

**BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7TH 2023**

Mayor Deborah Buzby- Cope called the regular meeting of the Township Commission to order on August 7th, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act were complied with, as notice was published to the *Beacon* and *Atlantic City Press* stating the time, date, and place of the meeting.

The following Commissioners were in attendance: Commissioner Nicholas Capriglione, Deputy Mayor Louis Bourguignon and Mayor Deborah Buzy-Cope.

Mayor Cope led the Flag Salute and requested a moment of silence for: Tommy Williams.

Mayor Cope read the Open Public Meetings Act, and Roll Call was taken.

Mayor Cope: Here Deputy Mayor Bourguignon: Here Commissioner Capriglione: Here

The Minutes from July 10th and the Special Meeting minutes from June 28th, were introduced by Mayor Cope. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon moved, Commissioner Capriglione second. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

Ordinances:

08—2023 of the Township of Bass River revising the official Zoning Map for Bass River Township dated June 28th 2023 Mayor Cope called for Public Hearing asking the Residents remain professional, kind and respectful to one another during the open public meeting. She asked that both sides of North Maple whose lots and blocks touch North Maple Avenue on both sides from the Firehouse to West Road be the first to speak about the proposed zoning change from Village Residential (VR) to Village Commercial (VC) to speak their feelings and if they were in favor or opposed. The Residents consensus was to vote against any Zoning changes and keep North Maple a Rural road. All Residents want to see the Township make better use of the existing commercial property on Route 9.

Commissioner Capriglione explained that it is the responsibility of the Governing Body to vote the will of the majority.

With that said Mayor Cope asked for a show of hands from those who were for the proposed change from Village Residential to Village Commercial, no one raised their hand. When asked for a show of hands of those against the change, all raised their hands. With that the open portion was closed. Moved by Deputy Mayor Second by Commissioner Capriglione. All voted in favor Mayor Coped announced the Ordinance was dead.

07-2023 of the Township of Bass River, providing for the acquisition of a Backhoe Loader in and for the Township of Bass River and appropriating \$150,000 therefore and providing for the issuance of \$142,500 in Bonds or notes of the Township to finance the same. First Reading Public Hearing. With no discussion Mayor Cope moved Deputy Mayor B second all voted in favor. September 11th 2023 Second Reading Public Hearing

Resolutions:

57-2023 of the Township of Bass River authorizing the submission of a Grant Application and Execution with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Riverside and Adams Avenue from Maple Avenue to Adams Avenue from Riverside Drive to Maple Avenue Roadway Perseveration Project in the amount of \$382,710.00 Moved by Mayor Cope second by Deputy Mayor B All voted in favor

58-2023 Payment of Claims: \$ 115,071.68 Moved by Mayor Cope second by Commissioner Capriglione all voted in favor.

59-2023 cancellation refund of cost of taxes Moved by Mayor Cope second by Deputy Mayor B Passed by unanimous consent.

60-2023 Authorizing the execution of a contract renewing membership in the Burlington County joint insurance fund.

Mayor Cope moved Resolution's #60-2023 #61-2023 and #63-2023 together. Commissioner Capriglione second all voted in favor.

61-2023 of the Township of Bass River awarding a proposal for Engineering services for the review of water testing for Campground and Junkyard renewal licenses.

62-2023 of the township of Bass River appointing Natalie Lewis as a part time Tax Accessor/Zoning Clerk.

Mayor Cope accepted Liz Godfrey's resignation. All voted in favor at that time Natalie Lewis was accepted as Liz Godfrey's replacement. All voted in favor.

63-2023 of the Township of Bass River authorizing an award of an emergency Contract under New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law. N.J.S.A.

REPORTS:

Solicitor's Report: Presented through the August 7th Meeting.

Safety Coordinator's Report:

Deputy Mayor Bourgunion thanked? For repairing the Backhoe and various other Volunteers for all the contributions they have made to keep our Township going. He wanted the Residents to know that since Covid it takes 3 times longer to receive the goods and services needed to run the Township. He also thanked the Fire Company for their cooperation and help.

Municipal Court Report: Commissioner Capriglione was pleased the Municipal Court Report for July 2023 Total Bass River Township. Monies: \$30,615.11 Total to Bass River Township; \$6,549.90 Total Washington Township Monies: \$2,382.56 Total to Washington Township: \$761.18

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion Accepting Elizabeth Godfrey's Resignation

BASS RIVER PROPERTY BIDS:

Andrew Cohalan motion to accept the Bid for Block 120, Lot 8 deposit of \$1,500 for a 12.9 Acre Lot for \$15,000. The Lot is in the Preservation District. Mr. Cohalan has 45 days to remit the remaining funds. Motion to move by Mayor Cope second Commission Capriglione all voted in favor.

Public Portion: Opened at 8:00pm

Residents followed up with questions about Volunteering for the Township and upcoming grants.

Benny Adams inquired about having Commercial property on Route 9. With discussion over, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. Moved by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon second by Commissioner Capriglione all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Ann Capriglione

Deputy Municipal Clerk

