

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 14, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Blaise Scibetta called the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Time: 7:00 p.m.

Reverend James Occhipinti, Chaplain to Ocean County Sheriff's Department and Ocean County Prosecutor's Office said the opening Invocation.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Township Clerk Kelly Lettera read the Open Public Meeting Statement: *"This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law. Notice of this meeting of December 14, 2023 was duly advertised, posted in the Municipal Complex, and has remained posted as required under the aforesaid statute. The Municipal Clerk is directed to include a record of this statement in the minutes of the meeting."*

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta

PRESENTATIONS:

- Pinelands Regional School District 2023 Fall Athletic Achievements

Committeeman Laney read the Pinelands Regional School District 2023 Fall Athletic Achievements proclamation and presented it to Pinelands Regional School District Representatives.

- Pinelands Soccer Association "Chaos" Girls U9 Travel Soccer Team

Deputy Mayor Maxwell read the Pinelands Soccer Association "Chaos" Girls U9 Travel Soccer Team proclamation and presented it to the team.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 9, 2023
- November 9, 2023 Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Maxwell

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Abstain: Mr. Kehm

Chief James Hawkins provided a promotional introduction and recommendation for Officer Daniel Ivancich as Sergeant to Little Egg Harbor Police Department.

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RESOLUTION 2023-295

RESOLUTION 2025-299
Appointing Officer Daniel Ivancich as Sergeant of the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Laney

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, administered the oath of office to Sergeant Daniel Ivancich

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZENS ON PATROL BY SERGEANT SEAN CROTTY

Sergeant Sean Crotty recognized the current and retired citizens on patrol and thanked them for all their hard work and volunteerism they provide to the town.

Committeemen Kehm stated the COP's do a lot for the community and thanked them for their service to the town.

ORDINANCE 2023-34

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

ORDINANCE 2023-34 **SECOND READING AND ADOPTION**
An Ordinance Amending Chapter 215, Land Use and Development, of the Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, so as to Amend Chapter 215, Land Use and Development, Article VII, General Provisions, so as to Create §215-7.16, Privately-Owned Salt Storage

Motion to Open to Public: Gormley Second: Laney All in Favor

No public comment.

Motion to Close to Public: Maxwell Second: Kehm All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Kehm Second: Laney

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta

ORDINANCE 2023-35

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Repealing and Replacing Chapter 242 of the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor Entitled "Noise"

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm Second: Laney All in Favor

No public comment.

Motion to Close to Public: Laney Second: Gormley All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Gormley Second: Laney

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta

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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.

Mayor Scibetta read by title all the Resolutions on the consent agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

- 2023-296 Encourages our State Legislators to Provide Fair and Equitable Distribution of Discretionary Spending Appropriations in the Annual State Budget for Key Programs *[Encouraging state legislators to consider a fair and equitable distribution of discretionary spending appropriations in the annual State budget for key programs to assist Ocean County citizens]*

- 2023-297 Appointing Jodi Termi as Interim Court Administrator, and Subsequently Court Administrator, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-10 *[The current Court Administrator is utilizing leave time until her 2/1/2024 retirement. The appointment of Jodi Termi as interim Court Administrator will be effective December 27, 2023 through February 1, 2024, at which time the permanent appointment of Court Administrator will commence]*

- 2023-298 Authorizing the Appointment of Carmela Bernabeo as Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department *[The appointment of Carmela Bernabeo as Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department effective December 13, 2023 at a rate of \$14.13/hr]*

- 2023-299 Accepting the Resignation of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Melissa Caldwell *[Melissa Caldwell resigned as of December 6, 2023 with a total payout of \$1,332.18 for unused time]*

- 2023-300 Amending Resolution 2023-292 as to Review of Little Egg Harbor Board of Fire Commissioners, District No. 3 Compensation in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88 *[Amending Resolution 2023-292 to reflect the 2024 annual compensation for Commissioner Treasurer at \$11,900.00 and \$6,500.00 for other Commissioners]*

