

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting

January 8, 2026

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Kenneth Laney 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 January 8, 2026 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. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Laney

RESOLUTION 2026-066

Authorizing the Appointment of Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Member Suzanne M. Carrara

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Scibetta

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

OATH OF OFFICE

Assemblyman Brian Rumpf administered Committeewoman Suzanna M. Carrara her Oath of Office

5. PRESENTATIONS

- Environmental Hero Awards

Mayor Laney called up the Environmental Commission to present the Environmental Hero Awards to the two recipient's, Ms. Voss and Mr. Artewin.

- American Heart Month, National Wear Red Day (1st Friday in February) and the Kids Heart Challenge

Committeewoman Carrara read the American Heart Month, National Wear Red Day Proclamation.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 18, 2025 Special Meeting
- January 1, 2026 Reorganization Meeting

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

Roll Call: Mrs. Carrara; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Laney

7. **RESOLUTION 2026-049**

Appointing Captain Jeffrey Martin as Chief of Police of the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department

Police Chief Hawkins announced he was priveledged to serve the community for the past twenty six years with many of them as the Chief of Police. He will be retiring as of February 1, 2026 and is proud to recommend Captain Jeffrey Martin as the new Chief of Police for Little Egg Harbor Township. He gave an overview of Captain Martin's valuable experience and is confident he will lead this department into the future.

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Scibetta

Roll Call: Mrs. Carrara; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Laney

Township Attorney Melanie Szuba administered the Oath of Office to Chief Jeffrey Martin.

Chief Hawkins announced he is proud to recommend Lieutenant Thomas Thornton to fill the vacancy as the new Police Captain.

8. **RESOLUTION 2026-050**

Appointing Lieutenant Thomas Thornton as Captain of the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Carrara

Roll Call: Mrs. Carrara; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Laney

Township Attorney Melanie Szuba administered the Oath of Office to Captain Thomas Thornton.

Mayor Laney stated before we take a brief recess he would like to congratulate both Chief Martin and Captain Thornton on their promotions.

9. **ORDINANCE** **[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

Ordinance 2026-01 An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, 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 LXXXIV(84), Assistant Construction Official

Motion to Introduce: Maxwell

Second: Kehm

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Carrara; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Laney

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

RESOLUTIONS

- 2026-051 *Opposing Bill S-4737 [A resolution strongly opposing S-4736 as it would effectively eliminate municipal land use approval over properties, allowing religious and nonprofit organization property owners to rezone without hearings, land use board review and approval and would allow uses for housing in areas without consideration of environmental concerns, stormwater regulations and the municipality's Master Plan]*
- 2026-052 *Authorizing the Appointment of Sean Lowery as Laborer 1, Clean Communities (Seasonal) for the Department of Public Works [The appointment of Sean Lowery as a seasonal Laborer 1 for the Department of Public Works, effective January 21, 2026, at a rate of \$15.92/hr]*
- 2026-053 *Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME NJ Council #63 [A resolution authorizing a MOA with AFSCME for DPW Clerk 2, Carmela Bernabeao, for additional duties pertaining to property maintenance services]*
- 2026-054 *Authorizing the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2026 – June 2027 [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]*
- 2026-055 *Authorizing the Execution of a Schedule "C" Agreement with the County of Ocean for 2026 [Ocean County Board of Commissioners assists local governmental units in the repair and maintenance of its streets and property, road overlay, certain materials and supplies. The Township Engineer has recommended Firehouse Drive (Route 9 to Railroad Ave) and Tony's Drive (Nugentown Road to terminus)]*
- 2026-056 *Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding to Participate in the On P.O.I.N.T. Program with Bright Harbor Healthcare [Authorizing the execution of an MOU between LEHT and Bright Harbor Healthcare to provide on-site social workers with assistance to the LEHT PD when handling mental health, substance abuse, and social service related calls and provide day-to-day management of the operations of the On P.O.I.N.T. Program, for a term beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$35,000]*
- 2026-057 *Authorizing the Execution of a Municipal Services Agreement with Cranberry Creek Homeowners Association [A resolution authorizing the execution of a municipal services agreement with Cranberry Creek Homeowners Association to provide for the reimbursement of certain services]*
- 2026-058 *Authorizing the Participation in the Ocean County Cooperative Contract System for Purchase of Two (2) 2026 Police Interceptor From the Ocean County Cooperative Under Contract Number B2025-179 [A resolution to participate in the Ocean County Cooperative*

