

## Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Daniel Maxwell 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 May 8, 2025 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. Scibetta; Mayor Maxwell

### **5. PRESENTATIONS:**

- Memorial Day Prayer for Peace

*Committeeman Laney read the Memorial Day Prayer for Peace proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to the VFW and American Legion.*

- National Safe Boating Week (May 17-23, 2025)

*Committeeman Gormley read the National Safe Boating Week proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Sharon Hewitt, Flotilla Staff Officer Public Affairs.*

- National EMS Week (May 18-24, 2025)

*Committeeman Kehm read the National EMS Week proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Great Bay EMS.*

- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month

*Mayor Maxwell read the ALS Awareness month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Michael and Lisa Imbrenda.*

- Mental Health Awareness Month

*Committeeman Scibetta read the Mental Health Awareness month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Kim Shaloo from Bright Harbor Healthcare.*

- Older Americans' Month

*Mayor Maxwell read the Older Americans' month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to members of the LEHT Senior Advisory Board.*

- Gun Violence Awareness Month and Day (1<sup>st</sup> Friday in June)

*Committeeman Laney read the Gun Violence Awareness month and day proclamation.*



Ordinance 2025-06 An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 86 of the Township Code Entitled "Officers and Employees" so as to Create Article LXXXII, Accounting Assistant

Motion to Introduce: Laney Second: Gormley

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

### 9. 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.*

*Township Planner, James Oris, spoke on Resolution 2025-138. He explained the purpose of the resolution and the cross acceptance plan. He stated the purpose is for township goals and priorities that reduce permitted residential densities and are consistent with planning efforts aimed at minimizing fiscal impacts of new residential developments, existing conditions and potential vulnerabilities of flood prone areas. In addition, he stated it is to adopt land use regulations that encourage a better balance among residential, commercial and industrial land uses to promote improved municipal fiscal planning efforts and minimize the potential for land use conflicts. Finally, he stated it is to promote better coordination and consistency between state, county and municipal planning efforts.*

*Township Clerk, Kelly Lettera, read by title all the Resolutions on the consent agenda.*

### RESOLUTIONS

- 2025-124 Opposing NJPACT Rules *[A resolution to oppose rules and regulations promulgated as a result of NJPACT, due to its extreme approach, defiance of science and its threat to public health, welfare, and economic stability of Little Egg Harbor Township]*
- 2025-125 Restricting Use of Chains on Township Roadways and Rights of Way *[A resolution restricting the use of chains to obstruct or close a public roadway or public right of way]*
- 2025-126 Authorizing the Appointment of Matthew Clappsy as Laborer 1, Clean Communities (Seasonal) for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Matthew Clappsy as a seasonal Laborer 1 for the Department of Public Works, effective April 16, 2025, at a rate of \$15.49/hr]*
- 2025-127 Authorizing the Appointment of Theodore Zimmerman as Laborer 1, Clean Communities (Seasonal) for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Theodore Zimmerman as a seasonal Laborer 1 for the Department of Public Works, effective April 16, 2025, at a rate of \$15.49/hr]*

