

**Monday, June 15, 2020, 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. This meeting was conducted via teleconference due to social distancing guidelines set for COVID-19.

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 the budget status and treasurer's report to the Township Committee. Mr. Foster stated that there was nothing new to report this month. Mr. Foster added that he and Michelle Behm, Tax Collector, worked out the 'estimated' tax rate; fire districts rates have gone up. The tax bills being mailed out are estimated because they have not received the figures for the school or county.

Mr. Oliver commented that the 2019 Audit report has been received from the Auditor.

**Public Comment Session**

Mr. Whildin made a motion to open the public comment session noting the time at 6:33 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Mr. Patrick Lynch, (via teleconference) attended to provide additional information and answer questions regarding the recent Energy Audit and proposal submitted by NJ Direct Install for both the Municipal Building and the Leechester Hall. Mr. Lynch explained the next step would be for the Township Committee to decide whether they wish to proceed with the work proposed. Mr. Foster was asked if he was comfortable with the proposal which required the Township pay \$44,000 which is for the municipal building. Mr. Foster stated he believed that the \$44,000 was 'outside the program. Mr. Lynch explained that the boilers were outside the program.

It was discussed that the proposal for Leechester was for lighting energy efficiency upgrades as the HVAC were replaced as a result of the last energy audit. The cost to the township for Leechester is \$858.

Mr. Foster questioned why the same items were listed for two different amounts on the two options provided for the municipal building. Mr. Lynch explained that the two programs provided for different percentages of cost to the township. Mr. Lynch confirmed that the AC units and lighting for the municipal building and the lighting for the Leechester Hall were included. Mr. Lynch explained the 'rated' life for an AC unit is 15 years and that is if the unit receives quarterly maintenance. Mr. Foster furthered that a quote of \$21,000 was previously

received for replacing just 3 AC units at the municipal building; this audit and proposal was for the replacement of 7 units.

Mr. Ashton asked the next step to be taken. Mr. Lynch explained that there are 2 ½ weeks left in the fiscal year and the state is requesting another application be completed because they extended the fiscal year to September 30, 2020.

Mr. Ashton asked how the work schedule would be determined for installation of the lights in the municipal building. Mr. Lynch stated all work is done the first shift and would need to be coordinated with the office staff/departments; flexibility will be needed.

Mr. Oliver asked about the warranties for the lighting and AC units. Mr. Lynch explained that there is a 1-year labor and material with a 5 year for both lights and AC units.

The Township Committee will discuss this further and let Mr. Lynch know their decision.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to close the public comment session noting the time at 6:57 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

### **Discussion Items**

1. Discuss proposal from Gold Medal Environmental for a one-year extension to the trash contract (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021)

Mr. Whildin provided a synopsis of his discussion with Gold Medal Environmental to extend their contract an additional year. Gold Medal has proposed to add 2 more dumpsters at the school and pick up 2 days each week. Mr. Whildin contacted the school administrator and the school is accepting of this proposal. Mr. DiDomenico advised this would require a ‘change order’ to the current contract and would be acceptable as there is no monetary change requested.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to make the change order to the contract; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Mr. DiDomenico will prepare a resolution for adoption on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

2. Discuss proposal from Lomax Consulting to perform environmental services for the Fox Street Access Road and brush recycling facility.

Mr. Oliver provided a synopsis of the proposal received from Lomax to provide environmental studies at the Sapello property as required by Pinelands as part of the Fox Street Access & Recycling Center conceptual work. Mr. DiDomenico advised that should the Township Committee decide to award to Lomax that a cap be placed due the ‘estimated’ costs in some categories. It was discussed to reach out to the current Township Environmental Consultant to obtain a quote for these same services.

