

MEETING MINUTES

**TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
BUSINESS MEETING
March 12, 2020
7:00 pm**

Call to Order

ROLL CALL: LOPARO Arrived 7:02 pm DODD X BAULDERSTONE X

Flag Salute

STATEMENT: Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, adequate notice of this meeting was properly provided by sending a copy of the Notice of Meeting to two newspapers, The Asbury Park Press and the Press of Atlantic City. The Notice was posted at the office of the Township Clerk.

Mayor Baulderstone welcomed the Cub Scouts and Cadet Girl Scout Troop 323 to the meeting tonight. Thank you for coming.

Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor – Lydia M. Dodd

Resolution 2020-109A. This resolution revises the total amount of the bill list of February 2020. There was a discrepancy in the total.

Resolution 2020-126 & 2020-127. These resolutions are on the Township's bill list. In the finance office there have been some employees out due to health issues. These two bill lists will bring the Township up to date on the payment to vendors.

Ordinance 2020-2 and Resolutions 2020-128 & 2020-129. The Budget Introduced tonight will be posted on the Township website and the Budget Summary will be published in the Asbury Park Press. These resolutions are required by the State of New Jersey for the introduction and reading of the budget. The budget being introduced represents a remarkable job of balancing the needs of sustaining a professional municipal operation versus the financial realities of our taxpayers. It is a delicate balance between the two. I firmly believe we have struck that balance with the budget being introduced.

There were some shortfalls in the budget last year and the Township Committee did make changes in those departments. One of the departments was the Construction/Zoning Department. The Township is saving money by sharing services. The Township has also financially saved money by cutting back the hours of the Construction, Building, Plumbing, Electric, and Fire Sub codes and staff, while keeping services available for the residents. The Township again has a part-time Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and Finance Officer for additional cost savings.

There are annual costs of doing business that go up including healthcare, salaries, gas, electric, etc. The Township does need to provide the proper items necessary for the departments to continue to do their jobs effectively.

The Township Committee along with the Township Finance Officer and Business Administrator have been working diligently to have the 2020 budget complete. This year even with the Township working hard to keep costs down the Township will have an increase of less than 2 cents (.0188997). The public hearing to adopt will be April 9th.

	<u>Avg. House Assmt.</u>	<u>Avg. Increase based upon \$.0188997</u>
Township Houses	\$270,100	\$ 51.31
Greenbriar Houses	\$ 323,600	\$ 61.47

Resolution 2020-133. This resolution authorizes the hiring of a full-time Administrative Assistant for the Construction and Zoning Office. This position will assist in having the offices staffed during business hours.

Video Taping Meeting. The Township has been in contact with surrounding towns regarding videotaping the Township meetings and have the meetings posted. The Township is hoping to have this available by the April or May Meeting.

Vacant Property Registration Report:

The Township instituted an ordinance requiring vacant properties to be registered starting January 1, 2018. The initial registration fee is \$750.00, the 2nd year \$2,000, 3rd year \$3,000 and subsequent renewals will be \$5,000. This is to assist in giving vacant property owners an incentive to want to be removed from the vacant property list. January registrations total \$16,250.00. February registration total \$9,250.00. Total amount Received in 2020 – \$25,500.

Zoning Department – February. 33 applications approved, 7 applications pending review, 2 denied applications. Dunkin Donuts submitted a full plan for the use and the sign for the site that was formerly Sonic. The business State Farm Insurance is proposed to go into the Lakeside Square building.

Code Enforcement – February. 88 Notice of Violations. A large majority are Vacant Property Registration. There were 0 second Notice of Violation and 4 properties abated their violations.

Construction. Cornerstone has a Certificate of Occupancy being issued. The Walters Group is working to start moving families in the first building approximately by the end of March. Tradewinds work is proceeding nicely.

Construction. 1 Notice of Violation/Ordered to pay penalty for worth without a permit, 5 Notices of Violation for violating the provision of the UCC and 25 permits issued with 8 permit updates.

Divine Interventions, who received approvals for two storage facilities on Route 9, has submitted for a 2 year extension on their approvals.

Committeeman LoParo arrived at 7:02pm.

