

**MINUTES  
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
MARCH 4, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Vernon Marino at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Marino made the following statement:

The March 4, 2019 regular meeting of the Woolwich Township Committee is being called to order. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Battisti: PRESENT Frederick: PRESENT Santore: PRESENT  
Matthias: PRESENT Mario: PRESENT

Also present on the dais were Solicitor Alice and Administrator/Clerk DiBella.

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Committeeman Battisti moved to open the meeting to public comment on agenda items. Committeeman Frederick seconded. All were in favor.

Angela Napoliello-Ivory of 3 Brockton Court questioned the reason for resolutions R-2019-67 and 68 and was told that the resolutions allow change in signatories for township accounts.

Ms. Napoliello-Ivory then asked for information on the temporary budget transfers as listed in resolution R-2019-73. Mayor Marino responded that the transfers allow continued operations until budget adoption. Speaking from the audience, CFO Will Pine added that the state budget format was only made available March 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore just opening up the annual budget process. He further advised that the transfers reflected in the resolution will get the township to April-May.

Ron Burkhardt, residing at 95 Buckeye Road and representing the Auburn Chase HOA, noted a letter sent the past week to the Township regarding status of development deficiencies.

Mayor Marino advised that the letter was turned over to the Township Engineer who will conduct inspections.

Jordan Schlump, 10 Wilshire Blvd. noted a resolution authorizing an interlocal agreement with Logan Twp. for solid waste and recycling collection, stating that it has been a long time coming. He asked if vegetation collection will be included in the agreement and was told that it will be. Mr. Schlump then questioned the purchase of receptacles and cost. The CFO responded the \$500,000 cost is an expense that will be borne by the township, but paid over years.

Mayor Marino said that the former Mayor should know the significant savings represented since he sat in meetings on the same topic.

Mr. Schlump then asked if the Committee is backing the State "Path to Progress" as represented in R-2019-71 and asked if each member of Committee could respond.

Mayor Marino replied that he feels the Path to Progress will help all state residents and that the ideas represented, such as pension reform and shared services are needed.

Deputy Mayor Matthias added that pension reform is a huge issue, and said that the recommendations contained in the report may result in beneficial changes.

Hearing no further public comment, the public portion closed upon a motion by Committeeman Battisti, seconded by Committeeman Frederick and unanimously passed.

Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to approve a consent agenda for resolution R-2019-67 through and including R-2019-74. Committeewoman Santore seconded.

Committeeman Frederick wished to remove r-2019-71 from the consent agenda.

The motion was amended to approve a consent agenda for resolutions R-2019-67 through R-2019-74 with the exception of R-2019-71.

**Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES**

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeewoman Santore to adopt resolutions R-2019-67 through R-2019-74 with the exception of R-2019-71.

For the information of the public, Committeeman Battisti noted that while R-2019-67 and R-2019-68 look the same, they are for different township accounts reflected in small print.

**Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES**

**R-2019-67 Resolution of Unincorporated Association** Fulton Bank Signatories

**R-2019-68 Resolution of Unincorporated Association** Fulton Bank Signatories

**R-2019-69 Resolution Endorsing the Findings and Determination Statement and Authorizing the Clerk to Submit an Application for a Bingo License on Behalf of Four Seasons at Weatherby Games Association**

**R-2019-70 Resolution Appointing Carolyn Grasso to the Position of Class IV Member of the Woolwich Township Joint Land Use Board to Fill a Vacant Term**

**R-2019-72 Resolution Authorizing Budget Appropriation Transfers During the First Three Months of the Succeeding Year for the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey**

**R-2019-73 Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester 2019 Emergency Temporary Budget NJSA 40A:4-20**

**R-2019-74 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Service Agreement with the Township of Logan Regarding Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Beginning as of January 1, 2020**

Motion was made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to adopt resolution **R-2019-71 Resolution of The Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester in Support of Path to Progress Recommendations Made by New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup**

Committeeman Frederick noted that the 33 page document contains state recommendations, some of which make sense like pension reform, but disagrees with others such as merging K-12 Districts. He added that it also proposes a 1% increase in sales tax. He added that he has concerns with proposals regarding health care coverage thinking it may represent a large amount of dollars. Mayor Marino noted that the Township does not currently offer retirement medical benefits.

Committeeman Frederick said that he would like the CFO to review and comment on the document.

Committeewoman Santore noted that curriculum is also a driving force behind the school consolidation recommendations.

