

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 6, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Vernon Marino who made the following statement:

The May 6, 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 Marino: PRESENT

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

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Committeeman Battisti moved to open the meeting to public comment for agenda items only. Committeewoman Santore seconded. All were in favor.

Thomas Dalton residing at 9 Amethyst Court was present representing the Enclave at Stone Meeting HOA noted that he will continue to be present asking for help in getting the development improvements completed. He added that the project began in 2005 and the roadway is quickly deteriorating.

Mayor Marino responded that since the January transition of professionals, the engineer and solicitor have been working together on the issue and should have something very soon.

Mr. Alice advised that at the end of 2018 the township was very close to a settlement with the surety which has now fallen apart. He added that the township will do what it needs to do to obtain the funds from the surety.

Mr. Dalton stated that the bond is the bond and the developer should do what it needs to finish.

The Mayor responded that Mr. Dalton's concerns are heard loud and clear.

Joseph Kaufman residing at 36 Wayne Drive questioned resolution R-2019-127 on the agenda which approves a change order on the sewer project. He asked if the Township is comfortable with the checks and balances.

Mayor Marino explained that between manhole 10 and 11, the contractor hit water and had to drive sheeting 30 feet. He added that the Committee is questioning that cost though.

Mr. Kaufman then questioned R-2019-129 specific to the Rt. 322 redevelopment area. He noted that several properties included are residential homes and asked if there is a plan in place to redevelop those lots.

Mayor Marino responded that the redevelopment approval is non-condemnation, and this is simply an investigative process.

Angela Napoliello-Ivory of 3 Brockton Court stated that the acronym is used in R-2019-127 and said the public should be able to read and understand without the use of acronyms.

Ms. Napoliello-Ivory then questioned the difference between salaries for crossing guards as compared to special police officers as contained in the salary ordinance. Mayor Marino responded that crossing guards work 2 hours/day and the salary is standard for that position.

Jordan Schlump, 10 Wilshire Blvd. asked if the change order represented in R-2019-127 is for phase 1 of the sewer project and what percentage is being taken from Phase 2 and added to Phase 1 therefore not adding cost to the project as a whole.

CFO Will Pine responded from the audience, that a small portion of the change order has been pulled from the next phase, but that most represents additional costs to the total project. Mayor Marino responded that over \$300,000 of the change order was unanticipated.

Deputy Mayor Matthias also responded that it is difficult to interpret total costs going off of engineer estimates due to changes throughout project planning in 2018.

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

Mayor Marino read ordinance **2019-06 An Ordinance Making Salary Ranges for Certain Officials and Employees of the Township of Woolwich in the County of Gloucester for the Year 2019** by title only upon second reading.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeewoman Santore to amend 2019-06 as recommended by the CFO. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Santore moved to open the ordinance public hearing. Committeeman Battisti seconded. All were in favor.

Hearing no public comment, motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to close the public portion. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to adopt Ordinance 2019-06.

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion Carried

Committeeman Battisti moved to adopt a consent agenda for resolutions R-2019-123 through R-2019-129 with the exception of resolution R-2019-127. Committeewoman Santore seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to adopt resolution R-2019-123 through 129 with the exception of R-2019-127. Mayor Marino asked that R-2019-124 be also pulled from vote.

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion Carried

R-2019-123 Self Examination of Budget Resolution of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester

R-2019-125 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Making Appointments to the TDR Task Force

R-2019-126 Resolution Approving Letter of Credit #19-14 as Posted by Weatherby Equities LLC for Phase II Section 2.1 of the Villages at Weatherby and Letter of Credit #19-15 as Posted by Weatherby Townhomes LLC for Villages at Weatherby Place , Section 6

R-2019-128 Resolution Authorizing Refund of Escrow in the Amount of \$750.00 to Garden State Earthworks

R-2019-129 Resolution Authorizing the Woolwich Township Joint Land Use Board to Make an Investigation and Hold Public Hearings to Determine Whether Certain Areas are in Need of Redevelopment Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, et. Seq.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to adopt resolution **R-2019-124 Resolution Authorizing the 2019 Municipal Budget of the Township of Woolwich to be Read by Title Only.**

The Deputy Mayor asked the CFO to recap budget highlights.

Mr. Pine noted that the budget has not changed since introduction, provided highlights and noted that it represents 2% increases in wages and contractual raises. The Deputy Mayor requested that there be a budget description added to the township website.

