

Minutes for June 5th, 2023

Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope called the regular meeting of the Township Commission to order on June 5th, 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 Benny Benigasio

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 May 1st, 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 # 6-2023 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR REPAIRS TO THE BASS RIVER PLANT AND INSTALLATION OF NEW VALVES AND WIRES AND SOLENOIDS APPROPRIATING \$45,000 FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. SECOND READING PUBLIC HEARING.

Commissioner Capriglione moved to open the Public hearing. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon second all voted in favor. Mayor Cope asked Charles Cramer to comment he said that this was a much needed replacement and the solenoids needed replacement for a very long time. With no questions asked. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon motioned to close Commissioner Capriglione second all voted in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION # 49-2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS AND INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023 ADOPTED BUDGET. Mayor Cope explained that this was for clean Communities and went up a bit at \$8,000.

Mayor Cope moved Commissioner Capriglione second, with no questions all voted in favor.

RESOLUTION # 50-2023 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023 ADOPTED BUDGET.

Mayor Cope moved Commissioner Capriglione second all voted in favor.

RESOLUTION # 51-2023 PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

AMOUNT: \$ 207,887.02

Mayor Cope moved Commissioner Capriglione second two voted in favor. Mayor Bourguignon abstained from Check # 2300259.

RESOLUTION # 53-2023 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A: 40A.12-13(a) OF THE LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDINGS LAW

RESOLUTION #52-2023 SUPPORTING THE NEW FOREST FIRE SERVICE AND FULES MITIGATION PROJECTS USING PRESCRIBED FIRE AND OTHER TREATMENTS

Commissioner Capriglione moved Deputy Mayor Bourguignon second all voted in favor

REPORTS:

Solicitor JoAnne O'Connor said a representative from Atlantic City Electric said that a response is in the works.

Ms. O'Connor addressed the Social Media Problem occurring within Bass River Township. She stated no Commissioners or our Mayor will at any time respond to alleged things happening within the Township on behalf of the Township. If there is an issue someone has, we can provide email addresses of the Clerk and Commissioners, Solicitor O'Connor and Mayor Cope. They can also be found on line, and we have Complaint forms. Solicitor O'Connor asked Mayor Cope, and the other Commissioners not respond to any questions or inquiries on Facebook, because it's not the proper channel to handle things that happen in the Township.

Mayor Cope said her Cell phone number is available and the Clerk and Deputy are always accessible. She also added that problems have been brought to her attention and they are being addressed.

Commissioner Capriglione added it has been the policy of the other Commissioners to respond immediately to the residents because they have nothing to hide and there is nothing they wouldn't look into.

Municipal Court Report

Commissioner Capriglione gave the Municipal Court Report. Bass River took in \$ 32,968.51 and realized \$ 7,398.33. Washington Township took in \$668.47 and realized \$222.70.

Mayor Cope stated that there was a major debacle during the recent forest fire because the Highway Authority closed the Parkway due excessive smoke, and did not notify the necessary agencies. She spoke to the Governor who promised to find out why and rectify the problem.

Deputy Mayor Bourguignon thanked Sally Bourguignon, Police, OEM and Chuck Yuhl, from the Galloway first aid squad for covering during the fire. He also noted that Gypsy Moth Spray was completed and thanked residents for their recent donations. He also complimented the Old Age Society for the flowers they planted in the cemetery.

Mayor Cope also complimented the Old Age Society for their wonderful Memorial Day services.

The Deputy Mayor said the Mulch for the Park finally arrived and has been put down.

Commissioner Capriglione mentioned that we are in the process of having a new well put in at the Parks Garden.

Deputy Mayor Bourguignon made motion to go into Public Session at 7:45 pm Commissioner Capriglione second all voted in favor.

Leo Assur asked about shared services, if there is a financial advantage in so far as taxes and who directs their activity.

Do we need a special service with Tuckerton? Do the Commissioners call and ask for what they need, or do they come in on their own to figure out if we need something Deputy Mayor Bourguignon explained that we handle the truck that pumps out the sewer system for Off Shore Manor and also a few houses in town. We handle a brush box at the Convenience Center and they pick it up. Charley handles the Sewerage plant at Off Shore Manor. If neighbors call and say there is a pipe broken Charley is called to fix it. Leo asked how it interfaces with our part-time employees. If Charley needs help he calls one of the other employees who will assist him. They answer to the Deputy Mayor and punch their time into the time clock.

Mayor Cope explained that the State wants to regionalize everything. For us Ocean County makes more sense because it is closer than Tabernacle or Woodland.

Deputy Mayor added that if we need something we can call Tuckerton or little Egg. They don't initiate anything on their own. The only thing they do once a year is to pump out the sewers.

