

December 4, 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 December 4, 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
William L. Horner, Esq.
Allan E. Richardson, Esq.
James R. Birchmeier, Esq.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to go into closed session to discuss matters in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, specifically pending litigation in the matter of Pacilli v. Pilesgrove. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to reopen the meeting to the public. Ayes all. Mr. Birchmeier and Mr. Richardson left the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the ongoing negotiations with the County on the re-allocation of funds on the Ostrum and Byrnes farms. The Clerk was directed to obtain input from the Township Auditor on the issue.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-114, Urging the Legislature to preserve Regional Contribution Agreements as a technique to address the need for affordable housing. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 07-115, Transferring funds. Ayes all.

Township Planning Board Solicitor John Hoffman entered the meeting. Residents Eileen Coombs, Bruce Coombs and Ben Sorbello addressed Committee with regard to the professional fees that are being charged for applications to the Planning Board for minor subdivisions. These residents feel that the charges are too high, and feel that they are being charged more than once for the same work. They requested that the charges be reviewed. Mr. Horner advised that the residents have the right to appeal the charges through the County Construction Board of Appeals, but that a remediation attempt should be made with the Township and the Professionals involved prior to filing the appeal with the County. Mr. Horner stressed to the residents that there are strict timelines for the appeal process, and they should consult with an attorney for advice on the procedures.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to go into closed session to discuss matters in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, specifically pending litigation in the matter of Costill v. Pilesgrove. Ayes all.

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

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to authorize Mr. Horner to draft an ordinance for consideration by the Township Committee to eliminate the requirement for a conservation easement in the CONS zone as part of the development approval. 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 11:55 P.M. Ayes all.

Maureen R. Abdill, Clerk