

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting

April 9, 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 April 9, 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: Mrs. Carrara; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Laney

5. PRESENTATIONS

- Earth Day (April 22, 2026)

Committeemen Maxwell read the Earth Day proclamation.

- Little Egg Harbor Library Day (April 27, 2026)

Mayor Laney read the Little Egg Harbor Library Day proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Dorothy Uhl, Branch Manager of the Little Egg Harbor Township Library.

- National Library Week (April 19-25, 2026)

Committeewomen Carrara read the National Library Week proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Dorothy Uhl, Branch Manager of the Little Egg Harbor Township Library.

- National Volunteer Week (April 19-25, 2026)

Committeemen Kehm read the National Volunteer Week proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Mystic Island Vol. Fire Company, West Tuckerton Fire Company and Great Bay EMS.

- National Autism Acceptance Month

Committeemen Scibetta read the National Autism Acceptance Month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Timothy Miller, of New Horizons in Autism Inc.

10. PUBLIC HEARING 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion to Open to Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget: Kehm

Second: Maxwell All in Favor

**11. RESOLUTION 2026-109
Amending the 2026 Introduced Budget**

Interim Township CFO, Tom Lombarski, read the budget amendment in full. He stated the state reviews the budget and requested that the budget be amended to include a decrease of \$5,000.00 in anticipated surplus miscellaneous revenues and local revenues were changed to zero, uniform construction code fees increased by \$5,000.00, special items of general revenue went from zero to \$143,000.00. He stated the Trust Interfund went from zero to \$278,953.00, miscellaneous revenues went from \$3,716,835.14 to \$4,143,788.14 and the amount to be raised by taxation stayed the same. He then stated Group Insurance for employees went from \$4,357,950.00 to \$4,400,000.00 with the amount to be raised by taxation is \$23,614,127.55. He then stated the dedicated sick and vacation fund reduced from \$100,000.00 to \$66,250.00 and the deficit in Trust Assessment Fund went from \$3,465,789.85 to \$3,499,539.85. He then stated the appropriations within "CAPS" increased \$42,050.00 and the group insurance for employees was moved inside the "CAP". He then stated the general appropriations excluded from "CAPS" went from \$4,659,188.21 to \$4,617,138.21. He again finalized by stating the total general appropriation remains at \$28,869,990.19.

Motion to Approve: Scibetta Second: Carrara

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

MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public spoke.

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

**12. RESOLUTION 2026-104
Resolution Adopting the 2026 Municipal Budget [The budget has total general appropriations of \$28,869,990.19. The amount to be raised by taxation to support the budget will be \$23,614,127.55]**

Motion to Adopt the 2026 Budget: Maxwell Second: Carrara

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

13. 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 Attorney Melanie Appleby asked the committee to consider a motion to table Resolutions 120 and 2026-126 off consent agenda for consideration after Executive Session.

Motion to Table: Scibetta

Second: Kehm

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

- 2026-078 Authorizing the Promotion of Jeanne Karwinski to the Position of Account Clerk/
Clerk 2 *[An appointment promoting existing Tax Collector employee Jeanne Karwinski from an
Account Clerk/Clerk 1 to Account Clerk/Clerk 2]*
- 2026-079 Authorizing the Promotion of Kathryn Weitz to the Position of Records Support
Technician 3 *[An appointment promoting existing pd records employee Kathryn Weitz from a
Records Support Tech 2 to Records Support Tech 3]*
- 2026-110 Opposing the NIDEP "REAL" Rules in Their Current Form *[A resolution opposing
regulatory standards today based on long-term protections rather than present or near-term
conditions which fail to reflect the typical lifecycle of residential structures, infrastructure
investments, and property ownership in established communities within the County of Ocean]*
- 2026-111 Authorizing the Appointment of Daniel Sahin, Esquire as Judge of the Municipal Court
of the Township of Little Egg Harbor *[The appointment of Daniel Sahin as LEHT Judge for
a three-year term from April 22, 2026 to April 21, 2029]*
- 2026-112 Authorizing the Appointment of Maiya Raptakis as Clerk 1 for the Tax Assessor's Office
*[The appointment of Maiya Raptakis as a Clerk 1 for the Tax Assessor's Office, effective April
15, 2026, at a rate of \$16/hr]*
- 2026-113 Authorizing the Appointment of Andrew Holmes as Supervising Mechanic of the
Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Andrew Holmes as Supervising Mechanic
for the Department of Public Works, effective April 15, 2026.]*
- 2026-114 Authorizing the Appointment of Arianna Bell Roman as a Per Diem Telecommunicator
for the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department *[The appointment of Arianna Bell
Roman as a per diem telecommunicator for the LEHT PD, effective immediately, at a rate of
\$22/hr]*
- 2026-115 Authorizing the Appointment of Kelly Lettera to Serve as Fund Commissioner to the
Ocean County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

Mayor Laney: Abstain from 2026-117 and yes to the balance.

