

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 16, 2023**

Mayor Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with the following statement:

The October 16, 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: Matthias: PRESENT Minhas: PRESENT Nocentino: PRESENT
 Callahan: PRESENT Frederick: PRESENT

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Mayor Frederick requested a Moment of Silence for James Sabetta, who served the Township for twenty-five years as UCC Code Official and Building Inspector.

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

Joe Delmar, 116 Saratoga Lane approached the Committee regarding a social media message that he received from Deputy Mayor Callahan.

Deputy Mayor Callahan responded that he sent a private message, sending his thoughts to Mr. Delmar.

Hearing no further comments, the public portion closed upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Callahan, seconded by Committeewoman Minhas and unanimously passed.

Mayor Frederick noted a Proclamation that was listed on the agenda celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Woolwich Fire Company, but stated that the Proclamation will be presented to the Department at their anniversary event on October 21st.

Deputy Mayor Callahan moved to approve a consent agenda for resolutions R-2023-213 through and including 223. So moved Callahan. Second: Minhas

Committeewoman Matthias asked to remove resolution R-2023-221 from the consent agenda. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Callahan moved to adopt resolutions R-2023-213 through 220 and resolutions R-2023-222 and R-2023-223. Committeewoman Minhas seconded.

R-2023-213 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing Improvements to the Tranquility Trails Disc Golf Course

R-2023-214 Resolution Amending Resolution R-2023-202; Authorizing Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

R-2023-215 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Making an Elevation within the Woolwich Township Police Department

R-2023-216 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Accepting the Best Practices Inventory Report for CY 2023

R-2023-217 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Acceptance and Filing of Performance Surety Bond #800129787 Filed on Behalf of Paulsboro Rd AP, LLC (Block 14, Lot 2)

R-2023-218 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Acceptance and Filing of Performance Surety Bond #800129705 Filed on Behalf of DPIF3 NJ 5 2062 Woolwich, LLC (Block 7, Lot 4.01)

R-2023-219 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Acceptance and Filing of Maintenance Surety Bond #800129790 Filed on Behalf of DPIF3 NJ 5 2062 Woolwich, LLC (Block 7, Lot 4.01)

R-2023-220 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Acceptance and Filing of Cash Bond Filed on Behalf of DPIF3 NJ 5 2062 Woolwich, LLC (Block 7, Lot 4.01)

R-2023-222 Resolution Authorizing Award of Bid to Arawak Paving Company, Inc. in the Amount of \$397,846.15 for NJDOT FY2022 Municipal Aid Program-Improvements to Viereck Road

Committeeman Nocentino questioned the type of shed and use of the proposed shed as included in improvements to the Tranquility Trails Disc Golf Course and who will maintain the shed.

Mayor Frederick advised that it is to be a wood framed building and will be used to store equipment, discs and lost and found items. He added that the Disc Golf Tournament group will provide maintenance.

The Mayor then noted for the advisement of the public that resolutions R-2023-218, 21 and 220 are the posting of bonds at the J&J Food Warehouse to allow for issuance of a TCO.

The Mayor further advised of the bid award for the Viereck Road improvements.

Roll Call on resolutions R-2023-213 through R-2022-220 and resolutions R-2023-222 and R-2023-223.
Roll Call: Matthias: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Callahan and seconded by Committeewoman Minhas to approve resolution **R-2023-221 Resolution Authorizing Award of Bid to Command Company, Inc. in the Amount of \$417,421.00 for Project Known as Pickle Ball Court.**

Committeewoman Matthias asked how it was decided to build pickle ball courts.

Mayor Frederick replied that the developer of a proposed apartment complex expressed interest in creating a park and agreed to provide the funds to begin said park. Due to the number of residents that expressed interest in having a pickle ball court, the developer agreed to provide funding through his PILOT Agreement along with a Veterans Memorial.

The Mayor further stated that the township has been exploring the expansion of the park site to include basketball courts, a playground and other improvements in the coming years.

Committeewoman Matthias asked if there is other funding pending. Mayor Frederick replied that the township will be exploring funding through other developers and PILOT Agreements.

Committeewoman Matthias stated that the community as a whole should have been consulted since there are other projects that the public have been requesting.

Roll Call on R-2023-221:

Matthias: NO, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

Mayor Frederick advised that the Township has approximately \$900,000 targeted towards recreation improvements through Redevelopment Agreements. He added that the Township should be ready to begin the Locke Avenue Park improvements once NJDEP releases Waterfront Development permits.

The following reports were submitted for the month of September:

Tax Collector: \$ 284,087.13 remitted

Woolwich Fire Company: Monthly Report

Chief Valichka presented his September report noting that call volumes continue to rise and volunteerism continues to fall.

The Chief then added that his department is getting tired, and asked what happens if they walk away? He appealed to the Committee for funding for needed equipment and expenses, stating that the department feels unappreciated and the Township needs to do something for emergency service.

Mayor Frederick responded that he knows it would be devastating to lose volunteers. He added that the Township has been asking the Chief to submit a multi-year capital plan for the department since early in the year which has not been received to date. He further added that the Township is building capital funds to address the needs of the department, but in order to do so, they need to receive the requested capital plan to ensure proper capital funding and multi-year budgetary planning.

