

**Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting  
Minutes**

**MARCH 14, 2024**

**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.

**3. 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 March 14, 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."*

**4. ROLL CALL:**

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

**5. PRESENTATIONS:**

➤ Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

*Mayor Scibetta read the Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee dedicated the proclamation to Jean Cipriani from Mandell, Strohm, Halm & Cipriani, P.A. for her daughter.*

➤ Week of the Young Child (April 6-12, 2024)

*Deputy Mayor Maxwell read the Week of the Young Child proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Dr. Anne Flynn, Principal at Robert C. Wood Early Childhood Center.*

➤ National Library Week (April 7-13, 2024)

*Committeeman Laney read the National Library Week proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Dorothy Uhl, LEHT Branch Manager.*

➤ Meals on Wheels Senior Nutrition Programs and the #SaveLunch Campaign

*Deputy Mayor Maxwell read the Meals on Wheels Senior Nutrition Programs proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Executive Director, Jim Sigurdson.*

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- January 11, 2024 Executive Session
- February 8, 2024
- February 8, 2024 Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Gormley

Second: Laney

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

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Abstain: Mr. Kehm abstained from February 8, 2024 Executive Session and February 8, 2024 minutes and yes to balance.

## **7. ORDINANCE [FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

Ordinance 2024-01      An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, Providing for Various Improvements and Upgrades to the Township Municipal Building and Appropriating \$800,000 Therefor and Providing for the Issuance of \$760,000 in Bonds or Notes of the Township of Little Egg Harbor to Finance the Same.

Motion to Introduce: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

## **8. 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**

- 2024-079      Opposing Assembly Bill A-4/Senate Bill S-50 on Affordable Housing *[Resolution opposing S-50/A-4 regarding affordable housing mandates by imposing unreasonable mandates, quotas and deadlines that will create overdevelopment, traffic congestion and spikes in school enrollment to the citizens of LEHT]*
- 2024-080      Urging the State, Department of Treasury, to Expedite Issuance of Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR) Benefits *[Resolution urging the Department of Treasury to prioritize the issuance of the Anchor tax benefit to lessen the financial burden on constituents]*
- 2024-081      Appointing Rosemarie Martelli as a Member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board
- 2024-082      Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with USWU Local 255 *[Authorizing the execution of a MOU with USWU Local 255 for a temporary increase in pay and stipend for John Cooley while serving as Zoning Officer, Floodplain Administrator and Department Head until the positions are filled]*
- 2024-083      Authorizing Compensation of Accumulated Time to the Estate of Mark Ellis *[A total payout amount of \$2,341.84 to the Estate of Mark Ellis for unused time]*
- 2024-084      Authorizing the Chief of Police to Interview and Make Recommendations Regarding Hiring Up to Three (3) Police Officers

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- 2024-085 Authorizing the Chief of Police to Interview and Make Recommendations Regarding Hiring Up to Three (3) Special Class I Police Officers
- 2024-086 Authorizing an Agreement with Web Alliance International Agency LLC for Website Design with Content Management *[An agreement with Web Alliance International Agency LLC for website design and content management for the township and police department in an amount not to exceed a one-time fee in the amount of \$15,000 and monthly maintenance of \$198.00 per month]*
- 2024-087 Authorizing the Preparation of Specifications for Demolition of the Structure Located at 360 Route 9 South (Block 291, Lot 8)
- 2024-088 Authorizing the Preparation of Specifications for Demolition of the Structure Located at 110 National Union Boulevard (Block 325.26, Lot 30)
- 2024-089 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantees Posted for 167 Mathistown Road (Block 325.20, Lot 110)
- 2024-090 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantees Posted for Townhomes at Sea Oaks (Block 191.03, Lots 154.02 and 154)
- 2024-091 Authorizing the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020 – June 2025 *[The Joint Municipal Alliance Committee consists of Eagleswood, Little Egg Harbor and Tuckerton and was established to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse]*
- 2024-092 Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding to Participate in the On P.O.I.N.T. Program with Bright Harbor Healthcare *[Bright Harbor Healthcare to provide the provision of on-site social workers to assist the Little Egg Harbor Police Department in handling mental health, substance abuse, and social service related calls that the Little Egg Harbor Police receive and provide day-to-day management of the operations of the On P.O.I.N.T. Program]*
- 2024-093 Approving Participation in the Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program Administered by the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and Acceptance of a Grant Award of \$45,150 *[Grant funds will be used towards patrol division police officer(s) assigned to address quality of life issues within the community while increasing community relationship between police and residents]*
- 2024-094 Authorizing Tax Refunds
- 2024-095 Authorizing the Appointment of Jacklyn DePasquale as Accounting Assistant for the Township Administrator/CFO

