

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ. Meeting was open to public.

Those present:

Mike Vizzard	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Deputy Mayor
Joseph Klaudi	Committeeman
Heather Sparks	Township Clerk
Douglas Albrecht	County Commissioner
Nick DiCosmo	Engineer

Mayor Vizzard called the meeting to order and announced that this special meeting has been advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was sent to the South Jersey Times and The Daily Journal.

Mayor asked we join him in the flag salute and the Lord's prayer.

County Commissioner Douglas Albrecht was in attendance and provided a power point presentation by WIIP, Water Infrastructure Investment Plan.

Discussion was on the topic of wastewater treatment options for the township.

Commissioner Albrecht spoke on funding available through the WIIP program that would be of benefit to the township for wastewater treatments. It was explained that there is a deadline of April 6, 2022, to get something submitted to be considered for the funding.

Mayor Vizzard asked about the DEP Flood Damage Protection Plan and wanted to know if that would impact what the committee would like to see with wastewater treatments. Will Part of PACT, Protecting Against Climate Threats, interfere.

Nick DiCosmo said the ordinance that Downe Township is objecting to, there are towns at the shore that have passed it. DEP is trying to standardize all the Flood Protection Ordinances. You can be more restrictive, but this is a base line.

Mayor Vizzard said they are basing it on a hundred-year flood plain, why not base it on a 20-year flood plain then do another 20 years. Why cause all these problems for homeowners on a maybe.

Nick DiCosmo explained that it's not a flood that happens once in 100 years. There is a 1% chance a flood could happen in any given year, and they just started calling it the 100-year flood. I just don't think it would impact building a wastewater treatment facility.

Mayor Vizzard wants to make sure it will not affect the people that live along the Bayshore. If it is going to cause people to get more flood insurance, I'm against it.

Discussion ensued on the option of tying a wastewater line from Millville to the Laurel Lake area of the township. It was suggested that Millville be notified of our interest so that can be incorporated in plans Millville may have. The township would need to know Millville could support the extension.

Nick DiCosmo said there would be up front cost to getting the planning in motion and would need concrete answers from Millville regarding capacity and intent before spending the time and money in the planning.

Nick DiCosmo said the feasibility study that we currently have from 2015 will not help us for Laurel Lake because it was done for Port Norris. Meghan Wren did inquire about a grant, and they will fund a feasibility study for Laurel Lake. It covers 75% of the cost.

Mayor Vizzard said we wouldn't have that information by April 6 to Matt Pisarski at the county. Can we add something to the current feasibility study to say that we want sewer for Laurel Lake and option of tying into Millville.

Nick DiCosmo said we need to determine what the scope is of what needs to be turned in. Maybe a letter of intent. We could turn in feasibility study from the river front, but it doesn't help with planning for Laurel Lake.

Mayor Vizzard suggested that rather than spending anything just yet, should we consider putting in on the ballot as a question to the public? If the public doesn't want it, there is no point in going forward with it.

Douglas Albrecht asked if there are houses and buildings in the township that people aren't buying because of the septic?

Mayor Vizzard said yes, that's why I'm pursuing septic grants so people can do repairs.

Nick DiCosmo said we need to speak to Matt Pisarski at the county to find out exactly what he would need prior to April 6th. A letter of intent and the previous feasibility study may be doable. Nick asked if anyone had a contact in Millville.

Douglas Albrecht provided a contact, Wayne Johnson. He is a special engineer that handles these types of special projects.

Short discussion ensued as to the timeline and requirements of grant.

Douglas Albrecht stated he spoke to Senator Testa amongst others to help get approval of the county wastewater plan. Commercial Township is included in the plan. Mr. Albrecht did

ask for a copy of the Bayshore proposed sewer service map. Mr. Albrecht will provide the copy when received.

It was decided to first reach out to Millville to find out their capacity and ability to support the extension should grant funding become available. A letter of intent and previous wastewater feasibility study will be sent to Matt Pisarski in the county planning department.

With nothing further, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Sparks
Township Clerk