

MEETING MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
BUSINESS MEETING/WORKSHOP
March 10, 2022
10:00 am

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

Committee Discussion

#1. EMS Services

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed this meeting was called to discuss the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the Township. Attached to your regular packet is a letter from Quality Medical Transport stating they are no longer going to service our area and a memo from the First Aid Captain, Jason Dougherty, stating they are not going to be able to cover days.

Township Administrator, Clerk Ambrosio discussed at Captain Dougherty's request, she has reached out to Hackensack Meridian Ambulance Service and another organization, who stated they do not cover our area and referred me back to Hackensack Meridian. Hackensack Meridian Ambulance Service and Quality Medical Transport both stated this is a problem for many towns.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she asked Chief of Police Rogalski to reach out to Ocean County Sheriff Mastronardy to see if the County could assist. At this time, the County does not have any way to assist the Township but it is something the Sheriff is open to reviewing.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she will prepare a letter to send to Ocean County Commissioners Haines and Quinn to see if they can assist the Township. Commissioner Quinn is in charge of Law and Public Safety this year.

The Township could advertise a Request for Proposals for Emergency Medical Services during the day to see if a company responds. There are days that Quality Medical Transport is not in town and the Township is relying on mutual aid or they are only in town for a few hours. It is very sporadic, if and when they come.

Chief Rogalski discussed mutual aid came from Stafford and Lacey Townships the other day.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed Stafford and Lacey are having their own problems staffing their First Aid Departments.

Chief Rogalski discussed every single day, in the afternoon, he will receive a text message if Quality Medical Transport is not able to cover for the day or partially for the day. That message is relayed to the First Aid Squad so they can send that out to their membership to find coverage. It is not the most successful as they just don't have the members during the day. The Police Officers are advised that mutual aid might be a little longer. That is obviously not an answer for the Township but it is the best we can do right now due to the shortages that every town is facing. Chief Rogalski also texts Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio to let her know Quality Medical Transport's availability.

Mayor LoParo inquired about regionalization with another Township.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed speaking to the Little Egg Harbor Township Administrator and they are having issues staffing their regionalization. This is a large issue throughout the State of New Jersey.

Chief Rogalski discussed the regionalization would encompass Quality Medical Transport, as Quality has taken over Barnegat. The regionalization is not a different company or different first aid squad. It is Quality.

Mayor LoParo inquired if the Township would be liable for anything.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed, no. The Township has mutual agreements with other towns and a volunteer organization in town. The Township is not obligated to hire anyone privately either.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township should put out a Request for Proposals for two weeks. It is the first resolution on the agenda. It does not obligate the Township.

Deputy Mayor Boulderstone discussed looking at the numbers, you can certainly see the volunteer organization has done a great job. There is a possible action the State is taking relative to providing a tax incentive for members of the volunteer organization.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the 9th Legislative District has introduced legislation for a tax credit. The First Aid did ask if the Township could assist in a promotion to obtain additional volunteers. The Township will send out membership information in a Township Email and post on Facebook.

#2. Cannabis

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed Jason Worth, Township Engineer, has put together the cannabis overlay zone for the manufacturing and distribution of cannabis. Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she pulled ordinances from different towns. Redington has the largest manufacturing and distribution area and charges \$10,000 for the first license and \$5,000 for a license each year. Applicants still have to satisfy State requirements. Another town charges \$5,000 for the first one and \$2,500 for each additional year.

Deputy Mayor Boulderstone requested Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio continue to obtain information.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed Asbury Park has just rewritten their cannabis ordinance and she will check some of the other towns around here.

Deputy Mayor Baulderstone inquired why the ordinance talks about farmland soil preservation.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed Township Engineer Worth is reaching out to his planner about that. That is more in terms of putting the warehouse or structure on a piece of property and the soil has to be removed. Township Attorney Dasti discussed he read the ordinance to mean as it pertains to a soil disturbance permit.

Deputy Mayor Baulderstone discussed the ordinance does not make it clear that it is going to be interior growing and not exterior and inquired if the zoning can be written, even though we have not heard back from the Pinelands Commission.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed the Pineland Commission distributes model ordinances the Townships have to pass. The ordinance will always be subject to outside agency requirements such as the Pinelands Commission or Department of Environmental Protection.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed it has to be in an industrial zone or an overlay cannabis zone and inquired if the Township wants to overlay the Pinelands as a cannabis zone.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed he will talk to the planner about that.

#3. Budget Items

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she received budget requests from the different Township Departments on Tuesday and since the Township Committee is just receiving the requests now, they can review them and speak to her individually at a later date.

