

# MEETING MINUTES

**TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN  
COUNTY OF OCEAN  
BUSINESS MEETING/WORKSHOP  
January 18, 2022  
6:00 pm**

**Call to Order**

**Flag Salute**

**ROLL CALL: DODD   X   BAULDERSTONE   X   LOPARO   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

### **Swearing In Ceremony**

Mayor LoParo discussed tonight the Township Committee will be swearing in a Full-time Officer and a Sergeant.

#### **Full-Time Patrol Officer, Ocean Township Police Department – Ryan R. North**

The new Full-time Officer is Ryan North. He has been working as a Class II Officer for the Township. Patrolman North interviewed for this position and at the time the Township was only hiring one Officer to fill the ranks of a retirement. Ryan made such an impression on the interview board, the Township decided to hire Ryan and send him to the Police Academy. The Township is proud of their decision to hire Patrolman Ryan North.

Chief Rogalski discussed Patrolman North has been working with our agency as a Class II Officer since May of 2021. Patrolman North is a graduate and a multisport athlete from Southern Regional High School, where he is recognized as an indoor high-jump State Champion. After high school, Patrolman North attended Rutgers University on a track and field scholarship, where he majored in labor studies and minored in organizational leadership.

Patrolman North attended the Camden County Police Academy sponsored by our agency and graduated in May 2021, excelling in academics and physical fitness and finishing in the top half of his class. Patrolman North has proven himself to be reliable, compassionate, dedicated and a forward-thinking officer. We are proud to be able to transition his employment with our agency to full-time status.

Patrolman Ryan R. North is sworn in by Mayor Ben LoParo.

#### **Sergeant Michael D. Matelski, Ocean Township Police Department**

Mayor LoParo discussed the Township undertook the promotion process to fill the position of Sergeant. The position was available with the retirement of Sgt. Jarin. Upon completion of the promotional process, Sgt. Michael Matelski was the candidate chosen. Sgt. Matelski started as a dispatcher in October 2012. He became a Class II Officer in 2013, and a Full-Time Patrol Officer in 2014. The Township Committee and I are very proud of the promotional process and the promotion of Sgt. Michael Matelski.

Chief Rogalski discussed Sgt. Matelski is born and raised in Avenel, New Jersey. He is a 2004 graduate of Kean University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Education. Upon graduation in 2004, Sergeant Matelski was commissioned to the Army Reserve from the Seton Hall ROTC program as an Armor Officer and later transitioned into the Active Duty Component of November of 2004. Following several combat tours of duty with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Iraq, Sgt. Matelski would begin his career in Law Enforcement as a Dispatcher with the Ocean Township Police Department and later graduate from the Monmouth County Police Academy in 2013.

After completing field training, Sgt. Matelski joined the Department's full time ranks, being sworn in as a full-time Police Officer in June 2014. During his tenure with the Department, Sergeant Matelski has served continuously in the Patrol Division, achieving numerous certifications and receiving recognition by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his DWI Enforcement efforts in 2016 and 2019. In 2015, Sgt. Matelski graduated from Webster University in St. Louis with a Masters Degree in Business and Organizational Security Management. He is also a graduate of multiple professional military educational courses, most recently, the Command and General Staff College.

Sgt. Matelski has also been certified as the Department's first drug recognition expert, where he conducts advanced impairment evaluations involving not only alcohol but drugs as well. In addition to his law enforcement duties and responsibilities, Sgt. Matelski continues to serve in the United States Army Reserve, where he was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and is assigned in the 200<sup>th</sup> Military Police Command as the Chief of Plans for the division-sized organization. Congratulations.

Sergeant Michael D. Matelski is sworn in by Mayor Ben LoParo.

Five-minute recess for Officers and Families to take pictures.

### **Committee Reports**

Mayor – Ben LoParo

Resolution 2022-93. This resolution is appointing the Police Chaplins for the year 2022, Pastor Dawn Corlew and Pastor Daniel Ulrich. The Chief of Police has confirmed they have met all of the requirements and recommends the appointment for 2022.

Resolution 2022-95 & 2022-98. These resolutions are to participate in the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office programs regarding the "Move Over" Law Enforcement Program and the Traffic Safety Program, formally known as the Fatal Accident Support Team.