15. BILL RESOLUTION 2026-127

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$4,001,846.63

Motion to Approve: Maxwell

Second: Scibetta

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

Mayor Laney: Abstain from 26-00604, 26-00586, 26-00584, 26-00531, 26-00334, 25-01534, and yes to the balance.

16. MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Raffle Application No. 2026-15 for Four Seasons at Sea Oaks Event Club; On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 96 Golfview Drive for Various Dates Beginning May 1 through August 26, 2026
- Raffle Application No. 2026-16 for Cranberry Creek Social Committee; On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 41 Briarwood Drive on May 23, June 17, July 19, August 19, October 3 and November 10, 2026
- Raffle Application No. 2026-17 for St. Theresa's Church; Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 450 Radio Road on May 17, 2026

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Scibetta

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

17. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth was not in attendance. Mr. Charlie Cunliffe attended n Mr. Worth;s absence. Mr. Cunliffe reported on the Mystic Island Drainage Phase 3 project with Earle asphalt. He noted that base paving has been completed on East and West Raritan Drive as well as East and West Susquehanna Drive and the restoration will be performed due to the roads being raised. He stated the project will then move over to East and West Potomac Drive as well as East and West Shrewsbury Drive to complete surface paving, with the remaining paving expected to be completed around early May 2026. Regarding the Mystic Island Drainage Phase 4 project, Mr. Cunliffe reported that Mathis Construction is currently working on the storm water system replacement and upgrades. He noted that Paving Plus has scheduled concrete work for the week of April 20th, with an estimated five weeks of work. He stated once the concrete work is complete, tentatively by May 11th. milling and base paving will proceed, with final surface course paving scheduled for the week of June 15th. Mr. Cunliffe also noted that Ocean County has been contacted and confirmed that the Mystic Island Drainage Phase 4 project is being funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and that the contract fits within the grant guidelines for completion. Mr. Cunliffe then reported on the Township Fiscal Year 2025 NJDOT Municipal Aid project for improvements to Atlantis Blvd. He stated that the subcontractor will be conducting survey work in the upcoming weeks and residents who notice survey markings and have questions or concerns are directed to contact the T&M office. He stated construction on that project is expected to take place in Fall of 2026. Finally, Mr. Cunliffe reported that New Jersey Natural Gas has completed improvement

upgrades on Twin Lakes Blvd from West Calabreeze Way to East Schuykill and will be returning the week of April 20th to complete paving.

18. 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: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

No one from the public spoke.

Motion to Close to the Public: Scibetta

Second: Carrara

All in Favor

19. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeewoman Carrara stated she attended the Quilts of Valor event at the VFW on April 1st. She went on behalf of the Township Committee to present proclamations to veterans, there was a lot of telling stories and the Quilts of Valor did an amazing job. She then reminded residents that the Community Clean up and Green Fair event will be taking place April 25th. She also noted she attended her first Little Egg Harbor Board of Health meeting and learned a lot.

Committeeman Kehm thanked the Township interim CFO Tom Lombarski for help with the great budget. He then stated in 2019 the Township did a resolution on sanitary town and seeing that the new Govener has reinstated New Jersey as a Sanctuary State. He stated he believes the Committee should approve another Resolution to make sure Little Egg Harbor Township does not become a Sanctuary Town, in order to protect the residents.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby read the resolution that was from 2019.

2026-129 Resolution Of The Township Of Little Egg Harbor, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Opposing New Jersey Becoming A Sanctuary State And Resolving For Little Egg Harbor Township To Never Become A Sanctuary City.

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Scibetta

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

Committeeman Kehm then reported that, due to the bad winter, a number of floating docks have detached and are floating through the lagoons. He advised that residents who observe one in their lagoon should contact the New Jersey State Police Marine Unit, which will dispatch to tow it away.

Committeeman Scibetta stated he and Committeeman Kehm had the privlidge of meeting with Congressmen Jeff Van Drew. He noted it was a positive that Committman Kehm reinstated Resolution 2026-129 so that Congressman Jeff Van Drew could bring it to the Federal Government for funding consideration. He then addressed the garbage issue on Great Bay Blvd, asking residents to take their trash with them when visiting the bridges. He stated it is the responsibility of The New Jersey Department of Enviromental Protetion (DEP) to maintain those areas. He then asked Township Clerk and Interim