Committeeman Battisti questioned the increase in end market recycling costs. Mr. Pine replied that there has been an increase of \$75-\$90,000 for end market recycling costs when in 2018 it was 0.

The Deputy Mayor asked why the resolution requires the budget to be read by title only. Mr. Pine replied that otherwise, all pages of the budget document would have to be read.

Mayor Marino requested a roll call vote of R-2019-124.

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion Carried

Motion was made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Mayor Marino to approve resolution **R-2019-127 Resolution Authorizing Change Order #1 in the Amount of \$446,457.07 on the Project Known as "Rt. 322 Sewer-Phase 1".**

Deputy Mayor Matthias said that she is still trying to understand the process, the change order description and the open ended contract with Precision. She noted that various cost estimates that she has seen started at \$10,000,000 with numerous upwards estimates.

Mayor Marino agreed saying that phase 1 was supposed to be \$1.6 million and is now \$2.1 million. He stated that he is not in favor of the open ended contract either, but it was signed on behalf of the 2018 committee. He noted that the largest amount of the change order was due to hitting unforeseen water and having to shore up the excavation at great depth.

Committeeman Battisti asked the CFO if it is correct that 2/3 of the \$446,000+ change order is being pulled from phase 2 of the project. The CFO replied that 2/3 of the increase represents new costs.

Mayor Marino further added that some costs were associated with traffic control.

Committeeman Frederick asked what the Committee can do to amend the contract. The Mayor replied that it is a signed agreement.

Committeeman Frederick then asked to table resolution R-2019-127 to allow further contractual discussion in closed session. Committeeman Battisti seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeeman Battisti and seconded by Committeeman Frederick to open the public hearing on the 2019 municipal budget. All were in favor.

Hearing no public comment, motion was made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to close the public hearing. All were in favor.

Mayor Marino noted that every three years, municipalities can self-examine their budget, therefore the township did not have to wait for state approval and was free to adopt.

Motion was then made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Committeeman Frederick to approve resolution **R-2019-131 2019 Municipal Budget Resolution.**

The CFO and Auditor were thanked for their hard work on the budget.

The following department reports were provided for the month of April:

Tax Collector: \$7,431,589.23 remitted

Woolwich Fire Company: Chief Valichka report of response to 56 calls in April with an average response time of 7 minutes. 34 hours were spent handling incidents and 28 hours per member in training. Discussed an uptick in residential false alarms.

Committeewoman Santore noted that all have been invited to the Swedesboro Annual Memorial Day Service on May 27th.

Deputy Mayor Matthias requested further information on the residential false alarms and asked if there has been public outreach. The Chief responded that many are due to lack of system maintenance.

Police Chief: Chief Jaramillo reported there has been an increase in traffic details due to road projects. He added that other municipalities are assisting with the work load. He also reported on a K-9 drug sweep conducted Kingsway High School with 0 hits. The school was in lock down for 40 minutes. Great job by eight departments who assisted. The Chief noted that Officer Kemp was instrumental in coordinating the sweep and did a great job.

Mayor Marino noted that the sweep resulted in numerous social media posts, but said that awareness is a necessity.

Township Engineer: Noted request for bond release on Four Seasons Phase 1 Recreation Bond and denial of such release. Due to statutory timelines, he asked that action be taken by the Committee to deny the release. Committeeman Battisti then moved to reject the requested bond release based on the engineer recommendation. Committeeman Frederick seconded.

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion Carried

Committeeman Frederick requested status of park improvements. The engineer responded that Green Acres confirmed receipt of the grant application and he will follow up for an anticipated time line.

DOCD Report: No report due to vacation

Administrator's Report: Reported as self-explanatory

Municipal Services: Monthly Report

Mayor Marino requested the following liaison reports:

Committeeman Battisti: Municipal Services; (Blds./Grounds/Code/UCC/Zoning/Public Works); Number of permits issued for month of April not available until next month's report. Positive reports of the Warriors Baseball Tournament. Public Works continue to conduct work on sports fields, replacement of irrigation heads and placement of mulch, clearing storm drains and filling potholes. Municipal Alliance: No report

Committeeman Frederick: Environmental: (SWEC, Green Team, Shade Tree, Open Space/Ag) Environmental Commission will meet on the 9th. The EC "Unless Project" is a finalist in the program. Review of Shade Tree Ordinance is underway.