Committeeman Frederick then said that he is not comfortable approving the document holistically with various, differing impacts, and moved to table the resolution to allow for further review. Committeeman Battisti seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Matthias said that the school district recommendations should be looked at from a state level as opposed to district level, adding that there are instances where savings can be realized through school consolidation, but that each district should be looked at individually.

Mayor Marino requested a roll call on the motion to table resolution R-2019-71.

**Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: NO, Matthias: YES, Marino: NO** Motion carried

Under old business, regarding tournament field use fees, Deputy Mayor Matthias noted that at a recent meeting of the sports organizations, tournament fees were not a major source of concern for the organizations, but rather, the organizations wanted to see the fees used towards improvements to field conditions.

Committeeman Frederick said that it is important to look at what actual cost of tournaments is incurred by the township and suggested the issue be revisited.

Committeeman Frederick then asked if the Township would resubmit RFP's for the position of Risk Management Consultant. He stated that the only submission was made in October at which time one RFP was received. He added that other insurance consultants may not have submitted knowing that the current RMC was still under contract in 2019. Since the Township provided a March 30<sup>th</sup> notice to the current RMC, he feels it best to move forward with a second RFP.

Committeeman Frederick then moved to authorize resubmission of RFP's for the position of Risk Management Consultant. Committeeman Battisti seconded.

**Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: NO, Matthias: NO, Marino: NO** Motion failed.

Committeeman Battisti said that he feels it is horrible that the Committee is not going to address this and that no one bid because they didn't think they had to bid.

The Committee then reviewed and discussed changes to Committee liaison positions with a table put together by Committeewoman Santore.

Deputy Mayor Matthias asked the Committee to look at the table and digest it, with comment following at the next meeting.

Under new business, the Committee reviewed a survey proposal by the Township Engineer in the amount of \$15,000.00 to conduct a survey of lands owned by St. Clare of Assisi parish towards preservation.

Director of Community Development Matt Blake noted that this is the next step in the preservation process and recommended the Committee provide authorization to proceed with the proposal.

Committeeman Battisti moved to authorize the proposal. Deputy Mayor Matthias seconded.

**Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick; NO, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES** Motion carried.

The Administrator/Clerk noted the need to conduct a special meeting and public hearing on a Green Acres loan application for the park expansion project and suggested the date of March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to schedule the public hearing. Committeeman Frederick seconded. All were in favor.

Also under new business, the Township noted a letter received from the Auburn Chase HOA in regards to deficiencies in development improvements. The Engineer responded that he was in contact with the property manager and that he looks forward to working with the HOA to move items of concern forward.

The Committee then discussed appointing a TDR Committee to review sending and receiving areas and minimum zoning in sending areas.

Mayor Marino said that the Joint Land Use Board recommended this Committee be formed in response to landowner concerns. The Mayor suggested that the Committee be comprised of two representatives from the Township Committee, two from the Joint Land Use Board and two members of the community.

Committeeman Frederick asked how the public would be selected and the Mayor replied they may be chosen from landowners affected by the TDR Program. Committeeman Battisti asked who would be selected from the Committee and the Mayor replied that the Deputy Mayor would be one and one more is needed. Committeewoman Santore suggested that community representatives be comprised of one affected landowner and one taxpayer.

Deputy Mayor Matthias noted that Kingsway Lacrosse would like to construct a rebounding wall at Locke Avenue Park with all costs borne by the lacrosse organization, and that she thought it best to get the Committee's thoughts.

Mr. Boyle of Kingsway Lacrosse presented and discussed plans and location of the wall and said they will work with the code office and plan to meet or exceed codes.

Mayor Marino said that he assumes the township JIF would provide insurance coverage and Ms. DiBella confirmed.

It was suggested that a decision be reached to allow construction as Lacrosse season will begin soon.

Committeewoman Santore moved to approve. Deputy Mayor Matthias seconded. All were in favor. Committeeman Frederick abstained. Motion carried.

Committeeman Frederick advised of a meeting that he and Deputy Mayor Matthias had with the sports organizations. He noted that their main concerns were with capital projects and field maintenance. He added that he received a quote from Dobson in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct some maintenance to improve the baseball fields, adding that the Director of Municipal Services is supportive of the effort.

Committeeman Craig then moved to authorize the quote from Dobson in the not to exceed amount of \$6,000 under P.O. #19-00340. Deputy Mayor Matthias seconded. All were in favor.

Also under new business, Committeeman Battisti advised that the Historical Society is holding a program with a reenactor to celebrate Women's History Month on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Swedesboro Borough Hall.

