** The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

**WHEREAS,** A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the **2021 Recycling Tonnage Grant** will memorize the commitment of this municipality to recycle and to indicate the asset of the Committee of the Township of Commercial to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

**WHEREAS,** Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Committee of the Township of Commercial that hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection by Heather Sparks, CRP of Commercial Township.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purpose of recycling.

Resolution offered by: Committeeman Jamison

Resolution certified by Heather Sparks

**RESOLUTION 2022-42**

**A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING SUBMISSION OF EXPENDITURES FOR  
RECYCLING ENHANCEMENT ACT**

**WHEREAS,** The Recycling Enhancement act, P.L. 2007, chapter 311, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

**WHEREAS,** there is levied upon the owner or operator of every solid waste facility (with certain exceptions) a recycling tax of \$3.00 per ton on all solid waste accepted for disposal or transfer at the solid waste facility; and

**WHEREAS,** whenever a municipality operates a municipal service system for solid waste collection or provides for regular solid waste collection service under a contract awarded pursuant to "Local Public Contracts Law," the amount of grant monies received by the municipality shall not be less than the annual amount of recycling tax paid by the municipality except that all grant moneys received by the municipality shall be expended only for its recycle program.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Committee of the Township of Commercial that Commercial Township hereby certifies a submission of expenditure for taxes paid pursuant to P.L. 2007, chapter 311, in 2021 in the amount of \$5,158.17. Documentation supporting this submission is available at 1768 Main Street, Port Norris N.J. 08349 and shall be maintained for no less than five years from this date.

Tax Calculation Certified By:

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Pamela Humphries, Chief Financial Officer

Resolution 2022-43

Contact Person for the Employment Practices Liability Attorney Consultation Service  
For the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

**WHEREAS,** the Governing Body of Commercial Township hereinafter referred to as "Municipality", is a member of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, hereinafter referred to as "Fund"; and

**WHEREAS,** the Fund has adopted a policy authorizing the Employment Practices Liability Attorney Consultation Service; and

**WHEREAS,** the Fund has budgeted an annual allowance per member for EPL consulting services and;

**WHEREAS,** the Fund requires the Municipality to designate specific managerial or supervisory individuals who will have telephone access to the EPL Hotline;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the governing body of Commercial Township does hereby appoint Heather Sparks as its contact person.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body does hereby appoint Pamela Humphries as additional contact persons.

**TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL  
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-44  
RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statement of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Local Municipal Budget for the year 2022;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said budget be published in the South Jersey Times edition of March 31, 2022, as follows:

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on the 21st day of April 2022 at 6:00 o'clock p.m., at which time and place objections to said budget and tax resolution of the Township of Commercial for the year 2022 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons. Additional information for accessing the public meeting can be found on the Township website <https://commercialtwp.com/>

**Summary of General Section of Budget**

**Current Fund**

Municipal Purposes within "CAPS"	\$2,623,526.00
Municipal Purposes excluded from "CAPS"	732,924.29
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>561,790.75</u>
Total General Appropriations	3,918,241.04
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>2,246,224.41</u>
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Amount to be Raised by Taxation	<u>\$1,672,016.63</u>

Mayor asked for a motion to adopt resolutions 2022-41 thru 2022-44.

Committeeman Klaudi made the motion to adopt and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Roll Call. All in Favor.

Mayor asked for if the Committee had anything they would like to report. Committeeman Jamison and Klaudi did not.

Mayor Vizzard had a couple things to report. Mayor received a letter for NJ Department of Treasury about statewide awareness of NJ earned income tax credit. They want the public to be aware there is an earned income tax credit. There is an online toolkit for 2022. The notice says that taxpayers stand to receive several hundred to several thousand between the state and federal programs. Mayor asked Clerk to put this information on the website.

Mayor said he is co-chair of the CDC, the Cumberland Development Corporation. We are going to approach the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners next Tuesday regarding the animal sheltering problems we have been having. We are paying a high amount for this sheltering. I can't remember the exact figures, but it is something like \$700 per dog for sheltering. The township had to pay all that money out. We are going to approach the county and try to see about a county ran animal shelter rather than a privately ran facility such as the SJ regional animal shelter. We are going to approach them on this Tuesday and try to see what we can do to get this cost down. They have no billing process. We have asked them for a break down and why they are charging so much, and they refuse to give it to us. They are not being very open with their billing. We feel as though if enough municipalities get together, we can shut them down and do our own.

