

**PILESGROVE TOWNSHIP
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2021
MINUTES**

Mayor Kevin Eachus called the regular meeting of the Pilesgrove Township Committee to order at 6:00 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 August 10, 2021, was sent to the South Jersey Times and the Elmer Times on August 5, 2021, and posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building on August 5, 2021, 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 Eachus advised that proper notice having been given; the Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

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

Second interviews with Melissa Fackler and Casey English, candidates for the position of Clerk/Administrator, were conducted. Both candidates were asked the same 9 questions relative to the operation of a municipal clerk's office and the final task was a written response to a hypothetical letter received by the Mayor from a Township property owner. Township Committee ranked each candidate based on their responses to the questions. Township Committee directed the Clerk/Administrator to contact Ms. Fackler to ask if she could return to the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm. She replied she would return.

Motion made by Eachus, 2nd by Bonowski to approve the minutes of the July 13 and July 27, 2021. Ayes all.

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

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to accept the Tax Collector's report for the month of July, 2021. Ayes all.

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

Emergency Management Coordinator Joe Gebely provided a handout on activity in the Township for the month of July. Gebely advised that there was a significant fire at the mushroom cultivation site on Lincoln Road that was difficult to control. In addition, the property owner had pushed some of the compost waste toward the waterway on the rear of the property. The Clerk/Administrator advised that a neighbor indicated they were going to report that activity to NJ DEP.

Mr. Gebely also advised that he received a complaint regarding the intersection of Fox Road and Avis Mill Road. Drivers are having difficulty turning from Fox on to Avis Mill because of plantings in the Township right-of-way. The Clerk/Administrator advised that several years ago, when the property owner planted those trees, they were advised that the plantings were in the ROW and could be a problem. Committee directed the Clerk/Administrator to notify the property owner that if the plantings are not removed or trimmed, the Township will do it.

Deputy Mayor Bonowski mentioned that there is an issue with trees growing in to the roadway on Country Lane. The Clerk/Administrator advised that she would ask Public Works to inspect the location.

Mr. Gebely advised that he is working on scheduling a Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting for the end of the month. The meeting attendees should be a member of Township Committee, DPW Superintendent, Clerk/Administrator and the Fire Chief. He will advise the date/time when finalized.

Motion made by Crevino, 2nd by Bonowski, to approve Resolution 21-070, Change Order #1 for the 2021 Road Maintenance Program in the amount of \$8,500.00. Ayes all.

Resolution 21-071, Amending Resolution 21-036 (Appointment of the Tax Collector). Ayes all.

Discussions on request from Elmer Wilson to allow use of the concession stand bathrooms at Marlton Park for his family reunion at the Park on August 21, 2021. The Clerk/Administrator advised that due to the excessive vandalism and maintenance issues that arise from having the bathrooms open, for several years the policy has been that the concession stand bathrooms are not open to the public. Solicitor Arbittier cautioned on setting a precedent for future park reservations. After discussion, consensus was to deny the request. Motion made by Crevino, 2nd by Bonowski to deny the request. Ayes all.

Motion made by Crevino, 2nd by Bonowski to authorize application to NJ DCA for ADA grant opportunity for improvements at Marlton Park. Township Grant Administrator Mark Blauer will stop in to this meeting after attending the Woodstown Borough Council meeting tonight to explain in greater detail. A public hearing on the grant application will be scheduled and advertised for 6:45 pm on August 24. Ayes all.

Discussion on response to Wes Harbison on request to improve recreational trails on NJ DEP owned East Lake Road property.

Motion made by Crevino, 2nd by Bonowski to approve draft response provided by the Clerk/Administrator, advising that the Township supports the effort, but advising that the property is owned by DEP and any improvements would be subject to DEP approval. Ayes all.

Acknowledgement of thank you note from Casey English for interview opportunity.

Discussion items –

DPW Superintendent Allen Coulter arrived at 7:35. Mr. Coulter advised that the transmission in the 2001 GMC truck has failed. It is an Allison transmission and needs to be replaced – cost estimate is \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00. DPW is still doing some research to confirm it is not an electrical issue, and some other fixes for the problem are being investigated.

The Clerk/Administrator advised that usually the Township would be required to obtain 3 quotes on anything over \$500.00. CFO Mitchell has contacted the Township Auditor on this, and has been advised that given the limited number of vendors qualified to do the work, and also because the extent of the repair is unknown, the Township can proceed.

Mr. Coulter advised that he will look at the Avis Mill/Fox Road intersection, measure the ROW and mark it.

Mayor Eachus inquired on the status of the oil and chip program – Mr. Coulter advised it is scheduled to start August 16. Coulter advised that the County no longer does the road striping; the Township will have to use Zone for the painting. Mayor Eachus inquired on repairs to the sink hole at 5 Melissa Lane. Mr. Coulter advised that DPW did not repair that inlet; there was no sink hole when the repairs to the road were completed in 2020. Mayor Eachus inquired on the repairs to the stormwater system on Two Penny – Coulter advised on schedule for this year. The Administrator asked Mr. Coulter if all the remaining inlets on Melissa could be repaired at the same time – Coulter advised that would be best and then oil and chip the entire road. Discussion on use of Recovery Act Funds for stormwater repairs. CFO Mitchell advised that it would be best to have the Township Engineer provide an estimate on the work to document the need for the repairs.

Mr. Coulter asked if the Recovery Act funds could be used for repairs to the retaining walls at the Township Convenience Center – Ms. Mitchell will review the guidelines for spending the funds.

Township Grant Administrator Mark Blauer entered the meeting to review the Township's grant opportunities through the State. Mr. Blauer advised that with regard to the Housing Rehabilitation Program, he strongly

recommends that the Township and the Borough of Woodstown continue to apply together. The Township's local match is funded using recaptured funds. The maximum grant award is \$300,000.00. The Township needs to spread the word out to the community on this grant.

Mr. Blauer encourages the Township to apply for an ADA grant, which must be for a municipally owned property. Mr. Blauer recommends ADA improvements at Marlton Park. The Township Engineer should inspect the Park and document instances of ADA noncompliance. The local match is 20% of the grant award. The public hearing would be August 24 at 6:45 pm, prior to the Township Committee meeting, and a non legal display ad would be published in the newspaper. The scope of work would be needed from the Township Engineer by September 3. The Clerk/Administrator will contact the Township Engineer on this project.

Discussion on meeting with representatives of Friends Village on potential expansion project. Mayor Eachus briefed Committee on the meeting. There are a proposed 20 additional apartments in Pilesgrove, making a total of 57 in Pilesgrove. Solicitor Arbittier advised that the meeting was mostly to advise the Township of the potential expansion – the property owner will have to go to Planning Board for approval. Mayor Eachus advised that there will not be any COAH credits available in the project.

The Clerk/Administrator asked for input on articles for the upcoming Fall newsletter. Committee will consider and advise.

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

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Eachus to go in to closed session to discuss matters in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12, specifically contract negotiations. Ayes all.

Motion made by Bonowski, 2nd by Crevino to reopen the meeting to the public. Ayes all.

Motion made by Crevino, 2nd by Bonowski to approve Resolution 21-072, Appointing Certain Employees of the Township of Pilesgrove (Fackler as Deputy Clerk/Administrator and Office Help). Ayes all.

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

Maureen R. Abdill, Clerk