

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting

May 9, 2019

7:00 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Township Clerk Diana McCracken read the Open Public Meeting Statement and opened the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Yes Ms. Stevens Yes Mr. Scibetta Yes Mr. Gormley
 Yes Mr. Kehm Yes Mrs. Crea

PROCLAMATION

Committeewoman Lisa Stevens presented a proclamation to members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 72 designating the week of May 18 - 24, 2019 as "National Safe Boating Week."

Mayor Barbara Jo Crea presented a proclamation to Nicole Blackburn of the Ocean County group Moms Demand Action designating Friday, June 7, 2019 as "National Gun Violence Awareness Day."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

➤ April 25, 2019

Motion to Approve: Stevens

Second: Scibetta

All in favor

ORDINANCE

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

2019-07 An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, providing for the mechanical maintenance dredging of Rose Creek and several man-made lagoons on the easterly side of Radio Road in the Mystic Island section of the Township and related expenses so as to provide navigable access to Great Bay from the several lagoons, benefitting properties abutting said lagoons, and appropriating \$4,500,000 therefor, and providing for the issuance of \$4,500,000 in bonds or notes of the Township of Little Egg Harbor to finance the same, and directing the Special Assessment of the cost thereof

Motion to Open to Public: Gormley

Second: Kehm

All in favor

Ms. Jane Letterman: Mentioned she received the assessment for the dredging project which is \$1,000.00 per year for the next ten years and asked if the town is receiving any federal assistance for the project.

Mayor Crea explained at this time the amount is an estimate.

Township Engineer Jason Worth explained a lot of the upfront expenditures were covered by a grant and are not included in the special assessment.

Ms. Jane Letterman: Asked why the township cannot receive federal assistance for the cost of the dredging.

Committeeman Ray Gormley stated they are manmade lagoons and unfortunately there is no funding at this time.

Ms. Jane Letterman: Asked how the dredging will improve the waterways.

Committeeman Ray Gormley discussed the amount of material that needs to be removed from the lagoons in the North Burgee Drive area to allow access to boaters.

Ms. Jane Letterman: Asked if the estimated assessment amount could increase in cost.

Committeeman Ray Gormley stated we anticipate once the bids come in it will be cheaper. He explained the process if the bids were to come in higher.

Mr. Fred Getson: Questioned why homeowners have not fixed their bulkheads. He believes that has a lot to do with the need for dredging and thought it was mandatory that resident's repair their damaged bulkheads.

Mr. John Purpety Jr.: Mentioned he bought the property next to him and asked if he combined both properties would he still be assessed at \$1,000.00 for each.

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani explained if at the time of the project and assessment it is one lot, it will be assessed as one lot.

Mr. John Purpety Jr.: Mentioned if the assessment doesn't begin until next year, he will have time to combine his lots.

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani explained the assessment won't begin until the project is completed and all costs are finalized.

Township Engineer Jason Worth mentioned the projected project would end by the end of the year.

Mr. Martin Frederick: Questioned Section 8 of the ordinance which states the township is contributing zero to the cost of the improvement however another section states if the amount of the assessment is confirmed as less than 4.5 million dollars, the township will contribute the difference to the cost of the improvement.

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani stated this ordinance allows the town to bond up to the 4.5 million dollars for the project which she briefly explained.

Mr. Chris Vanderstein: Asked how a homeowner would go about getting additional dredging of their lagoon area.

Committeeman Ray Gormley stated there will be a separate line item on the contract when we bid for the project therefore once the project is completed, homeowners will have the option for that contractor to come back to take additional material out.

Mr. Chris Vanderstein: Asked if the 4.5 million dollars is just for the east side or for everything. Committeeman Ray Gormley stated just the east side and he briefly discussed.

Committeeman John Kehm explained each area varies in the amount of homes involved and the cost of the dredging.

Motion to Close to Public:	Gormley	Second: Kehm	All in favor
Motion to Adopt:	Gormley	Second: Kehm	Roll Call: Stevens <u>Yes</u>
			Scibetta <u>Yes</u>
			Gormley <u>Yes</u>
			Kehm <u>Yes</u>
			Crea <u>Yes</u>

Committeeman Ray Gormley thanked Rodney Haines, Jason Worth and Committeewoman Lisa Stevens for their work with Bond Counsel.