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### 9. CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

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

*No public comment.*

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

Motion to Approve: Kehm                      Second: Gormley

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

### 10. BILL RESOLUTION 2024-096

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$3,426,624.26

Motion to Approve: Kehm                      Second: Laney

Roll Call:      All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta  
Mr. Laney abstained from 24-00058, 134, 136, 155, 175, 219 and yes to the balance.

### 11. MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Bingo Application No. 2024-002 for the PTO of Little Egg Harbor, Inc., Designer Bag Bingo at 305 Frog Pond Road on April 27, 2024
- Bingo Application No. 2024-003 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., Designer Bag Bingo at 505 Route 9 South on June 1, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2024-007 for St. Theresa's Church, On-Premise Gift Auction at 99 Golf View Drive on May 20, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2024-008 for St. Theresa's Church, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 450 Radio Road on April 21, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2024-009 for American Legion Post 493 Mystic Island, On-Premise Gift Auction at 420 Radio Road on September 12, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2024-010 for the PTO of Little Egg Harbor, Inc., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 305 Frog Pond Road on April 27, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2024-011 for the West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise Gift Auction at 505 Route 9 South on June 1, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2024-012 for the West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 505 Route 9 South on June 1, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2024-013 for the West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise Lottery Hat Raffle at 505 Route 9 South on June 1, 2024

Motion to Approve: Kehm                      Second: Laney                      All in Favor

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## 12. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported the design for the Oak Lane Safety Improvements project is 95% complete and will need to be submitted to the state for approval. He stated NJDOT is providing \$750,000 in grant money for the project. He stated residents who fall along the grass line where the sidewalks will be, will be notified prior to work beginning. Mr. Worth reported the annual Ocean County meeting was today and he provided several updates including the Otis Bog bridge project expecting to be complete by March 20 or sooner; the paving of Radio Road from Great Bay Blvd to Mathistown Road will begin this summer and will include improvements at the intersection of Oak Lane and Radio Road; the paving, elevating and drainage of Radio Road from the Osborn Island bridge to the Mystic Island Beach and parking; Center Street from Mathistown Road to Lake Crystalbrook Drive will be paved by Spring 2025 and the County is reviewing a traffic signal installation at Radio Road and Country Club Blvd. and the town should have an update by next week. He finished with reporting that the Governing Body worked with Congressman Van Drew's office for pedestrian safety improvements to Radio Road and the town will be receiving \$2.3 million in grant funding for the project.*

## 13. PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Motion to Close Public: Gormley

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

*Kim from S. Portland Drive asked about drainage and paving for W. Calabreeze Way and S. Portland and the reasoning for the Floodplain Development fee that was passed last year.*

*Township Engineer Jason Worth stated W. Calabreeze was discussed with the County and it was his recommendation as the next project. The remaining streets referenced there is no schedule for paving. He requested a list of those streets and he will look into tomorrow and report back.*

*Committeeman Kehm explained the Floodplain Development fee is a FEMA rule and was required from them and the township had to abide by the law.*

*Mr. Selenas of W. Susquehanna Drive asked about paving and elevating streets in his area.*

