

Minutes of the Agenda meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on April 18, 2022, at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ.

Those Present:

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

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 asked for reports from officials.

Barney Hollinger – Basket Flats, will hold meeting this Thursday at 1:00 pm. On 3/23, he attended meeting with Coast Guard. They are looking for places for an oil dune. They talked about something just before the Mauricetown bridge, possible attach something to the bulkhead at the Mauricetown park.

Mayor Vizzard indicated that there are some problems with the Mauricetown bulkhead.

Barney Hollinger made the Coast Guard aware there were some issues there right now. It was determined to not be an issue and the Coast Guard hasn't made any decisions yet. It was suggested that oil dune is attached at the base of the original bridge.

Barney Hollinger – On 3/22 he met with Army Corp about a feasibility study called a cat 103. Its focus is on basket flats. Mr. Hollinger gave a brief explanation of the study. Shore protection funding comes from the DEP, but they are looking to see if the township has any funding for this project. It was suggested that there may be funding from the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Hollinger said, "It's a go for the channel dredging out here" It will take an act of Congress to get the depth of the channel deeper than 7 feet. Van Drew has said he will do that.

Mr. Hollinger- On March 24th, met with Citizens united with Joe and the Environmental Commission about doing a study. On both sides of the river, they will be mapping from the Mauricetown bridge and up. They are going to go into the Manumuskin, they are going to go in and kill the frags. Citizens united is looking for a letter of support from the township.

Solicitor Seeley suggested looking into PSEG. They have funding and they are doing that in Greenwich.

Mr. Hollinger – Next Bayshore council meeting is this Thursday at 10:00 AM

Mr. Hollinger – Wants to bring to the township's attention the sand situation on Berry Avenue has gotten so bad that there is now a speed bump coming out of their gate, out of Port Norris Properties. You can not see most of the road because of the dirt. Mr. Hollinger would like to propose that the township adopt an ordinance, requiring property owners that leave the roads in front of their properties.....(interruption)

Mayor Vizzard responded that he has already complained about that and what he is told it is the gas company was down there and did work. Clint is trying to get the gas company to come back to fix that at the entrance.

Mr. Hollinger did not agree that this was a result of the gas company and explained what he thinks has happened to the road. It was the result of the trucks coming in and out of there.

Mr. Hollinger said that adopting this ordinance would not be detrimental to anyone else out on the waterfront. It would give some power to say, clean it up, we are going to take you to court, we are going to fine you and we are going to shut you down until it is done. Mr. Hollinger suggested that Mr. Seeley could draw up the ordinance.

Mayor Vizzard said he didn't have a problem with it. Mayor acknowledged that this individual has been non-compliant. Mayor has previously asked owner to put trap rock down to help cut down on the sand, they haven't done that.

It was determined that the clerk would provide an address of the property to Mr. Seeley.

Mayor asked for the engineer's report.

Nick DiCosmo- Issuance of final payment for the riverfront road improvement. Immediately after that we will submit for reimbursement, final reimbursement will be approximately \$800,000. Red Fern Drive is closed out. Keron Drive and Parsons should all be closed out just waiting on disbursement of final funds. Will follow up with DOT. The Port Norris Riverfront Improvement phase 3, the permits are all ready to submit, we just need some signatures then we will be in the permit review period. In the meantime, we will finalize our design.

Barney Hollinger asked if the bridge was going to be build higher than the road.

Nick DiCosmo said No but the top of the deck will be higher than the road. The bottom of the bridge deck must match the existing. It is going to be a concrete culvert.

A brief discussion ensued with Barney Hollinger on the design plan for the project and how to address water rise.

Barney Hollinger complemented Clint Miller and the Public works crew on the work they did on the sluice gate. Feels that it is working better than it has in years.

Nick DiCosmo continued, the 2022 Local Impact fund, we may hear end of the month or early next month. Pre-construction of Cobb & Brown, still working on the design. The Mauricetown park, received a proposal from WJ Castle to do an in-water inspection of the bulkhead. Copies of the proposal was provided. The in-water inspection would require divers. No, much can be done with the cost. We need divers. They will do the inspection and a signed and sealed report that will document all issues with the bulkhead and provide repair recommendations. Nick feels this is the best way to go. We do not know the extend of damage.

The committeeman agreed the inspection was needed. It will be the only way to determine extent of damage. Alternative is to shut the park down and they do not want to do that.

Nick DiCosmo said this company has delt with a very similar situation to this and they were able to repair it. Hopefully it can be repaired.

Nick DiCosmo said with the interlocal agreement with the county on the Miller Avenue bridge, there was a question of how the funding will be handled for the county portion. Typically, the county would do it on a reimbursement basis just like the grants. The township will put out the money, provide a bill to the county and they will pay the township.

Mayor Vizzard doesn't feel it is right that the township has to put that money out for the county's bridge.

