

**PILESGROVE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2007
MINUTES**

Mayor Ernie Bickford called the regular meeting of the Pilesgrove Township Committee to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk read the annual notice statement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings law. This meeting of January 9, 2007 was included in a list of meetings notice sent to the Today's Sunbeam and the Elmer Times on January 3, 2007, posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building on January 3, 2007 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Bickford advised that proper notice having been given; the Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

Attendance: Ernest Bickford
Edward Kille
William Miller
William L. Horner
Ruth Moynihan

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Bickford to approve the minutes of the December 5, 12 (am) 12 (pm), 19 and 29, 2006 meetings. Ayes Bickford and Kille, Miller abstained.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-002, appointment of Township Employees. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-003, appointment of certain employees of the Township of Pilesgrove. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-004, authorizing a petty cash fund for the Treasurer's office. Ayes all.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to approve Resolution 07-005, fixing rate of interest on delinquent taxes. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-006, establishing a cash management plan for the Township of Pilesgrove. Ayes Miller and Kille, Bickford abstained.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-007, Pay-to-Play procedures for 2007 contracts. Ayes all.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to approve Resolution 07-008, awarding contracts for professional services. Ayes all.

Motion made by Bickford, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-009, appointing Tri-County Insurors, a Division of Bollinger, Inc. the 2007 Risk Management Consultant for Pilesgrove Township. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve 2007 Risk Management Consultant Agreement with Tri-County Insurors. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-010, Temporary budget for 2007. Ayes all.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to approve Resolution 07-011, appointing a liaison for the "Local Update of Census Addresses" program as required by the United States Census Bureau. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-012, authorizing the acceptance of a proposal from Land Engineering, LLC for a survey of the Byrnes farm. Certificate of availability of funds by the CFO attached. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-013, establishing the amount of payment in lieu of benefits amount for 2007. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-014, a transfer resolution. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the renewal of the Annual Maintenance Agreement on the Township telephone/voice mail equipment for one year at a cost of \$995.00. Ayes all.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to approve the 2007 Holiday schedule for Pilesgrove Township. Ayes all.

Discussion took place on the approval of the contract with Ron's Animal Shelter for sheltering stray animals. Mayor Bickford asked the Clerk if the Township receives a report of the actual number of animals that are taken to the shelter. The Clerk advised that the facility operator and the Animal Control Officer have been asked for the information, but it has not been provided. The difficulty is that there is no other facility that will take the animals. The Mayor suggested the Township hold payment until the report is received, and the Clerk and Finance Officer advised that the facility then refuses to take in animals. Mr. Horner suggested that Committee move on to other business while he reviews the contract in detail.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to table the contract at this point. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to table the approval of the contract with Edmund H. Shimp, Jr. for animal control services until the contract is received. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the bill list as submitted by the Treasurer. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the Tax Collectors report for December 2006. Ayes all.

Mr. Horner asked Committee to reopen the discussion on the contract with Ron's Animal Shelter. Mr. Horner recommended that language be added to the contract that stipulated that the monthly payment will not be made by the Township unless a report for the previous month has been received. The Clerk advised that the facility will not take animals if the payment is not made. Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the contract with the stipulation that the Township received a report for 2006 and monthly reports for the year 2007. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the cost of mailing the January 2007 newsletter in an amount not to exceed \$525.00. Ayes all. The Clerk advised that the newsletter contains notice to the residents of a drop box at the rear of the Municipal Building for tax payments, etc. Discussion ensued with regard to the box, Mayor Bickford strongly urged residents not to put cash in the drop box.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to approve the revised Application for Certificate of Occupancy and Zoning Permit as submitted by the Township Zoning Official. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the recommendation of Court Administrator Maureen L. Belum, per her memo dated January 4, 2007, to extend the probationary period of the Deputy Court Administrator for 60 days. Ayes all.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to open the meeting to the public.

Resident Sam Locuson inquired on the status of the traffic light at the intersection of East Lake Road and Route 40. Mayor Bickford explained that NJ DOT did not include the overhead power lines in the original engineering, and so the entire project must be re-engineered to accommodate the power lines.

Resident Cheryl Reardon inquired if a camera monitors the location of the new after hours drop box that has been installed on the rear of the Municipal Building. The Clerk advised no, and the Mayor asked that the installation of a camera be investigated. Ms. Reardon also inquired on the possibility of the Township adopting a "big box" ordinance, addressing the issue of field tiles and advised that the Dupont VX project will not be coming to Salem County. Mr. Horner advised that the Township can limit the size of commercial structures, but cannot target specific store or developer, and this would have to be referred to Planning Board for review. Mayor Bickford advised that field tiles are being added to the Planning Board checklists.

Resident Cheri Pettit read a prepared statement regarding agriculture in the Township, the recent tax assessment revaluation and the Township Agricultural Advisory Committee. Mayor Bickford advised that he was not prepared to address these issues at this meeting, and asked if she would provide a copy of the statement, so Committee could review her concerns and comment. Ms. Pettit advised she would provide a copy.

There being no further public comment, motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to close the public comment portion of the meeting.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Bickford to approve the resolution authorizing a closed session to discuss matters in accordance with N.J.S.A.10: 4-12. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to reopen the meeting to the public.

There being no further business motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Ayes all.

Maureen R. Abdill, Clerk