

February 12, 2008
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 February 12, 2008 was included in a list of meetings notice sent to the Today's Sunbeam and the Elmer Times on January 5, 2008, posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building on January 5, 2008 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
Michael M. Mulligan, Esq.
Ruth Moynihan, CFO
Russell English, Sup't, DPW

Mr. English and Ms. Moynihan discussed with Committee the options available to the Township with regard to the award of \$100,000 from the NJ DOT 2008 Municipal Aid Program. The Township application was for phase I of Harrisonville Lake Road. The Township Engineer's estimate to complete phase I is \$212,000.00. The Township must decide whether to add to the grant to complete phase I or to use the funds received from the State and complete as much of the road as possible. There are some components of the application (repair of a head wall, etc) that may not be necessary, but it is not clear if reducing the scope of the project will be an issue with the State funding. Mr. English will meet with the Township Engineer to discuss these issues and resolve any other questions. Mr. English and Ms. Moynihan left the meeting.

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 and contract negotiations. Ayes all.

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

Discussion took place on the appointment requirements for the Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee from the State Office of Smart Growth. The Clerk was directed to compile a list of members of various civic and business organizations for Committee's consideration in the appointments.

Discussion took place on correspondence received from the Township Planning Board:

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions has asked the Planning Board to release the Township's outstanding \$10,000.00 Conservation Design Ordinance with ANJEC. The Township Planning Board has advised that the Board is not prepared to move forward with the ordinance at this time, but may in the future. The Clerk advised Committee that the grant is a 100% match, meaning that the Township had to provide \$10,000.00 toward the work on the ordinance. The Township spent over \$14,000.00 in professional fees in 2005 and 2006 on the ordinance. The Clerk was directed to consult with Kerry Miller of ANJEC to discuss the matter.

Discussion took place on the Planning Board's recommendation that the definition of minor subdivision be amended to limit the number of lots from the original tract to three. The definition of the original tract would be based on the land as it existed on June 14, 1960 the date of the Township original subdivision ordinance. No action was taken.

The Clerk requested direction on a request received from the Census Bureau regarding the compilation of information on "group quarters" in the Township. The Clerk was directed to refer the request to the Township Planning Board for response.

The agenda for the evening meeting was reviewed.

Discussion of ongoing projects in the Township:

Farmland/open space - Mr. Kille reported that he attended a meeting on the County's Farmland Preservation program – the County has asked all those municipalities participating in the County program to increase their percentage to 5%. The Township will have to consider this request.

The re-allocation of funds on the Ostrum and Byrnes parcels – the Township has been asked to pass a resolution that mirrors the County resolution on this matter, but Township Planner Chris Warren has expressed some concerns with the wording of the County resolution. The Clerk presented Committee with versions of a resolution drafted by the Clerk and Mr. Warren, and Committee reviewed both, with no action taken.

Wastewater management plan – Mayor Bickford will contact Township Planner Chris Warren to discuss a reply to a letter written by Woodstown Borough Solicitor George Rosenberger to Mr. Warren on this matter.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to open the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all. Resident Phyllis Sauer inquired on the membership requirements of the Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee discussed earlier in the meeting. Mayor Bickford explained the requirements that the Committee be composed of local (meaning Township) residents.

Resident Cheryl Reardon advised that with regard to the outstanding ANJEC grant, other municipalities are in the same situation. Ms. Reardon works for ANJEC, and she can contact Suzanne McCarthy of ANJEC to schedule a meeting with the Township Planning Board to discuss the status of the conservation design ordinance and the use of the grant funding.

Ms. Reardon commented on a discussion that took place at the February 5, 2008 work session meeting with representatives of Auburn Road Properties regarding a zoning/construction permit issue. Ms. Reardon feels that the Zoning Officer Bob Schmid should have been present for the discussion. Mayor Bickford advised Ms. Reardon that Township Solicitor Mulligan met with the Zoning Officer after the meeting to update him on the issue. In addition, Mr. Schmid met with Committee at the agenda work session meeting on February 8 to discuss the matter.

There being no further 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 11:10 A.M. Ayes all.

Maureen R. Abdill, Clerk