

MEETING MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN COUNTY OF OCEAN BUSINESS MEETING/WORKSHOP

March 16, 2021

6:00 pm

- Zoom Meeting -

Call to Order

Flag Salute

ROLL CALL: BAULDERSTONE X LOPARO X DODD X

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

Proclamation

Township of Ocean Committee proclaims National Library Week April 4–10, 2021

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio read the Proclamation to honor National Library Week and will be sending the signed proclamation to Ms. Sara Cook, Interim Branch Manager of the Ocean County Library, who is in attendance this evening.

Ms. Cook thanked the Township Committee for the proclamation.

Committee Reports

Mayor – Lydia M. Dodd

Members of the Waretown community, I would like to apologize for my absence from our Town Hall Meetings and the office. In the beginning of February, I contracted the Covid virus which resulted in a brief hospitalization. My recovery has been slow and arduous. I am happy to report that I am now back at work and ready to assume many of my duties.

I want to thank all of our residents who sent cards, flowers, well wishes, prayers and meals! Thank you to my wonderful colleagues who carried on the work of our town and for doing such a great job in my absence. I also want to thank our Chief of Police, our Police Department and our first responders for getting me the help I needed to get to the hospital. I got to see first hand how quick, efficient and caring you all are. I truly believe you saved my life and I thank you all. I most certainly want to thank you, Diane and our amazing office staff for carrying on the day to day workload and allowing me this time to recover without worry. I am truly blessed to live in a town of such fantastic people!

Please remember to wear your masks, social distance, wash your hands and be safe.

Township Buildings. The Township Committee would like to announce this will be the last Zoom Township Committee meeting. The Township Committee and all Township Committees/Boards will be going back to in person meetings starting April 1st.

The Town Hall, Construction and Zoning, Court and Police Department will be open to the public starting April 1st. All people entering the building must have on a face mask and remain six feet apart.

The Community Center will not be rented by organizations or families at this time, due to the cleaning requirements and not having someone there to monitor that people using the building are following all rules and regulations. This will be revisited as the Governor allows additional people to gather.

Vacant Property Registration Report. For the month of February, the Township received \$8,500.00. The total amount received in 2021 is \$36,500.

Zoning Department. 28 applications have been approved, 10 applications pending review and 4 denial applications.

Code Enforcement. 21 Notices of Violation, 3 Second Notices of Violation and 5 properties abated their violations.

Construction Department. 36 permits were issued, 5 permits updated, 4 Notices of Violation – order to pay penalty (Work without a Permit), 3 Notices of Violation – occupying without a Certificate of Occupancy and 2 Notices of Violation – violating the provisions of the Uniform Construction Code.

Ordinance 2021-9. Tonight, is the first reading public hearing as a result of the constitutional amendment that was passed on December 4, 2020. A New Jersey resident honorably discharged or their surviving spouse no longer need to be serving during a specific wartime period to receive total and permanent property tax exemption, which was previously required. This is updating the ordinance for the Township to be in compliance. The Public Hearing will be at the April 20th meeting.

Resolutions 2021-117, 121,123, 124, 125, 126. These resolutions are for overpayment of taxes and release of escrow. These need to be completed by resolution and voted on at a meeting.

Resolution 2021-118. The Pinelands Municipal Council along with the League of Municipalities have sent this resolution to the Township for passage. The success of New Jersey's Open Space program including Green Acres is threatened by the loss of in-lieu of tax payment, which are made by the State to municipalities to mitigate the impact of the loss of property tax revenues because of the State's purchase of open space. The Township of Ocean strongly supports the goals of payment in lieu of taxes program for Open Space.

The Township of Ocean has been informed that the Federal New Covid Relief Plan, known as the American Rescue Plan, will be receiving an anticipated \$892,734.34. The Township is waiting on written directives regarding how the money can be applied. It is the Township's hope that it can be used for tax relief and other necessary expenses and capital improvements. This information should be available for the Township to report on at the next meeting on April 20th.

