

Minutes of the Agenda meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on August 15, 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
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 asked the engineer for his report.

Nick DiCosmo – Port Norris riverfront project, DOT has finally approved everything. He confirmed with two different people up there that it was approved for final reimbursement in the amount of \$870,166.39. What I heard today is we just need Trenton to process the invoice.

Riverfront phase III, we are still working through the permitting stuff for the sluice gate and the bridge. He submitted some information they needed on the bridge last week, but he still hasn't heard back.

Cobb & Brown was awarded last month. He has reached out to APS to try and get the pre-con scheduled. Hopefully that will be scheduled before the end of month. APS has indicated they probably won't start until sometime in October. Nick doesn't feel the job should take more than a month.

Yock Wock & High is moving forward. Main St. is moving forward. Nick did an updated cost estimate and sent it over to the County for Doug to review for our Shared Services. We are now asking the County to contribute \$550,000 for that job with a total project cost of 1.3 million. It's a good deal for them, they pay less than half and they get their whole road paved. The township doesn't kick in anything, the grant covers everything else.

Mayor asked if there was any way we could put speed deterrents in the road. Nick said we can definitely do that.

Further discussion ensued with speed deterrent options.

Nick continued; he is still waiting to hear back on the 2023 State Aid applications. He also received the additional escrow check from the gas company for us to inspect the repairs requested on Magnolia and Cherry.

The bulkhead: Nick is still looking into funding sources. Nick asked the mayor if he heard anything more from Jerry at CCIA. Mayor indicated the only thing Jerry could think of was possibly Green Acres.

Nick said that there is a guy, similar to what Jerry at CCIA does, in the Atlantic city area. He has gotten them a lot on money. Nick would like to reach out to him to see what he can do. His name is James Ratalia (sp.). He is a freelance grant writer. Nick is going to reach out to him.

Nick acknowledged getting an email on NJ DEP for being reassigned from tier B to tier A, he will RSVP. Nick also said he would get the information needed on the appeal.

Mayor moved on to correspondence

1. Received an Application for Solicitor's Certificate from Holly Arthur. She has a food truck service named Buddy Row's BBQ and Mickey D's Soul Food. Ms. Arthur is seeking approval for 90-day solicitation of her business.

Solicitor Seeley said it should be conditional on her having health department approval.

2. Correspondence from Cindy Tawes who was approached by the Cumberland County Library about the installation of a "Book Locker". The locker would be free of charge to the township and would be the responsibility of the County. Cindy would like to have the locker placed at the Senior Center as there isn't the room for it at the library.
3. Correspondence from Eduard Gilbert Renart. At last month's meeting Mr. Renart requested the purchase of several tax liens for properties with trailers. Mr. Renart has submitted another list with two properties. Only one of the properties listed would be eligible for lien purchase. The tax lien for purchase would be on property at 7061 Charles Place, Laurel Lake
4. Correspondence from Natalya. Referred to us by Mr. Eduard Renart, also for the purchase of tax liens for property with mobile homes. 10 Properties were identified in the request. In review, appears only 6 may qualify for tax lien purchase.
5. Correspondence from Gerald Hall. Would like to purchase township owned adjoining properties. Properties of interest are 6300 & 6306 Magnolia Dr. Block 48, lots 6137 and 6139. Mr. Hall is offering \$2,000 for the purchase of both lots. Lots combined would be 100 X 100. If accepted, sale would be in October.
6. Correspondence from Rev. Anthony Elliot of the Apostolic Lighthouse Church on Battle Lane. He is interested in the purchase of two township owned property at 227 and 235 Fern Rd. Mr. Elliott is offering \$400.00 for each lot. Both lots combined would be 120 X 100 in size. If accepted, the sale would be in October.

7. Correspondence from Beverly Stokes. Would like to purchase township property at 236 Iris Rd a 60 X 100 lot. Ms. Stokes owns property on both sides of this vacant township property. Ms. Stokes is offering \$750.00. If accepted, sale would be in October.
8. Re-quotes received for electric sign at the Township Hall. Quote from Archer Awnings & Signs for \$29,119, Stewart Signs for \$21,084.00, and KC Signs for \$22,995.00

There was a brief discussion on the sign specs.

Nick DiCosmo wanted to follow up on another company he had quote for the sign. Intends to have that information for Thursday's meeting.

Mayor said next are Resolutions.

1. Resolution 2022-81 Resolution for Lease Agreement with Kyocera for printer/copier
2. Resolution 2022-82 Resolution Awarding A Contract for the Purchase of One (1) New 2022 International CV515 Cab and Chassis for the Public Works Department.
3. Resolution 2022-83 Resolution Opposing the Proposed Increase to the State Health Benefits Program
4. Resolution 2022-84 Resolution Authorizing Electronic Tax Sale
5. Resolution 2022-85 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation or Refund of Property Taxes Due to Approval of 100% Disable Veteran's Application
6. Resolution 2022-86 Approval to Remove Erroneous Improvement Value
7. Resolution 2022-87 Authorizing the Transfer of Overpayment to Other Tax Years or Refund of Overpayment to Owner, Payer or Their Representative.
8. Resolution 2022-88 Resolution Authorizing Codification Project through General Code.
9. Resolution 2022-89 Executive Session

Mayor asked for reports of officials.

Committeeman Jamison asked if the committee had seen that the building inspector posted stickers on house on Brown St.

Committeeman Klaudi said that he saw there was a dumpster there.

Committeeman Jamison said the dumpster was there before he put the stickers on. He tried to stop to talk to her, but she wouldn't come to the door. Mike tried to stop there; she wouldn't answer. Mr. Jamison left his card on her car window.

Committeeman Klaudi indicated he had done the same.

Clerk said she has not tried to contact anyone at the township.

Committeeman Jamison said we just wanted to talk to her and find out what her plan is, but she never contacted any one of us.

Mayor asked if we know what the next move is.

Solicitor Seeley asked about the situation, is she renting? Has she paid taxes?

Mayor said her house is going to fall down.

Solicitor Seeley said it needs to be condemned.

Committeeman Jamison said she has known him his whole life and wishes she would come talk to him.

The committee will follow up with the construction official as to what is next.

Mayor asked how they were going to address all the people living in tents up on the property near Petunia.

Solicitor Seeley suggested calling the health department.

Committeeman Klaudi said he already tried that.

Additional conversation ensued as to how to get these people out that are living in tents on private property. Ultimately, it will not be easy. The solicitor is going to look into it.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Heather Sparks, Township Clerk