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

Mayor asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Committeeman Jamison made the motion to open to the public and was seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Emmett Vandergrift – Addressed the engineer referring to the Monday night visioning meeting and utility upgrades was anything solar related? He knows there is a big push for renewables in the state. He thinks there would be a substantial funding for solar and maybe if we pursued it from a solar standpoint and say hey, we should love solar, but we can't because of "this", the state may pursue it that way to get the upgraded infrastructure.

Emmett Vandergrift said there is existing solar here in the township, but I guess the grid can only handle so much so what's here is what's there and there can't be any more than that until infrastructure is updated. While the state is inclined to push these renewables, they have to create avenues to have it. I think now is the perfect time to use that as leverage for them to help us upgrade our infrastructure.

Mayor Vizzard suggested that could maybe be part of the feasibility study.

Emmett Vandergrift, I know they Mayor has made a request to get the speed limit and I know this is a county road, reduced. Up above Robbinstown Road, just beyond there going toward Dividing Creek is 45 mile an hour with a suggested 35 an hour coming into that hard blind corner. Maybe one way to approach it in getting the limit reduced would be a population density study. Based on myself, Ed and the other neighbors across the street, we are more or less new residents in the last 4 years with substantially larger families so just between the 4 or 5

houses there in a half mile, there is almost 30 people if not more. I can probably guarantee that whatever population that was there when a population density study was done before dictated that to be 45 mile per hour. We could have had that many people. I don't know what's required or how many people per square mile. I think your pushing for 35, maybe then we can have a suggested 25 around the bend.

Mayor Vizzard said let me update you on what the county engineer told me. He is saying just the opposite. He is saying that speed was generated when there were more people living in Port Norris. He doubts very much the state is going to allow them to cut that speed down. He said he would try; he would try to find some loopholes, but he said the population on that road has dropped from the last time they did that study.

Emmett Vandergrift said he didn't understand. Mr. Ricci's house wasn't there it would have just been the Capaldi families.

Mayor Vizzard said there was Berrytown there.

Solicitor Seeley said it's the NJDOT that controls that.

Mayor Vizzard said what he enlightened me to was that he doesn't just have the authority to change the speed because number one, the troopers wouldn't be able to enforce it. There is no reason to drop it because it couldn't be enforced anyway. He doesn't think the state is going to let him do it.

Nick DiCosmo added that when it comes to speed limits and trying to reduce them is difficult. Most times it necessitates a speed study. Mr. DiCosmo explained what is involved in a speed study. Most times it isn't lower and probably wouldn't be anywhere near what you think it should be because it will be based on what people are doing now.

Mayor Vizzard said what I will tell you since you're talking about speed. I do have the readouts. The speed limit from the schedule was 45 mile an hour. We have it from March 11<sup>th</sup> to March 17<sup>th</sup>, total vehicles, 2,022, number of speed violations 1,307. Maximum speed at that sign was 84 miles an hour.

Emmett Vandegrift suggested that after having a survey of his property, the pin for his property goes right to the corner of Robbinstown road and Main St. He may have to continue his fence right down the side of the road.

Solicitor Seeley said there is a right of way so be careful of that.

Mr. Vandegrift said he sells fence for a living and is very aware of zoning laws and all that. I just want to do what ever I can to keep a truck from coming into my house. I'm thinking of my children.

Lt Blizzard asked the mayor what speed would trigger speeding with our sign?

Clerk responded that it is 50.

Mayor said there are a lot that went by in the 70's.

Emmett Vandegrift said where that sign is, its like 70-80 yards from the bend.

Solicitor Seeley said it doesn't matter what sign is there, if someone will do 80 there they don't care if the speed limit is 25 or ....

Mayor said the whole reason the sign is there is to record how many vehicles are speeding.

Lt. Blizzard said the last two days, and several other days, we run covert operations monitoring the dump trucks. We had a truck doing 4 miles per hour over the limit in town was the max and 7 miles per hour on the Port Norris stretch. That's not being monitored out of a trooper car. They had absolutely no idea we were there. I don't think the dump trucks are your biggest speeders. I assure you it's the cars.

Emmett Vandegrift asked when this was. LT responded yesterday and today. Mr. Vandegrift said this morning they were doing every bit of 50-55 around that bend and this isn't just like a Prius or pick up truck, this is 80,000 lbs. There is a bus stop.

