

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting

May 14, 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 May 14, 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. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Laney

5. PRESENTATIONS

- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month

Deputy Mayor Maxwell read the (ALS) Awareness Month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Kelly Dalik on behalf of The Joan Dancy & pALS Foundation.

- National Safe Boating Week (May 16-22, 2026)

Deputy Mayor Maxwell 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 17-23, 2026)

Mayor Laney read the National EMS Week proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Sandra Koening, Treasurer of Great Bay EMS.

- Older Americans' Month

Committeeman Scibetta read the Older Americans' Month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to members of the Senior Advisory Board.

- Mental Health Awareness Month

Committeeman Scibetta read the Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee Members presented the proclamation to Kim Shalloo on behalf of Bright Harbor Healthcare.

- Memorial Day Prayer for Peace

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

- Gun Violence Awareness Month and Day (1st Friday in June)

Committeemen Scibetta read the Gun Violence Awareness Month proclamation.

- 2026-137 ~~Authorizing the Appointment of Thomas Olsen as Per-Diem Electrical Subcode Official/Electrical Inspector for the Construction/Zoning Department [A resolution superseding and replacing Resolution 2025-076]~~
- 2026-138 Authorizing the Appointment of Jackson Jawidzik as Laborer 1, Clean Communities (Seasonal) for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Jackson Jawidzik as CC Laborer 1 for DPW at a rate of \$18/hr. effective 5/13/26]*
- 2026-139 ~~Authorizing an Employment Agreement with David Letts as Supervisor of the Department of Public Works [An employment agreement between David Letts and LEHT as Supervisor of Public Works for a term effective May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027]~~
- 2026-140 ~~Authorizing an Employment Agreement with Richard Wisniewski as Supervisor of the Department of Public Works [An employment agreement between Richard Wisniewski and LEHT as Supervisor of Public Works for a term effective May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027]~~
- 2026-141 Authorizing the Interim Township Administrator to Advertise and Hire a Laborer 1 for the Department of Public Works
- 2026-142 Authorizing an Unpaid Leave of Absence to Joel Martin *[A resolution authorizing an unpaid leave of absence to Joel Martin from May 2, 2026 through August 31, 2026]*
- 2026-143 Authorizing an Amendment to the Township Purchasing Manual Pursuant to Chapter 14, Claims Approval
- 2026-144 ~~Accepting the Resignation of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to John Helmstetter [John Helmstetter resigned as of April 10, 2026 with a total payout of \$2,347.34 for unused time]~~
- 2026-145 Accepting the Retirement of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Sean Crotty *[A resolution authorizing final payment to Sean Crotty in the amount of \$9,795.01]*
- 2026-146 ~~Accepting the Retirement of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Karl Held [A resolution superseding and replacing Resolution 2026-117]~~
- 2026-147 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement for the Provision of Fuel with Little Egg Harbor Township Fire District #1 *[A shared services agreement between LEHT and Little Egg Harbor Township Fire District #1 for fuel services beginning Jan. 1, 2026 through Dec. 31, 2030]*
- 2026-148 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement for the Provision of Fuel with Little Egg Harbor Township Fire District #2 *[A shared services agreement between LEHT and Little Egg Harbor Township Fire District #2 for fuel services beginning Jan. 1, 2026 through Dec. 31, 2030]*
- 2026-149 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement for the Provision of Fuel with Little Egg Harbor Township Fire District #3 *[A shared services agreement between LEHT and Little Egg Harbor Township Fire District #3 for fuel services beginning Jan. 1, 2026 through Dec. 31, 2030]*

- 2026-150 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantee Posted for On-Site Landscaping by Walmart Stores, Inc. D/B/A Store 3830 for Block 278, Lot 13.01
- 2026-151 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantee Posted by Woodmont Properties (Little Egg 23 LLC) for the Estates, Block 172, Lot 9
- 2026-152 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantee Posted by ABS Construction, Inc. for Road Opening at 23 Ohio Drive
- 2026-153 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*]
- 2026-154 Authorizing a Township-Wide Garage Sale for the Weekend of July 18-19, 2026 [*Any resident who desires to participate in the Township-wide garage sale on July 18 & 19, 2026, 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*]
- 2026-155 Authorizing Tax Refunds

10. CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to Open to Public: Scibetta

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive asked for an explanation on Resolution 2026-131.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby explained this is a pending bill that legislature is contemplating as a means of overriding local control over certain property ordinances for certain properties owned by non profits and religious institutions.

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive asked why the township is so strongly opposed to this bill.

Mayor Laney stated the township would like to make their own decisions regarding what is allowed to be established within the town.

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive stated the state mandates what the local Planning Board can and cannot do anyway. He questioned how this impacts affordable housing.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby stated the local control would be taken away and the state will have control over certain properties.

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive stated he does not understand why the township is opposed to this bill.

Mayor Laney explained we do not want the state to tell us what we can do in our own town.

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive believes the state already has authority over what the township is allowed to do. He asked how it affects affordable housing.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby explained this bill would override our ordinances and the local control would be taken away.