Committeeman – Ben LoParo

Resolution 2020-136. Resolution authorizing the execution of a shared service agreement with the County of Ocean for the “Prosecutor’s Program”. This program is formally known as the Fatal Accident Support Team. This program is a traffic safety program run by the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office for

the purpose of assisting in the investigation, prosecution of fatal accidents in traffic enforcement and education.

Municipal Alliance/Recreation. There was a Family Lego Challenge Night on February 24th at the Waretown Branch of the Ocean County Library. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled to take place April 5th at the Waretown Lake & Recreation Area. The Township Committee has not decided if that will take place. That decision will be made in the next seven days. It will be announced on the website. Children ages 6 and under will start promptly at 1:00 pm. Children ages 7–11 will start promptly at 2:00 pm. All participants are asked to bring a basket or collection bag for the eggs. Please bring a camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Chief Rogalski will be making a statement about the coronavirus at tonight's meeting.

Summer Camp Registrations are now being accepted. The Township has kept the price the same to continue to make it affordable to all parents. The camp will start July 1st until August 6th, Tues, Wed, Thurs. 9:00 am–12 Noon with special events scheduled each week (such as the Penguins from Jenkinson's Aquarium). The cost is \$10.00 per day and 20% reduction for second child and 25% for each child thereafter. Information is on the Township website and available in Town Hall.

Resolution 2020-132. The Township of Ocean is passing this resolution tonight in supporting the preservation of the second amendment. This Township Committee affirms that the second amendment right to keep and bear arms is not connected in any way to the service of the militia and supports the rights of lawful gun owners to lawfully use firearms. No one is taking guns away in Waretown and this Township Committee stands for that.

Southern Regional Rams Varsity Wrestling team won the State Group V Championship two years in a row. The boys had a great season this year.

Mayor – Ken Baulderstone

Resolution 2020-134. This resolution authorizes the annual Wine Festival at the Waretown Lake and Recreation Park for May 2nd and May 3rd rain or shine.

Resolution 2020-135. Resolution urging Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority to reconsider the proposed toll hikes affecting the Garden State Parkway and NJ Turnpike. With the Garden State Parkway running approximately 40 miles through Ocean County, our residents will be among the hardest hit.

The Township Committee, along with the Ocean County Freeholders, strongly urge the Governor to fill the existing vacancy on the New Jersey Turnpike Authority Board of Commissioners with a resident of Ocean County.

Department of Public Works

Ocean County has been requested to assist in grading the Township's dirt roads. The Ocean County road grader has been in town this week grading the roads.

Reminder: Only leaves can be brought to the Waretown Lake leaf bin. Please empty bags and take them home to dispose. Brush is not to be left at the leaf bin. Ocean County Recycling will not take leaves that are mixed with brush or grass, as they need to be taken to the Ocean County Landfill. The town pays to dispose of leaves by the ton so they could be composted at the recycling center.

DPW is continuing the bi-annual basin cleaning & maintenance (Pebble Beach), pot holes repaired, continue building dog park and court house doors have been replaced.

Bryant Road Property. The Township has awarded a contract to start the removal of the in-water violations with KG Marine in the amount of \$15,250.00. This should be completed prior to the end of March, weather permitting. The Township is reviewing the bulkhead and discussing the use of gabion baskets or gabion rock. The gabion rock will need an additional permit to install and will use more of the property. The reconstruction of the small dock by the ramp is to take place.

Special Events

The Senior Advisory Committee Meeting will be March 16th at 10:30 am. The Township is doing what it can to make sure that room is sanitized. The librarian from the Waretown Branch of the Ocean County Library will be attending and speaking, followed by a light lunch.

Founder's Day is May 25th. Applications are being accepted for vendors. Local entertainment registrations are available. All forms are on the Township website or can be picked up in Town Hall at the Clerk's Office.

Bus Trips. The Rat Pack Show at the Tropicana Casino has been cancelled due to not enough people signing up for the event. NY Mets vs. Philadelphia Phillies game is on May 27th – seats are still available. It is unknown if that game will still take place due to the news reports today.

