

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on June 15, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall at 1768 Main Street. Port Norris, NJ

Those Present:

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| Mike Vizzard | Mayor |
| Fletcher Jamison | Deputy Mayor |
| Joseph Klaudi | Committeeman |
| Heather Miller | Township Clerk |
| Thomas Seeley | Solicitor |
| Nick DiCosmo | 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 compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Mayor Vizzard asked the attendees to join him in the flag salute and the Lord's Prayer.

No State Police present to give a report.

Mayor Vizzard- meeting minutes of the previous meetings, minutes of the special meeting May 15, 2023, the agenda meeting, May 15, 2023, and the Regular meeting of May 18, 2023. Mayor asked for a motion to approve. Motion made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard- bill list for consideration for the month of June as prepared by the Chief Financial Officer, do I have a motion to approve the bills. Motion was made by Committeeman Klaudi, seconded by Committeeman Jamison, roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard asked for the Engineers report.

Nick DiCosmo-

Port Norris River front Phase III Project- Replacement of the Miller Avenue bridge and Berry Avenue tide gate. – We are at the end of our design. We have some final tweaks to the bridge and tide gate, that should be going up for DOT review soon.

Reconstruction of Yock Wock and High St.- We are finished with design. We sent our plans, specifications and estimate package to DOT today for review. They are allotting a month to review everything and get back to us with comments. I anticipate we will advertise for bid by the end of July.

Mill and overlay of Main St. – I spoke to the county and the shared services agreement between us and them to cover the additional funding is anticipated to be approved at the county Commissioner meeting on June 27th. It was discussed at their agenda meeting this week and it

was received positively. We are going to proceed with final design and anticipate going out to bid the end of summer.

Local Aid infrastructure application for the reconstruction of Milbourne Lane and Dennis lane- The resolution was uploaded to the DOT today; everyone signed it so it's in Trenton for final review.

2024 NJDOT Municipal Aid application – The resolution for us to submit that application is on the agenda tonight for approval. What we decided to go with after speaking to Clint is going to be roadway and drainage improvements to Whittier and Dandelion Rd. We will reconstruct Whittier Drive from Palm to Begonia which is basically Palm to the end of Whittier and it will include a portion of Dandelion. These are some of the worst roads in the lake.

Laurel Lake water and sewer- Still working on setting up a meeting with the City of Millville.

Mayor Vizzard- Just one question. Whittier Drive is the gas and electric company done. No more digging up the roads up there.

Nick DiCosmo- Yes, I believe the electric company is totally done. The gas company for the most part is done. There may be some pop-up things here and there.

Mayor Vizzard- Thank you Nick. OEM, Rob, do you have a report.

Robert Welch- Yes, per the request of the Deputy Mayor Mr. Jamison, I followed up with the County Commissioners, something I brought to your attention about requesting vehicles through them. I spoke to Mr. Carr today and he gave me a form, which I will give to Heather. That will help with the township requesting vehicles in the future.

Mayor Vizzard- Very good, thank you Rob.

Mayor Vizzard reviewed correspondence-

We received a letter from Thomas Ritz of 509 Evergreen Road. He is interested in purchasing township owned property that adjoins him at 505 Evergreen Road, block 99, lot 8856. The township property of interest is 40 x 100 vacant land. He is offering \$500.00 for the property. If accepted, the land sale would be July 20, 2023.

Solicitor Seeley- Is that going to be conditioned on those properties being combined.

Mayor Vizzard- Yes, that's what we have been doing.

Mayor asked the committee for their thoughts. Committeeman Jamison and Klaudi had no problem with it.

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion and second to accept. Motion was made by Committeeman Klaudi and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

We have three letters from Desire Lawless, Frank Hiles, and Miya Hiles, all of 985 Spring Garden Road. They are requesting permission to hunt township property behind the township landfill. They would like access year-round to hunt all seasons.

Committeeman Klaudi- I'm opposed to that.

Solicitor Seeley- It's a liability to allow someone to go on there and could get hurt. It's the taxpayers' dollars that would have to pay for it. It's not a good idea for the township to openly approve that.

Mayor Vizzard- Agreed. That will not be considered.

Correspondence from Natalya from Mobile House Investments requesting to purchase three properties of interest.

6511 Battle Lane offering \$2,000.

7700 Whittier Dr. 100 x 100 buildable lot offering \$1,500.

338 Cherry Rd. 120 x 100 buildable lot, offering \$1,500.

Mayor Vizzard- 6511 Battle Lane, that is where we intend to put our park. I think we should turn that one down but 7700 Whittier Drive and 338 Cherry Rd, I'm ok with the \$1,500 each. What are your thoughts.

Committeeman Klaudi- I agree with that.

Mayor Vizzard- Ok, so we will put that on for next month. Do I have a motion to approve. Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Roll call vote, all were in favor. Mayor said to make it clear, that does not include 6511 Battle.

Correspondence from the Law offices of Oliver Zhou who represents 999 NJ, Inc. who is seeking the township's support for a recreational cannabis class 1 cultivator license and class 5 retailer license cannabis cultivation license. The location of the property is 1601 E. Buckshutem Rd., 26 acres.