*Township Engineer Jason Worth stated W. Susquehanna Drive area is the MUA's next project to replace all the water and sewer and they are waiting for final approval from the state. Once they get approval from the state, MUA will be going out to bid for the project. He stated in the meantime, the township is working on the design plans so once the MUA is complete the township can go out to bid.*

*Ms. Vogue of W. Susquehanna also spoke regarding the potholes and paving that needs to be done on her street.*

*Gavin of Frog Pond asked about speed limit, signage and the infrastructure on Frog Pond. He also asked if the Mancini project is what the town wants as the image of the town and asked if the town is prepared for the additional traffic and people.*

*Township Engineer Jason Worth stated a plan has been put together for stripping, more signage and safety improvements for Frog Pond.*

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*Mayor Scibetta stated once the design plan is complete the town will meet with the school to go over the plan so everyone is on the same page. He also stated there are plenty of plans and boards for the plan of the town and everything must be approved by them. He further stated the Mancini project falls into the gateway overlay zone and will 100% abide by what is required.*

*Township Engineer Jason Worth stated there is land use regulations and zones throughout town and the town has had the overlay zones for over fifteen years. He further stated the township is in the process of updating their master plan now and zoning is looked at heavily during that time and updates are made during that process.*

*Township Administrator Rodney Haines stated prior to the master plan update, there will be public hearings for the public to attend and make suggestions.*

*Ms. Pimenti of Seneca Lake Drive spoke about the Bright Harbor Healthcare "The Nook" pantry their moto being "transforming the idea of community dining and providing local resources in a new and fun way". She stated recently they have had to give up their Manahawkin location and they are looking for another location in the Southern portion of Ocean County. She stated she is looking to possibly provide their services four days a week at the township Senior Center.*

*Mayor Scibetta stated he loves the idea and would love for Bright Harbor to join Meals on Wheels, the township, and the church food panties together to come up with a plan to help the residents together. He stated Mr. Haines will reach out to her with the next steps.*

*Ms. Vogue of W. Susquehanna asked how the senior center is being utilized.*

*Mayor Scibetta stated events are taking place currently for the seniors and the community garden is there as well.*

Motion to Close Public Comment: Kehm

Second: Gormley

All in Favor

#### **14. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

*Committeeman Gormley thanked everyone in attendance and wished the Township Clerk Kelly Lettera and Township Business Administrator/CFO Rodney Haines a Happy Birthday.*

*Committeeman Kehm reminded residents that the only garbage and debris should be put into their garbage cans, no metals or construction items should be included because it causes the machines to get jammed or broken. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.*

*Committeeman Laney thanked everyone who donated, volunteered and attended the senior spaghetti dinner, cops with crayons and the suessabration. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a Happy Easter.*

*Deputy Mayor Maxwell reported that the senior expo at the senior center is May 1 from 9am to noon at the community center and there are two remaining senior card games happening on March 18 and*

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March 28. He reminded residents the next Senior Advisory Board meeting will be on March 25, 2024 at Harbor Bay. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.

Mayor Scibetta reported he and Committeeman Kehm attended the Great Bay EMS constellation dinner and they expressed the need for volunteers. He happily reiterated that Van Drew has provided a total of 6.5 million dollars in grants and 2.3 million dollar grant funding for Radio Road improvements. He expressed his dislike of the State of NJ announcing in their preliminary budget that they are looking to take 16% from LEHT schools to fund education in other areas. He stated the town deserves more than a 16% decrease in resources and education and LEHT voices will be heard. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter.

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION 2024-097**

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 and attorney-client privilege, formal action maybe be taken.

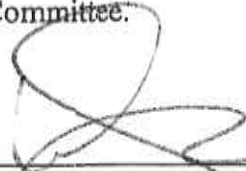
Motion to Approve: Kehm    Second: Maxwell    All in Favor

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

Second: Kehm    All in Favor

Motion to Adjourn: Maxwell    Second: Laney    All in Favor

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

  
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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."