Mr. Vandegrift explained what occurs when the school busses are picking up in the mornings and the potential danger and near misses, he has witness. Mr. Vandegrift said and its only going to increase because the other company isn't even fully functioning yet.

Lt. Blizzard said and it isn't going away. It's a 500 serious truck route road, it's been a truck route as long as I have been alive, I have been here my whole life. There is now where to detour these folks to and truth be told if we lower the limit by 5 miles an hour, do you actually think it will slow the trucks down? They obviously don't abide by the limit. We are going to ramp up more monitoring but as soon as one of those trucks sees us out there, its over. We have to regroup, change locations, it's a challenge. There are more cars than trucks speeding.

Tracy Richardson described another school bus situation she witnessed with a car that passed a stopped school bus with lights on, in the dark that must have been going a least 50 miles per hour.

Lt. Blizzard said as far as the State Police monitoring, we can't be here all the time. Unfortunately, we have 310 sq. miles we cover with a hand full of officers. Lt. continues by describing a similar detail they did in Maurice River. An enforcement detail that is zero tolerance. You think its bad just dealing with the trucks wait until you have a room of people unhappy that they got tickets.

Mayor Vizzard said he had hoped more people would have come out just so they could hear this.



Lt. Blizzard said we try to be mindful. You don't want to destroy the working folks. You can't be selective to just dump trucks so when you roll out a speed detail, a zero tolerance one, a lot of people get upset. These guys are going to hear so that's why this committee is going to have to ask for it. We don't do it just because we want to do it.

Mayor said that's why I was hoping for more people being here tonight because I was going to take a vote on it. I don't have a problem doing it I just don't want anyone coming in here yelling at me because they are getting tickets.

Lt. Blizzard said this is why I'm curious and confused as to why they committee people as well as the folks that work for the township, they are getting blown up all day on the phone with calls about speeders, they can't do anything about speeders. We get hundreds of calls also and also, we get calls from the township about speeders, these poor folks can't do anything about that.

Edward Fox said I understand that it is these folks that approved these barges and there are some stipulations that could have been put in place for how these trucks ran, what roads, and what times of day they run. That could have been done by these folks.

Lt. Blizzard said I'll tell you why I disagree with that, if the township committee installs a route for commercial trucks and you take them off a 553-truck route and put them on a 600-truck route and something happens over there, they are getting sued.

Edward Fox says what if something happens over here?

Lt. Blizzard said nothing to the township because trucks are running on the best roads suited, an actual truck route to go to the sand barges. It is the best route we have.

Emmett Vandegrift said we suggested they go to Buckshutem to North Ave straight in, that would be a safer route. It just takes longer.

Lt. Blizzard said Buckshutem is a 600 road then go up North Ave or cut down Steep Run, which is no better than going right through tow,

Edward Fox said these are better roads in my opinion than it is from Strawberry to North. That is a 25 and 35 mile per hour zone with handicaps and seniors on it, we have businesses on it with 80,000 lbs. trucks rolling down it.

Lt. Blizzard said it's a 500 series truck route, it's been that way for 100 years.

Edward Fox said somebody is going to get killed out here.

Lt. Blizzard said If they are already on the best truck route, where do you re-route them to?

Edward Fox said how is this the best route?

Lt. Blizzard said it is a 500 series truck route, it's a 500 series route, it is built for the biggest and heaviest vehicles. It is a designated truck route. The other roads are not designated truck routes, that's why the township isn't going to tell somebody to go another route, it would be more egregious if something happened. They would say, "they forced us to go that way, or it would have never happened". That's what they would say, and they say it's the township's fault.

Edward Fox said he spoke to his attorney about this and that isn't what he told me. He's an attorney. I don't agree with you. Listen, this is going to happen, something will happen, we live there, we watch these trucks.

Mr. Fox continued to question other roads that had truck restrictions and asked committeeman Klaudi about the road he lives on, that it's restricted to truck traffic and asked what series road that was.

Committeeman Klaudi wasn't sure.

Mayor Vizzard said he believed that road is a 700 series road.

Edward Fox said that he cringes every time a bus is coming, every time someone leaves his driveway, he is always sitting on the edge of his seat. Mr. Fox invited any one of them to come down and have breakfast or dinner, whatever, come down at 6am, sit in my living room and watch it happen.

