

**November 27, 2007**  
**Pilesgrove Township**  
**Work Session**  
**Minutes**

Mayor Bickford called the work session meeting of the Pilesgrove Township Committee to order at 9:00 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bickford stated that the meeting was in compliance with the New Jersey Sunshine law, and the Clerk read the annual notice:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings law. This meeting of November 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

Resident Elwood Robinson addressed Committee to ask that they consider his request to extend his disabled veteran tax exemption on his residence at 460 Route 45 to apply to his total 2007 tax bill. The Clerk explained that per the Township Tax Collector, the statute that covers this matter provides that if the exemption is approved, the applicant is tax exempt from the date of the application. In Mr. Robinson's case, that date is October 23, 2007. The statute further provides that the governing body of the municipality may, by resolution, return all taxes collected on the property which would have been exempt. Committee inquired on the delay in applying to the Township, as the exemption was approved by the Veterans Administration in 2005. Mr. Robinson explained that there was an appeal process, and he wanted to be sure that he was exempt before applying to the Township. Mayor Bickford advised that the Township has several similar situations, and the property owners have historically been exempt from the date of application to the Township. Mayor Bickford thanked Mr. Robinson for his service and understood the request, but advised that the Township would continue to grant these requests per the previous procedure.

Motion made by Kille, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Miller to approve Resolution 07-110, canceling taxed for a disabled veteran. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Miller to approve the payment of invoices for William L. Horner in the amount of \$17,193.00 and Parker McCay in the amount of \$2,510.00. Ayes all.

Update on the Township Farmland Preservation Program: The Clerk advised that the State of New Jersey Agriculture Advisory Committee has approved the preservation of the Byrnes farm, the Township will be working with the County to try to go to settlement by the end of the year.

Mr. Kille advised that he will follow up with County Administrator Earl Gage to meet to discuss the re-allocation of the Federal funds that have become available on the Ostrum and Byrnes farms. Mr. Kille also advised that Township Planner Chris Warren prepared comments on the County PIG application, which was approved by both the Township Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Township Planning Board. The letter has been forwarded to the County Planner. The County has also commented on the Township PIG application. In both cases, the applicant is not required to incorporate the comments into their plan; the comments must accompany the application to the State.

Mr. Kille also advised that the County Ag Development Board is meeting on November 28 to discuss the County application, and the Township has been asked to attend.

The Clerk updated Committee on the status of the ongoing construction issues at the Four Seasons Campground. Rather than set a date for compliance, the Clerk was directed to schedule a meeting with the owners of the campground, the Township Construction Code Official and Committee to discuss the matter.

The Clerk presented Committee with a request from the Court Administrator to close the Court offices on Friday, December 14 from noon – 3 pm for a judiciary meeting and holiday celebration. Motion made by Kille, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Miller to approve the request, with the stipulation that the Court Administrator post notice well in advance to notify customers that the office will be closed that afternoon. Ayes all.

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

Resident Cheryl Reardon inquired on the County Ag Meeting on November 28. Mr. Kille advised that this is the second meeting on the County PIG application, and municipalities with farms in the County plan have been notified of the meeting. Ms. Reardon inquired if there has been any discussion on alternatives to the County plan to use IPA's (installment payment arrangements) for their portion of the funding for preservation. Ms. Reardon advised that the New Jersey Conservation Foundation is willing to do 15 years on the smaller farms, and want to be sure that the smaller farms are eligible.

Ms. Reardon requested that the Township consider a letter to the participating non-profit groups thanking them for participation in the preservation of the Caltabiano farm on Lincoln Road. Mr. Kille advised that the Township can do a resolution to that effect.

Ms. Reardon inquired on the Four Seasons Campground issue – what happens to those tenants who got permits? Mr. Kille advised that there should have been no construction permits issued for any permanent structures. Part of the problem is that some tenants that obtain permission from the campground consider that a construction permit, which it is not, and structures with a construction permit, such as screened porches, have been altered into full rooms with siding, windows and electric.

Resident Phyllis Sauler asked who will be invited to the meeting with the campground, and the Mayor advised that it would be the owner and his representatives, the Township Construction Code Official and Township Committee.

Resident Elwood Robinson thanked Committee for addressing the campground issue.

There being no further public comment, motion made by Kille, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Miller to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bickford to adjourn at 9:50 A.M.

Maureen R. Abdill, Clerk