

Monday, June 17, 2019, 6:30 P.M.
Bill Review & Agenda Meeting

PRESENT: J. Roy Oliver, Mayor
Ken Whildin, Deputy Mayor
Bill Ashton, Committeeman
Frank DiDomenico, Solicitor
Allen Foster, Chief Financial Officer
Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Jersey.

Mayor Oliver called the meeting to order; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Oliver, present
Mr. Whildin, present
Mr. Ashton, present

Municipal Finance Officer Report

Allen Foster, CMFO

Mr. Foster stated the user-friendly budget has been completed and was submitted on Saturday. He will post this to the website.

Mr. Oliver stated he met with the legislators on June 12th and has asked that there be no sunset clause with the Garden State Preservation funding received. Presently the township receives \$225,000 annually and is at 58% tax exempt properties. Mr. Oliver also stated that once the township is at 60% tax exempt properties it will receive \$20 per acre from the fund. Mr. Oliver also explained that the state 'percentage' of tax-exempt properties does not match the township 'percentage'. Mr. Oliver suggested that 2% can be reached by getting 'junk' properties to the state.

Presentation

Proclamation to Sincere Rhea

Mr. Oliver stated that it is an honor to make this presentation to Sincere Rhea who has done exemplary in high school track & field. Mr. Oliver explained the Sincere is listed as one of the fastest high schoolers in the country. Mr. Ashton, Recreation Chair, read the proclamation out loud for the public and the Township Committee presented the proclamation to Sincere Rhea.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Whildin made a motion to open the public comment session noting the time at 6:39 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays - None

Sheryl Buffa, 616 Main Street, Leesburg stated she had a tree taken down and the debris from this removal has been placed roadside. Ms. Buffa stated that she called the PW Supervisor and the Township Hall and asked that the brush be picked up. Ms. Buffa added that she has no truck to transport the debris and asked that an additional brush pick up be added for the summer.

Mr. Whildin advised that when ‘professionals’ are paid to remove trees it is their responsibility to remove the debris. Mr. Whildin stated that he is looking at ways to ‘fine tune’ the pick up schedule but placing another pick up in the summer time cuts into the mowing season. Mr. Ashton stated that he believes that brush should be picked up at anytime during the year that residents leave it curbside. Ms. Buffa requested that an additional pick up for brush and leaves be added to the township PW schedule. Mr. Ashton stated there are liens on properties going back to 2017 because some property owners do not maintain their properties and public works performs the maintenance and then a lien is assessed. Mr. Ashton added that the housing inspector writes letters for un-mowed grass but the township cannot pick up brush and leaves from tax paying property owners.

Mr. Oliver state the Township Committee will discuss this topic.

Bud Hughes, LVFC, stated he would like to nominate Steve Bailey for Heroism award to be presented by the Township Committee. Mr. Hughes explained that Mr. Bailey administered CPR on a child age 18 months who was in cardiac arrest and saved the child’s life. The Township Committee agreed with Mr. Hughes request.

Mr. Hughes thanked Mr. Ashton for all of his assistance this year during the baseball season.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to close the public comment session noting the time at 6:50 pm; seconded by Mr. Whildin.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays - None

Discussion Items

1. No parking and/or fire lane on Front Street, Dorchester (Ordinance).

Mr. Oliver stated a Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019 on this topic. Mr. Oliver explained his experience of trying to maneuver a fire truck in this area and suggested that the corner (Front & Carlisle) be a ‘no parking’ zone. Mr. Whildin stated that it appears that now the shipyard employees are parallel parking along the street and no vehicles are sticking out into the roadway. Mr. Ashton added that his communication with the shipyard indicates they are willing to work with the township and their primary concern lies with delivery of products. Mr. Ashton added that he believes a representative from the shipyard will be attending on Thursday.

Mr. Bud Hughes stated that a representative from the fire company will attend and suggested that along the ‘yellow’ building at the shipyard be ‘no parking’. Mr. Hughes added that he has come to understand that the shipyard is buying the homes along Front Street.

2. Property Maintenance by Public Works forwarded by Gordon Gross:
 - a.) 187 High Street (Block 280 Lot 2)
 - b.) 172 Glade Road (Block 319 Lot 23)
 - c.) 7 Quail Street (Block 306 Lot 1)

The Township Committee agreed to proceed with property maintenance by Public Works with subsequent liens on these three properties.

