

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
JANUARY 17, 2023**

Mayor Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Mayor Frederick made the following statement:

The January 17, 2023 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: Marino: PRESENT Minhas: PRESENT Nocentino: ABSENT
Callahan: PRESENT Frederick: PRESENT

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

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Minhas and seconded by Deputy Mayor Callahan to approve resolution **R-2023-34 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Making an Appointment within the Woolwich Township Police Department.**

Roll Call: Marino: YES, Minhas: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick; YES Motion carried

Mayor Frederick administered the Oath of Office to Officer Mark DePasquale.

Mayor Frederick welcomed Officer DePasquale to the department noting that he is an outstanding gentleman who will strengthen the department and service to not only Woolwich Township, but South Harrison Township and the Borough of Swedesboro.

Officer DePasquale thanked his family and friends along with the Department, and particularly Ptlm. Sturgis for showing him the ropes.

Chief Morgan then presented the Officer of the Year Award to Ptlm. Michael Kemp. Ptlm. Kemp stated that he is honored and humbled to accept the award and hopes he made the department proud.

Mayor Frederick called a brief recess at 6:39 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:41 p.m. at which time motion was made by Committeeman Marino and seconded by Deputy Mayor Callahan to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Connie Cardillo, 21 Russell Mill Road asked if tax dollars are being expended regarding resolutions R-2023-38 and R-2023 41. Mayor Frederick responded that the funds are posted by the referenced developers as a protection to the Township and do not represent any tax dollars.

John LePere, 131 Homestead Court inquired as to the plan for the repair and reopening of Oliphants Mill Road, stating that nothing has been done in three years.

Solicitor DeMarcantonio noted that the township has been working on a Tri-Party Agreement between the owner of Oliphants Mill Dam, The County and Township. Follow up is needed with the County Commissioners for finalization of the Agreement. Final cost analysis is also required. Further, state review and permitting have also held up the project.

Mr. LePere asked why the road can't just be fixed and re-opened. Ms. DeMarcantonio replied that since a dam is involved, NJDEP Department of Dam Safety looks at the project as being the dam, embankment, bridge and roadway as one project.

Mr. LePere noted that the road closure is an inconvenience. Mayor Frederick advised that funds are reserved for the project.

Mr. LePere asked what is going to be done to the road. Committeeman Marino responded that the original design will be to bring the lake back, adding that DEP and Dam Safety have to approve all steps.

Mr. LePere then noted the deteriorated condition of his street and the others servicing 5A developments. Mayor Frederick stated that road conditions will be reviewed and added to the priority list.

Mr. LePere then asked what the idea is regarding the construction of warehousing. Mayor Frederick responded that there is significant interest by developers for warehousing. The Mayor added that current zoning allows for warehousing in some districts and not in others. He further advised that Rt. 322 frontage is preserved for commercial retail with warehousing in the rear.

Mr. LePere asked how many warehouses have been approved. Mayor Frederick responded that there are currently four approved, and others in various planning stages.

Jocelyn Phillips, 158 Homestead Court agreed that the Township needs to address roadway conditions in the 5A district.

Ms. Phillips then asked who is responsible for what in the agreement for repair of Oliphants Mill Road.

Mayor Frederick replied that while the agreement is not finalized, ultimately it should be three parties; the Township, County and dam owner, noting that the Township is responsible for the roadway.

Ms. Phillips then asked if the township will consider residential access to the lake, stating that the Township should not pay for something that residents cannot use. Mayor Frederick replied that the lake is privately owned.

Jordan Schlump, 10 Wilshire Blvd. stated that there are currently two dams requiring repairs, and suggested that when plans are prepared, the township consider putting in walking paths for the public to enjoy and installing a draft pipe for use by the Fire Company. Mayor Frederick responded that they are good points that will be looked into.

Mike McGovern, 25 Colony Court also addressed roadway conditions, noting that temporary patching by public works does little to address the conditions.

Mr. McGovern then asked why the repair of Oliphants Mill Road is different than other road washouts that occurred in August of 2020.

Mayor Frederick agreed that multiple roads and drainage culverts were repaired after the 2020 storm, but the fact that Oliphants Mill is the only one with a dam which has required a host of other requirements that have delayed that project.

Mr. McGovern asked if Warrington Mill Road Dam repairs are the same, stating that it seems to be moving forward. Mayor Frederick responded that the Mill Road dam project is not moving forward. Solicitor DeMarcantonio added that an Agreement is required on that project as well.

Mr. McGovern asked if funding has been agreed upon, and how much money repairs will cost. Mayor Frederick estimated repairs at \$800,000.

With no further public comment, the public portion closed upon a motion by Committeeman Marino, seconded by Deputy Mayor Callahan and unanimously approved.

Mayor Frederick read the following Ordinances by title only upon first reading:

2023-01 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich Amending the 2022 Salary Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich

Motion to introduce: Marino Second: Callahan

Roll Call: Marino: YES, Minhas: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

2023-02 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich Deleting and Replacing Chapter 8 of the Code of the Township of Woolwich Entitled "Claims Approval"

Motion to introduce: Minhas Second: Callahan

Roll Call: Marino: YES, Minhas: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

Committeeman Marino moved to approve a consent agenda for resolutions R-2023-35 through and including R-2023-41. Committeewoman Minhas seconded. All were in favor.