### **Recreation**

There are programs being offered for all ages at the Township's Community Center including:

- Crafty Katie Creative Art Classes for Children Ages 5-10
- Crafty Katie Sewing Class for Children Ages 6-12
- Free Crochet & Knitting Group – All Ages
- Easel on Down Paint Party – Scheduled January 26, 2022, 1pm–3pm. There is a fee.

For more information, please contact Jeanne in Recreation.

Deputy Mayor – Ken Baulderstone

Good evening.

Unfortunately, year two of the pandemic has just concluded and we are still in a situation of much uncertainty and confusion. At the start of 2021, it was expected that vaccines would bring about the end of the pandemic, however, we are experiencing even higher rates of positive cases. In 2020, there were 247 positive cases reported in the Township. In 2021, there were almost 3½ times more cases for a total of 847 with a record of 171 cases in December. Unfortunately, the number of lives lost has grown from 2 in 2020 to a total 20 at the end of 2021 and is now 23. COVID19 has taken 2,404 lives in Ocean County, 27,287 lives in the State and 853,340 American lives. Worldwide the pandemic has so far accounted for 5½ million deaths. It appears to be no doubt that the vaccines have reduced the severity for many and the treatments have saved many lives. What lies ahead is still unclear.

The Founders Day Celebration did not happen again in 2021 due to the pandemic but the fireworks over Barnegat Bay took place to the delight of everyone, with many residents viewing the fireworks from the new Waretown Bayfront Park and Pier, which was completed by the Department of Public Works and has been praised by many residents.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the Department of Public Works staff for their great work with this park and for all the work they have done in providing their services to the residents. Due to the lack of volunteers, it was not possible to hold the Haunted Hayride in 2021. The Township was able to successfully conduct the Holiday Light Spectacular light show around the lake. This initial event was well supported by sponsors and residents, and it is expected that it will become a permanent fixture on the Township calendar. The Department of Public Works did a great job in creating and setting up the displays.

In 2021, we saw the completion of the residential buildings of the Tradewinds project that many residents praise as improving the appearance of Route 9. The commercial buildings are expected to be completed soon. This project will account for a significant increase in the ratable base, favorably impacting the property tax rate for residents.

This year there appeared to be more traffic congestion on Route 9. This may be due to the multiple projects requiring changes in the traffic lanes, including the laying of new gas pipes and the roadway improvements for Tradewinds. There may also be more traffic as motorists try to avoid using the Garden State Parkway due to the repeated toll increases. This issue reinforces the need for the extension of Volunteer Way to connect with Wells Mills Road for Greenbriar Oceanaire residents to get to the Town Center without going on Route 9.

The Township continues to update the water/sewer system. In 2021, there was a project to renovate the Birdsall Street water tower that was not completed as planned. A new contractor is now onsite and completion is expected within the next few weeks. Work will commence on the refurbishment of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Water Tower by the same contractor.

It has been normal for low-lying areas of the Township to take on water during certain storms that in the past year, the Township has seen more extreme high and low tides resulting in more flooding. The Township is exploring new technology to stop sea water backing up the stormwater outfall pipes so that any ponding in the streets is rainwater only and not damaging salt water. Further study is needed to determine actions required to protect the Township from rising sea levels that have been projected by Rutgers University to rise by .8 feet by 2030, 1½ feet by 2050 and 3½ feet by 2100.

I would like to congratulate Michael Matelski on his promotion to Sergeant and Ryan North on his appointment as Patrolman.

Despite the interruptions caused by the pandemic, the Township Committee, Employees, Professionals and Volunteers are continuing to address all the issues to protect the residents and continue to make the Township of Ocean a great place to live.

Resolution 2022-92. This resolution is appointing Anthony Pellegrino to the Economic Development Committee to fill an unexpired term.

Resolution 2022-97. This resolution is for the Birdsall Water Tower Project. This project is again moving forward. Thank you to Township Attorney Chris Dasti and Utility Engineer James Oris for their persistence with the Bond Company to cover the remaining items that need to be completed to put the water tower back online. The contract has been approved by the bond company and awarded to Allied Painting. The work is progressing as the weather allows.

The Township, Remington & Vernick Engineers and Allied Painting Inc. are aware of the incident last week when the wind picked up and caused some paint splatter. The owners of Allied Painting are aware and are handling directly with the property owners. The Township will remain on top of the situation until all areas are cleaned.

2022 New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Municipal Aid Grant. The Township has received a grant award in the amount of \$208,000.00 for the improvements to Marine Road and Bayview Way.