ORDINANCE [SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

2019-10 An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, amending Chapter 151 of the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, entitled "Bulkhead Construction"

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm Second: Scibetta All in favor

Mr. Dave Fuller: Asked if all waterfront lots are intended to be bulkheaded whether they are conforming or non-conforming.

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani explained as per Section B of 151-10, all private waterfront lots abutting tidal waterways within the Township of Little Egg Harbor shall be bulkheaded.

Motion to Close to Public: Gormley Second: Sevens All in favor

Motion to Adopt: Gormley	Second: Kehm	Roll Call:	Stevens	<u>Yes</u>
			Scibetta	<u>Yes</u>
			Gormley	<u>Yes</u>
			Kehm	<u>Yes</u>
			Crea	<u>Yes</u>

PUBLIC HEARING ADOPTION 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

2019-120 A Resolution adopting the 2019 Municipal Budget

Motion to Open to Public: Stevens Second: Kehm All in favor

Mr. Art Mooney: Asked for information on the budget increase.

CFO Rodney Haines stated approximately the local purpose tax is going from 67.3 to 74.2 therefore it is roughly a 10% increase.

Mr. Art Mooney: Mentioned it exceeds the 2% cap and discussed the burden it poses on senior citizens who have not received an ample increase to their fixed income.

Mr. Ken Shuster: Asked what the town plans to do to bring more businesses to the area and questioned why Great Wolf Lodge was turned down.

Committeeman Ray Gormley explained he is the liaison to the Commercial Revitalization Advisory Board and they are trying to bring ratable's to the town. He explained Great Wolf Lodge has not been interested in New Jersey since 2016 and plans to build in Maryland.

Mr. Art Mooney: Stated the town would attract more investors if the taxes were lower.

Motion to Close to Public: Stevens Second: Scibetta All in favor

Motion to Adopt: Stevens	Second: Gormley	Roll Call:	Stevens	<u>Yes</u>
			Scibetta	<u>Yes</u>
			Gormley	<u>Yes</u>
			Kehm	<u>Yes</u>
			Crea	<u>Yes</u>

CONSENT AGENDA

A Consent Agenda includes items of business which are not controversial and do not require individual discussion. The Consent Agenda is moved, seconded, and voted upon as one item by the Governing Body.

2019-121 Appointing Barbara Kelly as Little Egg Harbor Township Representative to the Pinelands Municipal Council

- 2019-122 Authorizing the execution of an addendum to the contract with Citta, Holzapfel & Zabarsky as Municipal Prosecutor
- 2019-123 Authorizing the execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the FY19 Traffic Enforcement Program Grant
- 2019-124 Authorizing cancellation of taxes
- 2019-125 Authorizing various tax refunds

Committeewoman Lisa Stevens announced Ms. Barbara Kelly is present this evening, her resume is impeccable and she thanked her for joining the Pinelands Municipal Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT Consent Agenda Only

Motion to Open to Public: Stevens Second: Gormley All in favor
No public participation.

Motion to Close to Public: Stevens Second: Scibetta All in favor

Motion to Approve: Kehm	Second: Stevens	Roll Call:	Stevens	<u>Yes</u>
			Scibetta	<u>Yes</u>
			Gormley	<u>Yes</u>
			Kehm	<u>Yes</u>
			Crea	<u>Yes</u>

Mayor Crea thanked Ms. Kelly for taking the time to be a part of the Pinelands Municipal Council.

BILL RESOLUTION

2019-126 A Resolution authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$5,924,093.06

Motion to Approve: Stevens	Second: Kehm	Roll Call:	Stevens	<u>Yes</u>
			Scibetta	<u>Yes</u>
			Gormley	<u>Yes</u>
			Kehm	<u>Yes</u>
			Crea	<u>Abstain on 05006, 05025, yes to balance</u>

MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Raffle Application for Women’s Club by the Bay gift auction on July 6, 2019
- Raffle Application for Women’s Club by the Bay gift auction on July 7, 2019
- Raffle Application for American Legion Post #493 Mystic Island gift raffle on July 13 & July 14, 2019
- Raffle Application for American Legion Post #493 Mystic Island gift raffle on August 25, 2019
- Raffle Application for Pinelands July 4th Celebration Inc. 50/50 raffle on June 10, 2019 at Sea Oaks Country Club

Motion to Approve: Scibetta Second: Stevens All in favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Jason Worth reported on the Local Energy Audit which is underway on the Township's buildings, the Twin Lakes Boulevard Paving Project, the Iowa Court Living Shoreline and the Maryland Road Project.

