

**PILESGROVE TOWNSHIP
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2007
MINUTES**

The Clerk called the special reorganization meeting of the Township Committee of Pilesgrove Township to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk certified that proper notice of this meeting has been advertised in accordance with the New Jersey Sunshine Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-5 to 10:4-21.

The following were in attendance:

Ernest Bickford
Edward Kille
William L. Horner
Ruth Moynihan

Committeeman elect William Miller was sworn in by Congressman Frank Lobiondo.

Motion by Ed Kille, 2nd by Bill Miller to nominate Ernest A. Bickford for Mayor. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Bickford was sworn in by the Clerk.

Clerk asked for nominations for Deputy Mayor. Motion by Bickford, 2nd by Miller to nominate Edward Kille as Deputy Mayor. Motion passed unanimously. Deputy Mayor Kille was sworn in by the Clerk.

The Clerk turned the meeting over to Mayor Bickford.

Mayor Bickford advised those in attendance that this year's reorganization meeting was being conducted differently than in the past. To give Committeeman Miller an opportunity to review the various appointments and resolutions, those items that traditionally have been done at the reorganization meeting will be done at the regular Township meeting on January 9.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-001, annual meeting notice for Township Committee meetings for the year 2007. Ayes all.

Mayor Bickford advised that as Mayor, he would like to comment on projects in the Township. Mayor Bickford recognized former Committeeman Bruce Bobbitt and thanked Mr. Bobbitt for his service to the Township. Mr. Bobbitt asked to make a comment, and congratulated Mr. Miller on his election campaign and wished him well as Committeeman.

Mayor Bickford recapped some of the projects in the Township in the year 2006:

- the purchase of the "Musemeci property" for a proposed school site and expansion of the Marlton Park.
- the purchase of the Bader property at Bailey's Corner for the Township affordable housing project. This location in the Township, from the Corner Bar to the Township line with the Borough, has been designated by the State as "an area in need of redevelopment", which offers tax incentives and other options to the property owners to be involved in the project.
- the recently completed Township wide tax assessment revaluation
- the renovations to the Municipal Building

Mayor Bickford also commented on the status of land use in the Township. There are 3 major subdivisions that have been approved by the Planning Board, with approximately 120 units, but these projects have not moved to the construction phase. The property known as the Harris homestead that includes East Lake has been purchased by the State and turned over to the Division of Fish and Wildlife to be maintained as a natural wildlife area.

In addition, the Mayor commented on the Township farmland preservation program. He advised that the Township has in place the \$.03 dedicated tax to finance the program. The Sod farm has been preserved directly by the State, and the Byrnes and Ostrum farms are next to be done. Some legal details must be worked out before the paperwork is forwarded to the State.

The Township is working with the Borough of Woodstown regarding the State's Smart Growth designation and will be attending an upcoming meeting with the State and the Borough.

The Township is participating in meetings being conducted by the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Business Association, which has experienced revitalization.

Deputy Mayor Kille commented that the Township is working with the State to establish a park area at the East Lake road location for use by the public.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to open the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Resident Bill Stoms, Jr. inquired on the progress of Woodstown toward satisfying their COAH obligations and whether the Township is working with the Borough. Mayor Bickford advised that the Borough is negotiating with the owner of the Hillcrest Apartments to purchase a piece of property that is in the Borough and adjacent to the Township property that will be used for our affordable housing. The Borough is in contact with the Township developer to build additional units for their COAH requirements.

Resident Cheryl Reardon thanked Committee for their ongoing hard work and welcomed Mr. Miller. Ms. Reardon thanked Committee and the Township Planning Board for their efforts regarding land use in the Township. Ms. Reardon asked Freeholder Bobbitt to continue to work on Pilesgrove's behalf, especially considering the recent report issued by the Morris Land Conservancy that contained some comments that should concern Pilesgrove. Ms. Reardon inquired on the status of the offer made to the bank that owns the Red Bird Egg Farm. Mayor Bickford advised that the Township had not received any additional information. Ms. Reardon reminded the Mayor that the Tomarchio farm on Point Airy Road had also been preserved in 2006.

Mayor Bickford advised that he wanted to clarify that the Township is not against development – the Township wants to control growth and development in the Township. Because of the softening of the real estate market, the Township is currently getting a break in the pressure. Recently, many of the surrounding municipalities are also feeling the same pressures.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Mayor Bickford explained that even though no 2007 appointments have been made, the employees and professionals are still on staff for the Township. The Clerk, CFO and Solicitor explained the statutes pertaining to the employment status of the Township employees and professionals.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Ayes all.

Maureen R. Abdill, Clerk