Police Chief Rogalski

Chief Rogalski read the February 2020 Police Report. The Police Department handled 4,518 calls for police service, 1 abandoned 9-1-1 call, 19 alarms were activated and responded to, 16 animal complaints were handled, 1,999 individual business and residential checks, 2 criminal mischief acts were investigated, 9 domestic violence incidents, 11 verbal disputes/harassments, 13 disabled vehicles were assisted, 2 drunk drivers, 9 drug arrests, 64 first aid calls, 53 general complaints, 10 motor vehicle accidents, 551 motor vehicle stops of which 167 summons were issued, 1 juvenile complaint, 8 psychiatric evaluations (PESS), 20 persons were arrested on various warrants, 1 shoplifting incident, 46 suspicious persons and/or vehicles, 12 residential and commercial thefts and 1 theft from a motor vehicle was investigated. A full list of this activity is listed on the website.

Covid 19 Coronavirus Disease

Chief Rogalski discussed the Township Office of Emergency Management was activated today as of 5:30, as a precautionary basis and for tracking purposes. The County Office of Emergency Management has also been activated due to the closure of Ocean County College. Any expenditures the Township makes as of right now are going to be listed and documented. If there is a federal declaration of emergency, the Township can seek reimbursement for expenditures in reference to the coronavirus.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus first detected in China, which has now been detected in more than 100 locations internationally including the United States, New Jersey, Monmouth County and pending cases in Ocean County. The virus has been named SARS CoV-2, and the disease it causes has been named the Coronavirus Disease 2019, abbreviated Covid 19.

A virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact within six feet from another and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. People are thought to be most contagious when they are the most sick, however, there have been reports of the disease spreading before people show symptoms. People may not show symptoms until 2-14 days after exposure. Symptoms you should be looking for are fever, cough and shortness of breath. Wash your hands, avoid close contact, stay home if you are sick, cover coughs and sneezes, wear a face mask if you are sick and clean and disinfect your house. The Police Department will have an OEM meeting at 9:00 pm today to discuss precautionary and preplanning with the First Aid Squad and the Fire Department. There will be a supervisory meeting to establish new protocols for the Police Department.

Chief Rogalski discussed he will be implementing a pandemic plan that will focus on three goals, protect employees and their families, conduct emergency operations to enhance public safety and minimize the effects of the pandemic and continue essential operations while meeting the service expectations of the Township. The Police Department will provide updated status of information regarding the potential and/or occurring outbreak to employees along with recommendations for protective measures according to the CDC. The Police Department has implemented procedures as far as additional cleaning and wiping down surfaces, mindful of maintaining six feet of distance among coworkers and the general public when Police radio calls and cleaning phones. The virus can live on phones for 96 hours. There will be a modified patrol response that will dictate that any officers responding to a call, where evidence does not need to be collected or an on-scene investigation does not need to occur, the Police Department will deal with the complainant or reporting person via phone. That will limit the Police Officers exposure to the virus.

There are contingency plans in place for support from other outside agencies and the Sheriff's Department throughout the County. If Barnegat gets an infection and all their officers are sick, you will see Waretown or Sheriff's Department cars in Barnegat. The same goes for Stafford, Lacey, Berkeley and all other Townships. The Police Departments have all met and discussed it. There are mandatory 10:00 am meetings through the Chief's Association via computer every day.

Chief Rogalski discussed he met with Township Officials today and will be meeting again tomorrow to discuss further recommendations. It is inevitable that Ocean County will have a corona virus case. The big concern is the testing period. The test for coronavirus takes 8 hours. The problem is the green light to test someone is a 3-5 day process due to the CDC. That time will decrease as more tests become available and states start implementing different procedures on their own.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Motion to Open Public Comment was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Shawn Denning, President, Ocean Township Board of Education, discussed there is something called an epidemiological curve. People can either be isolated out or wait until it happens and then there a bunch of very sick patients. The school will have half days on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The staff will meet with their supervisors to help devise how to educate the students. The State Department of Education will tell the Counties and the Counties will tell the schools. Students' grades will not be harmed. Paper packets will go home with the students. There will be some online support of information to help enrich those lessons. The information will be posted on the school district website. The students have been told to wash their hands. The schools are safe and watching local trends.