- 2025-128 Authorizing the Appointment of Giovanni Greco as Laborer 1, Clean Communities (Seasonal) for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Giovanni Greco as a seasonal Laborer 1 for the Department of Public Works, effective April 16, 2025, at a rate of \$15.49/hr]*
- 2025-129 Authorizing the Appointment of John DeLucia as a Per Diem Telecommunicator for the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department *[The appointment of John Delucia as a per diem telecommunicator for the LEHT PD, effective immediately, at a rate of \$22/hr]*
- 2025-130 Authorizing the Appointment of Richard Weir as a Per Diem Telecommunicator for the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department *[The appointment of Richard Weir as a per diem telecommunicator for the LEHT PD, effective immediately, at a rate of \$22/hr]*
- 2025-131 Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement and Authorizing the Execution of the Collective Negotiations Agreement with the AFSCME Local 3304E *[Authorizing the execution of a MOU and Contract with AFSCME Local 3304E (Blue Collar) for a term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027]*
- 2025-132 Authorizing an Agreement with KC Sign & Awnings Through Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESC NJ) Cooperative Under Bid Number ESCNJ 24/25-38, Co-op #65MCLSCCPS *[Authorizing an agreement with KC Signs & Awnings to purchase an electronic message board for the township municipal building, through ESCNJ Co-op, in an amount not to exceed \$46,615.00]*
- 2025-133 Authorizing the Purchase of Benches and Plaques Under State Contract 16-FLEET-00135 *[Authorization to purchase benches and plaques under state contract for the memorial bench program, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000]*
- 2025-134 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 surplus personal property through Sourcewell National Cooperative, GovDeals, Inc, public auction]*
- 2025-135 Authorizing a Township-wide Garage Sale for the Weekend of July 19-20, 2025 *[Any resident who desires to participate in the Township-wide garage sale on July 19 & 20, 2025, between the hours of 9:00am and 6:00pm, will be exempt from the regulations and permit fees as designated in Chapter 191 of the Township Code]*
- 2025-136 Authorizing a Waiver of the LEH Housing Rehabilitation Program Cap as to 108 Lakewood Court (O'Rourke) to Rehabco, Inc. *[A resolution to authorize a waiver of the \$20,000 Program Guideline cap and allow the rehabilitation project to be conducted by Pomponio Construction LLC through Rehabco, in an amount not to exceed \$25,225.00]*
- 2025-137 Authorizing Tax Refunds
- 2025-138 Approving the Cross-Acceptance Response Template in Response to the Preliminary State Development and Re-Development Plan

**10. CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

*All comments shall be addressed to the Mayor and all individuals making comment must state their name and address for the record. The Mayor will respond once your comment is complete.*

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

*No one from the public spoke.*

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

Motion to Approve: Gormley                      Second: Kehm

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

**11. BILL RESOLUTION 2025-139**

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$7,563,780.18

Motion to Approve: Scibetta                      Second: Kehm

Roll Call:        Ayes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Maxwell  
                    Abstain: Mr. Laney abstained from 25-00541 and 25-00542 and yes to the balance

**12. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS**

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported the NJDOT has announced their 2026 state aid programs and the application needs to be submitted by July 1, 2025. He stated the roadway improvements to Leitz Blvd is underway, storm drainage is complete and the paving will occur in a few weeks. He stated bids will be taken next week for the pedestrian improvements to Oak Lane from Route 9 to Radio Road with the hopes of an award at the next Committee meeting. He stated he is still waiting on 4 fully executed easement agreements from the residents from the Oak Lane project. He stated the recreation equipment will be installed and competed by level-up on May 21, 2025 and completed by May 23, 2025.*

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic**

*All comments shall be addressed to the Mayor and all individuals making comment must state their name and address for the record. The Mayor will respond once your comment is complete.*

*Mayor Maxwell stated LEHT Committee has nothing to do with the school board budget. He stated the school board does not seek or need township approval to approve the school board budget.*

Motion to Open to the Public: Gormley                      Second: Scibetta                      All in Favor

*Ms. Fischkelta of Candle Lake Drive asked why is the school and township budgets separate. She stated the budget should all be together.*

*Mayor Maxwell suggested that residents that have school board budget questions, attend the school board meeting. He stated the residents vote for members for the school board they are not chosen by the township.*

*Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated the school board is statutorily governed by type 2 November election where the residents vote for the members. She reiterated that the Governing Body has nothing to do with the school board budget. She stated additional inquiries should be directed to the State Department of Education and they have control over the funding for each school district.*

*Mr. Stranger of Manasquan Drive asked if the Committee can revisit the Cannabis law in town to help offset the school board tax increase.*

*Mayor Maxwell informed the public that there is a poster board outside the meeting room with the school board's meeting date and time.*