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive does not understand why the town is opposed to this bill.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby explained this bill would override density requirements, height requirements and allow certain organizations to build however they want.

Committeeman Scibetta briefly explained why the town is opposed to this bill and asked the Planning Board Engineer to explain it.

Planning Board Engineer Jim Oris explained the Planning Board acts within the Municipal Land Use Law. This bill is trying to take away more home rule and like many municipalities the Township is a home rule municipality and would like to continue to govern ourselves.

Ms. Mower of Center Street believes there are some limits with building under this bill. She expressed her concerns with affordable housing and asked if this would help the town reach its affordable housing requirements. She asked if current locations could be turned into affordable housing instead of clearing acres of land and if this bill would help the town meet the requirements.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby stated no, and explained per legislation this would not count as part of affordable housing, it would be in addition to.

Mr. Ciervo of Silver Lake Court asked if this bill would make these properties tax exempt.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby stated if it is a religious organization it would be tax exempt however this bill is fairly broad so there is a lot to look into.

Ms. Pointsett of West Calabreeze Way expressed her concerns for the SAVE Act and believes it will affect voters rights especially for women.

Mayor Laney stated we are supporting the fact that residents will need to show identification in order to vote.

Ms. Pointsett of West Calabreeze Way stated there is a lot more to the SAVE Act than what is being presented tonight. She asked if the committee was aware of any voter fraud in Little Egg Harbor and hopes they would know this before voting on this resolution.

Ms. Vershak of Country Club Blvd announced that voter fraud does exist in Little Egg Harbor and both herself and a friend had their votes stolen a few years ago. She asked if Ordinance 2026-08 is related to Lennar Properties.

Motion to Approve: Scibetta

Second: Maxwell

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

13. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer Jason Worth reported on upcoming County projects including road repaving on Center Street from Mathistown Road to Lake Crystalbrook Drive sometime this summer. We are waiting on the schedule from the contractor. Route 539 from Hickory Lane to the Parkway will be paved as well. He reported the Mystic Island Phase 3 Project paving is done with restorations still due. The Mystic Island Drainage Improvements Project Phase 4 off of Playhouse and Staysail Drive including side streets is still ongoing with drainage improvements followed by concrete improvements before paving. The Township is going to bid on the Local Transportation Fund Grant for sidewalks on Radio Road from the Oak Lane area down to Country Club Boulevard. The township also has a grant for paving on Atlantis Boulevard including drainage improvements to Lake Crystalbrook Drive and some work within Sea Oaks and at the entrance. Lastly, the Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Aid Grant from the DOT has been announced at the end of April with grant applications due July 1st through their SAGE Program.

14. 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: Maxwell

All in Favor

Ms. Prinzo of Center Street expressed her concerns regarding the speeding along Center Street, especially in the summer months.

Mr. Erico of Center Street suggested placing speed bumps on the street to slow the traffic down.

Mayor Laney stated we will speak with the Police Department about that matter.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth explained Center Street is a county road which is due to be repaved therefore it is a great opportunity for him to discuss more signage, striping, a speed study or anything to improve the situation.

Mr. Erico of Center Street suggested the police monitor speeding along National Union Blvd and Center Street.

Mr. Vershak of Country Club Blvd asked if in the spirit of America's 250th birthday, the committee would accept a flag from the Architect of the Capital of the United States of America that previously was flown on the capital. It was very special to both his wife and himself and they would like to dedicate it to the town. He also stated as a member of the Tuckerton, Little Egg Harbor Concerned Citizens Association he and his organization are strongly opposed to the proposed 450 housing project in the town.

Ms. Vershak of Country Club Blvd spoke about the damage Super Storm Sandy caused creating loss of homes, residents and businesses in the township and believes these new homes will only create more flooding issues. We need those trees to prevent the creek from washing away our town.

Mr. Parinello of Masters Court stated for the record he is introducing a new association in the township consisting of senior retirement communities Four Seasons at Sea Oaks, Cranberry Creek, Four Seasons at Harbor Bay, Sunrise Bay and Mystic Shores. He spoke about traffic cutting through some of these developments and speeding and he asked that speed signs could be posted in the communities. He expressed concerns for commercial developments too close to some properties and the need for privacy and quality of life. The association supports restrictions on the new proposed development on Center Street.

Mr. Cicco of Pebble Beach Lane spoke about speeding along center street and stated two poles were wiped out due to this. He expressed his concerns with the new development off of Center Street and the traffic issues it will cause.

Mr. Burkin of Lake Superior Drive referred to an article in the Leader back in April regarding New Jersey becoming a sanctuary state and believes Little Egg Harbor should participate in it.

Mr. Edmunds of Spruce Drive spoke about his concerns for the traffic on Center Street including speeding vehicles and trucks exceeding the weight limit. He suggested speed bumps are installed and weight restrictions placed on some if not most of the road.

Ms. Vaughn of Cable Drive asked if approving a resolution makes it a law within the township. She asked if the SAVE Act was enforced does that mean women who's names don't match their birth certificates would have to reregister to vote.

Mayor Laney explained we are just showing support for the act.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby stated a resolution is administrative and memorializing the intent of the governing body and not a effective law.

