

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 6:00 PM**

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

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Sarclette

Roll Call

A. Review of 2015 Municipal Budget

1. Motion to introduce the 2015 Municipal Budget – Resolution #45-2015 and set date for advertising synopsis and date/time/place of public hearing.

B. Resolution

Resolution # 46-2015 A Resolution Requesting For County, State And Federal Funding
And For Remedial Actions Related To The Siltation Of And
Continual Erosion Of The Shorelines Of The Maurice River

C. Discussion Items

D. Public Comment

E. Adjournment

Tuesday, March 4, 2015, 6:00 P.M.
Special Meeting – Budget Introduction

PRESENT: Andrew Sarcellette, Mayor
Patricia Gross, Deputy Mayor
J. Roy Oliver, Committeeman
Allen Foster, Finance Officer
Denise Peterson, Municipal Clerk

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Jersey. This special meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was emailed to South Jersey Times on February 23, 2015 and advertised on February 26, 2015. In addition copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk on aforementioned date. Notes on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Sarcellette, present
Mrs. Gross, present
Mr. Oliver, present

Mayor Sarcellette called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM noting the purpose of the special meeting is to discuss the 2015 Municipal Budget. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Review of 2015 Municipal Budget

Resolution #45-2015, 2015 Municipal Budget

The following line items were reviewed: the capital budget, streets and roads, backhoe acquisition and other items which may impact surplus.

Mr. Foster advised the proposed budget provides for a .002 decrease in the tax rate. The equalized budget will be \$3,829,094.26 with the amount to be raised by taxation of \$1,282,626.07. The local purpose tax rate will be .426¢ per hundred.

Mr. Foster also advised the Township Committee that the state advised that CMPTRA was decreased while the energy receipts were increased. Mr. Foster noted that should energy receipts decrease in the future a loss of state aid may be seen by the township. Mr. Sarcellette noted that the township has been fighting to get its fair share of the energy receipts ever since the state took over and is now dispensing.

Mr. Foster stated that the capital budget is a 3 year plan and included items such as roadway paving, a backhoe purchase and a new dump truck. Mr. Foster stated that the streets indicated in the budget were from the roadway inventory and can be changed based on the necessity of road work to be done.

Mrs. Gross made a motion to approve the 2015 Municipal Budget on introduction in the amount of \$3,829,094.26 with the amount to be raised by taxation of \$1,282,626.07 and set the date of publication for March 10, 2015 and public hearing to be held April 1, 2015 at 6:00 pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Oliver.

Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Oliver, Sarcellette Nays – None Abstentions – None

Resolution

The Clerk read Resolution #46-2015, A Resolution Requesting for County, State and Federal Funding and for Remedial Actions Related to the Siltation of and Continual Erosion of the Shorelines of the Maurice River.

Mrs. Gross made a motion to adopt resolution 46-2015; seconded by Mr. Oliver.

Roll Call: Ayes- Gross, Oliver, Sarcellette Nays: None

Discussion Items

1. Sluice Gate on River Road.

Mr. Oliver questioned where the sluice gate project on River Road stood. Mr. Oliver will investigate the status.

2. Review of Ordinance restricting possession of pigs in Maurice River Township.

Mr. Sarclette advised that he had been approached by a resident regarding the ownership of pigs in Maurice River Township and the possibility of having the ordinance rescinded or amended. Discussion took place regarding the different types of pigs and whether the pig would be a pet or a farm animal. The Township Committee will review the current ordinance.

3. Mr. Sarclette advised that Steve Hagemann, Road Department Supervisor, had obtained 3 quotes for the backhoe. The quotes ranged from \$67,000 to \$91,000. The lowest being a JCB backhoe which Mr. Hagemann advised would be acceptable.

Mr. Sarclette stated that this will have to be bid unless it is a state contract. Mr. Foster will check to see who has the state contract for the backhoe. It was further discussed that if the state contract is higher than the lowest quote received, it would need to be evaluated for cost effectiveness when the cost of the bid packages are included.

4. Mr. Oliver verified with Mr. Foster that the tax rate decreased by 2 tenths of a cent. Mr. Foster confirmed.
5. Mr. Sarclette stated that the County Equalization table had been received today and Maurice River is at 99%.
6. Mrs. Gross asked when the school budget would be approved. Mr. Sarclette advised that it will not be received until April.

Public Comment

Mrs. Gross made a motion to open the public comment session at 6:50 PM, seconded by Mr. Oliver.

Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Oliver, Sarclette Nays – None Abstentions – None

There being no public comments, Mrs. Gross made a motion to close the public comment session at 6:51 P.M., seconded by Mr. Oliver.

Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Oliver, Sarclette Nays – None Abstentions – None

Mrs. Gross made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 PM, seconded by Mr. Oliver.

Denise Peterson, Municipal Clerk

Maurice River Township

Resolution 45-2015

Budget

MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. 46-2015

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FOR COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING
AND FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS RELATED TO THE SILTATION OF AND
CONTINUAL EROSION OF THE SHORELINES OF THE MAURICE RIVER**

WHEREAS, continued erosion is taking place at the mouth of the Maurice River where the Bay meets the River causing flooding along the banks of Commercial Township and Maurice River Township; and

WHEREAS, this erosion has been on-going for decades and is now in the critical state of causing massive undermining of local marsh banks that protect the river banks along both townships destroying valuable environmentally sensitive habitat; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy caused significant flooding and erosion along the Commercial Township riverfront and in Maurice River Township flooding caused a dike breach and roadway to cave in, stopping vehicular traffic from accessing the Matts Landing marinas; and

WHEREAS, should this erosion continue, it will eradicate all natural protection along the banks of Commercial Township and Maurice River Township causing massive economic downfall with businesses being flooded and job losses; and

WHEREAS, siltation has made the Maurice River difficult to navigate by larger vessels. The continued siltation of the Maurice River threatens the centuries old shipbuilding industry of the communities of Dorchester and Leesburg. The Maurice River must be protected and dredged to a suitable depth, allowing larger vessels to freely enter and exit the river without running a ground; and

WHEREAS, several oyster harvesting businesses, seafood processing plants, the Rutgers University Research Laboratory, boat marinas, and the Bayshore Discovery Project will be significantly flooded and threatened if further erosion causing flooding continues on the Commercial Township side of the Maurice River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Maurice River Township and the Township Committee of Commercial Township working together are requesting action and funding through pursuing local, county, state and federal funding and government participation for wave energy attenuation at the mouth of the River, erosion control along the banks of the River, and dredging to a suitable level for passage of larger vessels.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that we request Congressman LoBiondo to work assistance from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and all other relevant state and federal agencies to begin this project and to provide funding to begin studies of the issue and construction as soon as possible.