

**PILESGROVE TOWNSHIP
WORK SESSION MEETING
April 25, 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 April 25, 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, 2nd by Bonowski to open the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

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

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

Jim McKelvie came to review the ADA updates to Marlton Park. He stated the main purpose of this grant is to make the park more ADA complaint, which will be done by new paths to add accessibility to the fields, ramps with rails on the hill by the football fields, concrete parking spaces, and renovations to bathroom. While reviewing the plans the Mayor made a suggestion to have a few paths reduced in length due shorter ways to get to the fields. It was also suggested cutting down on the number of concrete parking spaces to allow room for others to park, plus doing this would free up some funds for possibly more updates to the bathrooms.

Jim asked Committee to give him a few items they feel are the most important, incase bids come back higher and we would not be able to complete everything in phase 1. Committee agreed that the bathrooms, handicap parking and walkways to the playground equipment are something they would like to see done in phase 1. Jim will be sending the plans to Mark Blauer in order to receive DCA approval. The plan is to advertise the bid by June 1, 2023.

Discussion items –

Committee reviewed the County's response to the Townships request to place a no truck sign on Marlton Road. Jim McKelvie stated the letter contains requirements that are set by the State. A traffic study would need to be done and then sent to the County before a sign could be placed on a road. Joe Crevino would like Jim McKelvie to get a quote on having a traffic study done.

Township Committee reviewed the request from a resident on Two Penny for a deaf adult resident sign. Township Solicitor stated that the Township Engineer also provided guidance on this topic, but this is a Township Committee decision and there are a lot of factors to consider before answering the request. Township Committee will be discussing more before reaching a decision.

Jim McKelvie discussed his finding on Block 3.01 Lot 15.01 as far as if it is a buildable lot. This lot has a lot of factors that would need to be considered and approvals granted before it would be a buildable lot. There is a lot of wetlands and area that cannot be built on, but that would not be determined for sure without spending money up front to file for permits through DEP. Township Committee decided that if they sell this property, it would be best to sell it as is and not go through the Planning Board to get a variance for a buildable lot. Township Committee would like the Clerk to review other properties the Township owns and possibly do one auction for multiple properties verses just this one.

SADC has an application for a farm on East Lake Road for Farmland Preservation and wanted to make sure Township Committee was on board with the accepting the application. An estimate of local funds that will be used to preserve this property would be around \$25,800.00. Township Committee approved moving forward with this application. The Clerk will reach out to the State. Township Committee would also like to start taking advantage of the soft cost 50% reimbursement program through SADC. The Clerk will find out more about this program.

The Clerk provided an update on the IT visit from the new company and reviewed a quote of items that are needed to improve the Townships computers and security.

Kelsey Mitchell, CFO reviewed the Capital budget file item and asked Committee to determine what items they would like her to include in the Capital Ordinance for introduction at the next meeting. Township Committee would like the following items included in the Capital Ordinance, 2023 Road Maintenance and Repair, Brush Dumpsters Retaining Walls, Replacement of the 1977 International mower, and the Server. Kelsey Mitchell will prepare the Capital Ordinance for introduction after the budget is adopted on May 9th.

Township Solicitor reviewed her concerns on the Shared Service Agreement for Ambulance Coverage with Committee. Township Committee is also concerned with the liability of sitting on the Ambulance Board could bring to the Township. The Clerk will pass along the Solicitors comments and also discuss the liability concerns with the Ambulance Company. It is also noted that our insurance company will need to be involved in reviewing this agreement to ensure the Township is covered.

Kelsey Mitchell confirmed all employees are receiving 3.5% increases for 2023. Township Committee will not be taking an increase for 2023.

The Mayor reviewed an email he received asking for support to change on COAH requirements are currently decided, but it was advised that the Township does not offer support.

Motion made by Eachus, 2nd 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 15th and he has applied for an extension. Eric wanted to make sure that his last email was receive that contained a few links that he felt would answer some of Committee's questions. Township Solicitor stated she reviewed the links and from what she recalls there was no new information in the links. Eric stated he is going to start looking in other Towns that allow Cannabis to move his operations.

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

Motion made by Crevino, 2nd by Bonowski to adjourn at 8:38 PM. Ayes all.

Melissa Fackler, Clerk