

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 11, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Blaise Scibetta called the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting to order and a student from Frog Pond Elementary Student Government lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Time: 7:00 p.m.

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 January 11, 2024 was duly advertised, posted in the Municipal Complex, and has remained posted as required under the aforesaid statute. I am 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:

Frog Pond Elementary Student Government

Mayor Scibetta introduced the teachers of the Frog Pond Elementary School Student Government and he then called each student up by name to receive a certification of completion for attending the Township Experience.

A brief intermission was provided for the students to exit the meeting if they chose too.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 14, 2023
- December 14, 2023 Executive Session
- January 1, 2024 Reorganization

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Kehm

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

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

- 2024-047 Appointing Jeremy Price as an Alternate Member of the Planning Board
- 2024-048 Authorizing the Appointment of Victoria Mazanek as Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department *[The appointment of Victoria Mazanek as Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department effective December 27, 2023 at a rate of \$14.13/hr]*
- 2024-049 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the Narcotic Strike Force *[Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the purpose of setting the terms and conditions regarding the assignment of police officers employed by the Township to the Narcotic Strike Force for the purpose of combating the growing gang element and enforcing firearm and anti-drug laws of the State of New Jersey]*
- 2024-050 Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with County of Ocean for FY2023 Homeland Security Grant *[Authorizing the execution of a MOU with Ocean County for grant funding to purchase Automatic License Plate Readers]*
- 2024-051 Authorizing the Execution of a Schedule "C" Agreement with the County of Ocean for 2024 *[It is the desire of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners to assist local governmental units in the repair and maintenance of its streets and property, road overlay, in addition to providing certain materials and supplies in connection therewith. The township engineer has recommended Center Street (Lake Crystalbrook Drive to West Calabreeze Way), Oneida Lake Drive, South Indian Valley Court (Forsgate Drive to terminus) and North Indian Valley Court (Forsgate Drive to terminus) to be included in the work undertaken under the Agreement.]*
- 2024-052 Approving Charges for the Demolition of 28 W. Navasink Drive, (Block 325.104, Lot 37), Pursuant to Chapter 148 and Authorizing said Charge to Become a Lien and To Be Added to and Become a Part of the Taxes to be Assessed and Levied on said Property *[A resolution approving the township to place liens against the property, in the amount of \$15,900, for cost associated with the demolition of 28 W. Navasink Drive]*
- 2024-053 Approving Charges for the Demolition of 108 East Navasink Drive, Block 325.104, Lot 5), Pursuant to Chapter 148 and Authorizing said Charge to Become a Lien and to Be Added to and Become a Part of the Taxes to be Assessed and Levied on said Property *[A resolution approving the township to place liens against the property, in the amount of \$15,900, for cost associated with the demolition of 108 E. Navasink Drive]*
- 2024-054 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 (Diana Homberg, Block 191.03, Lot 79)
- 2024-055 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 (Christopher P. Simon, Block 326.16, Lot 22)

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2024-056 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 (Joshua Sorensen, Block 284.02, Lot 21)

2024-057 Accepting the Retirement of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Sean Hancharuk

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No public comment.

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

Motion to Approve: Laney Second: Kehm

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Mr. Laney abstained from Resolution 2024-048 and yes to the balance.

BILL RESOLUTION 2024-058

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$5,671,086.33

Motion to Approve: Gormley Second: Laney

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Mr. Laney abstained from 23-01109, 23-01336 and yes to the balance.

MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Bingo Application No. 2024-001 for The Baymen's Men's Club Inc., Bingo at 102 Newport Way for various dates in 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2024-001 for The Baymen's Men's Club, Inc., On-Premise 50/50 Raffles at 102 Newport Way for various dates in 2024

Motion to Approve: Maxwell Second: Gormley All in Favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported the Ocean County Engineer's Office provided updates of the projects that will be going on in town which included: re-paving Radio Road from Mathistown Road to Great Bay Blvd. with traffic studies being conducted for further improvements; updating the intersection of Oak Lane by installing a right hand turn lane from Oak Lane to Radio Road; and improvements to the parking at Mystic Beach. He also stated bids will be accepted on February 1 for the 2023 Drainage Improvements project and awarded at February's Committee Meeting. He continued by stating the road project application is wrapping up and will hopefully be completed by next week in order to forward to

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NJDOT for approval for the Oak Lane project to be awarded in March. He finished by stating the 2024 Recreation Improvement grant information was received today with an application deadline of February 27.

Mayor Scibetta requested that Chief Hawkins inform the Committee and the public on his most recent training with the FBI National Academy.

Chief Hawkins thanked the Committee, support staff and the police department for allowing him the opportunity to participate in the most prestigious leadership law enforcement training with the FBI National Academy. He stated only 1% of law enforcement officers worldwide are accepted for the 11 week training. He continued by stating, it is one of the most honorable things he has done thus far in his career and he is honored that he is able to provide the knowledge and training to learned back to the Police Department and the residents of LEHT.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Mr. Colandrea of Sandy Court asked if anything can be done about the traffic light behind the Acme Plaza.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated most of the back-up of traffic currently is from the closing of the Otis Bog Bridge and once the project is complete the traffic should let up. He stated the intersection is controlled by the County but at next month's County meeting he will bring up the issue to see what can be done.

Mayor Scibetta asked if the town received an estimated time of completion from the County on the Otis Bog Bridge Project.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated he has not received a current time of completion, although according to the County, it is supposed be complete by the end of the month. He stated he will reach out tomorrow to the County to get an estimated completion date.

Mr. Andrew of Maryland Road asked if the check valves will be done on Osborn Island and he further requested that the County fill in the dips off Ohio Road when Radio Road gets repaved.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated the check valves will be done on Osborn Island.

Motion to Close Public Comment: Laney

Second: Gormley

All in Favor

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Gormley wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Committeeman Laney wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reported the Spaghetti Dinner is being held on February 24 from 1 to 4pm at the Community Center. He also reported an event for Dr. Seuss's

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birthday will be on March 2 at the Community Center with guest readers, food, face painting and fun events.

Committeeman Kehm thanked the kids in attendance and wished everyone a good night.

Deputy Mayor Maxwell thanked the kids in attendance tonight and their interest in government. He further congratulated Chief Hawkins on his accomplishments at the FBI National Academy. He stated the first Senior Advisory Board meeting of 2024 will be held on January 29 at 10am at the Mystic Shores Club House. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Scibetta wished everyone a happy healthy New Year. He thanked the children in attendance and reiterated that our children are the future and he is looking forward to the Mayors Essay Contest as well. He applauds the teachers for taking the time and effort to teach kids how government works and how they can contribute to the world.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2024-059

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 Personnel Issues, Contractual Matters and attorney-client privilege, formal action maybe be taken.

Motion to Approve: Maxwell Second: Laney All in Favor

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

Second: Gormley All in Favor

RESOLUTION 2024-060

Authorizing the Execution of a memorandum of Agreement with PBA Local No. 295 Union

Motion to Approve: Gormley Second: Laney


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

Motion to Adjourn: Kehm Second: Maxwell All in Favor

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



Kelly Lettera, CMC, RMC
Township Clerk