Mr. Denning discussed the school passed its preliminary budget and is intending to go the 2% CAP. The school used its reserve money, due to state aid cuts doubled from what was expected. Next year the school will balance the budget and make up for this year's cuts and the anticipated \$1 million cut next year. The school will be cutting approximately \$1.6 million from the budget next year. The school will have to pay back the capital reserve money that was used this year. Unfortunately employees will be cut.

The Ocean Township School District is committed to provide an education to every student. No matter what happens, your child will be educated, have the supplies needed to go to school and the teaching staff. Dr. Lommerin sent a letter home to all the parents to let them know what is going on. There is misinformation that the property taxes are going up by 20%. Under the state aid reduction, Governor Murphy has required the school to go to CAP.

Girl Scout Troop 323, discussed Troop 323 consists of 10 girls from Barnegat and Waretown. At a recent meeting, the Girl Scout Troop 323 members came to a consensus that the Waretown Lake is polluted with trash. The Troop believes that with some trash bins on the side of the lake where the road is and in the back parking lot next to the tennis courts, trash and littering on the ground and in the water will greatly decrease. This will make a great difference for the wildlife living in it. This could also be beneficial for the increase of people coming to the lake for the upcoming dog park. Girl Scout Troop 323 would like to donate the trash bins, their stands and the Troop's time to cleaning up the lake. Troop 323 hopes this will make an incredible difference to the lake and the surrounding area. A troop member submitted pictures of the trash around the lake.

The Township Committee and Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio formally accepted the donation of trash bins and trash clean up around the lake and offered any assistance the Troop needs to complete this project. This is a wonderful donation.

Eileen Doyle, 243 11th Street, discussed the new lift's door does not close tight and does not lock. The button has to be held in and there should be something to wipe the button off.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she will have the lift's doors looked at and yes, users have to hold the button for the duration of the lift.

Mrs. Doyle discussed the Department of Public Works (DPW) did a lovely job cleaning the community center chairs. There is not enough hand wipes at the Community Center. Everyone is bringing their own wipes to use at the community center.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township Committee is going to discuss this in executive session. There is only so much to go around.

Mrs. Doyle inquired if the Senior Advisory meeting is still on for Monday.

Mayor Baulderstone discussed the Township does not know yet. It could be a directive from the County, which would come from the State. At the moment, the meeting is still on. DPW will sanitize anything that anybody can touch before the meeting and there will be separation between the chairs.

Mrs. Doyle inquired about the running of the Oceanride food shopping busses and discussed nobody wants to go on the Township bus to the mall.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed no changes were received from the County at this time. The Township bus to the mall can be cancelled. The most important bus is for grocery shopping.

John Petrosilli, Vessel Road, inquired the outcome of the storage facility project on Route 9.

Deputy Mayor Dodd discussed the builder received a two-year extension. It has already been approved.

Nancy Caira, 103 Atlantic Avenue, thanked Chief Rogalski for his report on the coronavirus. It was very informative. Ms. Caira inquired why the resolution protecting the second amendment is not a discussion item for the community. The second amendment is a national issue worthy of discussion with the public. Ms. Caira discussed she likes the new podium.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed community members asked the Township to pass this resolution. The Township Committee reviewed the resolution and decided to put it on the agenda. The new podium was built by the Department of Public Works.

Steve Schreier, Dollmore Avenue, thanked the Township Committee for adding the second amendment resolution on the agenda tonight. Mr. Schreier discussed he took a day off work to come and show his support of the resolution.

Tony Caira, 103 Atlantic Avenue, discussed he does not understand what the second amendment resolution is about and inquired why the Township Committee has to vote on this. The Constitution is already in place.

Committeeman LoParo discussed the Township Committee wants to show support for gun owners and the second amendment. People in public office are attacking the second amendment and residents' right to own guns, assault rifles and ammunition. The limits put on residents make it unfeasible to be gun owners. Some wanted to put a serial number on every bullet issued and take away assault rifles. The Township Committee wants to let gun owners know that the Second Amendment is safe in Waretown.

