

***BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

Mayor Cope called the regular meeting of the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were: Commissioner Capriglione, Deputy Mayor Louis Bourguignon, and Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope. Also present was Solicitor JoAnne O'Connor and Deputy Clerk Mari Ann Capriglione. Members of the public were also present at this meeting.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Mayor Cope led the flag salute

Moment of Silence for Richard Lyceum, Mark L. Ellis, and the fallen soldiers from the attack in Jordan: Sgt. Kennedy Sanders, Breonna Moffett, and Sgt. William Rivers.

The reading of the Sunshine Statement: Mayor Cope

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the regular meeting on January 8th, 2024 were presented to the Commission for review. The motion to approve the minutes was moved by Mayor Cope, second by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, and abstained by Commissioner Capriglione. Cope-Yes, Bourguignon-Yes, Cope and Bourguignon. Voted in favor, and the Minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup>, meeting were hereby approved.

**ORDINANCES:**

Ordinance #1- 2024 of the Township of Bass River, to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank. (N.J.A.S. 40a: 4-45-14)

Second Reading, Discussion, Vote

With no discussion: Mayor Cope Moved, and Deputy Mayor Bourguignon Seconded all voted in Favor.

CONSENT AGENDA – RESOLUTIONS (NOTE: consent agenda items are considered to be routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certificate of Availability of Funds; and the item can be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed separately at the request of any Commission Member.)

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution #38-2023 Payment of Claims

TOTAL: \$378,337.55

Moved by Mayor Cope second by Commissioner Capriglione, All voted in favor.

Resolution #39-2024 designating the Atlantic City Press and Courier Post as official newspapers for the Township of Bass River. Moved by Mayor Cope second by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon All voted in favor.

Resolution: #40-2024 awarding lease with option to purchase agreement to Atlantic.  
This Resolution did not have to go to Bid because it was under the \$17,000 threshold,

Resolution: #41-2024 awarding maintenance installation and service contract Barbara Consulting Services.

Resolution: #42-2024 awarding preventive maintenance contract to Bilmark Plumbing & Heating, LLC.

Resolutions #40-2024, #41-2024, and #42-2024 were able to be moved together by Mayor Cope Second by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon. The Resolutions were passed unanimously by the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Hope One Bus was parked in the township Parking Lot on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 pm. They met with the public and provided Narcan Kits along with training, pamphlets, clothing, and counseling.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor O'Connor spoke about the ongoing In Rem litigation in the Supreme Court. During the summer the Supreme Court came down with a ruling stating the way In Rem properties must be handled going forward. In Rem properties are the properties we are ready to foreclose on for unpaid Tax Liens. Before we can take legal action on these properties each property must go to Sheriff's Sale. It will incur extra time and cost to the township. Ms. O'Connor will monitor the progression of the Ruling and keep the Township informed.

The other information Ms. O'Conner reported is that The New Jersey Senate just passed and Governor Murphy signed into law a bill that will allow small breweries to serve food, have waiters, and waitresses serve customers, and host food trucks on their premises. Their customers are also allowed to watch sports during their events.

**MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT: Commissioner Nicholas Capriglione**

Bass River took in \$11,565.82 and realized \$3,185.73

Washington Twp. took in \$708.10 and realized \$171.52

**PUBLIC WORKS; No Report**

PUBLIC PORTION: Was opened by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, and second by Commissioner Capriglione to the Public at 7:30 pm. All voted in favor.

Josh Collins asked if the Commissioners could explain what happened at the last Planning Board Meeting because rumors are circulating on Facebook. Mayor Cope explained that the Commissioners are not allowed by law to comment on anything pertaining to the Planning Board. Commissioner Capriglione said that he may feel a certain way but cannot discuss his feelings because there may be something he has to vote on. Mr. Collins said that he understood.

He also complained about the flooding on Route 9 making it impossible to put his children on the bus from their stop. Mayor Cope explained that his road is not a Township Road therefore he must call the State.

Ashlee Cramer asked when her road would be paved and Mayor Cope explained that the Township is waiting for a call from the County as to when her road repairs will begin.'

With there being no more questions or comments. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon called for the meeting to be adjourned second by Commissioner Capriglione all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Mari Ann Capriglione*  
Deputy Municipal Clerk