Mayor Vizzard- I'm fine with it. I don't see why we shouldn't. We have passed the ordinance to allow it. Do I have a motion to approve.

Motion was made by Committeeman Klaudi and seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

We received a proposal from Remington and Vernick Engineers to provide engineering design and construction phase services for the Mill and Overlay of Main Street. The CFO was

only able to certify funds for \$65,000. She cannot certify the County's portion of \$45,000. A resolution is on the agenda for approval.

We have a property owner who is interested in donating their property to the township. The property is located at 324 Gooseberry Road, block 26, lot 4285. The property is vacant and is 40 x 100 in size. The property owner is aware there is a \$600 fee for processing the transfer.

Mayor Vizzard- Do we have a reason why they want to donate the property.

Solicitor Seeley- They don't want to pay the taxes.

Township Clerk- They are from out of the area, and it is undersized. They can't do anything with it so they just want to get out from under the taxes.

Solicitor Seeley- Most of the donations, people find that the properties are not buildable, and they were bought back in the 40's or 50's, site unseen and they inherit it and see what it is, and they are concerned if we foreclose on it, it will hurt their credit.

Mayor Vizzard- So if we do take it as a donation, then we are stuck with it. We won't collect taxes.

Solicitor Seeley- You need to combine it and sell. You have to take a look at what it is.

Committeeman Klaudi- The properties on both sides are owned by the same person. We should probably approach them.

Mayor Vizzard- My thought right now is that we don't act on this now. We need to look at what's next to it and see about another property owner taking it.

Committeeman Klaudi – I'll contact them to see if they are interested.

Township Clerk- Asked for clarification. You want to table this.

Mayor Vizzard- Yes, table it.

Mayor Vizzard moved on to resolutions.

Resolution # 2023-60
Declaration of Juneteenth as a Paid Holiday

WHEREAS, Juneteenth was recognized as Federal holiday in 2021 and a State Holiday in 2020. Pursuant to the State of New Jersey, Juneteenth is to be honored on the 3rd Friday of every June, and

WHEREAS, with the Federal and State governments recognizing Juneteenth, the Township Committee of Commercial Township wishes to honor said holiday, and

WHEREAS, the contract between The Township of Commercial and The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO District Council #71 executed on March 18, 2021 does not list Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Commercial Township, that the 3rd Friday of June for 2023 and 2024 will be a paid holiday. Juneteenth will be added as a holiday in future union contracts.

RESOLUTION 2023-61
Accepting Proposal of Remington & Vernick Engineers
For Professional Engineering Design and Construction Phase Services for the Mill and Overlay of Main Street in Port Norris, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the Township of Commercial has received a NJDOT Grant in the amount of \$900,000.00 for the Mill and Overlay of Main Street in Port Norris, NJ; and

WHEREAS, Remington and Vernick Engineers submitted a proposal to the committee in the amount of \$110,000.00 for providing professional engineering design and construction phase services in the Mill and Overlay of Main Street in Port Norris; Previously approved with Resolution 2022-58, therefore.

WHEREAS, Cumberland County has agreed to an interlocal shared service for the remaining funding in the amount of \$45,000.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that the committee has accepted the proposal in the amount of \$65,000 and the funds are to come from the following as provided by the chief financial officer in the certification of funds.

| | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| 2022 NJDOT Grant Mill/Overlay G-02-41-871-000 | | \$65,000 |
| Available Balance | \$855,000.00 | |
| Remaining Balance | \$790,000.00 | |
| Total Amount Certified for RVE | | <u>\$65,000</u> |

RESOLUTION 2023-62
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 2024 MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM FOR THE ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS TO WHITTIER DRIVE AND DANDELION ROAD (PRIORITY 1)

WHEREAS, there is a need for roadway and drainage improvements within the Township of Commercial; and

WHEREAS, funds for roadway and drainage improvements are available to the Township of Commercial under the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Program; and

WHEREAS, an application must be filed with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in order to be considered for said funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Commercial formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers is hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2024-Roadway and Drainage Improvements to-00329 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Commercial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Commercial and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Certified as true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Commercial on this 15th day of June, 2023

Clerk

The Mayor's signature and Clerk's seal serve to acknowledge the above resolution and constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement as authorized by the resolution above.

ATTEST and AFFIX SEAL _____

Clerk

Mike Vizzard

Mayor

RESOLUTION 2023-63

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND
APPROPRIATION**

NJS 40A:4-87

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of

any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee of the Township of Commercial in the County of Cumberland, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2023 in the sum of \$ 10,000.00 which is now available from a 2023 Shared Services Agreement through the Cumberland County Board of Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$ 10,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption 2023 Shared Services Agreement Cumberland County Board of Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is the result of funds from the 2023 Shared Services Agreement through the Cumberland County Board of Health in the amount of \$ 10,000.00.