Ms. Vaughn of Cable Drive believes this act would be hard on women in particular to vote. She also supports Resolution 2026-131, Opposing S-1836.

Mr. Giarelli of W. Calabreeze Way believes speed bumps should be able to be put on Center Street since other county roads have them. He stated there has been a lot of growth in the town since the 1960's and asked if state grants were available to install underground utilities to make room for sidewalks. He doesn't understand why the police have to go through another town to get to Warren Grove which is quite a distance.

Township Engineer Jason Worth explained the township doesn't own the utilities however it is a good idea. The town has applied for grants and is working on installing sidewalks throughout the township.

Ms. Vershak of Country Club Blvd explained many women need to prove their identities when applying for the driver's license and she agrees with the township not becoming a sanctuary city.

Ms. Pointsett of W. Calabreeze Way spoke about the lack of sidewalks in the town which makes it dangerous to walk anywhere. She disagrees with the committee's views on the SAVE Act and opposing Little Egg Harbor as a sanctuary town.

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive discussed his views on the Master Plan and believes there are issues with the township's infrastructure. He complimented the committee and everyone for their work on the Senior Expo which turned out really nice.

Mr. Hauser of Silver Lake Court believes there are homeless people including Veteran's that need assistance before we worry about becoming a sanctuary town. He asked for a response to an email he sent the Mayor regarding a fee to carry a weapon.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby explained the committee has no authority over waiving fees that are state mandated.

Mr. Hauser of Silver Lake Court stated we need sidewalks to make the town safer for our children. Township Engineer Jason Worth stated we have a Safe Routes to School Grant providing sidewalks for students as well as a second grant we are currently working on which he explained.

Mr. Hauser of Silver Lake Court suggested pedestrian lanes in lieu of expensive sidewalks.

Mr. Polito of Gimball Road asked if the residents of Harbor Bay will be informed before the paving begins on Route 539. He asked if the ordinances and resolutions could be available in draft form before the meetings so the public can review them.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated the county will notify the townships before the paving begins.

Township Clerk Kelly Lettera explained the documents can be reviewed in the Clerks office.

Mr. Tarolla of Windstar Drive asked when paving will be done on Center Street. Township Engineer Jason Worth stated the County is paving five or six streets around the county and they indicated a portion of Center Street would be one of the first to be paved possibly July or August.

Mr. Vershak of Country Club Blvd thanked the committee for listening to everyone in the community this evening.

Ms. Mower of Center Street discussed her concerns regarding the Master Plan, the impact of new developments and the effects they will have on the township.

Planning Board Engineer Jim Oris stated the recommendation is to do a subsequent reexam which would do the same as the Master Plan evaluation. He believes the governing body has done a great job by obtaining grants to get sidewalks installed. Pedestrian movements and alternate means of transportation are discussed in master planning, there is more to come. He discussed plan endorsement which should include additional revisions to the Master Plan.

Ms. Mower of Center Street stated she believes it is important to include public surveys and community participation.

*Deputy Mayor Maxwell announced the Township Committee are committing to having community involvement and make sure their voices are heard. This is all of our Master Plan.
Ms. Mower of Center Street stated there needs to be more time for the public to review the agenda contents before the meetings.*

Ms. Nicholas of Twin Lakes Blvd mentioned is thankful for the Twin Lakes Boulevard paving however the fact that Twin Lakes was paved first before the side streets is unacceptable paving work. She questioned why this occurred.

Township Engineer Jason Worth announced Twin Lakes Boulevard was fully repaved in 2019-2020. At that time the township was working in conjunction with the MUA because they are replacing all of their sewer mains and water mains. The sewer mains on Twin Lakes were some of the worst and deepest so all of that infrastructure had to be replaced first. The township followed up with the drainage and repaving at that time, about seven years ago. The township is following the MUA through Mystic Islands which means the side streets later which he explained. The paving was not done by the township, it was done by New Jersey Natural Gas.

Ms. Nicholas of Twin Lakes Blvd asked if the damage on Twin Lakes the will be corrected.

Township Engineer Jason Worth explained if there is damage, we will talk about correcting it.

Ms. Nicholas of Twin Lakes Blvd stated she has pictures of the issues on the road such as equipment, trucks, stained asphalt, painted lines damaged by equipment, oil leaks and more.

Township Engineer Jason Worth explained he will reach out to the gas company to repair these issues.

Ms. Esposito of Windstar Drive asked for an explanation on the May 19th Special Meeting.

Mayor Laney explained it is a Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Art Mooney of Windstar Drive asked for more transparency on the townships website.

Motion to Close to the Public: Scibetta

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

15. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Scibetta announced great job getting these proclamations out there tonight. He thanked Deputy Mayor Maxwell for his comments on the committees commitment to the residents. He will not vote for Little Egg Harbor to become a sanctuary city. He the stated they can all agree to disagree. He thanked Township Engineer for securing many grants for the town and all his work securing sidewalks. He spoke about infrastructure and the future of the town including what he learned from his time on the Planning Board. He looks forward to seeing everyone at the Memorial Day Parade.