Police: Monthly Report

Chief Morgan presented his report for review noting that Officer Rucker and Officer Thomas are being named Officers of the quarter for their handling of a tense situation which ended peacefully.

The Chief then reported that his department has received applications and are conducting interviews for positions within the department. He plans to present successful candidates to the Committee when they meet in November.

Committeewoman Matthias asked if there will be a press release on the police negotiations handled by Officer Rucker and Officer Thomas. The Chief responded that the incident is noted on the department's crime log.

Township Engineer: Monthly Report

Engineer Vachesky reported that Swedesboro Ave. paving is completed and the parapet has been poured. The project awaits guiderail installation. He further noted the award of bid for the 2022 NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant project for Viereck Road are being awarded that evening. Also, the street map has been completed and sent to the Township. Work continues on the Tier A MSA processing data with all inlets being mapped.

Committeeman Nocentino requested and received confirmation that the Lexington Mews road paving has been turned over to the HOA.

Administrator's Report: Monthly Report
The report was presented as self-explanatory.

Municipal Services: Monthly Report

The following liaison reports were provided:

Committeewoman Matthias:

Trash/Recycling: Reported 322 tons of trash was collected-month of September; 37 extra cardboard collections; 262 bulk collections. The shredding event resulted in 2 tons of recycled paper collected.

Committeewoman Minhas:

Municipal Alliance; NO report. Recreation: Parks and Rec are holding a holiday fruit sale fundraiser. Not so Scary Halloween Parade will be held on October 28th.

Mayor Frederick stated that the township is looking to expand programs and activities. Volunteers are needed to join the Committee.

Committeeman Nocentino:

Municipal Services; 30 zoning permits and 8 violation notices were issued. 40 yards of stone were added to the park parking lot and playground mulch was also added. Env. Commission; Celebration was held to honor Ann Dorsett at the last meeting. Cleanup at Lake Park was conducted. Social Media/IT; To be discussed later in the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Callahan:

Educational Partners (SWSD/KRSD); Numerous activities have been held in the Kingsway District including Back to School night, Homecoming among others. The annual Holiday Craft Show is scheduled for November 4th. The Kingsway District was named one of the top schools in the state. The district continues to look for speakers regarding various careers. The Field Hockey Team is number 8 in the country and beat the number 3 team. The S/W District is kicking off a boosterthon and is promoting teamwork and caricature building. Undergoing new gym floors and looking into solar opportunities. Resident Communications; No update. Park Utilization No update.

Mayor Frederick:

Administration; The Municipal Court has heard 1653 cases to date. Public Safety; JLUB; The JLUB has heard a few small applications. Developers of the proposed Auburn Road Warehouse will again be heard on November 16th. Shop Rite has applied to the JLUB for an amendment to their plans to provide an additional parking area.

Under old business, the Committee is looking at alternatives to Comcast internet service for security system.

The Township is also still looking for providers to update the township website and look to enhance communication with residents.

The Committee also reviewed and discussed the proposed school zone with flashing blinkers. The Township is looking at alternatives since receiving a quote from its engineers in the amount of \$38,000 for flashing beacons. Deputy Mayor Callahan will also speak with the Kingsway Administration to see if they are willing to share cost.

Under new business, it was determined that hours for Trick or Treating will be on October 31st between 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Committee also reviewed the solicitation RFP for 2024 professional services. Mayor Frederick noted that the positions of Traffic Engineer and combined planners were added to the list. Motion was made by Committeewoman Minhas to authorize the solicitation of 2024 RFP for Professional Services. Committeewoman Matthias seconded. All were in favor.

The Committee also heard from Deputy Administrator Marino as to the need for roof repairs at the park dugouts. The Public Works department can conduct the repairs with the purchase of roof materials as quoted at approximately \$4,000.

Mayor Frederick then moved to approve the dugout roof repairs using Open Space Funds and upon receipt of a certification of funds in the not to exceed amount of \$4,000. Committeewoman Matthias seconded. All were in favor.

The Mayor advised that the Town Hall Meeting date has changed and will now be conducted on October 26th beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Woolwich Township Municipal Building.

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

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

Committeewoman Minhas moved to approve resolution **R-2023-225 Resolution for Closed Session**. Committeewoman Matthias seconded. All were in favor.

The Committee entered closed session at 7:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussing police personnel.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:35 p.m. upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Callahan and seconded by Committeeman Nocentino. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Matthias and seconded by Committeewoman Minhas to approve Resolution **R-2023-225 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Hiring of Michael LaRosa to the Position of Class III Officer within the Woolwich Township Police Department**.
Matthias: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

Motion was made by Committeewoman Minhas and seconded by Committeeman Nocentino to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Session and the minutes of October 2, 2023 Regular Meeting Session. All were in favor

Committeewoman Minhas moved to approve the bills and purchase orders as submitted by the finance office. Committeewoman Matthias seconded.

Matthias: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES Motion carried

With no further business, motion was made by Committeewoman Minhas and seconded by Committeewoman Matthias to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio recording on file