RESOLUTION-2023-64

Commercial Township

Resolution of Support Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, Commercial Township strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, Commercial Township is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program;

THEREFORE, the Township Committee of Commercial Township has determined that Commercial Township should apply for the aforementioned Grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant.

RESOLUTION 2023-65

Approving Liquor Warehouse Corp known as Lalli's Liquor License for 2023-2024

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that the following liquor license be renewed for period commencing July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Liquor Warehouse Corp
1428 E. Buckshutem Road
Commercial Township, NJ 08332
License Number: 0602-44-010-002

RESOLUTION 2023-66
Approving Mauricetown Gunning Club License for 2023-2024

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that the following liquor license be renewed for period commencing July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Mauricetown Gunning Club Inc.
1245 Whitehead Rd.
Commercial Township, NJ 08332
License Number: 0602-31-005-001

RESOLUTION 2022-67
Approving Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Inc. Club License for 2023-2024

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that the following liquor license be renewed for period commencing July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Inc.
2800 High Street
Commercial Township, NJ 08349
License Number: 0602-31-012-001

RESOLUTION 2023-68
**RESOLUTION OF PREFERENCE FOR APPROVAL OF CANNABIS RETAIL
LICENSE FOR 999 NJ INC, BY STATE OF NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY
COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, 999 NJ, Inc, is a New Jersey limited liability company that is registered and authorized to conduct business in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, 999 NJ Inc, communicated with Commercial Township and expressed their intention to apply to the State of New Jersey for a cannabis retail license at real property located within the boundaries of Commercial Township; and

WHEREAS, Commercial Township has authorized the type of cannabis retail license that is being sought by 999 NJ Inc, through Ordinance 2021-606; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of a cannabis retail license to 999 NJ Inc, will not exceed any limit on the number of cannabis retail licenses allowed by Commercial Township; and

WHEREAS, 999 NJ Inc, has determined and agreed that they will utilize real property located at 1601 E. Buckshutem Road, Commercial Township, New Jersey, for the operation of a retail cannabis sales facility. It has been determined that the aforementioned real property is properly zoned for such use and will not require the granting of any zoning variances or zoning changes in order for the cannabis retail sales facility to be operational. In the event that 999 NJ Inc, and Commercial Township mutually determine that another real property location in Commercial Township is better suited for the placement of the cannabis retail sales license contemplated herein, such property may be utilized for that purpose without further resolution of the Governing Body of Commercial Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Commercial Township hereby demonstrates its preference for approval by the State of New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission of the application for a cannabis retail sales license that is to be filed by 999 NJ Inc.

CERTIFICATION

I, Heather Miller, Clerk of the Township of Commercial hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of resolutions unanimously adopted by the committee at their regular township meeting held on June 15, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Heather Miller, Township Clerk

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion to adopt resolutions 2023-60 through 2023-68. Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard- We have three (3) ordinances on for adoption.

TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Ordinance 2023-616

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL, COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND,
NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF FUNDS FOR THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING TO
UNDERGO RENOVATIONS FOR COVID MITIGATION AND GENERAL UPGRADE

AMENDING
ORDINANCE 2023-615

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1: Ordinance 2023-615 is hereby amended to provide as follows:

Funding for the Township Municipal Building to undergo renovations for Covid Mitigation and general upgrade shall increase by \$30,000.00 from \$133,700.00 to \$163,700.00 to accommodate cost of IT services, wiring, phones, office furniture and cabinets, as well as, cosmetic building renovations not factored into original Ordinance. Amended funds will be appropriated as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| ARP Unappropriated Grant Reserve | \$30,000.00 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|

Section 2: The total amount of amended Ordinance of \$ 163,700.00 is hereby appropriated as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Capital Improvement Fund | \$76,000.00 |
| ARP Unappropriated Grant Reserve | \$87,700.00 |

Section 3: This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication of notice of final adoption as provided by law on or about June 16, 2023.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township Commercial, County of Cumberland, New Jersey

Mayor Vizzard- Do I have a motion and a second to open the meeting to the public. Committeeman Jamison made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Mayor Vizzard- Anyone from the public like to discuss ordinance 616? See no one, can, I get a motion to close to the public. Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Mayor Vizzard- Can I have a motion and a second to adopt ordinance 2023-616. Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

**TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL
ORDINANCE 2023-617**

Bond Ordinance Providing a Supplemental Appropriation of \$570,000 for the FY 2021 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- Do I have a motion and a second to open the meeting to the public. Committeeman Klaudi made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison.

Mayor Vizzard- Anyone from the public like to discuss ordinance 617? Seeing none, can I get a motion to close to the public. Motion was made by Committeeman Klaudi and seconded by Committeeman Jamison.