- 2023-301 Awarding a Contract for Two (2) 2023 or Newer Ford or Brand Equivalent F-450 Cab and Chassis Crew Cab 4x4 to Ciocca Ford *[Awarding a contract for two 2023 F-450 Cab and Chassis Crew trucks to Ciocca Ford for a total amount of \$195,998]*

- 2023-302 Authorizing Re-Advertisement for Bids for Two (2) 2023 or Newer Autocar (ACX) or Brand Equivalent Side Loader Trash Truck 31 CY *[Authorizing the re-advertisement of bids since the township received no bids]*

- 2023-303 Authorizing the Submission of an Application to Department of Homeland Security – FEMA, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program *[An application submission to DHS-FEMA for the BRIC program for funding to elevate roadways within Mystic Island and to replace the storm drainage system to be more resilient to flooding and future sea level rise]*

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- 2023-304 Authorizing the Execution of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Ratification of a Memorandum of Agreement with PBA Local 295 SOA (Superior Officers Association)*[Authorizing the union contract and MOA between LEHT and SOA effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028]*
- 2023-305 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for Use of Phoenix Automated Property Reporting System *[A shared services agreement with OCPO to utilize the PAPR to track property transactions with pawned materials, scrap metal and/or second-hand property dealers effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025]*
- 2023-306 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Real Property by Open Public Auction in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.9 *[Authorizing the sale of ten surplus properties through Sourcewell National Cooperative, GovDeals, Inc. public auction]*
- 2023-307 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantee Posted by Woodmont Properties (Little Egg 23 LLC) for the Estates, Block 172, Lot 9 *[Authorizing the release of a performance guarantee, in the amount of \$384,300.00, to Woodmont Properties (Little Egg 23 LLC) for a 23 lot residential subdivision, known as the Estates]*
- 2023-308 Authorizing the Circulation of a Preliminary Official Statement and Final Official Statement in Connection with the Sale of Certain of the Township's Bond Anticipation Notes and Approving a Continuing Disclosure Certificate with Respect to Said Notes of the Township, and Authorizing and/or Ratifying Other Actions in Connection Therewith
- 2023-309 Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes and Provide a Refund Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (William P. Murray, Block 325.405, Lot 25)
- 2023-310 Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes and Provide a Refund Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (Thomas V. Casey, Block 325, Lot 22.36)
- 2023-311 Authorizing the Tax Collector to Remove the Duplicate Added/Omitted for 2022 for Block 284.02, Lot 36 (18 Cobblestone Lane) from Tax Sale List
- 2023-312 Authorizing Tax Refunds
- 2023-313 Authorizing the Transfers of Appropriations in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58
- 2023-314 Certifying Tax Liens for Costs Incurred in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code
- 2023-317 Confirming the Details of the Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of \$1,804,704.00 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank Pursuant to the State Fiscal Year 2024 New Jersey Water Bank

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CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to Open to Public: Gormley Second: Laney All in Favor

No public comment.

Motion to Close to Public: Kehm Second: Maxwell All in Favor

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Maxwell

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Mr. Laney abstained from 2023-298 and yes to the balance

BILL RESOLUTION 2023-315

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$4,294,845.69

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Maxwell

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Mr. Laney abstained from 23-01054, 23-01244, 23-012026 and 23-012106 and yes to the balance.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported that the storm drainage project plans are coming together and the project is hoping to be bid by the end of the month and will be received by mid-January. The surveys are complete for the roadways project for East & West Thames and surrounding roads and bids are in the works with the hopes of completion by late January/February. He stated he has been working with the County, Township Administrator and Public Works to determine county roads that are in need for reconstruction and can be put on the 2024 schedule c agreement.

Mayor Scibetta asked the Township Engineer the status of the safe routes to school grant.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated the 2022 SRTS project is under design with McCormick Taylor. He stated the Township Administrator and himself met with them for the design process and hopes the design end will be complete by 2024.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated the 2024 SRTS project is due November 17, 2023 and has been submitted, under review and awaiting funding amount.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Ms. Leslie, recently moved to Little Egg from Brick, requested to post the names and dates for the Planning Board on our website. She stated growing up in LEHT, she is looking to help preserve the land and help in the planning and development of the town.

