

Monday, December 16, 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
Cormac Morrissey, Township Engineer
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 provided a budget status report to the Township Committee. Mr. Foster stated that he will need a new laptop and will put this in as a budget request for 2020. Mr. Foster explained that two transfers are needed in 2019 and a resolution will be on the agenda for approval Thursday, December 19th. Otherwise, the budget is in good shape. Mr. Foster stated that a resolution cancelling the Capital Improvement balance for the Bricksboro Bulkhead and basketball court will also be on the agenda for approval December 19th.

Mr. Foster explained that for the 2020 budget a primary concern is Ambulance-North services. Additionally, there are no anticipated revenue increases for 2020. Mr. Foster expressed that he believes the hire due to Louann's retirement should be in place well in advance of the retirement date for training as Louann does a lot of work in different areas. He suggested a start date of May/June.

Mr. Oliver explained that another 2020 budget concern would be increases to salaries due to the Council 18 negotiations which are ongoing. Mr. Oliver offered that Mr. Whildin will be reaching out to Inspira to extend the existing contract up to 6 months, if possible. Mr. Whildin is also going to reach out to Dorothy and Laurel Lake regarding continued coverage for the northern portion of the township for ambulance services. Mr. Oliver stated he has already contacted Millville and they will not have everything in place for ambulance services until June 2020. Mr. Foster explained he can provide a rough estimate of salary increase based on percentages provided by Wednesday and how it will affect the 2020 budget. Mr. Ashton questioned how long the Township Committee has to make a decision on Council 18 proposal. Mr. DiDomenico stated the Township Committee is under no time restraints.

Professional Report

Engineer

1. Stormwater Management Annual Presentation

Mr. Morrissey provided the Stormwater Management Annual presentation. Mr. Morrissey provided a history of the Stormwater Management mandate starting with the Federal Clean Water Act of 1970; septic systems were tightened up at this time. Further Mr. Morrissey explained that the State of New Jersey took the Federal mandate and made it more restrictive and Pinelands made the state mandate more restrictive. Mr. Morrissey explained that NJPDES programs started stormwater requirements. Under which, a requirement was for towns to rewrite their values and how they would apply them. Mr. Morrissey explained the towns in New Jersey are divided into two categories Tier-A which is higher population towns and Tier-B for lower population towns. Maurice River Township is Tier-B.

Mr. Morrissey explained that Tier-B is not arduous as there is not a lot of commercial development. Rules for both Tier-A and Tier-B are readopted every 5 years, The NJPDES permit is currently effective from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022.

Point that must be met are inventory of inlets with a record of maintenance and cleaning; public education and outreach. For public education this includes the poster contest and rain barrel workshop that was conducted by Louann. The water basins are inventoried and reports to the township regarding inspections and maintenance/cleaning logs are done. Other areas that points are obtained are website and public signs/posters. A twelve (12) is required to have a passing score and Maurice River Township has a fourteen (14) this year.

Mr. Oliver explained that work being done under the Brownfields/Landfill Closure Committee with Mark Pietrucha, Woodard & Curran, is 'closure' of the landfills. Mr. Oliver elaborated that Pinelands wants proof that the landfills are not leaching contaminants into well water. Mr. Oliver explained that the township is working with the non-profit "Chose Maurice River" to obtain a USEPA Targeted Assessment grant. This program provides a consultant to investigate for contaminants. Disclosure of possible alternative methods of 'closure' will be recommended and some are cheaper than a clay cap. Mr. Oliver invited Mr. Morrissey to attend the next Brownfields meeting scheduled for January 17th at 10 am. Mr. Morrissey offered that dependent on the contaminants that plants can be a good alternative.

Mr. Stowman questioned the 'rain tax' and how it might affect the township. Mr. Morrissey explained the 'rain tax' is a method of getting funding for inlets or reservoirs from residents or business who benefit from them. The township does not have to implement the tax.

Mr. Stowman asked about the Stormwater guidelines. Mr. Morrissey explained that stormwater management is somewhat stopping development; they have taken a good idea and ran it into the ground. Mr. Morrissey provided the example that all bike paths and roadways in Pinelands require basins or other runoff options.

2018 Road Program – Waiting for final numbers from the work that has been done before work can be considered on Harriett and Taylor.

Ferry Lane – Additional work may need to be considered due to the construction of the Dollar General.

Carlisle Place Road – The work is complete. Allocations to Harriet and Taylor are pending. Fuel price adjustment is permitted and could be up or down.

Newell Road Paving – Paving is complete. The contractor is providing a striping estimate. Additional paving under this grant is pending fund availability. An additional inlet may be needed in an area witnessed to have a ponding issue.