Mayor Vizzard- Can I have a motion and a second to adopt ordinance 2023-617. Motion was made by Committeeman Klaudi and seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

**TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 2023-618**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCIAL, COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND,
NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF FUNDS TO REPLACE O-TURN 54" MOWER
AVAILABLE IN
THE CAPITAL FUND-RESERVE FOR EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland, New Jersey, as follows:

- Section 1: The funding for Equipment Replacement-Mower.
- Section 2: The total amount not to exceed \$ 5,566.02 is hereby appropriated from the Capital Fund-Reserve for Equipment Repair and Replacement.
- Section 3: This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication of notice of final adoption as provided by law.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township Commercial

Heather Miller, Township Clerk

Mayor Vizzard- Do I have a motion and a second to open the meeting to the public. Committeeman Jamison made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Mayor Vizzard- Anyone from the public like to discuss ordinance 618? Seeing none, can I get a motion to close to the public. Motion was made by Committeeman Klaudi and seconded by Committeeman Jamison.

Mayor Vizzard- Can I have a motion and a second to adopt ordinance 2023-618. Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard- Before we open to the public Barney do you have anything.

Barney Hollinger- Today I attended the Bayshore Council meeting. Army Corp was on today and the channel dredging all the work has been done. Everything is getting ready to go out to bid. They expect to unload about 60 thousand yards of material. Should start by 9/15/2023 and they have until February 24, 2024, to finish the job. That will include building the area over at Matt's Landing using the material they will be dredging out. Nodes have been approved. Our impervious cover went from around 3% to 80-90%. The only thing is, we don't have a great description of what it is and what we get out of it. It may be too late to... (inaudible). In Maurice River, Matt's Landing, finalized a deal with the state, turning Matt's Landing property over to the township of Maurice River. Then they will subdivide all the properties, I don't know how it will all play out but they are going to rehabilitate that area once they get control over it. Cape May and Cumberland County tourism dollars have gone up. More people are staying here, people are staying overnight, people are spending more money here. We are 5th in the state for coming back from Covid. This afternoon, and I don't know if you know this, but I spoke to Matt Pisarski, from the County Planners office. He called me last week and asked me to sit on Maurice River (inaudible). It's through the South Jersey Planning organization. They issued a contract with Michael Baker International. What they are going to do is (inaudible) and they are going to work their all the way down to the mouth of the river. We are looking for any recreational or commercial enhancements that could be done within that area. South Jersey transportation has money to spend. Today was the first of four meetings. We will have a meeting sometime in September, another one probably around January and everything should be wrapped up by the end of May. Things that I gave them today, lack of marinas, or at least a lack of boat ramps. Maurice River also talked about the alcove by the Mauricetown bridge on the other side. They are looking for funds to fix that up. I guess they are going to have a boat ramp over there. I brought up that Mauricetown Park is in need of repairs, the bulkhead needs to be repaired. On the commercial side, fixing up the township wharf. It's not just commercial, it's also recreational, I explained that to them. That's about it for now.

Mayor Vizzard- So they are donating the land to Maurice River where they want to have a boat ramp at the base of the bridge.

Barney Hollinger- They way Ken made it sound, it sounded like they bought it, but they now own it.

Mayor Vizzard- What about the Commercial side, I thought it was owned by the County.

Barney Hollinger- No, if I remember right, when we did all boat work down there, PSEG was going around buying up all this meadow land. I'm pretty sure one piece over there was bought by PSEG.

Mayor Vizzard- Because I was thinking the same thing, putting a boat ramp at the base of the bridge but I thought it was county owned.

Barney Hollinger- Who ever owned it and I'm pretty sure PSEG owned it, but now Maurice River has it and they want to put in a boat ramp.

Mayor Vizzard- It would be bad to have a boat ramp on both sides.

Barney Hollinger- Millville is included, the dam and Fowser road so it sounds like they are included now too.

Mayor Vizzard- So that is something else I will talk to the Mayor of Maurice River about, to see where that came from. Do you know who we can follow up with to see about funds for the Mauricetown park?

Barney Hollinger- Well, it's going to be part of this study. I'll make sure it stays in. We will have four more meetings, and these will be the projects we want to put in to be funded.

Mayor Vizzard- Very good, thank you.

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion to open to the public. Committeeman Jamison made the motion to open to the public and was seconded by committeeman Klaudi.

Mayor Vizzard asked if anyone from the public wanted to address the committee.

Sara Stowman, Market Street- We have a concern with relatively new neighbors at 2306 Market St. We are concerned and are reaching out to the township officials to request help with this ongoing issue. There are careless and sometimes dangerous behaviors occurring in the neighborhood and township. State police have been called numerous times. Sometimes more than one a day. Sometimes it happens when the homeowner is present and sometimes when she's not. Groups of people gather at this property daily creating disturbances and it's all hours of the day and night. I did give a letter to Mr. Jamison. We are just hoping you will be able to guide us. Let us know what you need us to do. We will be glad to do whatever you suggest. We did read the noise ordinance and the nuisance ordinance and read that there are consequences so we are hopeful that something can be done.

Mayor Vizzard- First off, I want to say that we are aware of it. I know I am. I have called the state police several times, I've talked to them several times about it. I've asked them to patrol out there more. The second thing, unfortunately, is bad timing. We released our code enforcement officer; we are in the process of hiring another one. Then we will be able to issue citations. It's unfortunate, I don't know what else to do other than call the state police. Once we can get this inspector on board, we can take them to court.