Solicitor Seeley said the only thing he can suggest. Obviously, you guys are passionate, and I agree it seems like a very scary problem to be dealing with everyday but ask the state police to do more concentrated patrols on that area.

Edward Fox said I started calling down there 9 months ago and I was told, "it's not a written rule but we don't give dump trucks tickets, but we will go talk to them" that's what I was told. And I know you all went down there and talked to them.

Lt. Blizzard said we have had several meetings with them.

Edward Fox said I know you have; I'm not saying you haven't put effort into this. I'm just saying it isn't being fixed. Bill and I but heads but I'll tell you, if they all drove like him, we wouldn't be sitting here.

Solicitor Seeley said you can make a citizen compliant. If you have someone going over the speed limit, you can make a citizen compliant and file it just like the state police can. It's the same thing and they have to go to court; you come and testify. Even if nothing happens, they still have to come to court and they might get a ticket. That's one suggestion I can give.

Emmett Vandegrift said Rothman mentioned something about getting DOT to check these trucks for every little thing but now we have like a whole new trucking outfit, and they are driving just as bad if not worse.

Mayor Vizzard said I think it is best to start with our trooper barracks and if they feel its best to have the DOT come down, they will direct DOT to come down.

Edward Fox said look we're just worried here. I get a bit passionate about it and a little heated. I'm friends with these guys and I have a hard time being mean to these guys, I really do like them, their good guys but we got to do something. Mr. Fox invited the committee to come down and have coffee in the morning.

Committeeman Jamison said it must be up your end of town because I live here in town, the trucks coming through here are creeping. I see Billy Henderson all the time. All the trucks I see coming through town are creeping, I don't know what they are doing at your end of town and I'm always down to Newcomb's store. I can honestly say, the last two weeks they have been creeping. I'm not saying it isn't happening that end of town but what I have seen the past two weeks coming through town, they are creeping.

Edward Fox said he would love to have him over for coffee in the morning.

Committeeman Jamison said that the State Police have more authority than he does, and they should go.

Bill Henderson said I believe this young lady lives catacorner to the funeral home. I wish you could have been there taking a video this morning because I come down from down the river, coming back empty and I had an Ali Al light MAC pass me, and Jack knows because I called him raising hell coming from Newcomb's, past your house. I was doing 25 miles an hour and he went past me like I was standing still, heading out of town and I immediately called the police. I started last week with Forman because they just wouldn't act right then Ali Al sent 3 trucks, I met with all of them and said this is a zero-tolerance environment. Those three guys are following the speed limit and they are new trucks, you can identify them. I would say those three trucks are being compliant. The rest of them the last two days it's all hell.

Tracy Richardson said and the orange trucks, I don't know the name of that company.

A brief discussion amongst the attendees pertaining to different trucks in town continued (was inaudible).

Tracy Richardson said she had a few things. She said she spoke to the superintendent, and she is all for whatever signs we can put in to flashing school signs because the cars and the trucks fly past the school in the morning while the kids are there. If there is any way I mean I don't know if it will make a difference but put warning signs about school bus stops ahead on Main Street and North Ave. because I have seen them go crazy on North Avenue too.

Mayor Vizzard said that was absolutely possible, but you need to tell the superintendent to call the county.

Solicitor Seeley said they can go to a Freeholders meeting. These guys have no control over county roads.

Tracy Richardson said she is aware that they are county roads and that it is the responsibility of the county. I have called the county and different departments and they pass me around, they put me on hold...

Solicitor Seeley said have you gone to any of their meetings? If they see your face and you show the compassion, you have tonight.

Tracy Richardson said she hasn't been able to find out when the meetings are.

Mayor Vizzard said Tuesday night at 6:00, I'll be there. This Tuesday.

Solicitor Seeley said if you can get 5 or 6 people to go out and say to them, put it on the record at a county meeting.

Mayor Vizzard said he had no problem calling the county, I'm not saying I won't do that, but you really need to tell the superintendent of the schools to call, that will go a long way.

Edward Fox said that he has called the county and they had signs in the next day.

Tracy Richardson said I called the county roads department, and they gave me a snide remark about fixing cracks in the road and that it's a township problem.

Mayor Vizzard said he will call but the superintendent needs to also call.

Tracy Richardson said she will ask her to call.

Nick DiCosmo said he is in contact with the county engineer quite frequently and he can mention something to him as well.