Contract System to purchase two (2) motor vehicles through the Ocean County Cooperative under Contract Number B2025-179 from All American Ford, Inc., d/b/a/ Paramus Ford]

- 2026-059 Authorizing Tax Refunds [*A resolution authorizing the refund of taxes to property owners for overpayment]*
- 2026-060 Authorizing the Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate #25-00024
- 2026-061 Authorizing the Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate #25-00052
- 2026-062 Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Tax Sale Certificates Sold in Error for Various Properties
- 2026-063 Rejecting All Bids Received for One (1) 2026 or Newer Police Patrol Sport Utility Vehicle

11. CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No one from the public spoke.

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

Motion to Approve: Scibetta Second: Kehm

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

12. BILL RESOLUTION 2026-064

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$316,078.19

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Scibetta

Roll Call: Ayes: Ayes: Mrs. Carrara; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Laney
Committeewoman Carrara abstained on 25-01926, 01933, yes to balance.

13. MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Raffle Application No. 2026-01 for Eagleswood Elementary PTA; On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 99 Golf View Dr. on March 28, 2026
- Raffle Application No. 2026-02 for Eagleswood Elementary PTA; On-Premise 50/50 Gift Auction at 99 Golf View Dr. on March 28, 2026

Motion to Approve: Scibetta Second: Kehm

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

14. **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS**

Township Engineer, Jason Worth reported the township will be advertising for bid on the Mystic Island Drainage Phase 4 Project on January 22nd which includes roadway and drainage improvements to the streets off of the Playhouse and Staysail Drive area. We are expecting to award at the next meeting with the project completed prior to the Fourth of July. The Township was awarded a Local Recreation Improvement Grant for the new playground at Parkertown Beach which includes new equipment. We are in the process of applying for grant reimbursement. We are working with BRS for a living shoreline at the Ohio Drive area within Osborn Island. We will be meeting with them next week and have submitted some concept plans. Lastly, sometime early February we will meet with the County Engineer to work on a list of projects and or needs from the County on their facilities.

15. **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.

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

Mr. Corpazinski of Briarwood Drive thanked the MUA for fixing a sinking valve cover on his street and expressed his concerns regarding glass that is falling out of holes in the bottom of a Public Works truck onto the street. He spoke about drug use and homelessness around Otis Bog Road and will be setting up a meeting with the Police Department.

Mr. Peranello of Masters Lane explained he is here on behalf of Sea Oaks HOA. The storm drains are in need of repair and while the company was fixing them they tarred over the grass and sidewalk on Golfview Drive. He would like them restored to the way they were before the work was done. Township Engineer Jason Worth explained that was part of the townships drainage project which was a replacement of a pipe about ten feet down. First thing in the spring the repairs to curbing, street and sidewalk will be completed.

Mr. Peranello spoke about issues occurring within the Sea Oaks community such as knocked over trash containers, ringing door bells and vandalism taking place since last year. The Police Department has been great and security cameras have been installed however we need to put a stop to this.

Ms. Kaminski of Masters Court expressed her deep concerns regarding the issues occurring in the Sea Oaks community and explained this has been going on for too long now. She presented pictures from her ring camera and believes these individuals were trying to break into her house while she was away. She fears for her safety as well as her neighbors and would like them caught.

Police Chief Hawkins stated we are aware of this situation and he would like to meet with Ms. Kaminski after the meeting.

Mr. Corpazinski mentioned the same activity has been going on in Cranberry Creek for the last two months. He believes they are young teenagers.

Police Chief Hawkins stated they need to call the police immedietly.

Motion to Close Public Comment: Scibetta Second: Kehm All in Favor

16. **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS**



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."*