Mr. Ashton stated that liens exist on all of these properties from past property maintenance liens and unpaid taxes with Municipal Liens. Mr. Ashton asked that In Rem Foreclosure proceedings be started on all three properties. Mr. DiDomenico stated that In Rem Foreclosure can take place on ‘individual’ properties if requested by the Township Committee.

Mr. Whildin made a motion that the above three properties be sent to the In-Rem Foreclosure Solicitor for expedition of foreclosure due to unpaid taxes and special charges liens; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays – None

3. A quit claim request was received from Dorothy Cross for Block 328 Lots 11 & 12 (Thompsons Beach area). This request was forwarded to Mr. DiDomenico on May 22, 2019.

Mr. DiDomenico explained that the party submitting the request only holds a half interest in the property. The Short Certificate was received. Mr. DiDomenico questioned the township interest in being a 'half' owner. The Township Committee was not interested. Mr. DiDomenico will send a letter to Ms. Cross.

4. Report of Audit 2018

The Township Committee and the Municipal Finance Officer had no comments regarding the Audit for 2018.

5. Discuss one-year extension of the Gold Medal Trash & Recycling Contract

Mr. DiDomenico advised that a one-year extension to the contract is permissible as the current contract is for only 2 years. Mr. Whildin stated that complaints have been coming in regarding Gold Medal's service since they took over EarthTech. Mr. Ashton emphasized that in April it was relayed to Gold Medal that this was a probationary period for them. Mr. Ashton added that it appears they are being responsive to the complaints. Mr. Whildin explained that a couple years ago Gold Medal submitted a proposal that was significantly higher than the other two bidders. Mr. Oliver stated that due to complaints received the Township Committee may need to exercise the 'penalty' as outlined in the contract. This will be a continued discussion on Thursday as a representative from Gold Medal will attend.

Mr. DiDomenico added that the contract indicates a \$250 per day penalty for violations to the contract can be assessed to Gold Medal. Mr. Oliver suggested to make notice to Gold Medal regarding the violations to the contract and that possible fines can be incurred.

Mr. Whildin motioned that a letter be sent by Mr. DiDomenico advising Gold Medal of the violations with possible penalties to be assessed and the necessity of a representative from Gold Medal attending on Thursday, June 20, 2019; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays – None

Mr. DiDomenico suggested that the offer to extend the contract should be done by August 1st to allow sufficient time for Bid requests if needed.

6. Clothing donation bin program

Mr. Oliver explained he received an email regarding clothing bins. The company will service the bins twice a week with potential of 80-100 per bin with recycling credit to the township. Mr. Whildin stated he investigated this company and found that the company slowly finagles the situation to the point of request an ordinance be adopted by the township which allows only their bins in the township.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to deny the request; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays - None

7. Mark Pietrucha, Woodard & Curran, is requesting a budget increase under the USEPA grant for the Cheli project from \$148,500 to \$161,000.

Mr. Oliver explained the request for budget increase utilizing USEPA grant funds for the Cheli project is needed for additional testing.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to authorize the request for the budget increase from \$148,500 to \$161,000 utilizing USEPA grant funds for the Cheli project; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays – None

8. Public Auction of properties on July 15th or July 18th.

The Township Committee agreed to hold another public auction on July 15th due to interest expressed in properties.

9. Discuss adopting a resolution supporting designation for CTE at Cumberland County High Schools and Agriculture at Cumberland Regional High School.

The Township Committee determined that clarification is needed to proceed further.

10. Rental of golf carts for Family Night Out

Mr. Oliver explained that a quote of \$550 was received to rent two golf carts for the Family Night Out event (either gas or electric). Mr. Oliver questioned the legal ramifications of having the golf

carts at Family Night Out. Mr. DiDomenico stated this was discussed a couple years ago and ultimately the Township Committee is trying to comply with ADA guidelines by providing this service.

Mr. Whildin advised that responsible volunteers will be needed to drive the golf carts. Ashleigh Hughes questioned whether a waiver will be needed. Mr. DiDomenico stated it would not be practical to request waivers due to the nature of the event, however, the driver must advise caution and use of seatbelt. Mr. Whildin stated there are a lot of questions on 'how' this service will work that night must be answered.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to rent two 'gas' powered golf carts at the quoted price of \$550 for the Family Night Out event; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays – None

11. Discuss the Mauricetown Causeway welcome sign.

Mr. Whildin explained the sign is on NJDEP property and in the Cumberland County right of way. Mr. Whildin asked whether a Special Use Permit from NJDEP would provide for a better situation to lease the sign to the Maurice River Township Heritage Society for management purposes. Mr. Whildin will check with Jason Hearon, NJDEP, to see if they would issue an SUP for this sign. Mr. DiDomenico offered that adoption of an ordinance permitting the lease agreement will be needed.

12. Discuss the NJDOT 2020 grant opportunities: Municipal Aid – repaving and Bikeways – bike paths.

It was discussed that Mr. Morrissey had forwarded an email this afternoon which provided details on the bike path grant options that could be taken. The Township Committee discussed doing the bike path at the recreation area in Leesburg first which will provide for handicapped accessibility. Mr. Whildin added that the bike path at Thompsons Beach would require the width to permit emergency vehicles. The Township Committee determined to proceed with the Leesburg recreation area bike path.

Municipal Aid – The Township Committee discussed the options of Estell Manor Road and Fox Street school access. It was also discussed that the section of roadway on school property would be gated when the school was closed or did not require access for school business.

Both the Bikeway grant and Municipal Aid grants will be discussed on Thursday, June 20th so that the Township Engineer, Cormac Morrissey can provide input.

13. Discuss residents placing brush, tree limbs and leaves curbside when township wide pick-up is NOT scheduled.

Discussed above under Public Comments.

Township Committee Discussion

Ken Whildin, Deputy Mayor

Mr. Whildin reported the following:

1. A complaint was received by the housing officer regarding too many junk cars on a property. The township ordinance states only one unregistered vehicle is permitted per property. Mr. Gross found only one unregistered vehicle on this property and therefore, the resident is in compliance.
2. Yard signs and real estate signs cannot be placed in the right of way. Usually when the county and state mow grass they will move the signs.
3. Cutting of field at a vacant house located on half an acre. Mr. Gross advised that the property is bank owned. It was noted that grass must be mowed at least 50 feet around

the dwelling and the mowing was short of this 50 feet. Mr. Gross sent a notice to increase the mowing to 50 feet parameter around the house.

Bill Ashton, Committeeman

Mr. Ashton reported the following:

Two of the marina owners have stated they will be paying their back taxes and he will be talking with the third.

J. Roy Oliver, Mayor

Mr. Oliver reported the following:

1. He will be attending the tax sale on July 9th and will bid on the township behalf on marina properties with unpaid taxes. Ordinance 685 (Capital Ordinance) allows for \$185,000 and once adopted with elapse estoppel period an offer letter will be sent to NJDEP for the marina property. Marina properties that have Municipal Liens will be foreclosed in 6 months.
2. The negotiations and process for the Township to acquire the marina property could possibly be complete in 6 months.
3. The American Red Cross MOU has been reviewed by Mr. Gross
4. Status of 5G ordinance. Mr. DiDomenico stated that this is being worked on with the Township Planner.
5. Status of PSE&G properties donation. Mr. Whildin stated this will take a while longer.
6. Kathy Ireland, former Mayor, and President of the non-profit, Choose Maurice River, has volunteered to apply for the Targeted Brownfields Assessment through USEPA as a non-contributory entity. The Targeted Brownfields Assessment grant will permit a USEPA consultant to perform testing at the landfills and if the testing is good it will allow closure of the landfills quickly. Two cycles of testing are needed.
7. Mart Pietrucha, Environmental Consultant for the Township has suggested that the parking area be moved closer toward Weatherby on the Sapello Conceptual.
8. Mr. Oliver met with legislators on June 12th and discussed the existence of 56-58% tax exempt properties in Maurice River Township. Mr. Oliver requested a benchmark be established, wherein, when an entity reaches a point they will be required to pay full taxes on full assessment. Mr. Oliver also requested that there not be a sunset clause on the Garden State Preservation. Mr. Oliver reported Maurice River Township receives \$240,000 annually under the Garden State Preservation funding.
9. Mr. Oliver explained that legislation cannot be passed to designate Maurice River as a place to store dredge materials. The legislators do support the dredge materials being redistributed to the Northwest reach at the mouth of the Maurice River.

Second Public Comment

Mr. Whildin made a motion to open the second public comment session noting the time at 8:09 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays – None

There being no public comment Mr. Whildin made a motion to close the second public comment noting the time at 8:09 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays – None

Review of Agenda for Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

The Township Committee reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, June 20, 2019 meeting and it was accepted as presented.

Review of Bills for approval on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to review of the bills to be presented for approval on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Adjournment

Mr. Whildin called for adjournment; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk