

Minutes of the Agenda meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial held on May 15, 2023, 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 Miller	Township Clerk

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 in full compliance of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Mayor Vizzard – Asked Barney Hollinger for his report.

Barney Hollinger – Went to a Bayshore Council meeting, channel dredging was advertised in May, will award in July, start in the fall. The Coast Guard is going to leave the buoys above the Mauricetown bridge. Fortescue sewer is out to bid. An update was given regarding basket flats. There is a study on the Maurice River for dredging and dredging material, and storm resilience. SJ Transportation authority approved for an eco-tourism consultant to be found. Maurice River received \$1 million dollars for a bike path. Some info was inaudible.

Mayor Vizzard- Asked Barney where the bike path was.

Barney Hollinger – They did not say where the path would be.

Nick DiCosmo- Asked what the funding source was.

Barney Hollinger- I'm not sure.

Mayor moved to engineer's report.

Nick DiCosmo- Riverfront Road Project phase III- We finally got all 5 DEP permits. We are good to go for the Miller Ave. bridge and the Berry Ave. tide gate. Working on the final design now. The plan is to get the county DOT review early in the summer and then end of summer or fall construction.

Re-construction of Yock Wock & High- The design is almost complete. It's about 95% done. I hope to get it submitted to DOT for their review by the end of this month or June. Summer or early fall construction.

Mill & overlay of Main St. – Clint has helped out a lot with getting a very detailed drainage markup of the all the stormwater structure that's out there and what needs to be upgraded and replaced. Spoke to Doug, he is going to pass the conflict agreement around. He should have it finalized to send over soon.

North Ave. Pedestrian Safety Improvement- Survey is complete. We are dressing up our base plans now.

Milbourne Dr. & Dennis Lane – Last week submitted application for roadway drainage improvements to the DOT local Aid Infrastructure fund. Clint helped with that too. He got pictures of the current conditions of the roadway. He sent me an e-mail explaining how they constantly have to repair it. I think we will paint a good picture of the continuing deterioration since we were denied funding in the fall. Hopefully it's a compelling argument. Construction cost submitted was somewhere around \$500,000. That resolution is for approval this week.

2024 Municipal Aid Applications- Provided a proposal. We will need to discuss what we want to apply for.

Nick DiCosmo- That's all I have for now. Over the next couple months, we will have to keep an eye on the trucking routes. When we know they are running, we will re-deploy the counter. I think it's August, September when the Local Freight opens up. If you have any thoughts on 2024 Municipal Aid, they are due July 1<sup>st</sup>. I'll plan to have our submitted the week before.

Mayor Vizzard- I do think our roads are getting pretty good now, the majority of the bad roads have now been fixed. Do we need to start looking toward flood control.

Nick DiCosmo- Are you speaking in terms of levies?

Mayor Vizzard- Will the Local Freight impact be available for that?

Nick DiCosmo- Well it always has to be tied to a truck route. But it's not always going to be no because we were able to secure funding for the tied gate because it protects Miller and Berry Avenue which is a trucking route.

Mayor Vizzard- We can come up with roads I just want to start thinking about stuff like that.

Nick DiCosmo- Maybe we can tie it to a trucking route. But Municipal Aid though, I don't believe flood control is a category. It really is for a roadway, and they are really pushing pedestrian and bike facilities.

Brief discussion ensued concerning tide gates, locations, and roads tied to the tide gates.

Mayor Vizzard moved on to correspondence.

On March 31, 2023, the township sent a letter to US Silica concerning resident complaints. On April 26, 2023, we received a response from the plant on how they plan to rectify the complaints.

Mayor Vizzard- At our last environmental commission meeting we had, there were additional complaints. I called Mr. Lucena, and we invited him to our June meeting. I would like to have the residents of Mauricetown here to voice their complaints and he can explain to them what it is he has done and is doing. I gave him some phone numbers and asked him to talk to some people. I know he has called and talked to them, but I still want him to come to the June meeting.

Mayor Vizzard moved on to Resolutions.

Resolution 2023-56 Authorizing Assignment

Resolution 2023-57 Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Roadway and Drainage Improvements to Milbourne Drive and Dennis Lane Project.

Mayor Moved to Ordinances. We have two ordinances for introduction.

Ordinance 2023-616- Amending ordinance 2023-615 providing for the use of funds for the Municipal Building Renovations.

Ordinance 2023-617 Bond Ordinance providing a Supplemental Appropriation of \$570,000 for the FY2021 NJDOT Local Freight Impact Fund Port Norris Riverfront Project Phase III in and by the Township of Commercial, in the County of Cumberland, New Jersey, and authorizing the issuance of \$570,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance the Cost Thereof.

Mayor Vizzard- Asked for clarification that this is for the Counties portion.

Nick DiCosmo- Yes.

Mayor Vizzard- Speaking of that, we need to figure out how the County is paying their portion of your engineering fees.

Nick DiCosmo- I reached out to Doug, I didn't get a response. I did see the e-mail from Pam.

Mayor Vizzard- It's important, it's a lot of money and the township is footing that bill. I would rather it be split between them and us.

Nick DiCosmo- It shouldn't be a problem because it's just what we agreed upon.

Mayor Vizzard- The County's position on it is they aren't paying engineer fees. Pam's position is your paying \$570,000 and it doesn't matter what it is for. I don't know if it's actually in writing to the County that they are doing it or that they aren't doing it, I don't know how the contracts are written or the agreement is written.

Nick DiCosmo- I'll have to double check, or it may be reimbursable, I'll have to double check.

Mayor Vizzard- If that is the case, then Pam point is correct.

Nick DiCosmo- I think for this one, the way we ended up structuring it, is the township doesn't pay any fees out of pocket. It may just be a thing where it gets reimbursed through the grant. I'll have to look.

Mayor Vizzard- I just want to make sure it gets addressed.

Mayor Vizzard asked Committeeman Klaudi if he had anything to report. Mr. Klaudi did not.

Mayor Vizzard – I went to the Coastal Coalition meeting last week. They were talking about the direction the state is going as far as these storm surges. That's what got me thinking about surges. It was an informative meeting. I feel like it was a little bit of a one-sided meeting, but I understand all their points. I don't mind going to those meetings.

I had a meeting today with The Authority regarding the State Police Barracks. That project is back online now. They are looking to have a meeting in June to go over the financing and get Pam involved. Possibly start construction at the end of fall/beginning of winter.

Committeeman Klaudi- Asked if there was a drawing.

Mayor Vizzard- There is. It's not an actual construction drawing, it's just preliminary. They do need to get them finalized now. The biggest problem with covid, it shut everything down and of course the interest rates are up high right now. Cost is higher, material higher, everything is higher, so the state has to go back for more money to keep the project going. It sounded like they are willing to do that to keep the project going.

Committeeman Klaudi- Who do I contact there to see if they will release that rendering?

Mayor Vizzard- I would start with The Authority, CCIA, Jerry Velazquez. I forget who the architect is, but they have control of the drawings, they would have to tell the architect to release it.

Mayor Vizzard asked the clerk what the issue was with the electronic sign.

The Clerk answered she didn't know that they powered it down. When they brought it back up it worked. The only conclusion they could come to was that it was related to a short power outage.

Mayor asked if anyone had anything else, with nothing a motion and second moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Heather Miller, Township Clerk