Committeewoman Santore: BDAC; Undertaking Shop Local initiative. BDAC has been investigating this program since 2012 but met barriers due to lack of commercial venues. The BDAC is now adding a regional approach with this program that provides tax rebates for utilizing local participating business. On April 24th, the Shop Local program made a presentation to the BDA as well as a representative of Swedesboro and Logan Twp. Discussion ensued regarding the program and how it works. Noted that renters can receive a check as opposed to property tax rebates. There is no cost to the municipality. Next steps: Township must adopt enabling resolutions, obtain a sponsor for the Tax Cards, and solicit business participation.

The Committee had a few questions which Committeewoman Santore addressed. All were supportive of the program.

Trash/Recycling: Number of complaints increase. Recycling end market costs are not good.

Dep. Mayor Matthias: Educational Partners; (KRHS and SWSD); Kingsway Budget has been adopted and the S/W Budget has been introduced. Funding formula fight will continue. Mayor Marino added that 68% of resident tax bills go directly to the schools. Committeeman Frederick noted that gifted and talented students are competing in math state championships. The Deputy Mayor noted that she is pleased with the districts special needs and IEP Program which are well within adequacy at costs lower than average. Recreation: Fun Day ride wristbands are on sale online and at the municipal building. Committeeman Frederick noted that field items addressed at the sport team meeting are being

addressed.

Mayor Marino: Administration: (Finance; Court; JLUB, TDR Task Force); The Mayor noted that night's adopted 2019 budget. No meetings were held by the JLUB. TDR Task Force appointments have been made. Will be investigating the TDR Program, zoning and make recommendations regarding potential changes to the program. Thanked Ann Dorsett for her willingness to be a part of the Task Force. Public Safety: Coffee with a Cop had a nice turn out.

There was no old business.

Under new business, the Committee reviewed and discussed a \$39,650.00 proposal from Remington and Vernick to conduct contract administration and Inspections on High Hill Road Shared Use Path Project-Phase 2.

Mayor Marino asked the engineer to look into phase 1 of the project for issues with drainage back up onto adjacent properties.

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

Joe Longo of 9 Bayberry Way, Joe Recchioni of 17 Bayberry and one other resident of Bayberry addressed the Committee regarding the township's fence ordinance which does not allow fences to cross easements. The residents noted that they are precluded from obtaining fence permits due to back yard easements, however, prior to a change in the position of zoning officer, fence permits were issued with the understanding that access to the easement would be required if needed. They asked for an amendment to the ordinance.

Mayor Marino replied that the ordinance is clear as to easements and that prior permits were issued inaccurately. He added that certain developments are experiencing drainage problems which the township is trying to avoid.

The residents said that a precedent has been set

Mayor Marino acknowledged the problem and offered to have a meeting scheduled to discuss the situation with himself and township attorney present.

Angela Napoliello-Ivory of 3 Brockton Court questioned the action taken to reject the bond release on Four Seasons Recreation Area and asked why the township rejected the release.

The township engineer responded that there was insufficient back up provided by the developer.

Joe Kaufman of 36 Wayne Drive stated that the Woolwich Police have done an excellent job with traffic control during the S. Jersey Gas project, but added that SJ Gas traffic control have not been courteous. Mayor Marino agreed saying that the township has received a number of complaints, and that Lt. Massing had spoken with a supervisor.

Mr. Kaufman then noted drainage coming off of Kingsway property onto Garwin and the Mayor said that he would direct public works to look into it.

With no further comment, motion was made by Committeewoman Santore, seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias and unanimously passed to close the public portion.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeewoman Santore to approve resolution **R-2019-130 Resolution for Closed Session**. All were in favor.

The Committee entered closed session at 8:18 p.m. for the purpose of discussing: Contractual Matters: Water/Sewer and Litigation: Woolwich Adult. It was noted that the Committee would also discuss R-2019-127 regarding the proposed change order on the sewer project, phase 1.

The regular meeting reconvened at 10:25 p.m. upon a motion by Committeeman Battisti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias and unanimously passed.

Motion was made by Committeeman Frederick to remove resolution R-2019-127 from the table. Committeeman Battisti seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Mayor Marino to adopt Resolution **R-2019-127**.

Motion Carried

Committeewoman Santore moved to approve an annual apt. for Professional Services-Redevelopment Counsel to MS&B per their response to the 2019 RFQ. Mayor Marino seconded.

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

Motion was made by Committeeman Battisti and seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias to approve the bills and purchase orders.

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

Committeeman Fredrick abstained on Verizon bills.

With no further business, motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio recording on file