

PILESGROVE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2023
MINUTES

Mayor Kevin Eachus called the regular 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 Annual Notice:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings law. Notice of this meeting of December 12, 2023, posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building on January 3, 2023, posted on the Township website on January 6, 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

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to approve the minutes of the November 14 and November 28, 2023 meeting minutes and the Closed Session Minutes from November 14 and November 28, 2023 meeting. Ayes all.

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

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to accept the Tax Collector's report for the month of November, 2023. Ayes all.

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 the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Joe Gebely presented the Emergency Management Report.

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to accept the 2023 JIF Dividend in the amount of \$4,770.00 as a credit towards the 2024 assessment. Ayes all.

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to authorize the Mayor to sign the Shelter Service Agreement for 2024 with Animal Adoption Center. Ayes all.

Motion made by Crevino, 2nd by Bonowski to authorize the purchase of reusable shopping bags in the amount \$5,675.35 from the Clean Communities Grant. Ayes all.

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to authorize the Mayor to sign the Change Order #1 for NJDOT County Home Road Improvements. Ayes all.

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to accept Edwin Coles retirement letter effective January 1, 2024. Ayes all.

Motion made Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to pay Edwin Coles for unused vacation time for 2023 upon retirement. Ayes all.

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to approve Resolution 23-085, Appointing Larry Coffman as Deputy Management Officer. Ayes all.

Motion made by Eachus, 2nd by Bonowski to approve Resolution 23-086, recognizing the service to Pilesgrove Township by Edwin Coles. Ayes all.

Discussion items –

The Clerk provided information on the current Sonitrol system updates that took place earlier this year and reviewed an additional addendum needed for the Public Works Garage in the amount of \$942.50 in order to have the whole system cellular. A motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to accept the addendum in the amount of \$942.50. Ayes all.

Public Works Assistant Supervisor came to discuss the position of Foreman with Township Committee. Allen Coulter highly recommend Lester Shimp for the position as he is a hard worker, knows the Township, and will be able to train the incoming employee. Township Committee agreed the position should go to Lester Shimp based off the recommendation of Allen Coulter. A resolution appointing Lester Shimp as Foreman will be passed at the first meeting of 2024.

Township Clerk reviewed the job ad for the Public Works position with Township Committee. Township Committee does not want to require a CDL as that might limit the number of applicants, but the applicant must be willing and able to obtain a CDL.

Motion made by Crevino, 2nd by Bonowski to advertise for a Full Time Public Works/Solid Waste Employee. Ayes all.

Kelsey Mitchell, CFO reviewed current retiree health benefits and discussed different options the Committee could do if they wished to change the policy. Committee does not want to change the current policy.

Committee reviewed the 2024 Salary Resolution with the 3% increase that Kelsey Mitchell prepared. There are a few changes to be made like the snow plow drivers, roll off truck, and minimum wage increases. Kelsey Mitchell will work on the changes and present to Committee on December 26, 2023.

The Township Engineer received 5 quotes for the traffic study on Main Street and has made a recommendation for Committee to review. Township Committee would like the Clerk to reach out to the Engineer to see what other option the Township might have verses going through the study process and risk not having the outcome in their favor. Committee also asked the Clerk to find out if the streets that are already restricted by ordinance are enforceable or not.

Township Clerk presented the updated quote for caller id in the Courts. Committee discussed the quote and a decision was made not to move forward with the quote. Motion made by Eachus, 2nd by Crevino that if the court employees are in the office all phones should be answered and no caller id. Ayes all.

Township Committee reviewed the Mayoral Appointments for 2024 and the 2024 Holiday Schedule. Committee would like the Convenience Center to be open on the Friday after Thanksgiving and noted on the Holiday sheet in order to prevent confusion.

Crevino discussed the meeting he attended with NJDOT at the Borough of Woodstown regarding sidewalks on Route 40 by the corner heading into Woodstown. No decision was made, but the State will consider.

Honorable Niki Arbittier will be swearing in Committee during Reorg on January 2, 2024.

Motion made by Eachus, 2nd by Crevino 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 Eachus, 2nd by Crevino to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Ayes all.

Melissa Fackler, Clerk