Cumberland Fire Hall Septic – Dixon Associates will prepare the language for appeal to the Health Department regarding septic flow determination.

Sapello Foundry – Mr. Morrissey explained that he and Tiffany CuvIELLO, Planner, had a conference call with Pinelands representative, Sue Grogan, last Friday regarding lifting of the easement on the Sapello property. Ms. Grogan during this call offered that she did not believe the site was eligible for the easement in the first place. Mr. Morrissey stated that a meeting must be scheduled in the near future between the Township Committee, Green Acres and Pinelands. Mr. Morrissey commented that removal of the buildings on this property will require Pinelands approval and added that contrary to belief if the buildings are contaminated, they will be easier to remove based on Pinelands criteria. Mr. Morrissey stated that ‘if’ it is not agreed to lift the easement that recreation development can still be done on the site. Mr. Morrissey added that a ‘minor diversion’ can be done for the relocation of the recycling area (compost facility). Pinelands requires a 1-acre lot for recycling activity. Ultimately the soccer field will determine the diversion. Mr. Morrissey reminded the Township Committee that there is only a 2-year window to utilize the NJDOT grant that was just awarded. Mr. DiDomenico reminded the Township Committee that restrictions were applied to their property when they did the addition. Mr. Morrissey stated that lifting of the easement may not be needed if the reuse is ‘recreation’; the soccer field, access road and parking will fall under recreation. A diversion of use for the recycling center (minor) can be applied for which will require cash or swap of land. It was further discussed that Green Acres funding maybe available for the soccer field. Mr. Oliver stated that Mr. Kappeler expressed the need for the soccer field so that students could compete with other schools. Mr. DiDomenico offered that Ms. Powell has indicated that the current field is large enough for student up to age 14 for interscholastic soccer. It was discussed that the biggest concern the affect of the access road with residents in the area. The Township Committee agreed to have Patricia Powell, Business Administrator, Penny Wells, Board of Education President and Mr. Kappeler, Superintendent involved in the discussion of the access road and need for the soccer field; Mr. Oliver will contact them for input. Mr. Morrissey offered to set up the meeting between Green Acres, Pinelands and the Township Committee; the Township Committee agreed with the Township Clerk being kept in the loop.

Carlisle Place Road Truck Access – Mr. Morrissey indicated he will need to check on statutes regulating turns and that an engineering evaluation will be required to limit trucks turning movement from Main Street. It was further discussed that coordination with the County Engineer will be required since Route 616 is a county roadway. It was discussed that the owner of the shipyard be involved in any discussion of this topic. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the ‘length’ of the vehicles is the concern because it affects that turning radius needed. Mr. Ashton added that one resident has had continued complaints ever since they moved to the area a couple years ago. Mr. Ashton stated he has obtained a complete list of the trucks making delivery to the shipyard and will share with the Township Clerk for future reference. Mr. DiDomenico added that limitation on the size of vehicles can be made but posting of the limitation must be prior to the oncoming turn; this will require NJDOT Commissioner approval. The Township Committee asked Mr. Morrissey to look into this further and make any necessary communication with the county.

Solicitor

Mr. DiDomenico announced that he has received the Council 18 proposal for the upcoming contract renewal and a negotiations meeting has been set for Thursday, December 19th at 10:00 am.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Whildin made a motion to open the public comment session noting the time at 8:28 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Mr. Stowman, Delmont, provided status materials to the Township Committee on the Delaware Bayshore Council and reported there is nothing new to report.

Mr. Stowman reported he attended a meeting on December 5th regarding the 309 Coastal Hazards and there were many representatives present from coastal communities. Mr. Stowman expressed MRT concerns at the meeting and commented that no working waterfront priority was being given.

Mr. Stowman stated that at the Bayshore Council meeting CAFRA centers and nodes were discussed. Donna Rendeiro commented that nodes, centers and water industry are different topics. Mr. Stowman added that Ms. CuvIELLO, Planner, is recommending node for the Whibco site but the LUB is still pursuing centers for the township. A pre-petition is being hashed out of what the township proposes and it will be discussed what needs to be done to get all visions accomplished. A great concept will make centers and nodes viable if the sites are actively working. It was discussed that the township will have an idea of which direction to proceed once the pre-petition is complete; both CAFRA centers and nodes are permitted. A pre-petition conference/meeting will be needed to ensure what direction is needed to solve the problems on the “Harris site”. Centers re-designation will take longer but verification that the current designation is still active will be needed.