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJCA) Local Recreation Grant Program. The Township submitted a grant application to request a walking trail from Royal Oaks and Railroad Avenue. The Township of Ocean was awarded \$75,000 for the trail.

Department of Public Works. The Township Committee would like to thank the Department of Public Works for their outstanding work they have done keeping the roads clean and safe in the past two storms. Though the weather people are saying these storms are not over, there are more forecasts for this week and probably the following week.

Thank you to the residents for moving their cars and basketball hoops off the roads and staying off the roads during the State of Emergency. This is helpful for everyone out there working, including our first responders, Police, Fire, First Aid and Department of Public Works.

#### Special Events

Holiday House Decorating Contest – 528 Votes were cast.

1<sup>st</sup> Place – 18 Marlin Lane

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 11 Birdsall Street

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 18 Dock Avenue

Thank you to all the homes that participated. Seventeen (17) homes were registered. We all look forward to the homes in next year's contest. Thank you to everyone for voting on their favorite decorated home.

Senior Advisory

The Township was awarded a grant for programs in the amount of \$32,500. This will assist in new programs being offered at the Senior Center, including January 21<sup>st</sup> The Pines Living Community Music and Memory, January 31<sup>st</sup> Home Instead Healthcare at the Reorganization Meeting of the Senior Advisory Committee, Pizza and Bingo 12 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each Month sponsored by Home Instead Health Care RSVP required, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month sponsored by Complete Care at the Havens, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month sponsored by Barnegat Rehab & Nursing Center and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month sponsored by Spring Oaks Assisted Living & Tall Woods.

Thank you.

Mayor LoParo discussed the Volunteer Way Extension will not only benefit the residents of Greenbriar but everybody in Waretown. It will dramatically reduce all the traffic at Route 9 and Wells Mills Road, which was designed in 1920. It is a big burden on the Township. The Township has been working with the County on this road. It is an \$8 million road. It used to be \$3 million. People will be able to get to the Southern end of Lacey quicker. Route 9 and Wells Mills Road will be dramatically improved. A lot of trucks turning onto Wells Mills Road from Route 9 run over that curb. The curb is destroyed.

Committeewoman – Lydia M. Dodd

Thank you for joining us this evening.

December

Zoning Department. 37 applications approved, 6 application pending review and 4 denial applications.

Code Enforcement. 14 Notices of Violation, 5 Second Notices of Violation, 3 properties abated their violations and 0 Property Liens.

Construction. 50 Permits issued, 12 Permit updates, 7 Certificates of Approval issued, 22 Certificates of Approval, 4 Certificates of Occupancy, 2 Notices of Violation–Work without permits, 1 Notice of Violation–Never received final approvals/expired Temporary Certificates of Approvals.

Work has started on the Medical Marijuana business in the Town Center.

Resolution 2022-94. This resolution is accepting the resignation of the Electrical Inspector. The Township has been in contact with Lacey Township to put a Shared Service Agreement in place for this service.

Resolutions 2022-96. A resolution must be completed for refunds of money. The resolution tonight is for a totally disabled Veteran tax exemption.

Thank you.

Mayor LoParo discussed the Wine Festival is sponsored by someone different this year. The Wine Festival has been scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> at the Corliss Park Lake and Recreation Area on Wells Mills Road. Tickets will go on sale in April.

Chief of Police – Chief Michal Rogalski

Chief Rogalski thanked the Township Committee for their continued support, as evident tonight by the promotion of Michael Matelski and the hiring of Ryan North.

Chief Rogalski read the December 2021 Police Report. The Police Department handled 4,167 incidents for police service, 5 abandoned 9-1-1 calls, 16 alarms were activated and responded to, 21 animal complaints, 2,820 business and/or residential checks, 2 criminal mischief acts, 1 disorderly complaint, 11 domestic violence incidents, 16 verbal disputes and/or harassment complaints, 17 disabled vehicles, 1 drunk driving arrest, 2 drug arrests, 110 first aid calls, 43 general complaints, 26 motor vehicle accidents, 126 motor vehicle stops of which 36 summons were issued, 2 juvenile complaints, 4 psychiatric evaluations, 16 persons were arrested on various warrants, 52 suspicious persons and/or vehicles, 2 residential/commercial thefts. A full list of this activity is listed on the website. For 2021, the Police Department handled 48,383 individual incidents.

