

February 27, 2007
Pilesgrove Township
Work Session
Minutes

Mayor Bickford called the work session meeting of the Pilesgrove Township Committee to order at 10:00 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bickford stated that the meeting was in compliance with the New Jersey Sunshine, and the Clerk read the annual notice:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings law. This meeting of February 27, 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: Ernie Bickford
 Ed Kille
 William Miller
 Ruth Moynihan, CFO
 David Rollison, RMA
 John Ober

Mr. Ober updated Committee on the Township farmland preservation program. The legalities on the Ostrum parcel have been resolved, and this farm can now move toward settlement. Discussion took place on the final details needed: final survey, title search, patriot search and certification of funds by the Township. Discussion also included the language necessary for the preservation easement. Because some of the funding is being provided by a Federal agency, there are additional language requirements beyond the standard State language. Detailed discussion took place on the certification of funds, which Mr. Rollison feels should include the approximate amount of any reimbursement(s) from other agencies.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the following certification of funds for the Ostrum farm:

As required by N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-57, N.J.A.C 5:30-14.5 and any other applicable requirements, I, Ruth A. Moynihan, Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Pilesgrove, have ascertained that there are available sufficient funds in Ordinance 05-06, Farmland Open Space to purchase the preservation easement of the Ostrum property, Block 26, Lot 1, Block 21, Lot 6.02 in the amount of approximately \$700,000.00 made payable to (insert name of appropriate agency or individual(s)) to be reduced by anticipated reimbursement of approximately \$521,000.00 from the New Jersey Conservancy Fund. Settlement on this property will not take place unless the Township has obtained written confirmation from the New Jersey Conservancy Fund of their commitment of funds.

Ruth A. Moynihan, CFO

Ayes all.

Mr. Rollison presented Committee with the most recent budget information for the 2007 Municipal Budget. The budget presentation included all of the capital projects and any line item increases that had been discussed at previous meetings. This proposed budget will have significant impact on the Township surplus. Decision was made to eliminate several of the capital expenses, and to reduce line items to 2006 amounts. Mr. Rollison will rework the figures and present to Committee at the March 6, 2007 work session meeting.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the 2007 Municipal Safety Contract with the Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland Joint Insurance Fund. Ayes all.

Discussion took place regarding a possible revision to the Township Personnel Policy to include sick days. The Administrator was directed to investigate the number of days required for an employee to become eligible for State disability, to tie that number into the Personnel Policy.

Discussion took place on proposal received from Cumberland County Society to Protect Animals regarding animal shelter services. Proposal is less expensive than that of Ron's Animal Shelter with improved reporting requirements. Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the cancellation of the Township contract with Ron's Animal Shelter and to approve the contract with the CCSPCA in the amount of \$500.00 per month, with an annual maximum of \$7,000. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the payment of \$1,069.17 to the US Postal Services for postage for the Township meter. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the request of the Township Tax Assessor for the services of real estate appraiser Peter Meehan for the appraisal of Block 2.07, Lot 3 in the amount of \$400.00. This appraisal is needed for a tax appeal. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to deny the request of the Reliance Fire Company to conduct various training sequences in the Township owned property at Block 63, lot 1. The Clerk was directed to inquire on the availability of the County facility for this type of drill, when the Fire Company would be for holding the training and how the timing coordinates with the pending demolition of the building. Ayes all.

Discussion on the Township farmland/open space program. Draft letter to the Salem County Planning Board regarding the process used for the most recent update to the County Farmland Plan was discussed. Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller that the Township Committee will not execute the letter to the County Planning Board regarding the process, the letter should come from the Township Planning Board. Ayes all. Township Agricultural Advisory Committee was discussed, Mr. Kille advised that a meeting is scheduled for March 28, and he will advise the membership of Township Committee's recommendations regarding the mission of the Ag Ad Committee.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to appoint Maureen R. Abdill as the Municipal Housing Liaison for COAH. Ayes all.

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

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to adjourn at 12:45 PM. Ayes all.

Maureen R. Abdill, Clerk