

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 2021**

Mayor Marino called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with the following statement:

The March 15, 2021 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: Callahan: PRESENT Frederick: ABSENT Nocentino: PRESENT
Matthias: PRESENT Marino: PRESENT

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

The Township Deputy Police Chief and Township Engineer were present in the audience.

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Mayor Marino noted that he would move the agenda to allow for regular public comment.

Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to open the meeting to public comment. Committeeman Nocentino seconded. All were in favor.

Melissa Price, 123 Hunters Run stated that she realizes the Township Committee has no authority over the local School Board or Superintendent, but said that she is concerned for the short and long term viability of the children of the community, and would like to see the District provide a plan and guidance for re-opening the schools.

Mayor Marino replied that the School Board is a duly elected body separate and apart from the Township Committee. He said that he thinks everyone would agree that the children should be in school, but any support would have to come individually from Committee members, and not Committee as a whole. He added that he appreciates the parents coming out, and acknowledged that the School Board does seem to have the best interest of the students at heart, adding that the voices of the parents are heard and the Committee will be interested to monitor the situation.

Dennis Cicaretti, 121 Westbrook Drive said that he was told the Committee would be discussing plans for disc golf. Mayor Marino replied that Committeeman Frederick intended to bring up the subject, but unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Ciciretti said that he supports the project, adding that the closest disc golf courses are in Delaware and Cherry Hill.

Hearing no further comment, the public portion closed upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Matthias, seconded by Committeeman Callahan and unanimously passed.

Mayor Marino advised that Ordinance 2021-02 authorizes Precision Land Development to continue the Township portion of sewer installation into another municipality with County support since the county is a cost share participant.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Callahan to introduce Ordinance **2021-02 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich, County Of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Designating the Gloucester County Improvement Authority Tie-In to the “Mantua Main” as a Redevelopment Project Associated with the Woolwich Township Sewer Redevelopment Project and Naming the Gloucester County Improvement Authority as the Redevelopment Entity for the “Mantua Main” Project on the Behalf of the Township of Woolwich.** All were in favor.

Mayor Marino advised that Ordinance 2021-03 in a matter of housekeeping for the 2021 municipal budget appropriations.

Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to introduce Ordinance **2021-03 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14.** Committeeman Nocentino seconded. All were in favor.

Committeeman Nocentino moved to authorize a consent agenda for resolutions R-2021-73 through and including R-2021-78. Deputy Mayor Matthias seconded. All were in favor.

R-2021-73 Resolution Making an Elevation Within the Woolwich Township Police Department- Petroski

R-2021-74 Resolution Authorizing Totally Disabled Veteran Deduction

R-2021-75 Resolution Authorizing Release and Closure of Escrow Account

R-2021-76 Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, 2021 Emergency temporary Budget NJSA 40A:4-20

R-2021-77 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-2021-78 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Removal of Certain Township Owned Vehicles from the Fixed Asset Inventory List

Motion was made by Committeeman Nocentino and seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias to adopt Resolutions R-2021-73 through and including R-2021-78.

Roll Call: Callahan: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES

The following reports were present for the month of February:

Tax Collector: \$9,116,283.51 remitted

Woolwich Fire Company: Monthly Report

In the absence of the Fire Chief, the Mayor advised that the department assisted Carneys Point with a brush fire that set two apartments and a nursing home on fire. There was no loss of life.

Police: Monthly Report

Deputy Chief Morgan advised that all remains status quo and that two vehicles stolen in the township have been recovered.

Township Engineer: Monthly Report/Palladino Property-Estimated cost and timeline
Mr. Staszewski reported that the repair work on Hunters Run is complete. Advised that he spoke with the Atty. in regards to remediation of the Palladino Property. The engineer remains confident in the scope estimate previously provided. Possibility to quote the work or see if public works is able to address. Contracts have been executed for the Swedesboro Avenue DOT project. Preconstruction meeting is scheduled for March 23 with the project intended to begin in April.