3. Discuss to appoint one Township Committee member to approve all requests for use of Leechester Hall

Mr. Ashton explained that by appointing a Committee member to authorize use of the hall it would expedite the process. Mr. Ashton volunteered to hold this position.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to appoint Mr. Ashton as the authorizing Township Committee member for requests to use Leechester Hall; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

Mr. DiDomenico will prepare a resolution for adoption on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

4. Report of Audit 2019

Mr. Oliver explained that the 2019 Audit is complete and there were no comments or recommendations rendered by the Auditor. Mr. Oliver said this was a job well done by all of the staff and thanked all of them. Mr. Oliver stated the tax collection rate in 2019 was 93.45%. Mr. Whildin and Mr. Ashton provided no comment.

5. Discuss Small Cities Grant (IDF – Innovative Development Funds) for the East Point Lighthouse.

Mr. Whildin explained that the East Point Lighthouse Historical Society representative, Nancy Patterson, had made inquiry to TRIAD regarding the possibility of their obtaining a Small Cities grant to fund some work at the Lighthouse. Mr. Whildin stated that he and the clerk had heard a presentation from TRIAD and the best way for the Lighthouse Society to obtain this grant would be for the township to apply and act as a 'pass through'. Engineers would be needed for the project. Contracting with the engineers could either be the existing Township Engineer, in which the grant funds could not be used to pay his fees or to do competitive bidding and the engineer costs could be reimbursed through the grant. Further administrative work could be done by TRIAD and is reimbursable under the grant.

Mr. Whildin explained that Ms. Patterson must first obtain permission from the state to proceed with the proposed work which is all outside of the building and is on NJDEP property.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to support the application for Small Cities grant funding contingent on state approvals for the proposal work and that the engineer be contracted through competitive bidding; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

6. Discuss tax bankruptcy delinquencies

Mr. Oliver explained the three tax bankruptcy delinquencies in question. Specially one property has paid no pre- or post- petition fees and overdue amount exceeds \$10,000. Mr. Oliver asked that the Township Committee authorize the Tax Collector to work with the Township Bankruptcy Attorney to see what can be done regarding these delinquencies.

Mr. Whildin made a motion for the Tax Collector to forward all three of these to the Township Bankruptcy Attorney to be resolved; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

7. Letter of Support/Intent for USACOE's Flood Risk Management for Heislerville

Mr. Oliver explained that the Army Corps of Engineers has earmarked 10 million dollars to be split between Commercial and Maurice River Township. The work would include study, assessment and implementation. The project for Maurice River Township is a berm to protect the Heislerville area. Mr. Oliver furthered that the Township Committee had submitted a letter to ACOE to work with them for this flood risk management and support. Mr. Whildin stated that Mr. Stowman and he had attended a meeting and ACOE is excited about this project.

8. Discuss proceeding with the survey of Matts Landing per the quote and terms provided by Hal Noon and the letter of intent sent to Dave Golden, NJDEP

Mr. Ashton explained that a Letter of Intent had been sent by the township to NJDEP regarding the Matts Landing acquisition by the township. Mr. Ashton explained that the survey is needed as soon as possible. Mr. Ashton added that Green Acres was looking for the Environmental Study that was done by the Township Environmental Consultant and he supplied the information to them. Mr. Whildin added that he was hopeful that the survey drone work would be done this week.

9. Property Maintenance Ordinance.

Mr. Whildin explained the amendment to the current property maintenance ordinance would be to appoint two officers: The Code Enforcement Officer and the Municipal Clerk who would be authorized to forward any property maintenance violation not corrected and over the 10 days allotted directly to Public Works to start clean up. All violations forwarded to Public Works would be reported to the Township Committee and a resolution memorializing the action would be adopted at the next regular Township Committee meeting.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to amend the property maintenance ordinance to appoint officers: the Code Enforcement officer and the Municipal Clerk to proceed with property maintenance by public works and make necessary reports to Township Committee; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

10. A request was received by a disabled resident for access through the gate to Thompsons Beach

The Township Committee discussed this in detail and offered that the scenery at East Point was just good and had much easier access.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to send the letter to the requestor that East Point offered a great view and was much more accessible; seconded by Mr. Ashton  
Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin Ashton, Oliver Nays – None

The clerk will send the letter of response.