Tracy Richardson said she called the county about the divisions in the road, the bumps the trucks go over, and they said it was a township problem because they allowed the business to operate in town and that it was a police problem because they need to slow down the trucks.

Mayor Vizzard asked if she got the name of the person that told her that. Tracy said she has an email. Mayor said he would like to know who told her that. She said she could send the email to the mayor.

Tracy Richardson said she had one more thing. She doesn't know if there is an ordinance or if we can get an ordinance for jake braking.

Committeeman Jamison said there is a sign for that on Yock Wock.

Ms. Richardson said that doesn't help her where she is.

Committeeman Jamison said I know but I'm pretty sure we can get a sign.

Ms. Richardson asked if she could get a sign at Main and High.

Mayor Vizzard didn't see why we couldn't do that. Mayor was going to see if the county would put one up

Tracy Richardson said, and we need to get the word out down to Bivalve and the dump truck drivers. It's bad enough with the traffic from Bivalve but now with the dump trucks doing it because they are coming into town flying then its oh wait, it's only 25 miles per hour and they are jake braking.

Solicitor Seeley said just so you know, I represent many municipalities all along the Delaware Bay and this is a common problem amongst a lot of residents.

Tracy Richardson said she has lived there for 15 years, there are speeders in town, but it just keeps getting worse. Nobody is telling them to slow down, and no one is watching them, and no one is really policing them, I'm sorry. Ms. Richardson directed at Lt. Blizzard and remarked that she knows the state police are busy, but nobody is telling anybody to slow down. It's like the wild west down here sometimes and when we moved in, we tried to get the speeders to slow down and we were told we can't really patrol Main Street all the time but like I said it just keeps getting worse and now we have added 200 dump trucks a day. It's just not fair, it's not right. Why bother having a speed limit if its not going to be enforced.

Mayor Vizzard said I get and I'm sure Lt. Blizzard gets it.

Tracy Richardson said she moved here to get away from that. I moved here from Cape May Court House where the traffic is crazy. We came down here on a motorcycle ride and said this is a quiet peaceful town that's not far from the beach. It's serene, the nature here is beautiful and now here we are back where we were 15 years ago. I'd like to sell my house because I don't want to deal with it anymore, but no one is going to buy my house for what we paid for it. The damage that is happening to our house now with all the dump trucks pounding down the road, my neighbors have damage to their house....I just wish you had asked people what they thought of it before you did it, I'm sorry.

Mayor Vizzard said there would have been nothing we could do to stop it.

Ms. Richardson said but you approved them so...

Mayor said there isn't anything we could do to stop it.

Ms. Richardson said yeah, now.

Mayor said no then.

Edward Fox said the land use board could have put stipulations on it.

Mayor Vizzard said they couldn't have re-routed the trucks.

Edward Fox said how come they could re-route them in Mauricetown and everywhere else. How come they get special privileges?

Mayor Vizzard said that property was donated by the sand plant to help the municipality re-route and get the trucks out of Mauricetown. There isn't any land here for the sand plant to donate to us to build a bypass road. The County built the bypass road, it's a county road, it's not a township road. It was donated by the sand plant to build that road.

Solicitor Seeley said and to put a stipulation on speeding, that's a state police issue.

Mayor said I want to keep moving.

Emmett Vandegrift said we mentioned at the Monday meeting too about making the school an assisted living or something. I think Mrs. Hoffman had a really good idea with Rutgers and Rowan. If we can get them to come in with some extension and furthermore, I really wanted to pursue a horticulture and a aquaculture program started at the school. If we can get the old school to be some form of extension, that's going to bring 50 to 100 college students into this area. That's just want the town needs. These young kids would be interested in these homes, fixer uppers. I moved here because it was a cheaper home that I could fix up.

Mayor Vizzard said I will tell you that I have worked with the CCIA trying to get Rutgers interested in something like that. They are not interested in the building. I will ask them about the horticulture part though.

Emmett Vandegrift just continued to express the value of this type of program for our town and felt our Bayshore town would be perfect for this type of program.

Mayor Vizzard agreed and said he would talk to them about it.

Tracy Richardson said Club 21 would always be interested in that. It's a school program, it's a grant. It's great. They do clubs after school. They are always looking for some new program.