Chief Rogalski discussed the Body Camera program should be up and running between February 9<sup>th</sup> and February 14<sup>th</sup> and will be in line with the new Attorney General's Policy pertaining to body cameras.

Chief Rogalski discussed on the morning of December 27<sup>th</sup>, Lt. Murphy, Dispatch Supervisor Van Pelt and myself went through the onsite phase of the accreditation process for communications. Captain Thomas Reinholt of Evesham Police Department, who is representing the New Jersey State Chief's Association, was the Assessor. After a virtual visit of the agency, Captain Reinholt recommended our agency for Communications Accreditation.

On March 10, 2022, I will have to testify in front of an Accreditation panel for final approval. Once approved, the Ocean Township Police Department will be the 4<sup>th</sup> and smallest agency in the State of New Jersey to receive Communications Accreditation. This is also our third year after a department-wide accreditation, which was achieved in October 2019. The Township is up for reaccreditation at the end of this year and is up to date on all of our policies and all the proofs that we need to show.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Motion to open Public Comment** was moved by Committeewoman Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Baulderstone.

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

Joe Fabozzi, 99 Bay Parkway, discussed the storm drains work. The wind turbine company is going to tear up Bay Parkway and make the storm drains not work and inquired if the Township will hold the wind turbine company accountable.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed Bay Parkway is a County road. The Township is in touch with Ocean County Engineer John Ernst. It has not been determined where the wind turbine company will come on land.

Mr. Fabozzi discussed a gentleman named Mike Bucci, who lives at the Southeast corner of Walnut and Maple Streets, has children in wheelchairs that have to go through puddles to get to the school bus.

Mr. Fabozzi discussed the Mount Laurel Mandate and requested Township Attorney Dasti sue the Fair Share Housing Center and the State of New Jersey in Federal Court for the regulatory taking of private property. The compensation can be used for Volunteer Way.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed the Township appreciates Mr. Fabozzi's comments. In terms of the Mount Laurel Mandate, there is a long list of people that will agree that it is unfair, however, that is the law in New Jersey.

Mr. Fabozzi discussed Apex, North Carolina allows Veterans to pay \$100 to put their name and service on the paver and inquired if the Township is allowing that at the new Veterans Memorial Park.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the park is not set up for pavers. The Township is allowing residents to donate benches. The Township received its first bench donation for Veterans Park just the other day.

Mr. Fabozzi inquired if there is more crime in Tradewinds and Cornerstone than the rest of the town and inquired if a permanent substation can be placed there.

Chief Rogalski discussed the Township is not large enough for two Police Departments. The response time is well under one minute to any call in the Township. There is not any particular location in town that has more crime than another part. The biggest amount of calls at Tradewinds is a stuck elevator.

Mr. Fabozzi inquired if the car stolen from CVS was buying drugs.

Chief Rogalski discussed the stolen car from CVS is a gang of juveniles from Point Pleasant who have been stealing cars from CVS, Wawa and Walgreens Stores that are left running and unattended. It has nothing to do with purchasing drugs. It has nothing to do with Waretown other than we have a location right off the Parkway.

A gang from up North was targeting high-end cars on Long Beach Island, Stafford and Barnegat. Little Egg Township's car theft is out of control. Two months ago at the Lacey Township Wawa next to the Police Department, a running vehicle was stolen. It is a bunch of juveniles that get driven up here in one car, two people get out and into the car that is left unlocked and running and go right back to Point Pleasant. A car crashed on Exit 52, all four individuals took off running. The State Police arrested the four of them and charged them with auto theft, based on video surveillance. It has nothing to do with drugs.

You will not find a single town in the State of New Jersey that has zero crime. If Mr. Fabozzi wants to discuss particular areas of town that have crime, he can call my office or email me.

**Motion to close Public Comment** was moved by Deputy Mayor Boulderstone, seconded by Committeewoman Dodd.

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

**Resolution 2022- 90** Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$2,876,069.21  
Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Baulderstone, seconded by Committeewoman Dodd.  
Roll Call: Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: 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.**