*Ms. Orth of Daddy Tucker Drive stated the sewer system is falling in on 4 Daddy Tucker Drive. She stated after Hurricane Sandy, the road was repaved, but the township did not finish the road and the intersection is all ripped up.*

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated the contractor is going out next week to patch the potholes in that area. He stated Tuckerton has said for quite a while now that they need to replace the sewer in that area prior to the township contractor finishing the roads. He stated if Tuckerton is going to be too much longer, the contractor will just have to finish the project and Tuckerton will have to repave once their work is complete.*

*Ms. Masa of Forecastle Drive complained about the roads on N. Forecastle Drive. She also asked how many dogs are allowed in each residence. She stated dogs are barking all hours of the night.*

*Township Engineer Jason Worth, stated the MUA is replacing all the sewer lines and utility lines for the township to reconstruct the road on N. Forecastle Drive.*

*Ms. Thompson of W. Delaware asked how the increased tax amounts will be provided to the residents.*

*Township Administrator, Rodney Haines, he states that each portion has a budget that creates a tax levy. He stated when they say the 30% increase that is only the schools portion that is not the total tax increase amount. Ms. Thompson asked what the limited budget seniors are able to do. Mr. Haines stated seniors are able to file for the senior freeze.*

*Ms. Anderson of Windstar Drive asked if the town is able to have a special election like lacey Township did to change the increased tax amount.*

*Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated Lacey Township's special election was to approve a capital improvement not to change in the increase of tax percentage that was approved.*

*Township Administrator, Rodney Huines, stated the school board is responsible for their own budget.*

*Ms. Reap of Baltusrol Court stated she spoke with Ocean County Board of Taxation and they informed her to contact Congressman Van Drew and Senator Amato's office. She provided the public with phone numbers to call and flood their offices because they are aware of the increase. She further stated that the calculation needs to be revisited.*

Motion to Close Public Comment: Gormley

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

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

*Committeeman Gormley stated the beach signs at Mystic Island and Parkertown beaches will be installed soon. He stated there is no watering system down there, so when residents are going to the beach, please bring a water bottle to provide the flowers with a sip. He wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and a safe and Happy Memorial Day. He also touched on the school board budget stating that Governor Murphy took away the 2% cap that was previously put in place, which allowed the school boards to raise their taxes to the maximum allowable. He stated in addition to removing the 2% cap limit, residents are not allowed to vote beyond the 2% tax increase.*

*Committeeman Kehm echoed what Committeeman Gormley stated about the 2% cap. He stated one other time, he believes 2011, the Township was involved in the school budget through a referendum and the budget was cut. He stated since Governor Murphy the taxpayer is no longer allowed to vote against the increase because the cap was taken away. He reiterated that the township has no control over the school board budget and they are a separate entity. He wished everyone a safe Memorial Day and Happy Mother's Day.*

*Committeeman Scibetta spoke regarding the Memorial Day Parade stating if it rains the day of the event, it will be canceled, with no rain date. He also requested to take down all signs at the memorial park, located on corner of Radio Road and Calabreeze. He wished everyone a Happy Mother's and Memorial Day.*

*Deputy Mayor Laney reported a few upcoming events including the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Day event which will be held on May 17, 2025. He also stated the Arts and Craft Fair will be on June 28, September 13 and November 8, from 11am – 3pm at the community center. He stated the Senior Expo was a successful event with over 80 vendors in attendance. He wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day.*

*Mayor Maxwell thanked the residents that came out to express their concerns. He also stated that the Tax Collector's office is helping seniors fill out their PASI forms every Wednesday from 1-3pm through June, although May 28 is canceled. He stated the next Senior Advisory Board meeting will be on May 19 at Harbor Bay. He stated the spaghetti dinner ALS fundraiser event for Michael and Lisa Imbrenda will be on May 10 at Parkertown Firehouse to raise funds and awareness.*

