

**PIESGROVE TOWNSHIP  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
March 28, 2023  
MINUTES**

Mayor Kevin Eachus called the work session meeting of the Pilesgrove Township Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Eachus directed the Clerk to read the following Notice:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings law. Notice of this meeting of March 28, 2023, was sent to the South Jersey Times and the Elmer Times on January 3, 2023, posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building on January 3, 2023, posted on the Township website on January 3, 2023 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.

Attendance: Kevin Eachus  
David Bonowski  
Joseph Crevino  
Kelsey Mitchell, CFO  
Niki Arbittier, Esq.

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

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

Motion made by Bonowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Crevino to approve the bill list as presented by the Treasurer. Ayes all.

Committee reviewed the monthly collection rate reports for February 2022 and February 2023 that were submitted by the Tax Collector.

Motion made by Bonowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eachus to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter regarding unclaimed funds in the amount of \$410.63. Ayes all.

Motion made by Eachus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Crevino to approve the following resolutions in bulk:  
Resolution 23-08, Approving Four Seasons Fireworks Display Application  
Resolution 23-09, EEOC Compliance Resolution  
Resolution 23-030, Appointment of Michael Chapman as a part time employee.  
Ayes all.

Motion made by Crevino, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonowski to approve the 2023 Cyber Incident Response Plan from the JIF. Ayes all.

Motion made by Eachus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Crevino authorizing SPS to replace the AC Unit in an amount not to exceed \$21,495.00. Ayes all.

Discussion items –

Richmans Center LLC came to discuss a Zoning Violation they have received for operating a business without the required approvals. Currently Richmans is operating a wood working business in the back building of the property. Township Solicitor informed them that without approvals they cannot operate any type of business on the property. Tom Frank, the owner asked to discuss his options at this point, which are either him going to Planning Board for the current business or submitting the Redevelopment Plan. Tom Frank asked if he can at least get a demo permit, which Township Solicitor suggested he come into the Construction office and ask those questions.

Representatives from North Point came to discuss the intersection of Route 40 and Pointers Auburn Road. The current plan for the intersection involves taking .05 of preserved farmland for the right-of-way and they are asking for Township Committee to submit a letter of no objection to the County. North Point has already taken as much as they can from the other corners, but it still leaves them a little short, which is why they need a little bit of the preserved land. Dave Bonowski stated he has no objection and would like to submit a letter to the County.

Motion made by Bonowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Crevino to submit a letter of no objection to the improvements to the intersection as currently shown on the NJDOT Plans presented tonight by North Point in order to ensure safety at the intersection. Ayes all.

Township Committee reviewed the email from Salem County Health and Human Services regarding a portable hearing device. Crevino would like the Clerk to reach out and find out a little more about the device and if any training is offered.

Township Committee review the proposal from Barber Consulting Services for IT services and would like someone from the business to come to the next meeting to meet them before making a decision.

A letter of interest to purchase a property owned by the Township titled Block: 3.01 L: 15.01 was presented to Committee. This lot is located on Waterview and is not a buildable lot currently, unless it receives approvals from the Planning Board. Township Committee would like the Township Solicitor to do a little research to discuss more before making a decision.

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

Eric Axelson, resident of 18 Fox Road came to discuss his Cannabis Conditional Approval from the State and to see where Committee stands as the expiration date is approaching. Eric stated his conditional approval from the State expires May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Eachus stated there has been no change in the Federal Law so his thoughts and opinions have not changed. Crevino stated he does not want to base the decision off of the possible tax revenue, because that is not something that will always be promised, as the State tends to end up taking extra revenue sources. Crevino is also worried that the current micro licenses might change over time and he is unsure what that might look like down the road.

There being no other public comment, motion made by Eachus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonowski to close this public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Kelsey Mitchell, CFO and Evan Palmer, Township Auditor reviewed the budget with Township Committee. They stated they have updated the Open Space line item and where the debt payment will be taken from, which addresses the Mayor's concern.

Kelsey Mitchell stated with the cuts made in a few line items the budget is now in CAP. She also stated that \$360,000.00 will be added to increase Capital Improvements.

Allen Coulter came in to discuss an increase in the clothing allowance plus offer a boot allowance to the CDL Truck Driver, which Township Clerk stated the Personnel Policy might need to be changed to increase the clothing allowance. Allen Coulter stated he takes his exam this year and would be interested in an increase to make what the past Superintendent was making when he retired, plus annual increases since he retired.

Kelsey Mitchell asked Township Committee for an increase due to her passing her CFO Certification in 2022. Township Committee agreed to a \$3,000.00 increase.

Mayor Eachus brought up the Deputy Planning Board Secretary salary due to having a new Planning Board Secretary, but Committee decided to leave that be for this year.

Mayor Eachus would like to lower the Parks and Rec. celebration donations from \$800.00 to \$600.00. Committee reviewed the FY 2021 NJDOT Municipal Aid bids for County Home Road. Kelsey will prepare an ordinance for adoption at the next meeting, which allow enough time to award the bid. Committee will need to decide if they will be doing the base bid or the base bid plus alternate A.

Motion made by Eachus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonowski to adjourn at 8:57 PM. Ayes all.

Melissa Fackler, Clerk