Committeeman – Ken Baulderstone

Good Evening.

I would like to start by thanking our Township Volunteers, as April 6, 2021 will be National Service Recognition Day and the Week of April 18–24th as National Volunteer Week.

The Township Committee would like to thank our Township's CERT Team for assisting at the Ocean County Vaccination site in Toms River. We thank all the Volunteers in the Township including all the people who sit on the Committees and Boards, Waretown Volunteer Fire Company and First Aid and all the volunteer people who come out and work the different events. Your time and effort do not go unnoticed. All of you make a valuable contribution to this Township and County. Again, thank you.

Resolution 2021-119. This resolution allows the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company to use the Township's GovDeals account. The money that is made for the Fire Company will be given directly to the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company.

Resolution 2021-122. This resolution is authorizing the Township to work with Remington & Vernick Engineers to provide for GIS hosting. This program will allow for residents to input service requests and allow tracking of the request. This will also assist the Department of Public Works with inventory and mechanic work orders, as well as incorporating items from other departments including Construction and Zoning and Tax. This contract includes implementation, training and 24-hour customer service. The Township looks forward to the roll out of this system.

Department of Public Works. The Township has started leaf pick up throughout the Township. Two dumpsters have been ordered to be placed in the Town Hall parking lot for residents to place leaves in. An announcement will be made once the dumpsters arrive. Brush will continue to be picked up at each resident's property. Residents need to contact Town Hall to be placed on the list. All this information is on the Township website and the Township calendars that are mailed to each home.

Bryant Road Park. Improvements are continuing at the park. The bathroom trailer has been ordered. The fencing has been ordered and should be installed soon by the Department of Public Works.

Township Street End Bulkhead Replacement Project. The bulkhead replacement work is complete. The contractor has minimal restoration work left to complete. This includes the spreading of the soil at Crystal Point. This work is scheduled for the Spring.

Automated Doors at Police Department. A notice to proceed has been issued and the project is moving forward. Once inspections are complete, the paperwork for the reimbursement from the Community Development Block Grant will be submitted.

Birdsall Water Tower Project. This project is currently moving forward. The contract completion date is May 8, 2021.

Diamond Drive Pump Station. The rehabilitation of this pump station is moving forward. The anticipated completion date is May 15th. This is taking longer due to the necessary lead time of material procurements due to COVID.

Water Quality Accountability Act. The Township continues to comply with all the regulations of this act. The Township has been looking into different ways to tag the 520 hydrants as required and will be interfaced with the GIS system. The Township is looking to handle this project in-house. Another requirement of the Water Accountability Act is exercising valves. The Township has approximately 707 valves in the system. The Township is reviewing options of having a company handle the project or purchase the equipment and perform the work in-house. The cost for a company to do this could be approximately \$60,000, which would have to be publicly bid.

Recreation. The Township is proud to announce the winners of the Snowman Contest for 2020/2021. Each winner received a Walmart Gift Card. It was the largest participation year. There were 35 entries.

1st Place - \$25.00 - Emma & Daniel Collamer

2nd Place - \$15.00 - Stephen DeJesus

3rd Place - \$10.00 - The Current Family

Thank you.

Deputy Mayor – Ben LoParo

Good Evening.

Ordinance 2021-4. This ordinance, listed for second reading public hearing, is to allow outdoor dining even after the pandemic. Outdoor dining was assisting the struggling restaurants, brewery, and any indoor eating establishments. This is placing the rules in the Township Codebook. Outdoor temporary dining will be allowed April–November each year.

To assist the struggling local businesses at this time, if you have applied for an outdoor dining permit in 2020 there will be no fee for 2021. If the establishment keeps the same setup as in 2020, the business does not need to reapply in 2021. The Township Committee prides itself on being a business-friendly town.

