

Minutes of the Agenda meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on May 16, 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
Clint Miller	Public Works Supervisor

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 – On 4/18, he attended a meeting at the Bayshore center regarding Basket flats. The outfit is Mount Construction. They have leased part of Longreach marina. They are hauling rock with an August 1<sup>st</sup> start date. They will be using large quarry rock. The Bayshore council did a presentation on shoreline restoration projects, mostly in Maurice River Township, very interesting. Army Corp is going to bid in August for channel dredging in 2023. State has noted that Commercial and Maurice River have their MSA's in at the state planning commission.

Nick DiCosmo said he understands we should have a written state response in the fall. Ours was submitted months ago.

Clint Miller asked Barney Hollinger if he could give an update on the oil catch that's to be set up at the Mauricetown park.

Barney Hollinger indicated that was something involving the Coast Guard, they did two presentations. They are looking for a place to put an oil boom. They want to put it before the Mauricetown bridge so the only place they can do it, is at the Mauricetown park. Their thinking if there is a spill, there is a better chance of it happening, in the river.

Clint Miller said he was asking because Heather saw on her lunch break that they were working down there. This coming Monday, we have divers coming in to do an inspection. Clint asked Barney if he had a contact number. He just wants to make sure there won't be any conflict.

Barney Hollinger was going to get Nick and Clint a contact at the Coast Guard.

Clint Miller asked about the spoilage from the dredging of the river. He asked Barney if he thought the township would be able to get some of it because it is good to use at the Peek of the Moon.

Barney Hollinger said the silt will be very fine. What they are going to do is build a containment area over in Matt's Landing and they will fill some of that in and have a containment area for any other municipality that may need it. Ocean City, Stone Harbor, he believes has this type of material.

Clint Miller said he wants the black mud. Clint indicated that Silvi has a clay they are bring up.

Mayor Vizzard said Silvi is willing to give us whatever we need of the clay.

Mayor Vizzard asked for the Engineers report.

Nick DiCosmo – We submitted the final closeout package for the Port Norris riverfront roadway job, it was submitted last week to the DOT. We are just waiting on their final approval which will allow the township to get the final reimbursement of about \$876,000. Everything is submitted for Keron and Parsons, that disbursement should be coming up also, very soon. Port Norris riverfront phase III, the Army Corp permits were submitted on April 28<sup>th</sup> and the DEP and CAFA permits were official submitted this morning, so we are in the review period for that. The fiscal year local freight 2022 impact fund, we received two, \$900,000 grants for reconstruction of Yock Wock and High St. and the overlay of Main St. I sent both proposals to be reviewed and to be added to the agenda. Nick spoke to Doug Whitaker at the County this morning and he is definitely on board for doing another shared service agreement to come up with any funding shortfalls we will have for Main St. Cobb and Brown is almost done, he is hoping to submit to the DOT for review by the end of the week. Hopefully will go out to bid sometime in June. The hope is to be done with that project maybe in September. The Mauricetown park, we have the inspection scheduled for Monday, will provide Clint number so they can coordinate with him incase of any issues. It should be 2-3 weeks following that we should get the report. We can re-assess then and determine what to do. We also have the upcoming state aide applications, I sent that proposal in for review. We can discuss what applications we want to submit. We can submit up to three (3). A potential I see is we can enter a road as priority 1 and then a pedestrian path as a priority 2 job. We can also but in for the bikeway funding. Possible tack on to the pedestrian path, like a mixed-use path. That's some options. Nick is still dealing with the gas company to mill and pave two areas on Magnolia. The gas company is checking with their construction department to see what the status is. They seemed receptive. We may be getting both intersections repaired.

Clint Miller indicated that the gas company has a lot of holes up there. We need to have this work inspected when they are done.

Nick DiCosmo said we do need to have a conversation with them. We do review the street opening permits as they come in and they do post escrow for that work. When they are near done, I really want to look at the work because some of their repairs have been lacking but they seem to be receptive when you call them out.

Mayor Vizzard asked how does that get policed? The road opening permits. How does the gas company know they need a permit?

Clint Miller said the gas company has to apply for a road opening in every municipality.

Nick DiCosmo said the township does have an ordinance that states that.

Fletcher Jamison explained that they need to reach out to the municipalities with the blanket order. Before they can open the road, they need to contact the municipality unless its an emergency. Mr. Jamison explained more on the road opening process as far as the gas company is concerned.