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

Sean Gallagher, 14 Oak Leaf Drive, discussed the zoning changes in town. It's a two-acre zone now and if he wanted to put a garage up, he needs an 80 foot setback. He would have to do a variance. He is more than willing to conform to all the rules and regulations but does not have the property to do a garage. Mr. Gallagher requested the Township Committee assist with the variance. The young lady in the Construction office is combative and not helpful. Mr. Gallagher inquired if there is an exception to the zoning laws.

Township Attorney Dasti inquired if Mr. Gallagher has a pending application with the Zoning Board.

Mr. Gallagher discussed, no.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed he will give Mr. Gallagher his contact information and speak to him about it at a later date. The Township cannot give legal advise on how to get a variance but can point you in the right direction in terms of the zoning.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she will look into the matter for Mr. Gallagher and have Township Attorney Dasti or herself contact him.

Mr. Gallagher discussed he liked the Township's ideas for emergency medical services. The First Aid Squad could work with the vocational school to offer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes.

Chief Rogalski discussed he serves on the Vocational School Advisory Board for the Law & Public Safety Program and has requested EMT training be part of the curriculum. Unfortunately, the amount of hours that has to be documented for EMT training is not something that they are able to do during their school hours. First Responder training is available but not EMT Certified training. There is a fund from the State that covers the \$1,800 that it costs to go to EMT school, if you volunteer for the First Aid Squad. Manchester Township has a paid EMS service that pays people pretty good and they still can't find people to serve.

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

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

Resolution 2022- 114

Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing request for Proposals for Provision of Basic Life Support/Emergency Medical Services
Motion to approve Resolution 2022-114 was moved by Deputy Mayor Baulderstone, seconded by Committeewoman Dodd.

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

Resolution 2022- 115

Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing new signature cards for all Township Bank Accounts

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-115 was moved by Committeewoman Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Baulderstone.

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

Resolution 2022-116

Resolution authorizing Jason Worth and Diane B. Ambrosio be the Alternate Representatives to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for the year 2022.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-116 was moved by Committeewoman Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Baulderstone.

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

Resolution 2021-117

Resolution authorizing the Township Committee to go into Executive Session for the reasons: personnel matters and contracts

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-117 was moved by Committeewoman Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Baulderstone.

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

Committeewoman Dodd discussed the Township could help with the advertising for volunteers to train for emergency medical services.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed Waretown First Aid Squad Treasurer, Mike Kane, is looking into a professional recruiting company.

Mayor LoParo inquired if the Fire Department can be included in that.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she will speak to the Chief of the Fire Department.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed a letter can be sent to the Ocean County College nursing program.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed recruits do not have to live in town for First Aid. Recruits cannot be part of our Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).

Chief Rogalski discussed he was part of a First Aid Squad for many years and served alongside of the volunteers with the Police Department. Usually people who come from another town have a discrepancy with that town and are looking for a new home.

John Signorelli, Waretown First Aid Squad, discussed the membership dipped with COVID. Hopefully membership will improve.

Chief Rogalski discussed the target population for daytime volunteering is the population that is most vulnerable to potential illnesses and infectious diseases.

Deputy Mayor Baulderstone inquired if EMS volunteering is appropriate for a person who is over 55.

Chief Rogalski discussed absolutely. People over 55 are extremely active. The First Aid Squad has made many modifications. They have automatic stretchers that lift up and down. They have an automated CPR machine.

Mr. Signorelli discussed there are two positions in the squad where you are a qualified driver and never touch a patient. The EMT qualification is a six-month course. It is two or three nights a week, four hours each night.

Chief Rogalski inquired what are the requirements for an ambulance to leave.

Mr. Signorelli discussed a driver and an EMT is required for volunteers.

Deputy Mayor Baulderstone discussed advertising that people over 55 years old are welcome or a presentation could be given at the Greenbriar Board meeting.

Chief Rogalski discussed putting message boards at the front and back of Greenbriar stating "EMT Volunteers Needed".

Mr. Signorelli discussed it is one night a week, 6pm-6am. The more people who volunteer, the more shifts could be split. Presently, only a driver is needed, which is qualified internally. Then the recruit will go to the academy. Mr. Signorelli would like to put a sign on Route 9 on the Wawa property.

Chief Rogalski requested Mr. Signorelli email him about posting on Police flashing signs.

Mayor LoParo inquired if the left turn from Route 9 onto Memorial Drive could be prohibited. There are people making a left out of Tradewinds.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed that is a State road. It is illegal to make a left out of the Tradewinds main entrance.

Chief Rogalski discussed he will put a patrol car in the area.

Adjournment

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

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

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date