

**BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 12TH 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope called the Special Meeting of the Township Commission to order on October 12th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: the following Commissioners were in attendance Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope. Deputy Mayor Louis Bourguignon, Commissioner Nicholas Capriglione, Solicitor O'Connor, Jenny Gleghorn RMC, and Mari Ann Capriglione DMC.

Resolutions:

Resolution #66-2023 Requesting a 3-month extension of time for the award of a Construction Contract for the FY2022 Municipal Aid Grant funded project. With no Discussion Mayor Cope Moved. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon Second all voted in favor.

Deputy Mayor Opened Public Forum at 7:15 p.m.

Rick Adams, Mayor Cope, Robert Lee, Jenny Gleghorn, Commissioner Capriglione and Deputy Mayor Bourguignon discussed the new machinery, giving their opinions about what type of skid loaders they should consider purchasing. The biggest question was if they should buy a track or tire equipped machine. Mayor Cope responded suggesting they do a bit more investigating for further options.

Public Forum was closed at 7:30 p.m.

Resolution #66-2023 authorizing Executive Session 12/20/2023.

Executive Session was called to discuss Public Works by Robert Sprague and Robert Lee. In attendance were: Robert Lee, and Robert Sprague. Also Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, Commissioner Capriglione, Mayor Cope, Solicitor O'Connor, Jenny Gleghorn RMC, and Mari Ann Capriglione DMC.

The employees requested an in-person meeting to discuss safety concerns at the Township Garage. Robert Lee had safety concerns with the vehicles and stated that he feared that someone had been tampering with the vehicles, by entering the Township yard unnoticed and tampering with the Township's equipment. For example, they have had fuses pulled from trucks, wires broken/cut, and headlights removed from trucks, and they wonder if next, they will have to deal with a broken brake line.

He went on to say that it has become a real safety concern to them and that they are beginning to feel unsafe operating the Township's equipment.

Mr. Lee also let the Commissioners know that he called the Meeting because he wanted to be taken seriously and that their normal routines have had to be altered because they feel it is necessary to do visual and fluid inspections of vehicles every morning. He thanked the Commission and asked for a formal conversation.

The Commissioners agreed that they take the employee's concerns seriously and they are going to implement steps that will help to ensure the Safety of the Public Works Department:

- Cameras must be installed both in the Maintenance Garage and yard.
- Cameras must also be installed in the Convenience Center as well.
- All locks are to be changed in the Maintenance Yard and also the Convenience Center.
- Keys for the Maintenance yard and Convenience Center are only given to a select few.
- No Trespassing signs must be put up on the gates of the Convenience Center and Garage.
- Jenny Gleghorn suggested that she have her Public works Director in Tuckerton review all of Bass River's equipment for safety.

The Public Works Employees were pleased with the Commissioner's recommendations and with no other discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Ann Capriglione DMC
Mari Ann Capriglione DMC



Mayor Buzy-Cope