Solicitor Seeley- You can file a citizen's complaint.

Sara Stowman- Is that something I file here at the township or is it the state police.

Solicitor Seeley- State police.

Sara Stowman- Ok, we can do that.

Mayor Vizzard- There is a file open on this there because I went to the state police and talked to the Sargent there and went over all of this on your behalf. I don't like that there was talk of a gun out there. I don't that that for sure if there was or wasn't, but I was told there was.

Sara Stowman- Yes, I saw a man out there with a gun.

Mayor Vizzard- The state police kinda blew that off and I don't know why.

Sara Stowman – You can own a gun; I just don't know the rules after that. This was being passed around to children. Point, aim, teaching them, children.

Mayor Vizzard- There are quiet a few other things I found out about that property; I don't know that I want to get it out to the public now, but we are working on it. You may think we are not, but we are. I know what you are going through, and I have spoken to the state police several times and I will continue talking to them and I will continue to ask them to stay there. Once we get an inspector again, we will get out there and start taking them to court.

Sara Stowman- That's fine. I did want to mention too that it's not just our neighborhood, there are kids that are all over this town on these motorcycles and I know the state police can't catch them because they are on a motorcycle, but it is a township wide problem.

Solicitor Seeley- It's a statewide problem. I see in the center of Bridgeton; they go right by the courthouse. They go right by the cops' doing wheelies. It's everywhere.

Mayor Vizzard- I was really hoping a state trooper would be here tonight to answer some of this stuff. I call and remind them about the meetings.

Sara Stowman- I'm sure they are so tired of coming out to the same area. We have never had this in the past. They are also over by the school. I did want to make mention of that. I let the board president know about that today. They are tearing down by the school and I'm not sure where that goes but if you come out High Street and in back of the school and they are running.... I don't know how far it goes. Somebody said it goes as far as Memorial Avenue, I don't know that.

Mayor Vizzard- I think it does. It goes across these back woods across the back of the fire house.

Sara Stowman- Thank you and we hope that you hire someone soon. And thank you so much for your service.

Susan Klarewicz, Market Street- I just wanted to make you aware that Sara isn't here alone. A number of us are here because of this problem. Is it possible to have the administrator process a complaint against these neighbors. They are right next door to us. They have actually run their equipment on our property. We asked them not to, sometimes they are compliant, sometimes they are not but it's like a roller derby out there. Isn't there a way that during the absence of an officer, that someone else could actually do it.

Solicitor Seeley- Unfortunately, the answer is you can do it because you have to witness it. Unless someone from the township actually witnesses it, I mean you're going to have to testify in court.

Susan Klarewicz- So there is no one we can call in the township when it's happening and say it's happening now, and they can come down and see.

Mayor Vizard- Am I allowed to do that.

Solicitor Seeley- If you want to sit as an individual, you can file the complaint. You will just have to show up and testify. You have to be prepared to read the NJ statutes. Look at NJSA and look up harassment.

Susan Klarewicz- But we already have the ordinance. I have circled all the things on here. 7 out of 9 things they are doing.

Solicitor Seeley- Unfortunately, an ordinance is a little different. That has to be cited by the code official. When you are going to the state police, you actually have to have a violation of NJ statute because they are a state arm. Because they are a state arm, you have to go to them and articulate how they violated state statute.

Susan Klarewicz- But the state police have already come several times. They have actually witnessed.

Solicitor Seeley- Have you actually stated that you want to file a citizen's complaint.

Susan Klarewicz- No I don't think so.

Solicitor Seeley- They may have come but you have to go to the police and say you have had enough and at least look up the statute because they will want a specific statute. And they are going to have to find probable cause that that statute has been violated.

Mayor Vizzard- I think she is basically asking if I have the authority to file a complaint.

Solicitor Seeley- You have just as much authority as anyone else, if you can testify, witness and articulate to the police what it is you feel they violated naming a particular statute. But you can't write a ticket.

Mayor Vizzard- But as far as the ordinances; do I have the authority to do that.

Solicitor Seeley- No. You don't want your mayor out there writing tickets for ordinances.

Mark Rosenthal, Market Street- You mentioned the liability of the person hunting. I would be more concerned with the liability of them going on the school property with ATVs or motorcycles. Who's the first person to get sued, the township.

Solicitor Seeley- Do you know if there are any signs out there that say no trespassing. The problem with putting up anything, then you're liable if they run into it.

Committeeman Klaudi- You don't think it makes sense to put up no trespassing signs.

Mayor Vizzard- Well it is the school's property. We can't do it; they will need to do it.

Angie Connelly, Market Street- We just moved here, nice to meet you guys. We are having the same problems with them. I just want to say that my husband had an altercation, and we called the state police, on two occasions actually. They aren't doing anything.

Solicitor Seeley- When you say altercation, do you mean physical.

Angie Connelly- No. We live next to Susan and Mark, and they live next to them. Through our back yards, we can see each other. We were in our backyard, and they were screaming at us through the back yards.

Solicitor Seeley- You can make a complaint for harassment. Did you do that.

