

Monday, July 12, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Bill Review & Agenda Meeting

PRESENT: Ken Whildin, Mayor
Bill Ashton, Deputy Mayor
Joe Sterling, Committeeman
Frank DiDomenico, Solicitor
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 by teleconference in adherence of the COVID-19 guidelines. Notification was posted on the Township website to provide for public attendance and comment.

Mayor Whildin called the meeting to order; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Whildin, present
Mr. Ashton, present
Mr. Sterling, present

Municipal Finance Officer Report

Allen Foster, CMFO provided budget status reports to all Township Committee members and indicated that there was nothing significant to report regarding the budget.

Resolution

Resolution No. 76-2021: A Resolution Authorizing The Assignment Of Township Held Tax Sale Certificate #02-050 At Private Sale To William R. Lupton

Mr. Whildin made a request to adopt this resolution by reading of the title and explained that should anyone from the public wish to see the resolution they could contact the Municipal Clerk.

Mr. Ashton made a motion to authorize adoption by reading of the title; seconded by Mr. Sterling.
Roll Call: Ayes – Ashton, Sterling, Whildin Nays – None

The Municipal Clerk read Resolution No. 76-2021 by title: A Resolution Authorizing The Assignment Of Township Held Tax Sale Certificate #02-050 At Private Sale To William R. Lupton

Mr. Ashton made a motion to adopt Resolution No 76-2021; seconded by Mr. Sterling.
Roll Call: Ayes – Ashton, Sterling, Whildin Nays - None

Public Comment Session

Mr. Ashton made a motion to open the public comment session noting the time at 6:32 pm; seconded by Mr. Sterling.

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

George Kumor, Heislerville, explained that a situation exists in Heislerville regarding the lack of maintenance to the mosquito ditches. Mr. Kumor offered that he believes there are federal funds available to fund the cost of cleaning the mosquito ditches. Mr. Whildin explained that he has met with the County Engineer, Heather Lomberg and mayors from Commercial, Downe, Lawrence and Fairfield to discuss this exact problem. Mr. Whildin added that he supplied a list of 13 ditches that need to be cleaned out in Maurice River. The county is hiring an additional employee and purchasing an excavator to undertake the process of cleaning ditches in these municipalities. Mr. Kumor offered that permission will be needed from the property owners and waivers in place for the county to proceed.

Mr. Whildin stated that he would check with Ms. Lomberk regarding funding opportunities that may be available. Mr. Whildin added that the meeting he attended was 2 hours long and no one mentioned any funding being available. Mr. Ashton questioned 'who' the funding would be supplied to; the county or the municipalities. Mr. Ashton added that a lot of residents are complaining about the lack of maintenance to these ditches. Mr. Whildin explained that he had organized the mayors in order to address this problem as a group to the county.

Mr. Kumor added that this problem also affects the marine industry and a health issue. Mr. Whildin explained that this problem extends even into Northern New Jersey.

Marty Garton, Port Elizabeth, questioned whether the township could undertake cleaning of these ditches. Mr. Whildin explained that presently the township can clean out the ditches running along the county roadways. Mr. Stowman, Delmont, explained that a bigger problem is the lack of cleaning to ditches that are not visible and the county claims that they do not have the maps of these ditches anymore and deciding which ditches are actually county mosquito ditches. It was stated that the original ditches were through easements. Mr. DiDomenico added that he would believe that every municipality is able to identify which ditches are these types of ditches. A title search could potentially identify the ditches with easements. Mr. Kumor explained that many of the inland ditches were run along property lines. Mr. Garton questioned whether lawsuits could be made by the property owners due to health-related condition from the lack of maintaining these ditches. Mr. DiDomenico explained that the tort claim threshold applies the same as it does for the township. Mr. Garton questioned whether a property owner could send the county a bill if they cleaned out the ditch themselves. Mr. DiDomenico stated 'no' but if a definite health issue was found to be related an issue could be pursued. Mr. DiDomenico furthered that the state, county and municipalities are protected by tort claim. It was discussed that possibly the township can work with the county to come up with an agreement so that the township can do the work and receive some type of relief in the way of county taxes.

Marty Garton, Port Elizabeth, explained that he owns the property between the Port Elizabeth Fire Company and the school. He has witnessed problems with vehicles leaving the school and making a left turn and believes something should be in place making it mandatory that only right turns can be made from the school driveway. Mr. Garton explained he has seen this with buses and there are a lot of cars that leave the school every day. Mr. DiDomenico explained that there are 65 choice students that attend the school and the parents are responsible to dropping them off and picking them up.

There being no public comment, Mr. Ashton made a motion to close the public comment session noting the time at 7:02 pm; seconded by Mr. Sterling

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

Discussion Items

1. Discuss the capital improvement amount needed for Road Program

Mr. Whildin explained that the amount needed should be between 400,000 to 500,000 and that Mr. Morrissey has indicated the amount needs to be over 400,000 to include Thompson's Beach. Mr. Sterling stated to shoot for the 500,000 so that there is breathing room. Mr. Whildin stated that Deerwood will use up a large majority of this amount. Mr. Foster stated that 5% must be put up and it will be for a 10-year period. This can be paid off sooner if needed.

Mr. Ashton made a motion to set this capital improvement bond up for \$500,000 for the road program; seconded by Mr. Sterling.