Mayor Vizzard said he will also say as a part of trying to investigate that, they did find a theatrical school from Woodbury that was looking for a place to go. They haven't decided yet, but they were shown that building. They could buy it and make it a theatrical school.

Emmett Vandegrift said the other thing he want to mention is farming as a resource, if there is property owed by the township that could be farmed.

Mayor Vizzard said the first thing that came to mind is the peek of the moon.

Emmett Vandegrift said I though Capaldi sold that to a private entity. Does the township own part of it too?

Mayor said we must own it because we keep are always maintaining the dykes.

Clerk said we do not own it; we just maintain it. The state owns it.

Emmett Vandegrift said we should still be allowed to farm it and potentially look at leasing out the hunting right to it anyway. We are in duck hunting heaven here. The guys from Ducks Unlimited are around here.

Mayor said maybe we can get a hold of Ducks Unlimited or Fish and Wildlife.

Emmett Vandegrift said if we could get the horticulture program established, you could get them to farm out the township pieces. If there is a way to find township property that's suited for that and then if there is someone at the school. I would be willing to help out however I can.

Bill Henderson said I want to know more about this radar detail Jack was talking about.

Mayor asked Jack what he needs from us, a letter?

Lt. Blizzard said I would say you guys are in but you're going to feel the heat.

Bill Henderson said I'm actually have more problems with the dump trucks. Bill continued to describe the problems he has witness and things that the speed enforcement detail will be a good eye opener.

Brian from Sahara sand we are the sand plant on Dragston Road, I'm not a person owner, I just work there, and this is Kyle is an everyday plant manager who is also a part of the barging operation. We are trying to be very proactive. This isn't falling on deaf ears. You have probably seen me driving around in a red pick-up truck. We aren't ignoring the problem. We understand everyone's concern. We are trying to operate a business within the confines of the rules. We are very on top of the drivers as far as speeding and what not. I'm not a police officer, I can't write tickets, but I do have a radar gun we also use at other facilities. If I catch someone they get talked to. We have thrown drivers out because they don't follow the rules. We are on them about taking different routes at different times of the day because of school buses and certain things. It's not being ignored. We are not ignorant to the problem. We are not just some company at the end of the road who is just looking to make a dollar and to piss everybody off. We understand we are here for a long period of time. We are trying to build a relationship with the town and make this work for everybody.

Edward Fox said sometimes it's hard to figure out who is who out there.

Brian said its not that we are pushing the blame on another company but the guys that work for our company, we are on top of them. We aren't saying our guys don't speed that would be foolish, but we are trying to maintain a high standard with them to do the right thing.

Bill Henderson said he has witnessed these guys out there keeping an eye on their trucks.

Edward Fox said when Brian was in my driveway, they were pushing their trucks by. When he was in my driveway, they were doing thirty right through town.

Mayor Vizzard had a question from Brian. There was a street sweeper that road the entire length of 553. Was that you guys?

Brian said yes, that was us. That was yesterday.

Mayor Vizzard thanked him for that.

Edward Fox asked Brian about the GPS in the trucks. Is that something that is in force?

Brian said it is not in all trucks, but it is something we are working on so not only can we look at the truck in real time, but we can also go back over the course of the day. We are still in the beginning process. We don't run every week. We have only run maybe 10 times in the last 3 months.

Tracy Richardson said to go back in talking about the animal shelter. There are a lot of irresponsible pet owners in this township. Is there some sort of preventive measures we can take so that the shelters don't fill up? Or be more proactive I should say.

Mayor asked in what way does she suggest

Tracy Richardson said she didn't know it was just a thought off the top of her head. Fines, whatever it takes. She has 8 furry creatures living in her house because of irresponsible pet owners

Mayor Vizzard asked Lt. Blizzard if he could explain what the state has done with the animal control and how come it is so difficult to take care of these animals.