Angie Connelly- No.

Solicitor Seeley- You have to go and make the complaint. You will have to go to the CS Regional court and go before the judge and you can explain what happened. I think that the fact that they are hauled into court is going to go a long way in seeing that you have the power to get them to be forced to go. Look up NJSA harassment. It will tell you the elements of it and just go and articulate so that they can find probable cause to issue a citation.

Angie Connelly- Ok, thank you.

Sara Stowman- I'm sorry, I don't think I understand. The ordinance has a list of things you're supposed to be able to do and not do. So, if these ordinances are violated, is that not a law?

Solicitor Seeley- It's a township Ordinance. You need to have a township official find you in violation. The state police don't have that on their books. Now if a township official is appointed, they work under the police powers. Just so you understand, they work under the police powers to be able to write that ticket.

Sara Stowman- Ok, gotcha so when we get somebody that's when this can....

Solicitor Seely- And they work under the police powers to find them in violation of an ordinance.

Sara Stowman- Does the township have the right to write them a letter.

Mayor Vizzard- That happens through the construction office. There were already violation letters sent.

Sara Stowman- Ok, I just wanted to be clear about this. I just thought if they violated this, then they could be ticketed. But we don't have anybody.

Mayor Vizzard- No, not yet but we will soon. And just to give you the run down on that, it will be a warning, after that if they are still doing it, it will be a ticket, after that they go to court, they don't pay the ticket, they don't pay the fine, the judge throws it out, they will do it again, then they will get another ticket, then court, I mean it's just they way it's going to work. It is ridiculous and I feel for you.

Solicitor Seeley- You guys have more teeth than an ordinance violation because you are making it a statutory complaint that carries fines and penalties. What does ours carry? fines.

Sara Stowman- Fine and jail.

Solicitor Seeley- Up to 90 days in jail. You find any judge who is going to do an ordinance violation and put you in jail for violating a township ordinance. If the state police find probable cause that they violated a NJ statute, then it becomes the state vs them.

Sara Stowman- I guess part of the problem is, it isn't necessarily the owner of this property nor is it always her children. It's crowds of people.

Solicitor Seeley- You are going to have to find names. You can't just say crowds of people who are being noisy.

Sara Stowman- I don't have any names, it's all different people that congregate.

Solicitor Seeley- I can understand that is difficult.

Mayor Vizzard- This is why the state police need to be more active. I have asked them to patrol more here.

Solicitor Seeley- Are they having parties?

Sara Stowman- No, these are dirt bikes and trucks, that go round and around like a demolition derby. Loud with offensive music, cursing and swearing.

Mayor Vizzard- These are all ordinances we have.

Sara Stowman- I saw an adult chasing a young child with a taser. This is not little; well the neighbors are bothering me.

Solicitor Seeley- This is something you can do yourself.

Sara Stowman- But I don't have names.

Solicitor Seeley- Your right that's tough. You can witness the owner; do you know them.

Sara Stowman- I don't know any of them. I know who she is when I see her, and her two younger children and they are part of the problem but that can be delt with. This is the crowds of people that come.

Mayor Vizzard- I think the first thing is to do our part, get somebody hired and get somebody out there to start writing these violations.

Sara Stowman- And the fire, next to the house. Huge fire with children throwing debris in the fire.

Committeeman Klaudi- You need to call the fire department.

The Clerk stated that she could call the Division of Fire Safety.

The conversation continued as to the activity and what can be done to capture it and report it.

Barney Hollinger- The homeowner can be held liable for all of this.

Sara Stowman- I understand, thank you.

Lynn Moore- Market Street- Do we have an animal control officer.

Mayor Vizzard- We do, yes.

Lynn Moore- I have seen several what would be considered dangerous breed dogs, outside of a fenced area unleashed. My concern is obviously for my own safety but also for the safety of my two granddaughters. What is my first course of action. When I'm walking my one-year-old granddaughter down Market St., and you have a Pit Bull Terrier and a Cony Corso. They are a very large Italian Mastiff.

Mayor Vizzard- Wasn't animal control already called to that property.

The Clerk stated that animal control has been there, and they did come in and license a dog.

Lynn Moore- My concern is not that they are licensed.

The Clerk stated that they cannot be running at large.

Lynn Moore- But they do, so what's my first course of action.

Solicitor Seeley- Call animal control and make the complaint.

Lynn Moore- Is it a Port Norris number because I had this problem last summer and each time I called; they would say that person is not here.

Mayor Vizzard- Then I would say call the state police.

Solicitor Seeley- Is this a neighbor.

Lynn Moore- It is my neighbor at 6610 Brown St. Very big and very dangerous dogs. I can't work in my yard. Both of these dogs have the ability to scall a 4 ft. fence. So, I don't go outside anymore. The Pit Bull Terrier is their neighbor, the trouble neighbors.

Mayor Vizzard- My recommendation is to call the state police. I will call them too. I said I would, and I will. I don't know what else to do.

Lynn Moore- Ok, thank you very much.