- 2022-91 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing release of escrow money held for traffic control in the name of Buckley Cable Construction Company in the amount \$882.42
- 2022-92 Resolution appointing Anthony J. Pellegrino to the Economic Development Committee finishing the unexpired term of Spenser Hondros
- 2022-93 Resolution appointing Police Chaplains for a one-year term are Pastor Dawn Corlew and Pastor Daniel Ulrich
- 2022-94 Resolution accepting the resignation of Carl G. Voss III as Part-Time Electrical Inspector for the Township of Ocean
- 2022-95 A Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Execution of Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 ET. seq., for the Prosecutor's Program – "Move Over" Law Enforcement Program
- 2022-96 Resolution authorizing to cancel charge for totally disabled Veteran's tax exemption for Block 87, Lot 35 with a refund amount of \$857.15
- 2022-97 Resolution authorizing Remington & Vernick Engineers for an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for additional professional services regarding the Birdsall Street Hydropillar Rehabilitation and Repairs
- 2022-98 A Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Execution of Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 ET. seq., for the Prosecutor's Program – traffic safety program (formally known as the Fatal Accident Support Team)

### **Motion to approve Resolutions 2022-91 through 2022-98**

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

### **Motion to approve the below listed dates in 2022 for the use of the Community Center, Corliss Park Lake and Recreation Area, Toumey Park, and Ballfield:**

Diane Ambrosio – January 15, 2022

Recreation Program - Manga & Comic Book Drawing Classes – Age 12-16 Thursdays 530–7pm

Recreation – Senior Advisory Speaker Program – Jan 21, 2022 at 9:30 am

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



**Motion to approve: Secondhand Dealer License Application for 2022**

Game Stop #6265

Waretown Stamp and Coin

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Baulderstone, seconded by Committeewoman Dodd.

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

Mayor LoParo inquired what, specifically, does the Township have to do to get the Volunteer Way Extension built.

Jason Worth, Township Engineer, discussed there are changes to the snake tunnels that are required. There are some stormwater management upgrades or updates that will need to be made, due to a change in regulations. The Township needs to prove the need for the road. The need as presented in 2010 when the permit was first issued, was not viewed the same way by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) two years ago. I am sure the Power Plant played a greater role at that time.

Jim Oris, Township Engineer, discussed emergency access and evacuation route was a part of that. The increase in population on Route 9, in terms of traffic needs, would be valid reason. The Township could do an alternative study, a no-build and alternatives like building Volunteer Way or improving other roads that could improve traffic. There is a traffic evaluation that needs to be dusted off and resubmitted.

Mr. Worth discussed two years ago the traffic evaluation was reviewed for Waretown Plaza, Tradewinds and the Cornerstone sites.

Committeewoman Dodd inquired if the traffic study had the strip across the road counting the cars.

Mr. Oris discussed, yes, a traffic count is a part of it. The biggest challenge is the environmental considerations with regards to threatened and endangered species, for example the pine snake and the tree frog. Pine snakes are really what is driving the cost of the road up because of the elevation and the tunnels. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will want additional studies because they like the data and they now have mitigation measures that they are requiring with every application. The Volunteer Way Permit required snake habitat mitigation on Township home property near the Fire Academy. That is no longer enough anymore. The NJDEP will want mitigation and a pine snake credit bank. NJDEP not only requires developers to provide mitigation but also buy snake credits.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the last time the Township met with the NJDEP they were clear that it needs to be a brand new permit.

Mr. Worth discussed he will reconfirm and outline the scope of work and let the Township know what needs to be done before applying for the permit.

Mr. Oris discussed from the Federal Government you can expect that shovel-ready projects will require design and permitting. It will take 18 months to get a permit approved. The snakes have to be studied late Summer or as you head into the Fall season.

Mr. Worth discussed a manhole like structure is required in the tunnels, to allow sunlight to go down to the bottom of the tunnel so that it encourages the snakes. That is why the road has to be elevated with a flat, bulkhead retaining wall. There is a lot of concern for the snakes.

Mr. Worth discussed he will take a look, see what the Township needs to do and game plan what a pre-application meeting would look like with the NJDEP.

Mr. Oris suggested the Township leverage the leadership of the Office of Planning Advocacy. The Township of Ocean is an endorsed town. There are benefits for being an endorsed town. Volunteer Way was always a part of the Planning Implementation Action Item List.

Deputy Mayor Baulderstone discussed the new Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection has said that towns shouldn't just apply. They should have these pre-meetings as much as possible with the NJDEP so when the application is submitted it has already been considered.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township has had many pre-meetings with NJDEP.

Next Scheduled Business Meetings

February 3, 2022 – 10:00 am

February 15, 2022 – 6:00 pm

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting was moved by Committeewoman Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Baulderstone.

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

Signed and Submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date