## **Resolution**

**Resolution No. 87-2020:** A Resolution Authorizing The Tax Collector To Process Third Quarter “Estimated” Tax Bills - Due August 1, 2020

The clerk provided the full reading of Resolution No. 87-2020.

Mr. Whildin motioned to adopt Resolution No. 87-2020; seconded by Mr. Ashton.  
Roll Call: Ayes – Whildin, Ashton, Oliver Nays - None

## **Township Committee Discussion**

### William Ashton

Mr. Ashton made a motion to extend the late fee for dog licensing to July 31; seconded by Mr. Whildin.

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

Mr. Whildin offered that the Ackley site has good potential as a business site. Mr. Oliver stated he would check with Mark Pietrucha, Environmental Consultant to see ‘how’ and ‘when’ this property could be deemed ‘clean’. The Township Committee discussed the progress that had been made on this property to remediate.

### Ken Whildin

Mr. Whildin reported:

1. An LED salesman had approached him regarding a program which was strictly for lighting. With this program they would drop-off the light and the township would need to make the preparations for installation. The consensus was to not entertain this option and to proceed with the Energy Audit.
2. Mr. Whildin suggested having another Community Clean-up Day on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Whildin made a motion to offer another Community Clean-up Day on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

### J. Roy Oliver

Mr. Oliver confirmed that by resolution he was appointed to bid on any properties that the township wanted to protect as part of the Matts Landing Marina negotiations. Mr. Oliver suggested to start at 0% interest and throw in a premium of 50-100 dollars. Mr. Foster stated the premium would go to the township but he would look at the laws. Mr. Oliver stated that this is online bidding and can only place one bid. Mr. DiDomenico offered that most investors provide orders to their bidders on how they should and can bid. The Township Committee briefly discussed which marina properties were currently in jeopardy of going to tax sale. The tax sale is set for July 15th

## **Second Public Comment Session**

Mr. Whildin made a motion to open the second public comment session noting the time at 7:58 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 7:58 pm; seconded by Mr. Ashton.

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

**Review of Agenda for Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:30 pm.**

The Township Committee reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, June 18, 2020 meeting and changes were made as needed.

**Review of Bills for approval on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:30 pm.**

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to review of the bills to be presented for approval on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

**Adjournment**

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

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Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP**

**Resolution No. 87-2020**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
THE TAX COLLECTOR TO PROCESS THIRD QUARTER  
“ESTIMATED” TAX BILLS - DUE AUGUST 1, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, in light of the disruption caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the State delayed the adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to September 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) cannot certify State Aid allocations to municipal budgets until State Aid Appropriations are known; and

**WHEREAS**, the DLGS cannot approve municipal budgets and the County Board of Taxation cannot certify taxes until long after the June 30, 2020 deadline to process third quarter tax bills due August 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, without an adopted 2020 Municipal Budget and without a 2020 Certified Tax Rate, the Tax Collector cannot process the final 2020 Tax Levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the DLGS “*strongly recommends*” under Local Finance Notice 2020-07 “*that municipalities prepare to issue estimated property tax bills for 2020;*” and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed and computed the following estimated tax levies in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3 resulting in the estimated tax rates reflected:

	<i>Estimated Levy</i>	<i>Estimated Tax Rate</i>
Total Tax Levy	\$7,944,610.06	\$2.700
Fire Dist #1	\$ 181,456.00	\$0.190
Fire Dist #2	\$ 135,581.00	\$0.252
Fire Dist #3	\$ 105,527.00	\$0.140
Fire Dist #4	\$ 161,727.00	\$0.235

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of Maurice River Township that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to process estimated tax bills for the third quarterly installment of 2020 taxes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the third quarterly installment of 2020 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10, 2020 or the twenty-fifth (25) calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.