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Mr. Ross of Revolutionary Road spoke regarding the interest rate for property taxes and is looking to have them reduced. He also sent an email a few weeks prior pertaining to the same subject.

Mr. Dwyer of Frog Pond Road spoke regarding the dangerous driving and speeding on Frog Pond Road. He stated his dog was previously struck and now recently a young girl was struck by a car while getting off the school bus. He is looking for options to reduce the speed and make it safe for kids.

Mayor Scibetta stated he, the Committee, Administration, and Police Chief will discuss further options for Frog Pond Road and he reiterated the fact that the SRTS application submitted was for Frog Pond Road. He further stated signs were installed and the township is doing everything they can to make the town as safe as possible.

Township Engineer Jason Worth also stated over the years several things have been done to promote safety and speeding on and around Frog Pond leading to the schools and the SRTS project will help the initial thought and design to make the area as safe as possible.

Mr. Ross of Revolutionary Road suggested speed bumps on Frog Pond Road.

Mr. Linger of Frog Pond Road stated his daughter was the girl struck by the vehicle on Frog Pond.

Ms. Walsh of Lakewood Court spoke regarding the safety, wellness and common good of the township including the garden project she is promoting at the community center.

Ms. Little of Vincent Court spoke regarding her support of the garden project proposed.

Mr. Edmunds of Spruce Drive stated with help from the Chief and the township, Center Street is finally under control with the trucks. He thanked everyone involved for the signs and flashing lights and requesting supporting Mr. Dwyer like they did him.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Gormley wished all the residents, professionals, employees and his colleagues a very happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season.

Committeeman Laney stated the gift giveaway, by the Recreation Department and PTO, was an amazing event that benefited several people throughout the town by donating used and unused items. He stated it will be an event that will be occurring again next year, so instead of throwing out items of need, put them aside for those who could use them. He stated Mr. and Mrs. Clause did a great job with pictures with Santa. He continued by reporting that the spaghetti dinner and the senior card game dates have been posted. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and New Year!

Committeeman Kehm reported that pictures with Santa has been ongoing for over 18 years and is always a good time with the kids. He thanked Sergeant Crotty for all he does with the COP's keeping them on course and for doing such a good job over the years. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

Deputy Mayor Maxwell stated it was an honor to serve as Deputy Mayor this past year. He stated in the past year, the township Committee accomplished many things and will continue to move forward in the future making LEH a better place for the citizens. He highlighted the following accomplishments this past year: the return of the Memorial Day parade, the grand re-opening of the community center, Mystic and Parkertown Beach Replenishment project, improvements to the Recreation Complex, the senior expo and a vibrant and growing senior advisory board, two town clean-up events, a new recreation director with events and infrastructure including bulk heads, roads and storm drainage projects. He thanked his colleagues for all the hard work they have done throughout the year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone in attendance.

Mayor Scibetta thanked the Committee for doing such a great job in 2023 and making the town thrive. He thanked the support staff for doing such a great job running the town. He also thanked "the heartbeat of the community", the volunteers, for helping make LEH the best community to live and raise a family in. He suggested that everyone reach out to the ones we love because life is moving faster than ever. He wished, on behalf of the Scibetta Family, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-316

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2025 JRC
A Resolution Authorizing the Convening of an Executive Session in Accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby stated the Committee needs to go into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matters, Personnel and attorney-client privilege, formal action maybe be taken.

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Gormley

All in Favor

Motion to Close Executive Session and Reconvene Regular Township Meeting: Gormley

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

Motion to Adjourn: Laney

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

I hereby certify the foregoing Minutes were formally approved by the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee.

Committee.

Kelly Lettera, CMC, RMC
Township Clerk

** "Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Committee meeting is offered by a person who is expressing private thoughts as governed by his or her own conscience, to and for the benefit of the Committee. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Committee and do not necessarily represent the religious beliefs or views of the Committee in part or as a whole. No member of the community is required to attend or participate in the invocation and such decision will have no impact on their right to participate actively in the business of the Committee."*