Nick DiCosmo said I think what Mike is asking is, what makes the gas company come to us because its possible they may not. If we find that has happened, we will go to them and tell them they still need the permit and pay the fees. If the repair is unacceptable, we will tell them they have too re-do it.

Mike Vizzard asked Nick DiCosmo if the CFO is clear on what is needed to submit these grants.

Nick DiCosmo said yes, she was Cc'd on the proposals. The job for Yock Wock will only \$10,000 from township funds. The Main St. job is going to require none because any funding shortfalls, will go to the county. I hope that the CFO read the proposals, if there is something she isn't clear on, I hope she would give me a call.

Nick DiCosmo had one other item. He spoke with Doug at the county. He knows the township has received a lot of complaints with speeding at the curve by Robbinstown Rd. He asked Doug if this issue can be addressed when we do the Main St. job. Doug said that they have already done updated signage, there is a rumble strip in the middle of the road, and they did a surface treatment to increase the friction going around the curve. Nick said none of that really addresses the speeding, but he doesn't know what else to suggest at this time. Maybe when they are working on the project, they will think of something else that can be done.

Clint Miller said the speed limit changes from 45 to 35 at Strawberry Ave. I think that speed limit needs to be backed down to 35 prior to Robbinstown Rd.

Nick DiCosmo said he could speak to the county about it.

Mayor Vizzard said he spoke to the county about the speed limit and was told the limit was based on a vehicle count done years ago.

Clint Miller said he spoke to Charles Hope, and he did come down and put signs in.

Nick DiCosmo said we could put a white rumble strip in the road and put curve ahead. When you go over the strip it alerts you to the curve. It is effective because it is annoying. Other than that, he is trying to think of anything way may be able to incorporate into the project.

Clerk stated that a resident on that bend has small school age children that get picked up on that curve. He suggested a "school bus ahead" sign.

Clint Miller confirmed that sign was already put up.

Mayor Vizzard asked if there was a way to make that corner not so sharp.

Nick DiCosmo said he spoke to Doug about that, and he said to widen the curve, you would end up pulling the curve in, then there are houses right there. Nick further explained the consequence to changes to the design of the curve.

Barney Hollinger spoke up asking if a guard rail could go in there.

Nick DiCosmo said that is a possibility, but I would suggest running that by the homeowners first because some people hate to see guide rail. Some people don't like the noise, like if we do the rumble strips.

Barney Hollinger spoke of another area near there that has a drop off and suggested guide rail. Nick DiCosmo said that wouldn't solve the problem with speeding. Barney replied nothing would help the speeding except for the police.

Mayor Vizzard said he believed the speed signs help but they get use to the signs.

Mayor moved on to correspondence.

Correspondence from Tax Collector. Recommends assigning tax sale certificate to lien holder for block 85, lot 8962. Lien holder would like to foreclose. There is an encroachment with the adjacent lot. We have Assignment of the lien will resolve this issue.

Correspondence from NJDOT. Township was selected to receive funding from NJDOT for 2022 Local Freight Impact Fund for the reconstruction of High Street and Yock Wock road in the amount of \$900,000.

Correspondence from NJDOT. Township was selected to receive funding from NJDOT for 2022 Local Freight Impact Fund for mill and overlay of Main St (CR-553) from Strawberry Ave. to Ogden Ave. in the amount of \$900,000.

Received notification, NJDOT is taking applications for the 2023 trust fund (State Aid) program. Funding request are being accepted for 3 categories,

- **Municipal Aid** – Supports walking and bike bath safety

- **Bikeway** – New bikeways that are separate from motorized vehicles or on-road bike lanes
- **Safe Streets to transit** – support constructing safe and accessible pedestrian linkages to transit facilities

Project will need to be selected

Applications need to be submitted by July 1, 2022.

There was a brief discussion on the roads and projects that would be good for the 2023 NJDOT state aid. Milbourne Dr was mentioned.

Nick DiCosmo said that because the price of material has gone up so much it's going to be tough to do the full length of Brown St. Maybe we do Milbourne and the remainder of Brown.

Clint Miller said that there is curbing on Brown Street that we just won't be able to do.

Nick DiCosmo said we are going to save the curbs and any curb that is damaged has to be replaced by the contractor.

Discussion ensued further on project options for the 2023 NJDOT state aid.