Nick DiCosmo said the county is taking full responsibility for payment of the bridge. It's just a matter of putting up the money beforehand. Doug is going to reach out to the county finance department. He is going to see if when the 1st bill is issued, the county would reimburse the township before the township ask to be reimbursed. Option two would be if you can't do it that way, we can structure our contract with the contractor, so the bridge is done first. The contractor would then submit the bill and at this time the township would have received 75% of the grant as the initial payment so we could make the payment, submit to county for reimbursement, get the reimbursement before we would get a second bill for the tide gate. The money the county is using is also grant funding. It is not in their best interest delaying payment because they are going to be dealing with reimbursements as well.

A resolution will be on for Thursday's meeting approving underwater inspection for the Mauricetown park.

Mayor reviewed correspondence.

Received a request from the Laurel Lake Triathlon which is a run, bike, and swim in Laurel Lake. Event takes place on Millville and Commercial Roads. Certificate of insurance is attached and has been forwarded to Bob Conner at Mints for review. A hold harmless form was sent to them. This event will require approval by resolution.

Received a request from John Nardone of the Commercial Township Environmental Commission requesting a letter of support for a grant they are applying for to help support maintenance of Blue Bird and Purple Martin habitat in the township.

Land Sale request – Keri Hiles of 353 Beech Rd. has put in an offer to purchase block 135, lot 7034 for \$200.00. This property has a retention basin on it and has previously been deemed as not for sale. This property is adjacent to her existing property.

Mayor Vizzard wanted to know more about the basin on the property.

Clerk said the Hiles have inquired about buying this property before and they were told no because of the retention basin.

Solicitor Seeley asked if it was buildable.

Clerk said it is not. That is not why she wants it. Mrs. Hiles says there is another neighbor that is throwing debris in the drainage basin area, and she is concerned about flooding on her property. She wants to own it so she can maintain it.

Mayor asked if we are allowed to sell a retention basin.

Solicitor Seeley said you can.

Committeeman Jamison said there has to be some sort of stipulation with that.

Nick DiCosmo said we should look into that further. Where is the drainage tied in, is it functioning?

Clerk explained that the Hiles previously purchased property with drainage on it and they provided us with an easement to do maintenance.

Mayor Vizzard said we need to look at who is putting debris on the property. That must stop.

It was determined to look into the drainage situation before Thursday to make a decision to sell.

Benamino Giunta of 948 Grant St. Mays Landing NJ has put in an offer of \$2,000. To purchase three (3) township properties all adjoining each other. Block 139, lots 7902, 7904, & 7907. Mr. Giunta would like stipulation of home demo removed so he can rehab the home.

Mayor Vizzard – There are violations on property Mr. Giunta owns. He recommends not selling until the other properties are cleaned up. Committee agreed and asked the clerk to send Mr. Giunta a letter.

Fletcher Jamison has put in an offer of \$500 to purchase 2522 Ogden Ave. Port Norris. Block 225, lot 27. This property is vacant. Lot size is 109 X 174.

Mayor Vizzard – we will put it on for Thursday night.

Bond Ordinance for introduction – Ordinance 2022-612, Bond ordinance providing for the replacement of a county owned minor bridge on Miller Avenue in and by the Township of Commercial in the County of Cumberland, New Jersey, Pursuant to a Shared Service Agreement with the County of Cumberland, appropriating \$1,300,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$1,300,000 bonds or notes of the Township to finance the cost thereof.

Resolutions –

1. Resolution 2022-45 Approving Laurel Lake Triathlon July 1, 2021
2. Resolution 2022-46 Approving A Five-Year Sand Mining Permit License For Covia Holdings Corporation for Phase 2 & 4A
3. Resolution 2022-47 Approving 2022 Annual Compensation for the Commissioners of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 1
4. Resolution 2022-48 Authorizing the 2022 Municipal Budget to be read by Title Only
5. Resolution 2022-49 Adoption of the 2022 Municipal Budget
6. Resolution 2022-50 Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”
7. Resolution 2022-51 Authorizing Final Payment NJ DOT Local Freight Impact Fund Port Norris Riverfront Roadway Improvements In The Amount of \$105,250.16, South State Inc. Payment Certificate #3
8. Resolution 2022-52 Authorizing Shared Service Agreement to Provide Services of Certified Recycling Coordinator as Review and Certification Agent Regarding Annual Recycling Tonnage Report

Mayor Vizzard asked if there were any reports from the officials.

Committeeman Jamison- He was going to have Clint Miller look at the property Aster.

Committeeman Klaudi – Has been watching the squatter. He is removing aluminum siding.

Mayor Vizzard – He took a ride up to the lake. He is very disappointed riding around up there. There are a lot of properties that are just trashed.

Mayor Vizzard- County is still working on solution for animal sheltering. County agrees something needs to be done. Every township pays way too much money. The county is also approving the bond for the new state police barracks. That will happen at their next meeting. They are financing all the cost of the new state police barracks. It looks like the state is also going to take over the old barracks too.

Clerk asked if we would collect rent from both facilities.

Mayor Vizzard said yes, from both. We won't have to do anything to the old facility. It will be a training facility.

With nothing further, Mayor asked for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Sparks, Township Clerk