Leo inquired how the Volunteer program works in Bass River Township. Deputy Mayor explained to volunteer a form must be filled out. Mayor Cope added that it works like the Fire Company. We take their Driver's License so they can be covered by Jif. We do not pay Volunteers. We do not write a check out if you're a volunteer. We take a copy of their DL this is sent to JIF and they are covered in case of an accident.

Commissioner Capriglione added this started with the Volunteer Fire Company. They were considered employees of the Township. A Volunteer would give their license and information and were theoretically paid one dollar. Once that transaction happened you were considered an employee. If something happens it goes through JIF and you receive medical coverage. Like anything else you have to have a paper trail to prove that you are legitimately employed by the township, be it part time full time or a volunteer. The confusion might arise that the part timer is paid and yes he is paid one dollar. Commissioner Capriglione got his dollar thirty- two years ago.

Steven Kraus, is unhappy with shared services and why we are in Burlington County and residents have to go to Ocean County for their permits. He said Little Egg Harbor charges Little Egg prices for permits and Mayor Cope explained they go by our rules and charge our amount. He also claimed that he was given incorrect information when he and his wife applied for a zoning permit. Mayor Cope said she will look into it further.

Howard Rothschild: Requested the time the Clerk spends working in Bass River Township. Mayor Cope explained that she is assessable 24/7. If our Deputy Clerk needs anything, she can reach out to Jenny at any time, even though she is in Tuckerton.

Bobby Madden: is having problems every Friday with Viking workers leaving the liquor store going to his store parking lot partying and publically urinating on his property. He has called the Troopers and doesn't feel their helping him at all.

Art Enders an executive at Viking assured Bobby that he can handle the problem. He suggested the he addresses the problem in a newsletter. He intended to know to those responsible that they can stop and park but they cannot party, or drink; out of concern for those driving down the road.

Holly Thorp inquired about the DEP Superfund. She can't get a mortgage for her mother's property because it may be on the brown site list. Solicitor O'Connor will look into past records to see if she has any paperwork on the property.

Carol Bitzberger asked Commissioner Capriglione if they are putting in a well at the playground. Commissioner Capriglione said they are, first for irrigation and later on it will be for drinking too. She commented that she always hears what is wrong with the dump and how no one helps people with their garbage. In her opinion the dump is pretty clean and Robert Sprague always asks if anyone is in need of help.

A resident asked if there is anything being done about Tom's Retreat and their parties. Mayor Cope noted that he will not show for a meeting and the noise ordinance can be used if it is not quiet after 11:00 pm. It was also suggested that a formal complaint be made in Court.

Voting was discussed during the Meeting. The fact that Beverly was given as Bass Rivers Polling Place only caused more confusion for the Township Voters. Many people received incorrect ballots as well.

Marion Assur said that we need a satellite program in Bass River because we are too far from Mount Holly. Mayor Cope said we have been able to bring Social Services back to Bass River Township. We have a Social Service representative every last Wednesday of the Month from the hours of 9:00 until 1:00.

Another resident asked about the sale of the Elementary School. Mayor Cope explained that he intended to make it an undergraduate school for young men He is paying his taxes and he is due to go before the Planning Board.

Ashley Cramer asked what the procedure is if Mayor Cope wins the office of County Clerk. Solicitor O'Connor said that the Mayor would step down and the Commissioner's would pick a person to hold the vacant seat until the May election. Anyone can put their name in to fill the empty spot, unless they have a criminal background. Commissioners would then pick the Mayor and Deputy Mayor out of the three. She also noted that all terms expire this spring.

Route 9 Aprons done. Deputy Mayor said that in lure of payment the State promised to repair 3 roads, however it is here say if there is nothing in writing.

Ashley Cramer claimed she offered to volunteer many times. Mayor Cope told her to see Mari Ann at the township office fill out a form, bring her Driver's License and she will be called when we are in need of volunteers. Mayor Cope said that being a Volunteer does not give you access per say to hang around.

Ashley Cramer also asked how often the Park is cleaned. Charley explained that the Park is inspected on an ongoing basis and if things are found such as graffiti it is removed.

Mayor Cope spoke about a need to upgrade to our existing Camera system in the park, township building and adding some new cameras to the park.

Ben Adams asked if it is legal to live in a camper on property. Mayor Cope said it is not. He also wanted to know if there are 3 unit houses allowed in Bass River. Mayor Cope asked Solicitor O'Connor to investigate the existing information we have on file. Rick Adams said he did not see anything done on the house. Mayor Cope that the property in question is now going through the Court process

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Ann Capriglione

DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK

