

Monday, July 15, 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 explained that there will be two Chapter 159 resolutions (Municipal Alliance 2019-2020 and Newell Road – Phase II) presented for adoption this month.

Mr. Oliver thanked Mr. Foster for the explanation provided on the Garden State Preservation funding and stated he has asked legislators to not have a sunset clause for the Garden State Preservation funding.

Resolution No. 89-2019: A Resolution Requesting Approval Of Special Items Of Revenue And Appropriation (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-87) NJDOT Transportation Trust Funds – Newell Road Phase II

Mr. Foster explained the Chapter 159 resolution for miscellaneous revenue not anticipated for the grant awarded to the township for repaving of Newell Road.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to adopt resolution number 89-2019; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Public Sale by Auction (Resolution # 81-2019)

Resolution No. 81-2019 was adopted by the Township Committee at the regular meeting on June 20, 2019 and advertised according to state regulations.

Mr. DiDomenico presented the rules for bidding on the properties being offered for auction and explained that all properties were ‘as is’ and that the purchaser would be responsible for complying with the County regarding septic systems and wells.

Mr. Dennis Gaughan offered the minimum bid of \$3,500 on Block 260 Lot 7.02. No additional bids were received. The Township Committee accepted Mr. Gaughan’s bid.

Mr. Dennis Gaughan offered the minimum bid of \$4,000 on Block 285 Lot 9 & 10. No additional bids were received. The Township Committee accepted Mr. Gaughan’s bid

No bids were received for the other properties advertised under Resolution 81-2019.

Mr. Whildin made a motion for a brief recess for the Municipal Clerk to process the two bids received; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Upon the clerk's return Mr. Whildin made, a motion to return to the regular meeting and agenda; seconded by Mr. Ashton

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

Public Comment Session

Mr. Whildin motioned to open the public comment session noting the time at 6:46 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Ben Stowman stated a meeting is being held on July 17th by ALS for the interested parties for the mouth of Maurice River project. He will be attending to see the plan for the basket flats area.

Ben Stowman stated he will also be attending a meeting of the Bayshore Council scheduled for July 25th. He will check with Jonathan Atwood regarding the two small cap programs. Additionally, Mr. Stowman confirmed he will attend the July 29th meeting with Congressman Van Drew.

Mr. Whildin motioned to closed the public comment session noting the time at 6:48 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Discussion Items

1. Hal Noon submitted a Letter of Interest dated July 8, 2019 to serve as the acting Township Surveyor for the remainder of 2019.

Mr. Oliver explained that a Letter of Interest has been received from Hal Noon to complete the unexpired term of Dave Battistini for the Township Surveyor position. The term expires on December 31, 2019. Mr. Noon is present. Mr. Whildin asked to hear from Mr. Noon regarding the position.

Mr. Noon stated he had previously served as the Township Surveyor for Maurice River Township and is well suited or the position. Mr. Noon added that his company is small but has big house power. Mr. Noon described the many services his company provides and faculties the company has to get the job done. Mr. Noon reassured the Township Committee that his company can meet the needs of the township. Mr. Whildin recommended the appointment to the end of the year and Mr. Ashton also agreed to the appointment for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Oliver explained that there may be a need to do a survey of the Matts Landing area to subdivide before the year ends.

Mr. Whildin motioned to appoint Hal Noon as the Township Engineer for the remainder of 2019; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

2. NJLM is requesting support to have UCC's Minor Work/Ordinary Maintenance Provision changed.

Mr. Whildin stated his concern is that he does not believe people should have to et a permit to put a new roof on their house but supports the resolution. Mr. Ashton stated the changes a minute and does not believe it is an issue. Mr. Ashton furthered that he believes quality of a contractor is the resident's issue.

Mr. Whildin motioned to support the resolution; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Oliver Nays – Ashton

3. Review of ordinance for Feral Cat Program.

Ms. Phyllis Vanaman, Leesburg, explained that she is seeing new litters of kittens at the 'Hess' house that are about 7-8 weeks old and would like to see the kittens caught before they go wild. Ms. Vanaman stated she will do her part to fix the problem.

Cheryl Buffa, Leesburg, stated that she presently is seeing about 12 cats around her house and all appear to be 'clipped' and she has seen no new kittens.

Mr. Whildin asked Carol Hickman to address the issue of new kittens being seen. Carol Hickman stated that when trapping they did trap a few females that were lactating but could not find the kittens.

Mr. Ashton asked if there was any money left to fund further TNVR. Carol Hickman stated that she has submitted to continue the grant that was previously awarded but has not received a reply yet.

Mr. Oliver stated that Carol and volunteers work on this initial trial program was done in a humane way and no taxpayer dollars were used to fund. Mr. Oliver added that all females trapped were pregnant and a hysterectomy was done aborting the kittens. Adoption of an ordinance by the township will set the standards and help to get grant funds from organizations such as Petco and Petsmart. The sample ordinance will be used and then 'fine-tuned' as time goes by and experience is gained. The program will be expanded over time into other areas of the township.

Mr. Whildin questioned the wording of 'community cat' in the sample ordinance meaning 'free roaming cat. It was confirmed that this wording will not affect the ordinance. Mr. Oliver explained that there will be no licensing of cats required in the township. Mr. Oliver explained that the purpose of the ordinance is to have a means of dealing with feral/free roaming cats. Mr. Oliver explained that the ordinance will have a sunset clause (5 years). This sunset clause will allow the Township Committee to re-examine the ordinance and make necessary changes.

