

April 3rd 2023

Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope called the regular meeting of the Township Commission to order on April 3rd 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 time, date, and place of the meeting.

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

Mayor Cope led the Flag Salute and requested a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting in Nashville.

Mayor Cope read the Open Publics Meeting Act and Roll Call was taken.

Roll Call: Mayor Cope: [here](#) Deputy Mayor Bourguignon: [here](#) Commissioner Capriglione: [here](#)

The Minutes of March 6th, 2023 were introduced by Mayor Cope. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon moved, Commissioner Capriglione second. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance #5 of 2023, an Ordinance amending Chapter 13.08, Stormwater Management of the Code of the Township of Bass River, County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey. Second Reading: Public Hearing

The Ordinance is a Pinelands requirement. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon opened the public comments by stated that this Ordinance is another way for the State to cost the town money. Mayor Cope added, that Pinelands has turned the entire State from Tier B to Tier A which will cost the tax payers more money. It requires the towns to do more costly things. For example: They are trying to require every town to hire street sweepers. Since 2018, Stormwater management has been constantly adding more inspections. Solicitor O'Connor added that it is ongoing. If you don't do what they want you get fined, then you have to appeal it. Mayor Cope explained that there are many new changes at the Convenience Center that were required by the State such as a new fence, gate and removal of concrete, stumps and woodchips. She added that Convenience Centers seem to just be holding places for towns. She will be meeting with DEP and our Township Engineer to walk up the hill because the very hill the State is complaining about is the place that is a natural habitat for a lot of wildlife. There were no more questions or comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Bourguignon moved to close, Commissioner Capriglione second, two voted in favor and Deputy Mayor Bourguignon abstained.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions #41 - 2023 a Resolution of the Township of Bass River, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, authorizing the redemption of a Tax Certificate # 18-00002. No discussion Mayor Cope moved, Commissioner Capriglione second. All voted in favor.

Resolution # 42 - 2023 of the Township of Bass River in the County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey authorizing the reading of the Municipal budget by title only. Mayor Cope moved Commissioner Capriglione second. All voted in favor

Resolution # 43 – 2023 a Resolution of the township of Bass River, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, adjusting the pay rates for various employees of the Township of Bass River. Mayor Cope moved, Commissioner Capriglione second all voted in favor.

Resolution # 44 of 2023 Payment of Claims in the amount of \$542,096.04. With no discussion Mayor Cope moved, second by Commissioner Capriglione second. All voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Kevin Groff placed a bid on property for \$800.00 with a 10% deposit of \$80.00 down. With no discussion the Contract of sale was moved by Mayor Cope second by Commissioner Capriglione, all voted in favor.

Solicitor O'Connor gave her report. She received another contract from Atlantic Electric and is hoping that the packet will contain a number where she can finally get through to someone and begin to end the run around they have been giving us for the last few years.

She also spoke with Mr. Horner of the Pinelands Commission discussing, the revision of the zoning ordinance concerning Cannabis. She also spoke with Susan Grogan from Pinelands who suggested that we get the ordinance in order first and then come back in and super impose the areas that we want Cannabis. No one ever thought the Ordinance would take this long to get resolved, she also said that now we are at the point where we must go back in and overlay the areas that we want to permit cultivation, processing and retail. Bass River has one applicant who made an application to Pinelands. When he spoke to Mr. Horner he was told what he's asking to do is not allowed in the zone right now. Joseph Maura also added that he has run into road blocks every time he tries to get his business up and running.

Municipal Court:

Commissioner Capriglione told the Meeting that the Municipal Court has been consistently active. Last month the Bass River Municipal Court made \$28,422.24 and realized \$7,446.89 and Washington Township took in \$379.00 and realized \$139.08.

Deputy Mayor Bourguignon spoke about the work that is being done at the Convenience Center a new fence, gate, and getting the mowers ready. Public works also graded the dirt at the Oyster House. He was happy to report that there was no need to use the snow plow this Season which saved the Township money. Commissioner Capriglione reported that he walked with the E- Jiff inspector and the inspector pointed out many areas within the Township that needed improvement. Inspector Teeter told Commissioner Capriglione that the Township would be receiving a report of his findings by email.

The Commissioners discussed the traffic conditions in Bass River. With Viking letting out the trucks that are hulling debris, and the detour on Stage road one resident suggested Viking install some type of a traffic light to ease the traffic coming out of the plant.

The Meeting was opened to the public by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, Commissioner Capriglione second. At 7:45 pm first to speak was Jamie from Buttonwood Campground. She accused the Commissioners of not caring what happens to the residents of Buttonwood. Although there is a 6 year stay on rent for some of the residents she felt there should have been a renter's board to regulate what happens to those who are not included in the court order. She accused the Commissioners of being complacent towards those who needed their help most and favoring the owner of Buttonwood because he has money. Solicitor O'Connor tried to explain that the Commissioners could not ignore that there were Capital gains made by the Campground owner and if brought before a Renters Board, what he has accomplished might harm the advances the renters had made.

Another resident asked the Mayor if she ever thought of contacting the EPA because they are into the protecting the environment instead of destroying the environment. Mayor Cope explained that the Commissioners are taking one step at a time.

A resident wanted to know what the status of the school was. Mayor Cope explained that it had sold however nothing has been done with it as yet. At the moment although he doesn't have to the owner will be paying \$11, 000 in taxes providing everything stays as is.

One Resident asked why there is a shipping container on the property near the Bill Board sign. Mayor Cope explained that the container is used to house the owner of the property's tools.

With there being no other questions Deputy Mayor Bourguignon made motion to close the meeting at 8:30 Commissioner Capriglione second and all voted yes.