Mr. Caira discussed that is your opinion and inquired why it cannot be discussed. Assault rifles are banned.

Committeeman LoParo explained the discussion is taking place right now. The Township Committee has researched the resolution and is voting on the resolution tonight and is letting the residents know that the Township Committee supports them and their right to bear arms. All surrounding Townships have passed the resolution. Assault rifles are not banned in New Jersey.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed the resolution is simply saying the Township Committee and Law Enforcement personnel will support State and Federal law. The resolution is a support mechanism of the second amendment. It is not saying the Township will ever violate law. A second amendment is the law of the land.

Committeeman LoParo discussed the Township cannot break State and Federal Law. The Township Committee is supporting its residents and the second amendment and is making a powerful statement about it.

Tom Girsh, Wells Mills Road, inquired what is an assault rifle.

Committeeman LoParo discussed any semi-automatic rifle is considered an assault rifle.

Mike Bazarewski, 20 Mantoloking Lane, inquired about a resolution that was tabled months ago about the building across from ShopRite.

Committeeman LoParo discussed there was an ordinance to give tax incentives to builders for residential commercial properties, which was tabled. It was not specific for across from ShopRite.

Mr. Bazarewski thanked the Township Committee and discussed he has never had a problem getting pistol permits.

Nancy Caira discussed she supports the second amendment. The Township Committee had their chance to do the research but the community is not as knowledgeable. It is about the opportunity for the public to have a solid discussion.

Motion to Close Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Motion to approve meeting minutes of January 1, 2020, January 23, 2020, and February 11, 2020 was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-109A Revising the Payment of Claims as presented to the Township Committee for the January 23, 2020 meeting for payment thereof in the corrected amount of \$1,994,184.80.

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-126 Payment of Claims Month End Bill List for February 2020– as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$2,506,477.00

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-127 Payment of Claims Month of March 2020– as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$516,610.05

Motion to approve was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Ordinance 2020-2 1st Reading – Title Only

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-128

Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey Authorizing the reading of the budget by Title Only

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-129

Authorizing the Municipal Budget of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey for fiscal year 2020. The Budget Summary will be published on March 18, 2020 in the Asbury Park Press Newspaper. The Public Hearing on the Budget Resolution will be held April 9, 2020 at the Municipal Building Meeting Room, 50 Railroad Avenue, Waretown NJ 08758 at 7:00 pm for final passage

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Consent Agenda

The below listed items are considered to be routine by the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.

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| 2020-130 | Resolution Proclaiming National Poison Prevention Week March 15-21, 2020 |
| 2020-131 | Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the release of escrow money held for traffic control in the name of POC Larry Lkrayn |
| 2020-132 | Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey supporting the preservation of the Second Amendment |
| 2020-133 | Resolution authorizing the hiring of Corinne Anderson, Administrative Assistance, Construction and Zoning Office |
| 2020-134 | Resolution authorizing the Wine Festival at the Waretown Memorial Recreation Park May 2 nd & May 3 rd , 2020 rain or shine |
| 2020-135 | Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey Urging Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority to reconsider any plan that increases Tolls on the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike |
| 2020-136 | Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Execution of Shared Service Agreement with the County of Ocean Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et. sec., for Prosecutor's Program |

Motion to approve Resolutions 2020-130 through 2020-136:

Motion to approve was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-137

Resolution authorizing the Township Committee to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual, personnel

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Motion to approve the below listed dates in 2020 for the use of the Community Center, Waretown Memorial Recreation Park, Tuomey Park and Ballfield:

1. Annette Bonfonti – April 19, 2020
2. Lydia T. Sparrow – April 11, 2020

Motion to approve was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Motion to Approve Social Affair Permit:

Waretown Volunteer Fire Company #1 Fishing Tournament on May 16, 2020

Motion to approve was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Motion to go into Executive Session:

Motion to approve was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Next Scheduled Meetings

April 6, 2020 – Redevelopment Meeting – 7:00 pm

April 9, 2020- Business Meeting - 7:00 pm

May 14, 2020 – Business Meeting - 7:00 pm

Motion to Move into Open Session:

Motion to approve was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone:

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date