Resolution 2021-116. The Police Department is replacing a 2006 vehicle that has over 110,000 miles. The vehicle is being purchased through a co-op and must be completed by resolution. The vehicle is a 2020 Ford Escape in the amount of \$25,353.40

Resolution 2021-127. This resolution is opposing and urging the Governor and legislature to repeal Senate Bill 3454, Public Law 2021, Chapter 25 as it infringes upon the rights of parents of this State, puts the health safety and welfare of our children at risk and marginalizes the great efforts and work of the law enforcement officers of this Township and State of New Jersey.

Township Events

Due to COVID19, the Township Committee has decided that the Easter Egg Hunt is canceled and the Founders' Day Events at the school will be canceled. The fireworks over the bay will take place on Saturday, May 29, 2021 at dusk, as a kickoff to Summer!

The Municipal Alliance will be hosting a Drive-In Movie on Saturday, May 22nd at 8:00 pm in the field next to the Priff School. The movie will be the original "Toy Story".

The Town Wide Yard Sale will take place on June 5, 2021, as well as the Town Wide Clean Up Weekend on June 11th–12th.

All information is posted on the Township Website. The Township will send all information via e-mails and post on the Facebook pages.

Thank you!

Chief of Police - Michal Rogalski

Chief Rogalski read the February 2021 Police Report. The Police Department handled 3,713 calls for police service, 3 abandoned 9-1-1 calls, 17 alarms were activated and responded to, 23 animal complaints, 1,826 business and/or residential checks, 4 criminal mischief acts, 1 domestic violence incident, 8 verbal disputes and/or harassment complaints, 6 disabled vehicles, 4 drunk drivers, 4 drug arrests, 66 first aid calls, 32 general complaints, 30 motor vehicle accidents, 275 motor vehicle stops of which 69 summons were issued, 1 psychiatric evaluation, 3 persons were arrested on various warrants, 43 suspicious persons and/or vehicles, 2 thefts from residents or commercial properties and 4 thefts from a motor vehicle. A full list of this activity is listed on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Motion to open Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Mary Hammett, 7 Roberts Road, discussed she is one of two homes on her block and has no option to connect to water and sewer, as there is no connection on Roberts Road. Her neighbor, Mr. Lane, connected his property from Railroad Avenue. Mrs. Hammett inquired how to connect her home from Railroad Avenue. If Mrs. Hammett sells her house, she will be forced to connect.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed the Township's amendment to the ordinance gives property owners an appeal or hardship process, if it is not feasible for the resident to connect due to the particular circumstances of the property.

Jim Oris, Township Utilities Engineer, discussed the first step is for Mrs. Hammett to email him or submit an application to the Township and Mr. Oris will go out and measure the property to see where the house sits in relation to the sewer and determine if Mrs. Hammett is required to connect. The water is further than 200 feet from the water main so you would not be required to hook up the water. If it turns out you are required to connect, you could apply for a hardship waiver or exemption.

Mr. Oris discussed Mrs. Hammett wants the option to connect and wants the Township to extend sewer and water to the front of her property. The sewer and water departments are completely funded by the rate payers. The Township is not looking to make money on water and sewer, just cover the costs. The Township could consider a water and sewer extension to Roberts Road as a capital improvement but it would have to be financially responsible.

Mr. Oris discussed to get the ball rolling, he can measure the distance to the existing house. The empty adjacent lot will most likely be required to connect, as it is much closer than 400 feet.

Mrs. Hammett inquired what the application is for.

Mr. Oris discussed the application is for exemption status. There is one for water and one for sewer. Mr. Oris will email Mrs. Hammett a copy of the PDF applications.

Mrs. Hammett discussed she will submit the application but would like the Township to determine if it would be cost-effective for the Township to extend the water and sewer to her house. If the Township does extend the water and sewer to the front of her road, it will include the empty adjacent lot. That

would help make that lot a multiplier for future use to reimburse the cost. If the Township entertains the idea of running water and sewer to the home, the empty lot could add two homes to the equation.

Mr. Oris discussed he will take a look at it. That is the decision of the Township Committee.