Lt. Blizzard said the SPCA was shut down because they were ridiculous with the way they were treating homeowners and their animals. A lot of people in this town and adjacent towns have all kinds of different dogs. Dogs are usually the hot topic followed by cats and I guess the rest of the animals just don't matter but its dogs and cats. When you have a dog that you basically use as a tool, a hunting dog whether it be a beagle a coon hound or whatever, those dogs never come in the house. There are some people where that's just not acceptable to them. A dog belongs in the house, a Christmas he gets a stocking on the mantle, all those things it just has to be that way. So, we get tons of calls, most of the animals that end up in shelters, that you guys are paying for are because somebody has called and complained, and they have had to have their animals taken from them. That's on the township to pay the bill. It is an exorbitant amount of



money. I don't know how it cost \$700 a dog to house them. I don't know of any function that goes around the township and scoops up feral cats and dogs that people have decided they are done with but the more they get heated up with the way they keep their dog and I agree with you wholeheartedly, there are people that mistreat their dog but if somebody has a dog outside on a chain or a leash and they go in the house to finish dinner or take a shower or whatever and the dog wraps itself up around a tree, we get everyone of those phone calls. We have to go out, make sure the dog has a 15-foot leash, the fact of the matter is, animal care is dictated by money. Not everyone has \$150 to go buy an igloo dog box with a wind break on the east side. Its just the rule now. There are more rules for animals than there is for humans. So, the people who live in these one-horse towns, they don't have that kind of money, but you know what they do? They love that dog; their kids love that dog. We go there and we either give them a warning or we give them a fine which now incurs more pain. If it is horrible then we do have to take the dog, that's not usually the case. Most times we give them warnings. You give them fines, its not helping that dog one bit. People don't have money to put a 10X10 kennel out there and of course it can't just be a kennel, it has to have a roof, so the sun doesn't shine right on the dog. You have a dog that has been outside for 32 minutes and it's snowing outside. You get out there and it's a Siberian husky.

Tracy Richardson said, I have seem post on Facebook and what not about dogs in Laurel Lake that run loose and you see people say yes that dog is always running loose and you can see the dog is not in good shape and I know full well the income level of this township but they do require money to take care of them properly, I mean if you can't afford it, well that's all I can really say. I just wish there was a program that could help the animals when needed for vet care. I know we have the rabies program. I just know there are animals that are running loose that nobody cares about.

Lt. Blizzard said it would be nice but those dogs that is running loose like that or nobody has cared for or someone gave up on them because they are tired of their neighbor calling and turning them in because they don't have it housed appropriately they say you know what I have had enough and the dog runs loose and the dog gets scooped up, delivered over here to the kennel and it's on their dime (township).

Tracy Richardson said it would just be nice if these people took it to the kennel instead of just letting it run loose.

Mayor said it would be on their dime.

Lt. Blizzard said they aren't going to pay to drop it off. They couldn't pay to put hay in the box. It's a tough situation.

Edward Fox asked unknown attendant from Downe Township about the truck traffic in Downe. Response was that it has been of concern to the crab restaurant getting in and out.

Lt. Blizzard said he lives on 553 in Downe. He sees the trucks and they have overt operations to monitor it but as soon as the first truck sees us, its over. We can crank up the enforcement. They will be quiet while we are there no doubt but as soon as they somebody, they

will be good for 2 or 3 trips. We will catch more cars than trucks. The cars don't have radios to warn them. The trucks talk to one another. Do we have the go ahead to do it?

Mayor Vizzard asked if he needed a letter or verbal.

Lt. Blizzard said if you tell me we can do it, we will do it.

Mayor Vizzard said yeah, lets do it.

The committee decided to vote on allowing a speed monitor operation.

Committeeman Jamison said so anyone doing more than 5 over will get a ticket.

Lt. Blizzard said yes it would be zero tolerance over that.

Tracy Richardson asked if it would be ongoing.

Lt. Blizzard said yes, and it would be random, or it wouldn't work.

Mayor Vizzard asked if there was anything else for the public, seeing none asked for a motion to close to the public. Mr. Jamison made the motion to close to the public and was seconded by Mr. Klaudi.

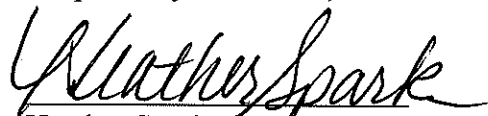
Mayor Vizzard said now that we are closed to the public do we have a motion to allow this speed enforcement. Mr. Klaudi made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Jamison.

Clerk did roll call; all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard said OK additional considerations, the Commercial Township rabies clinic is scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 noon at the Laurel Lake Fire Hall. There will be an Easter egg hunt on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Charles Sheppard building at 11:00 am. Mauricetown will have their annual yard sale on April 30<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a craft fair at the Mauricetown Fire Hall on the same day.

With nothing further, Mayor asked for motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Klaudi made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Jamison.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Heather Sparks, Deputy Clerk