Motion was made by Committeeman Battisti and seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Joe Musumeci of 339 Paulsboro Road said that he became aware that a plume of contaminants from the Logan Twp. Superfund BROS site is affecting the aquifer and some wells across the Woolwich Township border. He asked if the Township is doing anything about that and whether or not he should be concerned.

The Director of Community Development responded that the township has been aware and has been kept up to date on the plume by NJDEP and The Elm Group. He further noted that the only chemicals detected in Woolwich so far are sedentary contaminants.

Mayor Marino asked that the documents received by the Township be provided to Mr. Musumeci and promised that the township will continue to monitor the situation.

Liz Cheshire, of 40 Viereck Rd. wished to officially resign as member and President of S/W Parks and Recreation Committee. She noted that the committee consists of all volunteers who are dedicated to serving the township. She stated that all have worked tirelessly, but that the committee has become a political football. She stated that changes made to the Park Director position were done without transparency. She added that the P&R Committee have conducted 15 separate events. Out of those, six were free to the public, five were break even and four were conducted at \$7,000 net revenue. She said that it has been a pleasure to serve the township.

Deputy Mayor Matthias thanked Ms. Cheshire for her hard work and requested a status update of scheduled events, asking if a March 9th event has been cancelled, which was confirmed, and asked if vendors for the 3/21 Camp Connection have been secured, and was told none have been secured. The

Deputy Mayor asked if 6,000 eggs have been ordered for the 4/13 Egg Scramble and was told they have not been, and whether amusements have been secured for Fun Day, which is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Cheshire said that she did not know if the rides have been secured. Deputy Mayor Matthias replied for the record that she found out that day that neither fireworks nor amusements have been secured for Fun Day. Ms. Cheshire responded that she would no longer participate in conversation and took her seat.

Tiffany Mercer, 22 Victoria Drive, also presented a letter of resignation as a member of parks and recreation. She stated that for the past 18 months the Committee has worked very hard and not once did anyone come and talk with the group about restructuring the position of Park Director. She added that she was floored the Committee took away a leader without saying anything, and presented a resignation letter that further reflected her thoughts and feelings.

Deb Allen, 110 Palmer Place also presented a letter of resignation from the parks and recreation committee and said it was an honor to serve.

Dave Glanfield, 32 Saratoga Lane also resigned from the parks and recreation committee. He said that he has served on the committee for four years, and while a lot of great things were done, it is a shame that this has happened.

Michelle VanDiehl, 4 Alexis Court said that the parks and recreation committee were a most energetic and dedicated group of volunteers who worked tirelessly for the greater good. She told the Committee that she hopes they understand the changes that were made to her position were not transparent and lacked respect.

Mayor Marino replied that the changes that were made were for efficiency.

Ms. VanDiehl said that she was told that she was not doing her job and asked on what basis that decision was made. Mayor Marino replied that hours were not being kept. Ms. VanDiehl replied that the position was not set up that way, that there are peaks and valleys of times due to event timing. Mayor Marino said that the change made was not about the person, but rather streamlining the position.

Ms. VanDiehl noted that she continued to do her job even after receiving a RICE notice to discuss her being let go. Discussion then was held regarding status of upcoming events. Ms. VanDiehl advised that she has been in contact with the fireworks company and amusement company and had advised them of the June 1<sup>st</sup> date for Fun Day. The Deputy Mayor said that contact had been made that day with both companies who said they were not under contract for the proposed date.

Ms. VanDiehl said that she wishes the Committee well and hopes that events continue for the community and its kids.

Jordan Schlump, 10 Wilshire Blvd. said that he is disappointed with what has happened. He said that he previously watched the same thing happen when the Deputy Mayor resigned as Park Director. He said that he is concerned with the township's ability to attract more dedicated volunteers that will dedicate the same hours to parks and rec.

With no further comment, the public portion closed upon a motion by Committeewoman Santore, seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias and unanimously passed.

Committeeman Battisti moved to approve resolution **R-2019-75 Resolution for Closed Session**. Committeewoman Santore seconded. All were in favor.

The Committee entered closed session at 8:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following:

Contractual Matters: Water/Sewer Agreements and Potential Sale of Nike Base  
Litigation: Woolwich Adult COAH

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:54 p.m. upon a motion by Committeeman Battisti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias and unanimously passed.

Motion was made by Committeeman Battisti and seconded by Committeewoman Santore to approve the bills and purchase orders pending the Mayor's review. All were in favor.

With no further business, Committeeman Battisti moved to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Mayor Matthias seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella  
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim  
Audio recording on file