Correspondence from Tax Collector. Owner at 352 Robin Rd, block 107, lots 8458-8459 is selling. An encroachment was discovered. The Township foreclosed on adjoining lots that could possibly contain the well or septic. Title company has requested the township vacate a final judgement for block 107, Lots 8483-8484. Mayor wants placed on for Thursday's meeting.

Bond Ordinance - Second Reading & Public Hearing for Thursday's meeting

#### 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 –

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| Resolution 2022-53 | Budget Insertion \$900,000.00 NJDOT Fiscal Year 2022<br>Local Freight Impact Program for Mill and Overlay of<br>Main Street from Strawberry Ave. to Ogden Ave. Project |
| Resolution 2022-54 | Budget Insertion \$900,000.00 NJDOT Fiscal Year 2022<br>Local Freight Impact Program for Reconstruction of High<br>Street and Yock Wock Road.                          |

- Resolution 2022-55 Budget Insertion \$4,145.13 Recycling Tonnage Grant
- Resolution 2022-56 Authorizing Remington & Vernick Engineers to Provide Professional Engineering and Construction Phase Services for the Reconstruction of Yock Wock Road and High Street in the Amount of \$45,000
- Resolution 2022-57 A 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 2023 Trust Fund Municipal Aid Program
- Resolution 2022-58 Authorizing Remington & Vernick Engineers to Provide Engineering Design and Construction Phase Services for the Mill and Overlay of Main Street in the Amount of \$45,000.
- Resolution 2022-59 Resolution of Preference for Approval of Cannabis Manufacturing License for Pigment Holdings, LLC, By State of New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission
- Resolution 2022-60 Authorizing the Transfer of Overpayment to Other Tax Years or Refund of Overpayment to Owner, Payer or Other Representative
- Resolution 2022-61 Approving Bond Anticipation Note with Newfield National Bank at 1.70% Percent Interest.
- Resolution 2022-62 Acknowledge Receipt of Payment in Full on Behalf of Rose Martinez of the Bayshore Housing Program Mortgage Held by the Township and Authorizing the Execution of the Discharge of Mortgage Regarding Same.
- Resolution 2022-63 Acknowledge Receipt of Payment in Full on Behalf of Ruth G. Jones of 209 Dandelion Road of the Bayshore Housing Program Mortgage Held by the Maurice River Township and Authorizing the Execution of a Discharge of Mortgage Regarding Same

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

Committeeman Jamison- Asked how we are making out with the transportation of our zoning officer.

Clint Miller said that if the car he is using goes down, we have nothing else to put him in. Clint indicated that his department is already down two vehicles. We can't get them. We may have better luck finding something for him. I just want everyone to be aware, that car isn't in the greatest of shape. Clint also wanted to note that he has had a lot of break downs this year but everything we have, we haven't put a ton of money into. I'm' sure we can find something used.

Clint Miller also reported that his department did a demo at 539 Evergreen. We have the next one coming up on Fern and Petunia. Applications and permits are in place. He hopes to have them down in two weeks but in the meantime, he has no trespassing signs and caution tape up at the Petunia location. The locations at Evergreen and Fern, the septics were filled in and inspected by the Health Department.

Mayor said they did a good job cleaning up at the Evergreen property.

Clint Miller said we found a lot of needles at the Petunia property.

Mayor Vizzard – The animal shelter is ongoing. The latest is we asked the old SPCA to give us paperwork proving the amount they are charging us which we still have not received. We are moving forward with figuring out what else we can do. The state police barracks is moving forward. I think the plans have been drawn up. Wednesday, Tom & I have a meeting with Pam. The state approved us doing our septic grants, using the stimulus monies. My though is to gear this toward someone who is trying to buy or sell their house. People that know they need a septic tend to just walk away instead of selling them. We just need to work out the details.

Solicitor Seeley stated that Lawrence has the same idea.

Mayor Vizzard said maybe at some point we will open it up to anyone who can't afford a new septic, but we have to work out a payment plan or something because there won't be relief of it. We are going to put a lien against the property. We just have to figure out the details. A lot of municipalities want to do this.

The Port Norris school is going to go to auction. The school board has decided they will auction the school. Mayor said he walked through the building last week. Keeping in mind Emmett Vandegrift maybe could lease the building so he can get started with his cannabis production, but it will take too much money to bring it where he would need it, so he backed off of that.

Mayor believes there is a company gearing up to possibly do senior living, but he really doesn't know if they can afford that.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Heather Sparks, Township Clerk