Mr. Stowman, advised that the ALS project was not chosen by NFWF; mouth of Maurice River. This does not affect the proposed dredging project under ACOE.

Mr. Stowman advised that Megan Wren has secured a position with NJDEP under Donna Rendeiro and will be leaving the Bayshore Council. A new chairperson is needed for the council. Bayshore Council has scheduled a meeting on January 16th here in the MRT Municipal Building.

It was discussed that a formal resolution authorizing Ms. CuvIELLO to pursue investigating CAFRA centers and nodes is needed. This resolution will also authorize her to work with the LUB.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to close the public comment session noting the time at 8:59 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Discussion Items

1. Predatory Towing Prevention Act (Ordinance). Tabled to January 2020
2. Discuss adopting a resolution calling for the establishment of a study commission to review the Open Public Meetings Act. Tabled to January 2020
3. Discuss implementing a no right or left turn onto Carlisle Place Road from Main Street for tractor trailers. Discussed above under Engineer’s report.
4. Discuss amending Ordinance 651 (Vacant property registration).

Mr. Oliver stated he felt the ordinance should be left unchanged. Mr. Whildin offered that to date only one dwelling had been accessed the third-year fee of \$3,000 and concurred that the ordinance should be left alone. Mr. Ashton provided no comment.

5. Discuss filling of various positions held by the current Construction Official who is retiring.

This will be completed in January 2020 and was discussed in detail at the Prep ReOrg meeting which took place at 5:30 pm.

6. Discuss the award of HDSRF funds for the Fox Street Access Road. This will be discussed further in January.
7. Mark Pietrucha, Woodard & Curran, submitted a request for authorization on December 3, 2019 for budget increase from \$161,000 to \$168,500 for additional work at Cheli Gravel utilizing USEPA grant funds.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to approve the request to increase the budgeted amount for the Cheli Gravel project from \$161,000 to \$168,500 utilizing USEPA grant funds; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

8. Discuss remaining a member of CDC in 2020.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to not join the Cumberland Development Corporation (CDC) for the year 2020; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

9. The Maurice River Township Volunteer Firefighters Association is requesting a donation toward their annual banquet to be held in January 2020.

The Township Committee discussed that in previous years the Township had donated \$1,500 toward this annual banquet. It was further discussed that the banquet is held to show appreciation for all the work that the volunteer firefighters and first responders put forth.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$1,500 toward the annual banquet for the volunteer firefighters of Maurice River Township; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

10. Discuss the notice from Comcast Cable to renew the franchise agreement which expires on October 1, 2022.

Mr. Oliver suggested making a committee to oversee the process of the Comcast Cable franchise renewal agreement with the township and to make Bill Ashton the Chair of the Committee. Mr. DiDomenico emphasized that a mandatory ‘public hearing’ is part of the process of renewal and suggested that Comcast Cable representatives be invited to the public hearing so they can hear first hand and complaints, suggestions or comments.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to establish a committee and to appoint Bill Ashton as the Chair; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Township Committee Discussion

No additional Township Committee discussion

Second Public Comment Session

Mr. Whildin made a motion to open the second public comment session noting the time at 9:13 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 session noting the time at 9:13 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Review of Agenda for Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

The Township Committee reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, December 19, 2019 meeting and changes were made as needed

Review of Bills for approval on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to review of the bills to be presented for approval on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

Adjournment

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

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk

Township of Maurice River
Engineer's Report
December 16, 2019

Item	Project Name	Project Number	Status
1.	2018 Road Program	MR17-111	Reconstruction of Carlisle Place Road complete. Harriet/Taylor Road Paving pending.
2.	Newell Road Resurfacing Grants	MR17-001	Paving of Newell Road complete. Stone wick at curve to be installed. Additional paving limits to be determined based on available contract funds. Striping costs pending
3.	Cumberland Fire Hall Septic	MR11044	DA to prepare language for Fire Company's appeal regarding health Department's septic flow determination
4.	NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant Funding	MR18-001	Municipal Aid Grant for Fox Street access awarded by DOT for \$188,530. stell Manor Road Grant denied.
5.	NJDOT Bike Path Grant Applications	MR19-001	Bikeway grant application pending DOT review.
6.	Carlisle Place Road Truck Access	MR19-001	Engineering evaluation required to limit truck turning movement from Main Street. Coordination with County Engineer required.
7.	Sapello Property	MR19-044	Meeting with Green Acres and Pinelands recommended.
8.	Deerwood Avenue	MR19-001	Application for Local Aid Infrastructure Fund (Discretionary Funding) to be submitted to DOT on SAFE pending DA scoping.