Debbie Hollinger, Port Norris- Their name is Shor Animal Control, and they are worthless. I heard they are good, but they are not. I had them catch kittens next door to my house, they caught two of them, but they wanted to drop the cage off for me to catch them and only on Tuesday and Wednesday because they are the only two days, they pick up stray animals. So, I don't know what other options we have for animal control, but they are useless.

Mayor Vizzard- There aren't any other options. I'm not going to disagree with that.

Minnie F. Hayman, North Ave.- I know we don't have a code officer, but I have been to the township on a problem I have had with my neighbor at 1655 North Ave., and my problem is water. It's not that the water is coming off the land itself, because if it was, it would be a whole different ball game. The water is coming from my neighbor's basement. Before he changed the pipes, it used to go to the front of the road, and it used to run all the way down the road. Now, he has it running out the side and at night he runs it, and the water runs down where I didn't used to have a fence but now, I do have a fence and it is running underneath. You see that pump come on and the water just runs. I am not lying because I have it on tape. I complained and they said they don't have an officer right now. My concern is when it is running, it is just making mud. I can't even go over to the fence because my shoes, the water is over top of it. And the fence, we had an altercation, but I don't have a problem with him that I dislike my neighbor, I dislike his ways.

Solicitor Seeley- Does he know about this problem.

Minnie F. Hayman- Yes

Solicitor Seeley- And he is ignoring it.

Minnie F. Hayman- Yes and the fence that I had was a prayer come true because it was a gift. The water is beginning to hit the fence.

Solicitor Seeley- To a certain extent, you have a civil complaint if he is damaging your property. You could take him to small claims court.

Minnie F. Hayman- Like I said, I did come down here, not David Dean but the other guy. Now when he was here, and I don't know what happened, but he did come, he knew everything. I'm just kinda frustrated because this water is a problem and it's becoming stagnant. We already have mosquitoes, that's another concern. The kids can't play ball because the ball goes in there. I talked to him and they did give him fines but you know what he told me, He doesn't care. They can keep sending them and he will keep paying them. He doesn't want to do the right thing. It isn't that I dislike my neighbor, it isn't a thing like that. But he is so stubborn. He doesn't want to do the right thing. Water is the problem and then he has all the cars, they tell me he has a car dealership so he can have the cars but the thing is, this is residential, it is not commercial. Another thing I worry about, I have cars, I have grandsons, but I want accountability at night. Everybody know where your keys are because these two houses are close because it was family owned. It was my grandfather's. The basement has always been a problem, but it has gotten worse now because in the back yard, it looks like a rain forest, it's swamp. The water in the basement is capable of coming up to the ceiling. What I'm afraid of because I grew up there, it was my grandfather's and he wasn't supposed to build a basement, they tried to tell him that but it is getting worse and the water is getting worse and if you want to know the truth, I'm afraid one night I'm going to get up and there aint going to be no house there. If you look at it, it looks like it is sinking.

Mayor Vizzard- I do have one idea for you. Give the county mosquito commission a call and tell them you have stagnant water in your yard and you would like them to come out and spray it. They will come out and see where it is coming from and they will go talk to him about his water.

Committeeman Jamison- I remember coming down and talking to Steve about this situation. The water was pumping to the front of the house. Instead of the water being in front of his house, it was going through the front of her house. I remember her saying she asked him if there was anything he could do but apparently, he didn't do anything then when he did decide to do something he went and had it pumping from the side of the house.

Minnie F. Hayman- He said it wasn't the basement, but I know it is the basement. He said he was going to get a French drain, but I don't know what he is waiting for. He is combative, argumentative and you know you just can't say anything to him. He has no interest of doing right.

Committeeman Jamison- I do know this was addressed with him. Steve did address it with him and it was just left.

Minnie F. Hayman- And all the cars there and now there is a dumpster there all piled up with stuff in the front yard. What happens if a fire breaks out, who is going to move all these cars. I have a drive for all my cars, but next door....

Committeeman Jamison- The only thing we can do right now is wait for our new code official and make sure this is taken care of.

Minnie F. Hayman- It's scary because it's so much water. I haven't seen a septic man since he's been there.

Committeeman Klaudi- I wonder if it's something the health department could help with.

Minnie F. Hayman- From my heart thought, I wouldn't want to wake up and see this house sinking or shifting because that would be a very hurtful thing and like I said, I don't dislike him, I just want him to do the right thing.

Committeeman Klaudi- Lets start with the mosquito commission and see what they can do for us.

Minnie F. Hayman- Ok, I thank you for your time and once again, thank you for your service and may you have a smile on you, and I hope we can do things nice because I was born here. I am 72 years old. I would like Port Norris to be nice.

Committeeman Jamison- As soon as we get our new person, we will get him over there.

Mayor Vizzard- Thank you for being respectful.

Susan Klarewicz- What recourse do you have in terms of collecting. Do you have any recourse like if someone chooses not to pay a fine.

Solicitor Seeley- It goes to court and the judge orders that they pay. Usually, there is a range of fines.