Mr. Oliver further explained the ordinance will address the 'dropping off' of cats and violations for the offence. Mr. Oliver suggested a minimum \$1,000 per occurrence plus \$100 per cat/kitten.

Penny Wells questions the ordinance covering the prison area as cats are dropped there. Mr. DiDomenico stated the prison is within township boundaries.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to put a 5-year sunset clause in the ordinance as well as set violations at \$1,000 per occurrence plus \$100 per cat/kitten for 'drop-off' offences; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

4. Ordinance for Mauricetown Causeway lease agreement for management by Maurice River Township Heritage Society.

Mr. DiDomenico explained the ordinance permitting the lease agreement between the Maurice River Township Heritage Society and Maurice River Township for the Mauricetown Welcome sign will be introduced on Thursday, July 18th, 2019. Mr. DiDomenico explained the lease agreement is very similar to the previous agreement for the Spring Garden sign and Maurice River Historical Society. Mr. DiDomenico explained the agreement between the panel owners and the MRT Heritage Society will be the same.

5. Set a date and time for auction of the section of Stable Street to contiguous property owners. (Ordinance 684)

Mr. DiDomenico advised the clerk to file a copy of the adopted ordinance 684 with the county clerk along with the publication. Mr. DiDomenico stated that this can be discussed on August 12th. The clerk will forward letters to both contiguous property owners to inquiry into interest of purchase of the vacated portion of Stable Street. The minimum price will be set by calculating the expenses made to vacate the portion of Stable Street (legal expenses, publication, and surveyor).

6. American Red Cross MOU.

Mr. DiDomenico provided a synopsis of the terms of the MOU between Maurice River and the American Red Cross. Mr. DiDomenico conveyed that Mr. Gross has no objections to the MOU Agreement.

7. Request made by MRT resident, Marianne Imbesi to change the name of Estell Manor Road back to Cumberland Avenue.

Mr. Whildin explained that he had reached out to the 9-1-1 chief and the addresses listed for the Imbesi residence are in the CAD system. A proper response from emergency service will be received if the call for service is made from a 'land line'. However, if the call is placed from a cell phone it will bounce to the nearest tower and due to the location of this property that location would be Atlantic County. Mr. Whildin is also checking with the Tax Assessor to verify the 9-1-1 address in the township system. Mr. Whildin will follow through on this and report to the Township Committee next month.

8. Discuss to offer a one-year extension to Gold Medal or do a request for bids for 2020-2021 contract.

The Township Committee agreed to review Gold Medal performance after the 60-day probationary period. This will be listed for discussion on August 12th A&BR meeting for consideration of extending the current contract or placing the contract out for bid.

9. Discuss requesting renewal of the Special Use Permit for the Veterans Vend Park. This SUP expires on September 1, 2019.

Mr. Whildin pointed out that the park gets very little use but that there is no cost associated with the SUP.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to proceed with requesting a renewal of the SUP for the Veteran's Vending Park; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

10. Discuss authorizing Public Works to perform property maintenance at 4464 Route 47 per Gordon's referral to the Township Committee.

Mr. Whildin motioned to proceed with property maintenance by Public Works on 4464 Route 47; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

11. Agreement with Francis Corporation (PSE&G) for four properties they would like to donate to Maurice River Township.

Mr. DiDomenico explained that he had reviewed the agreement presented by PSE&G and the bottom line is that in exchange for the donation of the properties by PSE&G to the township the township agrees to maintain the boat ramp at Thompson's Beach and the parking lot. Mr. DiDomenico advised that the reference made to the 'schedule' needs to be clarified by PSE&G. Wording on PSE&G's obligation of maintenance in the terms of plowing, trash removal and grass cutting as well as the cleaning of drains/channels needs clarification. Mr. Whildin stated that snow plowing, trash removal and grass cutting at the Thompsons Beach area as well as the proposed donated property is already done by Maurice River Township Public Works. The boat ramp and drainage definitely need to be clarified and identified. Mr. Whildin requested that Mr. DiDomenico be permitted to send a letter requesting clarification of the items discussed above.

Mr. Whildin motioned to authorize Mr. DiDomenico to send a letter requesting clarification on the items above listed in the agreement; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

12. Discuss the recommendations of award for the Newell Road – Phase II project submitted by Cormac Morrissey, Engineer.

Mr. Whildin stated he attended the bid opening. Recommendations on the award have been received by the Township Committee from Mr. Morrissey and Mr. DiDomenico.

Mr. Whildin motioned to award the contract based on the recommendations received from the Township Engineer and the Solicitor as they both recommended South State as the lowest responsible bidder; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

A resolution memorializing will be presented on July 18, 2019.

Township Committee Discussion

Ken Whildin

**TOWNSHIP OF MAURICE RIVER
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION NO. 89-2019

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF SPECIAL ITEMS
OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87)**

NJDOT TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUNDS – NEWELL ROAD PHASE II

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 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 thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAURICE RIVER 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 2019 in the sum of \$224,679.00 which item is now available as a revenue from the New Jersey Department of Transportation 2019 Municipal Aid Program, State of New Jersey, as NJDOT Transportation Trust Funds in the amount of \$224,679.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$224,679.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of “NJ Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act – Newell Road Phase II”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is the result of a state grant of \$224,679.00 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.