

MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP

SPECIAL MEETING

Atlantic City Electric – LED Street Light Conversion

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 10:00 am

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

Present: J. Roy Oliver, Mayor
Ken Whildin, Deputy Mayor
Bill Ashton, Committeeman
Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Oliver at 10:00 am and the pledge of allegiance followed.

Roll Call: Mr. Oliver – Present
Mr. Whildin – Present
Mr. Ashton – Present

The purpose of this meeting is to receive information on street lighting on converting the street lights in Maurice River Township to LED.

Presentation:

Veronica Town, Atlantic City Electric
William Edwards, Atlantic City Electric

Mr. Oliver opened the meeting by stating the purpose and explained that the township budgeted \$60,000 for street lighting in 2019; as of October 18, 2019, \$49,790.36 had been spent. Mr. Oliver stated that presently the township has 148 incandescent, 260 high pressure sodium and 14 mercury vapor street lights for a total of 422. Mr. Edwards clarified the total at 423 because one listing for a flood light (high pressure sodium) was actually 2 lights.

Mr. Edwards explained the difference in the two tariffs: CSL – there is a higher up front cost with a lower monthly expense and SPL – there is a lower up front cost with higher monthly expense. Also, with CSL, if there was an accident which damaged the light there could be a cost to the township to repair/replace the light.

Mr. Edwards stated as an example that a CSL 50 watt street light costs \$3.28 a month and a SPL 50 watt street light cost \$9.48 a month. Further the township has 23 street lights under state aid which cost \$4.21 a month. Mr. Oliver stated that when considering the installation of ‘new’ street lights in the past few years the Township Committee has chosen the CSL tariff.

Mr. Edwards estimated to convert all the street lights to LED would cost \$371,000. Should the township want to convert only the SPL to LED the estimated cost would be \$54,000 but this will not help the monthly billing.

Mr. Edwards stated that the 14 mercury vapor lights would be replaced ‘right away’ by Atlantic City Electric at no cost to the township.

Mr. Oliver asked if the Township Committee request could all of the incandescent be replaced over a period of 3 years and asked Mr. Williams to provide a proposal. Mr. Edwards stated that SPL light replacement is \$126 each.

Mr. Edwards & Ms. Town stated that some towns submit requests that in the future street lights needing to be replaced should be replaced with LED. Atlantic City Electric honors these requests.

Mr. Ashton asked for Mr. Edwards opinion on LED performance and lifespan. Mr. Edwards explained the biggest problem he has seen and this has been only a few times is the surge protector has blown. Sometimes the photocell fails also. Mr. Edwards provided that they replaced 6,000 lights in Atlantic City and in a year only 40 were removed for testing due to failure. Of these 40 four were sent back to the manufacturer.

Mr. Oliver asked if LED lights put out more lumens. Mr. Edwards stated that when replacing the lights that they are replaced with similar lumens. Mr. Edwards added that LED lights put 'more light on the ground'.

The Township Committee discussed doing an initial replacement of 50 incandescent street lights in 2020. Mr. Whildin questioned consolidating the replacement to one community. Mr. Ashton stated that if lights are replaced in just one area complaints may be an issue and suggested phasing in the replacement LEDs. Mr. Edwards suggested to concentrate on the main roadways. Mr. Edwards & Ms. Town stated that from experience complaints are received at first but will come down as residents get used to the new lighting. Mr. Edwards offered that 'shields' are available for LED (not for other lighting types) and that these 'shields' can be placed to deter light from certain areas such as home windows. Presently there is no cost for the 'shields' to be installed.

Mr. Oliver stated that the Township Committee will need to look at where LED lights will be used to replace 50 exiting lights. Mr. Edwards stated he will look to see if ACE can provide a street light map which would be beneficial in this determination. Mr. Edwards stated that each replacement light will cost around \$126 and he will provide a proposal by next week to the Township Committee for replacement of 50 lights in 2020.

It was determined that the Township Committee will send a letter to Veronica Town and William Edwards advising the 'when' street lights in the township need to be replaced that they should be replaced with LED.

Mr. Edwards left the meeting.

Ms. Town asked the Township Committee to meet to discuss ACE. Ms. Town provided the Township Committee and the clerk with a "Reference Guide" and explained the contents. The guide contains frequently used phone numbers, customer resources, information on Energy Assistance Programs, Energy Efficiency and construction and remodeling, etc.

Ms. Town emphasized to call before you dig (8-1-1). Ms. Town added that outage reporting can be done on line and that 'everyone' who is out should report. Ms. Town explained that should anyone notice that a street light is out and has 'tape' on it that the repair requires a crew.

Ms. Town stated anyone who is entertaining getting solar should check with ACE before signing any paperwork to ensure their system can handle. They can call her.

Mr. Oliver reminded Ms. Town to ask Asplundh to be aware when trimming trees and that the township is currently investigating a 'solar farm'. Ms. Town explained that review of applications for solar do take some time to complete. Mr. Whildin stated that the residential electric lines are 7,200 volts and asked what the maximum megawatts that could be. Ms. Town stated she would check.

It was discussed that problems that are not handled properly or emergencies needing attention immediately could be text to her. Ms. Town stated these should also be reported through normal channels. Ms. Town explained that during major outages assessors from ACE are on the streets.

Ms. Town left the meeting.

Mr. Oliver reminded Mr. Whildin and Mr. Ashton that he would be late to the meeting on December 19th and asked that comments or questions regarding the recent ticketing on Main Street be held until the second public comment session.

The clerk will draft a letter to ACE regarding replacement of existing street lights with LED in the future. The clerk will check with Mr. Gary Finger of NJ Clean Energy regarding the programs that may help with LED replacement.

Adjournment

Mr. Whildin made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk