

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANAURY 11, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was held virtually using Zoom due to the ongoing public health emergency.

PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Benowitz  
Deputy Mayor Eric Holliday  
Committeeman Eugene Fuzy  
Committeeman James Kostoplis  
Committeewoman Aneka Miller  
Administrator Michael Theokas  
Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Elsasser  
Clerk Maria Carrington  
Attorney Eileen Fahey

ABSENT: None

Mayor Benowitz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by Township Clerk Carrington.

**Resolution 2021-1-11 entitled RESOLUTION TO MEET IN CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION** moved by Committeeman Fuzy and seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown that it does hereby exclude the public to meet in Closed Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

- Attorney/Client Privilege: Litigation

No formal action was taken during the closed session. The minutes of the closed session may be disclosed to the public when it is determined that the above matters no longer require confidentiality.

The closed session was adjourned with the intention of reconvening after until all meeting business was concluded through a motion made by Committeewoman Miller, seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote: All Aye. The meeting was reopened to the public at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence dedicated to all the loss we continue to experience from Covid-19 and to the hope that 2021 will improve with the vaccine.

Township Clerk Carrington read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Adequate and electronic notice this meeting was provided. The notice of the 2021 meeting schedule was sent to the *Burlington County Times* and *The Times* on January 5, 2021 and subsequently published by the *Burlington County Times* on January 8, 2021. The notice has been, and remains, posted on the Township website and the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building. A copy of the notice is also on file in the Township Clerk's office to be made available to the public upon request. The proceedings of this meeting are being electronically recorded

The Township Clerk also read the remote public meeting rules that were on page 1 of the agenda:

To eliminate background noise, all remote attendees will enter the meeting muted. During the public comment periods, the Administrator will unmute all remote participants. Public comment

may be made using audio, audio and video or the Zoom “chat” feature. If you do not have a comment, please manually re-mute your microphone.

The public may also electronically submit questions or comments by email to PublicComment@bordentownwp.org or in written letter form to the Clerk’s Office at the Municipal Building no later than 4 P.M. the day of the Committee Meeting. Submitted public comments will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion. Duplicative written comments may be summarized. As with in person comments, written comments may be limited to five minutes at the discretion of the Mayor or presiding officer should there be a large number of public wishing to comment.

All those who comment, whether in person or by written comment, must provide their name and address for the record.

Should a remote member of the public become disruptive, that person will be kept on mute and warned that continued disruption may result in being prevented from speaking or removed from the remote meeting. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to speak.

**Correspondence:** None

**Administrative Review:** Clerk Carrington stated that there are no changes to the agenda. Administrator Theokas provided summaries of many of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution #2021-28 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**Resolution #2021-29 entitled RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN TO MEMORIALIZE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATION OF RICHARD A. SOLTIS, FIRE PROTECTION SUBCODE OFFICIAL IN THE BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT**

**Resolution #2021-30 entitled RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN TO APPOINT THOMAS BANYACSKI AS A PROVISIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SUBCODE OFFICIAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT**

**Resolution #2021-31 entitled RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING STANDARD PROTOCOLS FOR REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE DURING A GOVERNOR-DECLARED EMERGENCY OEM COORDINATOR SALARY**

**Resolution #2021-32 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN AND MARK TURGYAN**

**Resolution #2021-33 entitled RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PER DIEM EMT**

**Resolution #2021-34 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS**

**Resolution #2021-35 entitled RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM TUREK CONSULTING, LCC FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATED TO GREEN ACRES**

**Resolution #2021-36 entitled RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM TUREK CONSULTING, LCC FOR SITE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Resolution #2021-37 entitled RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH A STIPEND FOR PETER APPELMANN TO SERVE AS THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN****Resolution #2021-38 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2021-28 through #2021-38: None.

Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to open the Consent Agenda items for public comment; seconded by Committeewoman Miller. Voice Vote: All Aye. There was no public comment. Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to close the Consent Agenda to public comment; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

NOTE: Committeewoman Miller abstained from voting on Resolution #2021-30

**New Business:** None.

**COVID-19 Update:**

The Mayor stated information is on the website regarding vaccine pre-registration. Residents are encouraged to pre-register for the vaccine. The municipal building is closed to the public; however, the lobby is open and the staff is still working. All Township services are being provided. Each morning temperatures are taken of all staff and coronavirus symptoms are screened. OEM Coordinator Pete Appelmann is leading our team and contact tracing is in place.

**Administrator's Report:**

The Township held its annual free rabies clinic on Saturday, January 9, 2021. New procedures and location were in place to conduct the clinic within the pandemic guidelines. It was very successful with approximately 130 animals being vaccinated. This number is a bit less than last year. Many of the participants were from neighboring areas. Thanks goes out to Clerk Maria Carrington, Deputy Clerk Cindy Dziura, Animal Control Officers Nicole Bencivengo and George Gareis as well as Kim Wolverton.

The budget process for 2021 is beginning. The Administrator and CFO will begin to meet with departments heads shortly. CFO Elsasser has rolled the temporary budget into the system.

Employee performance reviews are being conducted this month.

As stated at the last regular meeting, Tax Assessor Eileen Carlos is moving on to work with the County. Interviews are underway for her replacement. It is hoped that the candidate will be able to be considered by the Committee at the next meeting.

On the recommendation of Mayor Benowitz, starting in February, we will be increasing our transparency by scheduling department heads to come to Township Committee meetings to answer questions directly. The Township Engineer will also be scheduled to attend a couple of meetings this year to discuss road, recreation and other projects.

**Township Committee Liaison Reports**

Committeewoman Miller, Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Deputy Mayor Holliday and Mayor Benowitz gave reports.

**Public Participation**

Committeewoman Miller made a motion to open the meeting for public participation; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All aye.

EDWIDGE THEOKAS, 1 ANNA ROSE COURT: Congratulated Aneka Miller on her election to the Township Committee.

Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote: All aye.

As a final comment, Mayor Benowitz vehemently objected and condemned the insurrection of the US Capitol and believes all need to take responsibility for their actions. Committeewoman Miller raised concerns of the threats reportedly being made to New Jersey’s Capitol Building in Trenton. Administrator Theokas stated that he received her email and immediately reached out to the Police Chief Pesce and OEM Coordinator Appelmann. Chief Pesce responded that they are in constant contact with the State Police and that the Burlington County Task Force Team is prepared to assist Mercer County if necessary.

At 8:10 PM a motion was made by Committeeman Kostoplis to reconvene in closed session to finish discussion of the topics being addressed in Resolution 2021-1-11. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Holliday. Attorney Fahey stated that if action is to be taken it will be taken after returning to open public session. Voice Vote: All Aye.

At 8:25 PM a motion was made by Committeewoman Miller to reopen the meeting to the public; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:26 PM; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote: All aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

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MARIA CARRINGTON, TOWNSHIP CLERK