

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING – October 28, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor York calls the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Township Committee	Present/ Absent	Professionals	Present/ Absent
Jason A. Jones	<u>Present</u>	Gina LaPlaca, Business Administrator	<u>Present</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>	Gabriella Siboni, Township Clerk	<u>Present</u>
Kevin McMillan	<u>Present</u>	Gene Anthony, Township Attorney	<u>Present</u>
Derel Stroud	<u>Present</u>	Michael Bascom, Chief Financial Officer	<u>Present</u>
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>		

Mayor York announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2024, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN OPEN SESSION

1. Res#24-416 Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Purchase Of 2024 Ford Super Duty F-550 DRW XL 4wd W/ Lighting and Plow from Nielsen Ford Under New Jersey State Co-Op #65mcesccps, Contract # ESCNJ 23/24-04 In An Amount Not to Exceed \$96,553.64
Mr. Bascom provided the justification for the purchases of the vehicles on the agenda. Mr. Bascom stated the purchases were reviewed and funded through Capital Ordinance discussions and through the ordinances passed earlier in the year. Mr. Bascom stated there are vehicles being phased out that are over 20 years old. Mr. Bascom stated that the cab and Chassis are replacements for the ambulances. The cost of replacing ambulances has doubled in recent years so the Township has moved to refurbishing existing ambulances to save on costs. Mr. Bascom also stated the simulator that is now going to be considered at a future meeting was approved in 2023 and is part of the improvements to Public Works Facility. Mr. Bascom explained the numerous benefits the Township will see with the purchase and implementation.
2. Res#24-417 Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Two (2) 2026 Ford E-450 Cutaway Chassis and Remounts from VCI Emergency Vehicle Specialists Under Houston Galveston Area Cooperative- HGACBUY Co-Op, Contract # Am10-23 In an Amount Not To Exceed \$238,170.90
3. Ordinance Amending Ordinance, Chapter 4, Section 4-28 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The Township Of Neptune Entitled, “Clothing Donation Bins”
Mr. Anthony stated this was a request from the Mayor for modifications. Mr. Anthony stated the Township is following the enabling legislation, but had included additional requirements. Mr. Anthony stated the Mayor had requested changes to the ordinance to lower the required distance for placement of clothing bins to residential properties. Mr. Stroud stated that originally would be against the ordinance allowing a lower distance because he would not want a clothing bin that close to his property, but understands that we are in difficult times and the need for clothing collection bins is needed. Mr. Jones asked if the Clothing Bin ordinance addresses whether the clothing bins are for profit or not-for-profit. Mr. Anthony stated the Township is following the legislation which does not differentiate between for profit and not-for-profit. Mr. Jones asked if there is a way to ensure that the donations are directed to Neptune Township residents.
4. Ordinance Adding Chapter 27 To Prohibit Distribution of Plastic, Single-Use Food Service Items And Non-Plastic Single-Use Food Service Items For Take-Out Or Delivery Orders, Unless Requested By A Customer In The Township Of Neptune
Mr. Anthony stated this was a request from Committeeman Stroud. The State passed legislation banning plastic bags. This ordinance expands the plastic ban to single use plastics. The ordinance prohibits providing single use products unless requested. Mr. Stroud stated he was in favor of the ordinance having the fines removed and using the ordinance as more of a marketing campaign to encourage participation. Mr. McMillan recommended withdrawing the ordinance and doing a promotional campaign. Mr. Stroud stated he is in favor of keeping the fines in the ordinance and enforcing the ordinance. Mr. McMillan stated he believed it should be an educational campaign before the ordinance is considered. The committee was in agreement to withdraw the ordinance for this meeting and will move forward on an educational campaign.
5. Best Practices Inventory
Mr. Bascom stated the Best Practice Inventory has been completed and the Township and the top score 46.5. The Township scored a 46. The Township lost a half point because all the contracts are not posted on the Township

website.

Mr. Stroud asked about the special improvement district and asked why West Lake Ave. Is not a special improvement district. Mr. Bascom stated a special improvement would be assessed to the area to cover the costs of improvements.

6. Committee Calendars

Jones	No report
Stroud	Mr. Stroud stated that Election day is November 5.
McMillan	No report
Lane	Mr. Lane stated there will be the Veterans Service on November 11 at the American Legion.
York	No report

Res #24 - 407 Authorize An Executive Session As Authorized By The Open Public Meetings Act.

Offered by:	<u>Stroud</u>	Seconded by:	<u>McMillan</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	Jones <u>Yes</u> Lane <u>Yes</u> McMillan <u>Yes</u> Stroud <u>Yes</u>		<u>Yes</u> York <u>Yes</u>

Offered by: Jones Seconded by: Lane
Vote: Jones Yes Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

Removed Resolutions

Res#24- 414 Authorize The Execution Of An Interlocal Service Agreement With The Neptune Township School District For The Production Of Joint Newsletters

Offered by: Stroud Seconded by: Jones
Vote: Jones Yes Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

Mr. Stroud stated that he received the newsletter and the newsletter is more focused on the school information. Mr. Stroud stated he believes each entity has more information that can be included in the letter and each should have a separate newsletter. Mr. McMillan stated there is a reach out from the consulting firm for more information to be included. The Township may include more information just by sending to Mr. Lennox. Mr. Lane stated there has been absence from the consultant for the newsletter. Ms. LaPlaca stated there is about a week lead time for insert in the newsletter. Mr. Jones suggested communication with the superintendent to gain a better timeline for submissions of pieces for the newsletter.

SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

Res#24- 421 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions

Offered by: Jones Seconded by: Lane
Vote: Jones Yes Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS


Members of the public may address any concern relating to the Township. The public will be permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Dr. James Brown	Dr. James Brown stated he his thrilled with some of the things in this town, namely the Neptune Senior Center and the initiatives to handle the homeless encampment. Dr. Brown also expressed a desire to have speed bumps installed on Lakewood Rd.
Paul Kaplan Mt. Zion Way	Mr. Kaplan asked if the newsletter is electronic, Ms. LaPlaca stated it is paper. Mr. Kaplan suggested moving towards a digital newsletter. Mr. Stroud stated that he believes a paper copy would be necessary for accessibility for all residents. Mr. McMillan suggested including a digital copy on the Township website. Mr. Kaplan asked if the Director of Public Works position is still open. Mr. Kaplan stated it seems the vehicle charging station will be taking a longer time and will there be something in the interim.
Rich Robinson Hillside Dr.	Mr. Robinson stated there have been additional issues at 401 Overlook Dr. Mr. Robinson showed the Township Committee an advertisement on social media for the property. Mr. Robinson has had issues with pungent smells of marijuana because of the events at the property. Mr. Robinson stated the ordinance that was finally adopted does not have any teeth to enforce the regulations. Mr. Robinson has called the police for complaints multiple times about noise and disturbance. Mr. Robinson is requesting that the Township Committee reconsider the ordinance to include more restrictions.
Dan Muller Hillside Dr.	Mr. Muller stated the noise ordinance begins at 10PM, but on a Wednesday night when there is ample noise, there is nothing the Township can do. Mr. Muller asked the Township Committee would consider modifying the noise ordinance to make the weeknight noise ordinance on weekdays especially.
Gary Brown Cardinal Rd.	Mr. Brown stated that each homeless encampment has a different personality. Thanks to the work of the Township, many of the homeless who sought housing have been placed. Those who remain, wish to stay in the encampment and are the cause of the nuisance and issues. Mr. Brown stated that from January 2021 to September 2024 there have been 4 fires, more than 80 police calls, EMS calls and welfare checks. Mr. Brown continued to express concern about the presence of propane tanks in the wood.
Eileen Michaels Seaview Ave.	Ms. Michaels announced the Ocean Grove Homeowner Association Giving Committee will be honoring EMS on January 4. Ms. Michaels asked for someone to come and check the signage on the streets because drivers are going in the wrong direction on the roads. The signs are posted in the grass and the signs are hard to see.
Barbara Burns	Ms. Burns asked if the parcels that are being determined as being underassessed will those

Ocean Ave.	parcels have an adjustment. Ms. Burns stated she believes the animal house ordinance is not effective and the ordinance should be amended for real regulations and ability to enforce. Mr. Stroud stated the ordinance was just adopted, so this is the first opportunity to see if the ordinance can be effective.
Joyce Klein Mt. Hermon Way	Ms. Klein stated she does not believe there has been education on the ordinance to staff and residents. Ms. Klein reiterated there will be an event honoring EMS on January 4 and when the details are confirmed, they will notify the Township. Ms. Klein stated that Ms. Dawn Crozier did an excellent job at the Homeowners meeting.
Joan Venezia Mt. Hermon Way	Ms. Venezia wished the ordinance name be changed from "Property Maintenance" to "Short Term Rentals". Ms. Venezia asked for clarification on the hearing from the substantiated complaints are addressed. Ms. Venezia stated she does not believe the ordinance should require substantiated complaints and should be based on number of complaints/ calls made. Ms. Venezia asked if there is a status on under assessed properties. Ms. LaPlaca stated she will need to follow up with Ms. Burns and Ms. Venezia. Ms. Venezia asked who is responsible for Land Use Administrator. At this time, the employees in Land Use report to the Business Administrator.
Richard Schlossbach Broadway	Ms. Schlossbach provided a proposal for the establishment of an Arts and Culture Committee in Neptune. Mr. Schlossbach asked if there is an option to install an EV charging station at a private property in Ocean Grove. Mr. Schlossbach asked for clarification of the bond requirements under the animal house ordinance. Mr. Schlossbach suggested moving the bond requirements should be an initial requirement which may help deter the bad behavior by landlords and tenants.
Julie Hekker Pilgrim Pathway	Ms. Hekker stated that Ms. LaPlaca got back to her about a potential cross walk. Ms. Hekker spoke to the Township Engineer who does not agree that the placement of the cross walk would be best placed in the proposed location. Ms. Hekker stated there was little communication for work that is now ongoing street work.

ADJOURNMENT

Offered by Lane Seconded by: Stroud Time Adjourned 8:21PM

Respectfully Submitted,

 Gabriella Siboni
 Township Clerk