Susan Klarewicz- And if they don't pay, what happens. Does it go as a lien on their property or jail time.

Solicitor Seeley- It could be a lien. The judge can issue a warrant.

Susan Klarewicz- Ok, I see. Thank you very much.

Tracey Richardson- Just a couple questions. Curfew, did we used to have a curfew.

Mayor Vizzard and Committeeman Jamison do not believe there was a curfew.

Tracey Richardson- Maybe that could be part of the solution. Because I know some of the kids from their section go past our house at 1 o'clock in the morning and they are little ones. They aren't that much of a nuisance for us to call the police, but they are pretty noisy.

Mayor Vizzard- It's not a bad idea, it is something to consider. Township wide. Can we check our ordinances about that, it's not a bad idea.

Tracey Richardson- Another silly question, aren't you guys' township officials?

Mayor Vizzard- Elected Officials.

Tracey Richardson- So you can't operate in the place of the code officer.

Mayor Vizzard- No.

Tracey Richardson- So what happens if a home was an eminent danger or needed to be condemned.

Mayor Vizzard- That's the Construction Official.

Tracey Richardson- Ok, thank you.

Fred Hundt, Noble St- I spoke to Joe briefly about this. The gentleman that is bringing in the marijuana growing into Commercial Township, I understand they are going to have a store front on Buckshutem Road. Is that correct.

Mayor Vizzard- The one we approved tonight is a different person.

Committeeman Klaudi- You are talking about Emmett Vandegrift?

Fred Hundt- Yes, isn't he opening a store front at the Laurel Lake bridge.

Mayor Vizzard- Nobody has confirmed that.

Fred Hundt- Ok, that's good. Well, this guy Emmett on Tuesday approached a lady in Mauricetown, he knocked on her door and said he just wanted to introduce himself. Said he was buying the house next door which is the Boxwood & Ivy Estate in Mauricetown. His intentions are that he wants to put up a store front out of the antique shop that used to be out back. My question to you guys is that all within the zoning that they can just do that or is it something that needs to go before the zoning board. Has there been anything approved like that. I'm just trying to figure out when to start raising the red flag to the people in the town.

Mayor Vizzard- Two answers for that. Number one, there needs to be zoning approval for that. Doesn't mean that it won't be, it can be. Number two, it will not be a store where you drive up and go to the store. It's not going to be that. What it will be is a delivery service. He will

have the stuff there. People call in their orders and they will deliver it. There is not going to be a parking lot, there is not going to be cars coming there. There's not going to be anything like that.

Fred Hundt- Like UPS going in and out like Verizon next to me.

Mayor Vizzard- He is allowed to be a distribution center; he cannot be a public store.

Fred Hundt- And he is allowed to do that right in the middle of town.

Mayor Vizzard- As long as he gets the proper zoning. However, it is a business, there have already been businesses there.

Fred Hundt- But he will have to go before the board to get variances and stuff like that.

Mayor Vizzard- Yes.

Fred Hundt- Ok, just trying to calm a couple people down. I wanted to find out for myself.

Mayor Vizzard- Now if he does build something out on Buckshutem, that will be a place you can pull up to just like you do in Vineland. But in the center of Mauricetown, no that's not going to be allowed.

Fred Hundt- Thank you very much.

Angie Connelly- Tasers, are they allowed here.

Mayor Vizzard- I think they are just as legal as a gun.

Angie Connelly- That's really sad. When she mentioned that, that was in front of my house. That was one of the altercations with my husband and the older kid, he looks like 18, he was chasing a minor who was probably 10 or 11 tasing him. We called the police about that and they said they couldn't do anything.

Solicitor Seeley- Why would the kid let him tase him.

Angie Donnelly- He was screaming for him to stop. I have it on video. The cop did nothing. That's all I have.

Mayor Vizzard- To me it should be the same consequence, you shoot someone with a gun or a taser. If it's just as legal the consequences should be the same. I don't know why they did that.

Sara Stowman- What about Child Protective Services.

Committeeman Klaudi- I would think they would be interested in that.

Mayor Vizzard- Asked if there was anyone else.

Committeeman Klaudi- Asked for an update on the State Police Barracks.

Mayor Vizzard- It is going to go before CCIA this month as far as them approving it. Preliminary drawings are supposed to be out by the end of this month. Possible start construction in a couple months.

Debbie Hollinger- If we get a new police building will they work harder. Show up to meetings and respond to calls.

Mayor Vizzard- I can't answer any of that. I don't know, All I do know is that they outgrew that building. There are certain characteristics they need now for women cops and men cops.

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion to close to the public. Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Mayor Vizzard- Does anyone have anything additional.

Committeeman Jamison- I'm just glad Robbie mad that inquiry for us. Hopefully we can get something out of this.

Mayor Vizzard- I want to thank everyone for coming tonight. I wish we had more people come out to our meetings. Even though you come here with complaints, it's ok. I'd rather everyone know what is going on.

Committeeman Klaudi- It would be nice if a state trooper showed.

Mayor Vizzard- It would be nice if they showed but thank you for coming. Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Miller, Township Clerk