Deputy Mayor Matthias asked if Swedesboro Avenue residents will be notified of project start date. Mr. Staszewski responded that contractors are required to provide 48 hour notice.

Precision Land: Monthly Sewer Project Update
Andrew Shawl, Precision Land Development, advised that the sewer construction schedule has been submitted. Trees have been taken down along the route. Soil Conservation measures will be set up. Mobilization to site will take place in April.

Administrator's Report: Monthly Report
Presented as self-explanatory. There were no questions from the Committee.

Municipal Services: Monthly Report

CFO: Finance Report

The following Township Committee Liaison reports were presented:

Committeeman Nocentino:

Administration: (Finance; JLUB, TDR Task Force); There was minimal movement in February as to the JLUB and TDR Task Force. CFO provided very thorough report with 2020 budget re-cap, noting that there was significant savings in the police department, lowered fuel costs. However, the T & R budget overspent by roughly \$20,000 as a result of contaminated recycling. In addition, unanticipated costs were expended due to the August storm and resulting emergency road repairs. Meeting on the 2021 budget will take place towards the end of this month. BDAC: February meeting was cancelled due to technical difficulties. Will continue with "Business of the Month" program.

Committeeman Callahan:

Solid Waste/Recycling; 7 recycling cans were exchanged and 8 were leased in February. There were 67 metal collections and 234 bulk collections. Review of program cost shows a significant savings through the Shared Service with Logan Township. Municipal Alliance: No report

Dep. Mayor Matthias:

Educational Partners; (KRHS and SWSD); Both districts sent COVID surveys to parents. There has been no announcement regarding fall reopening. The SW District has an Interim Superintendent in place.
Recreation: Egg Scramble is scheduled for 3/27 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.. Plans are being finalized for Spring Fling. There will be two great bands and fireworks.

Mayor Marino:

Public Safety; (Police, Fire, Courts) Police and Fire reports were provided earlier in the meeting. Court continues virtual sessions, having heard 308 cases.

Under old business, the Solicitor reported that he spoke with the township insurer regarding the Sexual Abuse Model Policy and was advised that the policy time frame has been relaxed. He added that the policy should only extend to direct relationships within the township. Review will continue.

Also as follow up to the last meeting, the Solicitor reported that he has looked at other municipal ordinances in regards to limitations on stored vehicles. He suggested looking at the issue from an impervious coverage view and refinement of bulk standards per zone.

Deputy Mayor Matthias suggested looking at it from a nuisance stand point, however, the Solicitor stated that would be a little different. Further discussion is pending.

Under new business, Mayor Marino advised the Committee that the Warriors approached him about placement of a batting cage at the park between fields P and N.

Deputy Mayor Matthias asked if would be specified for the Warriors use only.

Mayor Marino replied that he is under the impression it would be donated to the Township.

The Committee was in agreement as to the concept, but asked that use be defined and placement be coordinated with Public Works.

Also under new business, the Committee discussed how to move forward with legislation regarding growth and sale of cannabis now that it has been legalized. Mayor Marino advised that he and the Administrator have researched other municipal ordinances. Towns must decide if they will allow sale or grow facilities within six months of legalization.

The Mayor recognized that there has been past interest in grow facilities in Woolwich Township and that grow facilities on preserved farmland is allowed by the state.

Solicitor Alice noted that any product grown would have to be in a controlled environment with intense security and monitoring. He added that towns can receive a portion of gross revenue tax.

Mayor Marino asked the Committee to think about how they would like to see this handled and report back.

Motion was made by Committeeman Callahan and seconded by Committeeman Nocentino to approve the minutes of February 16, 2021 and Closed Session, and the minutes of March 1, 2021 and Closed Session. All were in favor.

Committeeman Nocentino moved to approve the bills and purchase orders. Deputy Mayor Matthias seconded.

Roll Call: Callahan: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio Recording on file.