John Petrosilli, 11 Vessel Road, inquired if the Township entertained the idea of not putting sod at Bryant Road Park and discussed the pavilion on Bryant Road is getting in bad shape. The landings are looking bad.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township Committee reviewed it and decided to move forward with grass on the property. The Department of Public Works will look at the pavilion.

Motion to close Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

Resolution 2021-115 Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$357,249.07

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

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

Ordinance 2021-4 – 2nd Reading – Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 410-43.3 ENTILED “TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING AREA”

Township Attorney Dasti discussed this ordinance was referred to the Planning Board in accordance to the Municipal Land Use Law. The Planning Board has the power to make comments and recommendations to the Governing Body. The Planning Board issued a March 5, 2021 memo with two comments. One comment was for the Township Committee to consider changes to the ordinance in the future as outdoor dining becomes more common. The other comment was regarding a sunset provision to the ordinance, which is Zoning. It is inappropriate to tell people they cannot have outdoor dining after a certain time. Outdoor dining is something that has been going on for the last year. People enjoy it. It will be happening everywhere in the near future. There is no sunset provision in this ordinance. The Governing Body can always change the ordinance however they see fit, as long as it is in accordance with the Municipal Land Use Law. There were minor revisions of the ordinance that were not substantial at all. The Construction Official review requirement was removed, as it does not concern the Uniform Construction Code. Sunday dining was in the ordinance as introduced. The change was only A3, which is not a significant change at all.

Motion to open Public Comment Ordinance 2021-4 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

No comment from the public.

Motion to close Public Comment Ordinance 2021-4 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-4 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Ordinance 2021-9 – 1st Reading – Title Only

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 345 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED “TAXATION”.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-9 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: 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.

- 2021-116 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing the purchase of Ford Escape 2020 Police Vehicle in the amount of \$25,353.40
- 2021-117 Resolution authorizing a refund of overpayment of taxes the house was sold in the amount of \$1,747.32
- 2021-118 Resolution in favor of continued in-lieu of tax payments for municipalities to encourage open space acquisitions with is critical to New Jersey’s Water Supply
- 2021-119 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company to sell items using the Township’s GovDeal Account
- 2021-120 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey proclaiming April 6, 2021 as National Service Recognition Day and the Week of April 18 – April 24, 2021 as National Volunteer Week
- 2021-121 Resolution authorizing the return of Escrow fees from the Board of Adjustment in the amount of \$447.25 to Gregory Sable
- 2021-122 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING REMINGTON AND VERNICK ENGINEERS TO PROVIDE GIS HOSTING AND APPLICATION SERVICES AND UPGRADES TO THE MUNICIPAL WEB MAP LAYERS AND FORMS FOR THE TOWNSHIP
- 2021-123 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing Tax Collector to reimburse lien Holder for certificate erroneously sold at Tax Sale with Legal Interest in the amount of \$1,697.17
- 2021-124 Resolution authorizing a refund of overpayment of taxes Block 53.03, Lot 6 in the amount of \$2,217.09
- 2021-125 Resolution authoring a refund of overpayment of taxes for Block 190, Lot 18 in the amount of \$699.66
- 2021-126 Resolution authorizing refund of overpayment of taxes Block 57.25, Lot 24 in the amount of \$1,666.88

2021-127 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, URGING THE REPEAL OF SENATE BILL 3454, P.L. 2021, c. 25

Motion to approve - Resolutions 2021-116 through 2021-127:

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.
Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Motion to Approve: Social Affairs permit for the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company for the Corn Hole Tournament Fundraiser on April 24, 2021

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.
Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Next Scheduled Meetings

- **April 1, 2021 – 10:00 am Workshop/Regular Business Meeting
 - April 20, 2021 – 6:00 pm Regular Business Meeting
 - **May 6, 2021 – 10:00 am Workshop/Regular Business Meeting
 - May 18, 2021 – 6:00 pm Regular Business Meeting
- **Can be canceled*

Adjournment

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.
Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date