Committeeman John Kehm spoke about the work both he and Committeeman Scibetta are doing with regards to solar panels to cut costs for the township.

Township Engineer Jason Worth discussed how the Energy Audit Report will help the township with future energy saving goals.

Mayor Crea mentioned LED street lighting would save money.

Committeewoman Lisa Stevens asked if it is possible to create a covering over the employee parking lot and install solar panels on it.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated it is an alternative to the standard roof top or ground solar panels.

PUBLIC COMMENT – any topic

Motion to Open to Public: Stevens

Second: Scibetta

All in favor

Mr. Robert Hirth: Asked if it is possible to change the name of the street next to Veteran's Park from Grace Place to Veteran's Way to represent the fallen.

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani explained there is a mechanism for it.

Mr. Robert Hirth: Expressed his concerns regarding the poor condition of the area at the end of Radio Road and the wasted man-power and hours spent trying to repair it after storms.

Mayor Crea explained there have been discussions regarding that area in which portions are also owned by the State and County.

Mr. Robert Hirth: Mentioned quite a few properties in the township that are in need of property maintenance.

Mr. Ken Shuster: Spoke about his concerns for the area of Radio Road going into Mystic Islands. There are properties with junk boats, cars, trucks and many of the side streets are the same. This town needs to be cleaned up.

Committeeman John Kehm discussed the progress the town has made since Hurricane Sandy and asked Mr. Shuster to file a complaint with Code Enforcement on the properties in need of maintenance.

Mayor Crea explained Code Enforcement may have addressed some of these properties however the owners may not have complied. She asked Mr. Shuster to provide a list of the homes in question which will be forwarded to the Township Administrator and Code Enforcement.

Mr. George Rithianos: Explained he lives on Osborne Island and at the end of Radio Road people idle their cars and converse in the late evening hours. There are signs that state "No Parking". He asked if that means no standing or sitting in an idling car.

Committeeman John Kehm explained that would be something the Police Department would handle however he will look into it. He mentioned they may be night fishing.

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani explained per state law, you cannot leave your car idling. Committeewoman Lisa Stevens suggested calling the non-emergency police phone number.

Mr. Lou Cavaluzzi: Thanked Committeeman Gormley, Jason Worth and the entire governing body for all their hard work in getting the dredging underway. You have positively impacted our waterfront community.

Committeeman Ray Gormley thanked Mr. Cavaluzzi for his efforts and discussed the positive progression of the dredging project.

Mr. Lou Cavaluzzi: Asked how much material will come out of the west side of Mystic Islands. Committeeman Ray Gormley stated including all the dredging areas in Little Egg Harbor the amount of material is in excess of 400,000 cubic yards.

Mr. Art Mooney: Explained he lives in Sunrise Bay and the American Legion has events that include loud music. He asked the governing body to address the noise, especially in the evening hours.

Mayor Crea mentioned the townships noise ordinance is up to 10pm.

Mr. Daniel Maxwell: Lives at the end of Radio Road on Osborne Island and stressed the importance of water access for residents as opposed to the focus on parking regulations.

Motion to Close to Public: Stevens Second: Scibetta All in favor

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Stevens: Mentioned with Safe Boating Week coming up, she asked boaters to be aware of the no wake areas and the marshes which may be damaged by waves. She wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Scibetta: Spoke about the Walk MS event in Asbury Park, the work of the Community Advisory Board and the upcoming Community Clean-up.

Gormley: Clarified a discussion from the last meeting regarding painter turtles. The subject was printed in a local newspaper.

Kehm: Announced some upcoming events such as the Mother/Daughter and Mother/Son Dance at the community center, a Mother's Day Dance at the school, and drive-in movies will begin in May at the community center. He spoke about the upcoming Comcast contract negotiations and wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Crea: Discussed the success of this year's Senior Citizen Expo. The next Senior Citizen Advisory Board Meeting will be at the Sunrise Bay Clubhouse. She wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Being no further business,

Motion to Adjourn: Stevens Second: Scibetta All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Diana K. McCracken, RMC

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Township Clerk