

APRIL 14, 2025

Mayor Rick Adams called the regular meeting of the Township of Bass River Commission to order on April 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

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

The following Commission Members were in attendance: Commissioner Jane Allen, Deputy Mayor Louis Bourguignon and Mayor Rick Adams.

Mayor Adams led the salute to the flag.

Mayor Adams requested a moment of silence for Ray Heickel and Tommy Cramer.

Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mrs. Allen that the minutes of the meetings of March 10, 2025 be approved. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

Mrs. Allen read the Court Report for February 2025 a copy of which is on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office for public inspection.

ORDINANCE #03-2025

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ENTITLED "AMENDING CHAPTER 13.04.022 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER AS THE SAME RELATES TO SEWER MAINTENANCE FEES"

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that the meeting be opened for public comment on Ordinance #3 of 2025. So moved.

Melanie Gisler, John Morey and Kim Forgash asked for explanation on why the sewer rate is increasing from \$150 to \$500 annually and what will that money be used for; they also asked if the cell tower lease was supposed to offset the cost for the leach filed in Off-Shore Manor.

Mrs. Allen explained it is has come to a point that the residents of the New Gretna who do not live in Off-Shore Manor are paying for something they do not benefit from. The residents of Off-Shore Manor need to offset the costs to maintain their sewer system so the Commissioners are gradually increasing the annual fee.

Township CFO Stanley stated the sewer rates act as a utility and any fees collected for that utility is supposed to be self-sustaining; therefore, the additional funds that are being collected from Off-Shore Manor will be used to maintain and improve the current

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sewer system at Off-Shore Manor. He also stated the cell tower lease has nothing to do with the sewer utility at that same location; that fee goes into the current fund budget to offset costs to benefit the tax payers of the Township.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mrs. Allen that this portion of the public hearing be closed. So moved.

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Ordinance #3 of 2025 be adopted on second and final reading. It was so moved by the following vote: Yes – Allen, Bourguignon, Adams; No – none; Absent – none; Abstain – none.

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that the meeting be opened to the public for the 2025 Municipal Budget Hearing. It was so moved.

There being no comments or questions, Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mr. Adams that the budget hearing portion of the meeting be closed. It was so moved.

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Adams that Resolution #42-25, adopting the 2025 Municipal Budget, be approved as read. It was so moved by the following vote: Yes – Allen, Bourguignon, Adams; No – none; Abstain – none; Absent – none.

RESOLUTION #43-25

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #43-25, authorizing payment of claims in the amount of \$178,717.28, be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of Commission.

RESOLUTION #44-25

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2025 ADOPTED BUDGET

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon, that Resolution #44-25. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commissioners.

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Mr. Bourguignon thanked Township Clerk Jenny Gleghorn for writing and obtaining the recreation grant for the playground and basketball court across the street.

RESOLUTION #45-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, APPOINTING JOSEPH VENTRESCA AS
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #45-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

RESOLUTION #46-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, SETTING THE ANNUAL SALARY AND
HOURLY PAY RATES FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR
YEAR FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER**

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #46-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

Mayor Adams thanked the Township Chief Financial Officer for all his work on the 2025 Municipal Budget.

Mayor Adams than reminded the public on the Community Wide Yard Sale and that the Township will be donating the \$5.00 fee per yard sale to a local boy fighting cancer. He further went on to announce that the State Troopers will be hosting in New Gretna an event called Fatal Vision which educates people on drinking and driving and lastly he would like to thank Elizabeth Belk, Pam Heinrichs and Bonnie Adams for all their work on the Mayor's Wellness Project throughout Bass River.

Mayor Adams also thanked Deputy Clerk for getting the Public Works Employees up and running on safety classes, the Code Enforcement Officer for hitting the ground running and lastly a project is underway for little libraries throughout the township so be on the lookout for those.

Mr. Bourguignon thanked the Deputy Clerk for getting port-a-johns at the park and that he is still working on AC Electric and Riggins for the damage they had done on Amassa Landing Road and the surrounding area.

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Township Solicitor stated that anyone who has received waiver certifications/ approvals prior to 1992 from the Pinelands Commission for a property they own be on the lookout for letters seeking details on those properties that have had no activity on the property because you may need to recertify for waivers.

RESOLUTION #47-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC
MEETING ACT**

Mr. Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #47-25, discussing pending/anticipated litigation, be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mr. Adams that the meeting be opened to the public portion of the meeting. It was so moved.

Leo Assur 106 North Maple Avenue asked how much damage was done by AC Electric on Amassa Landing Road.

Mr. Bourguignon stated the township is asking for \$175,000 to fix all the damages.

Bill Naylor 130 North Maple Avenue asked for help with the 5 am speeders on North Maple Avenue, the troopers are doing a great job other times of the day, but at 5 am it seems as though people do whatever they want.

Melanie Gisler, 200 Birch Road asked if the town would be paving Birch Road anytime soon, she states there a ton of pot holes and something needs to be fixed.

Mayor Adams stated he will speak to the Engineer for looking at a DOT grant, but we will see about a temporary fix.

Bobby Mandor 5649 Route 9 asked why the Township has a code enforcement officer?

He was informed the Township always had one, but the most recent one retired in December and we just recently found someone to replace him. The Code Enforcement Officer enforced the codes of Bass River Township which include property maintenance.

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Dan Sikora, 81 North Maple Avenue asked if all the yard sale fees collected will go to the boy who is fighting cancer and can someone have a yard sale every day of the year and if the Code Enforcement Officer full time.

The Mayor stated the township fee will go directly to the young boy and the ordinance on yard sales states you are allowed three per year, but we are looking into the ordinance and no the Code Enforcement Officer is part time, here only on Fridays.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mr. Adams that the public portion be closed. It was so moved.

Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mrs. Allen that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**JENNY GLEGHORN, RMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Approved:

**WILLIAM "RICK" ADAMS
MAYOR**