R-2023-35 Resolution Authorizing Petty Cash Fund for Use by the Parks and Recreation Department

R-2023-36 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Making an Elevation within the Woolwich Township Police Department

R-2023-37 Resolution Authorizing Street Opening Permit to South Jersey Gas-200 Moravian Church Road

R-2023-38 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Acceptance of Filing of Performance Letter of Credit #22-11 Filed on the Behalf of Weatherby Equities 2.4 LLC

R-2023-39 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Accepting the Donation of a 2017 Ford Explorer VIN#1FM5K8AROHGE25874 by Spirit Chrysler to the Woolwich Township Police Department

R-2022-40 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-2023-41 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Cash Bond as Maintenance for Perimeter Landscaping-Liberty Commodore North

Deputy Mayor Callahan moved to adopt resolutions R-2023-35 through and including R-2023-41. Committeeman Marino seconded. Mayor Frederick noted resolution R-2023-39, advising appreciation to Spirit Dodge for the vehicle donation.

Roll Call: Marino: YES, Minhas: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

The following reports were provided for the month of December>

Tax Collector: \$484,526.27 remitted

Woolwich Fire Company: Monthly Report

Members of the Woolwich Fire Company presented a year-end report, showing a record 724 calls for service, 349 of which were within Woolwich. Mayor Frederick questioned the number of calls to the NJ Turnpike (122) which doubled for 2021. Chief Valichka noted that funding from the turnpike for calls decreased, and the Turnpike only pays \$75.00 per apparatus. Solicitor DeMarcantonio suggested a meeting to look at the Township Ordinance and ability to charge insurance companies.

Police: Monthly Report

Chief Morgan noted that Officer Trifiletti was given an Officer award for the 4thQ. Mayor Frederick provided report statistics and asked the Chief if there is any rational for domestic issues rising to 58%. The Chief replied that he has no insight. Mayor Frederick also noted 1,000 extra motor vehicle stops, and 85% increase in issued tickets and an increase in community policing. The Mayor further noted a 39% increase in calls to Swedesboro.

Township Engineer: Monthly Report

Mr. Vechesky and Mr. Schwartz present the monthly engineer report. They advised that the Viereck Road NJDOT Municipal Aid Project has been sent to the state for review and comment prior to bid. Mr. Schwartz advised that the County removed metal plates at the Mill Road Dam to lower the lake to a safe operating level. Mayor Frederick asked what is considered a "safe operating level" and the engineer replied that it would be to sediment at the lake bottom. He currently advised that a fish salvage may be required. The engineer further reported the status of site plan and subdivision status.

Precision Land: Monthly Sewer Project Update

Andrew Shawl advised that they are currently installing the Shady Lane Force Main. Coordination is also underway with GCUA and South Jersey Gas to service the Locke Avenue Pump Station. Also noted that permits are pending for work on the Locke Avenue/Oak Grove intersection realignment. Mayor Frederick questioned completion time frame and was told that the project should be complete by April 30th or a few weeks prior.

Administrator's Report: Monthly Report

The Administrator/Clerk presented her report as self-explanatory. There were no questions from Committee.

Municipal Services: Monthly Report

The following Committee Liaison Reports were provided:

Committeeman Marino:

Solid Waste/Recycling; Waiting on year end numbers. 215 bulk and 107 metal collections were conducted. JLUB; Special Projects: Auburn Road walkpath easement has been completed and filed.

Committeewoman Minhas:

Municipal Alliance; No Report. Recreation: Bowling event is planned for February 10th.

Committeeman Nocentino: (Committeeman Marino provided Committeeman Nocentino's report in his absence.)

Municipal Services; 15 stops signs were replaced and 11 more are pending. Drainage pipes at Chestnut Ridge were jetted. Oakview Terrace Basin to be completed. 2 tons of asphalt were used. The majority of one way signs in the Villages have been stolen and are pending replacement.

Env. Commission; Mayor Frederick reported on the Environmental Commissions visit to the recycling center and noted that it is appalling to see what comes off of recycling trucks. He added that much work must be done to educate the public about what is and is not recyclable. Social Media/IT. No Report.

Deputy Mayor Callahan:

Educational Partners (SWSD/KRSD); Kingsway students are delving into various areas of study. Junior ROTC Program will begin in September of 2023. 68 Middle School Students made blankets for the homeless in honor of MLK Day. 38 students will move onto State competitions in the DECA Conference. Swedesboro/Woolwich District is conducting various upgrades in the buildings through the Clean Energy Program. Over 12 students received recognition for essays and arts celebrating Martin Luther King Day. Resident Communications; No Report. Park Utilization: No report

Mayor Frederick:

Administration; Will meet the week of the 23rd to review preliminary 2023 budget. Google sheet being enacted to be shared to assist in tracking all municipal projects and tasks. Public Safety: Presented earlier in meeting by Police and Fire Chiefs.

Under old business, the Mayor advised of the need to conduct an archeological study for the park expansion. Phase 1 of the project estimated \$45,000.

Motion was made to authorize the RFP: Marino. Second: Minhas.

Roll Call: Marino: YES, Minhas: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

Under new business, an item involving a resident complaint of the installation of 5G mini-cells on utility poles will be monitored.

Also under new business, motion was made by Committeewoman Minhas and seconded by Deputy Mayor Callahan to authorize professional services RFP's for Fire Restoration and COAH Administrative Agent.

Roll Call: Marino: YES, Minhas: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

Motion was made by Committeewoman Minhas and seconded by Deputy Mayor Callahan to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

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

Committeewoman Minhas moved to approve resolution **R-2023-42 Resolution for Closed Session**. Deputy Mayor Callahan seconded. All were in favor.

The Committee entered closed session at 7:36 p.m. for the purpose of discussing potential litigation in the matter of Oldmans Creek Holdings.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:13 p.m. upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Callahan, seconded by Committeewoman Minhas and unanimously passed.

Deputy Mayor Callahan moved to approve the minutes of December 28, 2022 Close Out and January 3, 2023 Reorganization. Committeewoman Minhas seconded. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Minhas moved to approve the bills and purchase orders. Committeeman Marino seconded.

Roll Call: Marino: YES, Minhas: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES (abstain from Verizon)

Motion carried

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio Recording on file