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

Mr. Foster will prepare an ordinance for introduction on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

2. Discuss the proposal submitted by AFA to upgrade 34 Broadway (Library) and 556 Main Street (OEM Building) from 3G to LTE.

The Township Committee reviewed the proposal submitted by AFA. It was determined that of the options provided that the \$645.00 for each building (OEM & Library) was the most economical.

Mr. Ashton made a motion to proceed with the upgrade from 3G to 5G at both the OEM and Library buildings for a one-time cost of \$645.00 for each building; seconded by Mr. Sterling.
Roll Call: Ayes – Ashton, Sterling, Whildin Nays - None

3. Discuss request for pickle ball courts in Maurice River Township.

Mr. Whildin explained that a resident had called him stating she had a group of 9 residents who play pickleball. Mr. Whildin advised her to send a request to the clerk. Mr. Whildin added that he had reached out to the school administrator, who indicated that the tennis courts there could be used for this purpose.

Mr. DiDomenico explained that this game is essentially paddleball on a reduced tennis court and two pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court. All ages play this game and it has become very popular

Mr. Ashton stated he was in favor of using the 'old' basketball court in the recreation area for this purpose. He stated that it could be painted with sand paint which costs around \$500 for 30 gallons and the net is around \$130.00. He is meeting with the Recreation Committee tomorrow night and will run this by the members. Mr. Ashton explained that if it is found to be popular then they could entertain boundary netting.

Mr. Ashton made a motion to proceed with rehabilitating the old basketball court into a pickleball court at a cost not to exceed \$1,000; seconded by Mr. Sterling.

4. Discuss request for assignment of Municipal Lien # 21-00024.

The Township Committee reviewed the paperwork supplied by the Tax Collector and verified the location of the property involved.

Mr. Ashton made a motion to proceed with the assignment process of Municipal Lien #21-00024 to Andrew Orlandini; seconded by Mr. Sterling.

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

5. Discuss proceeding with assignment of Municipal Lien #02-050.
Completed above through adoption of Resolution No. 76-2021 above.

6. Report of Audit 2020

No comments or recommendations were contained in the Audit Report for 2020.

7. Discuss quotes for archaeological survey Maurice River bus loop/Fox Street Access.

Two quotes have been received so far. Mr. Morrissey is awaiting additional quotes and it is hopeful they will be received for the meeting of Thursday, July 15, 2021.

Township Committee Discussion

Joe Sterling

Mr. Sterling reported the following:

1. There is some issue ongoing regarding "permitting" that may be required for the work done on the Bay Avenue bulkhead. Mr. Morrissey, Township Engineer, is looking at this to see if something has been overlooked. FEMA is questioning the 'emergency repair work' that was done as a result of damage from Storm Isaias as it pertains to work on the bay and inland.
2. The USDA grant application has been started and there are a couple things that need to be tightened up but the application should be submitted by the end of the week.
3. There was a dog hit over the holiday weekend and left roadside near Station Road and Route 47. A passerby saw the dog and reported. SAC responded to retrieve the dog but by the time they arrived the dog had been removed. Mr. Sterling stated that he believes Shore Animal Control is doing an excellent job. Mr. Sterling added that residents should call Shore Animal and if no one answers a detailed message should be left and SAC will call back. Mr. Sterling

concerning the municipalities were included in the letter sent; primary concern is protecting infrastructure. Emergency Repair work was also addressed. This letter of concern was sent via email to Mr. Massey. The townships requested the 'draft' rules so that they could be reviewed and concerns expressed. The Bayshore communities are tired of not being listened to; Cape May and Salem also support the concerns presented.

Ben Stowman, Delmont, explained that the river dredging project has also been approved for funding and the funding should be available in September/October. The ALS project and dredging may happen at the around the same time which will allow for economic growth.

Mr. Whildin explained that the township is looking for old photos of the East Point/Bay Avenue bulkhead prior to 1980. Mr. Kumor provided that he has some old aerial shots that shows houses three deep with the bulkhead.

Ben Stowman, Delmont, stated that protection of municipal infrastructure must happen and this could vary depending on each municipality's individual demographics. Permitting requirements also needs to be addressed.

Mr. Ashton made a motion to close the second public comment session noting the time at 8:02 pm; seconded by Mr. Sterling.

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

Review of Agenda for Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

The Township Committee reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, July 15, 2021 meeting and changes were made as needed

Review of Bills for approval on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to review of the bills to be presented for approval on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

Adjournment

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

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk

MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. 76-2021

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF
TOWNSHIP HELD TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #02-050
AT PRIVATE SALE TO WILLIAM R. LUPTON**

WHEREAS, William R. Lupton has requested the Township Committee assign the below tax sale certificate at private sale, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:5-112 allows the assignment of tax sale certificates currently held by the Township to third-party investors at private sale which include the full amount of the certificate plus subsequent liens, charges and interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP that the following tax sale certificate be assigned to William R. Lupton, 18511 Hancock Bluff Rd, Dade City FL 33523, at private sale for the amount indicated below at an agenda meeting of the Township Committee of Maurice River Township to be held on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Owner	Blk/Lot	Tax Lien #		Amount of Assignment (7/12/21)
Unknown	268 / 14	02-050	Full Amount of Certificate, plus subsequent liens, charges and interest	\$ 348.65
			Total Amount Due	\$ 348.65