

**OCARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was held on the above date at the time of 6:00 p.m. Present at the meeting was Committee people Bomba, Brown, Dennis, Shaw and Pelura. Also at the meeting was Police Chief D. VanNamee, T. Pine Administrator, J. Proffitt-Township Clerk, K. Snowden Engineer and D. Avedissian Solicitor. The meeting was also presented via teleconference.

Mayor Pelura called the meeting to order and read the **Open Public Meeting Act**. He led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**. **Roll call** was taken.

Mayor Pelura said it makes him feel proud to see the support from the coworkers and the families for the new officers to be.

RESOLUTION 2023-124

HIRING OF JAHEIM HENSON AS A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Motion was made by Mr. Brown to authorize the hiring of Jaheim Henson as a full-time Carneys Point Police Officer, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken. Officer Henson was sworn in by Judge Jason Witcher.

RESOLUTION 2023-125

HIRING OF EZEQUIEL JUSTICE AS A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Motion was made by Mr. Brown to authorize the hiring of Ezequiel Justice as a full-time Carneys Point Police Officer, seconded by Mr. Bomba and a unanimous vote was taken. Officer Justice was sworn in by Judge Jason Witcher.

Mayor Pelura said this was the last official duty of Judge Witcher for Carneys Point. Chief VanNamee said they are both good additions to the Police Department. He congratulated both men.

RESOLUTION 2023-126

HONOR JASON D. WITCHER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CARNEYS POINT TWP.

The resolution was read in full by Deputy Mayor Ken Dennis. Motion to accept was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken. Mayor Pelura handed a framed resolution to Judge Witcher. Judge Witcher said he appreciates this acknowledgement. He has been here for thirteen years and its better sweet to leave. This was not just a job, it was a calling and the people. He said he took a stance with his job and it cost him and his family a lot. But the cost is worth the price. It has led to his retirement. He said he will be back to do something in the future to service the community. David Avedissian thanked everyone for attending. He said he is proud to be his friend. Frank Hurst retired from the Prosecutors Office addressed the residents. He said this is a great opportunity with great people. He commented he looked back to reflect; most people have their first-hand experience with the judicial system in court. Judge Witcher was always fair, kind and just. He will never be defeated. Mayor Pelura took a 5-minute recess.

Departmental Reporting Mr. Bomba said he had no report for the dog licensing. Mr. Bomba spoke of amount of Tax Collection for the last month. Mr. Bomba mentioned he attended the JIF

Planning Retreat on July 25th and 26th. He said there was many good seminars but 2 stood out. One was AI and Cyber Security. What he learned is this is presently changing and cyber security needs to be updated all the time. Also, was Stormwater. He mentioned the updating of stormwater outlets.

Mrs. Shaw mentioned the Emergency Management Office has the latest draft of the Mitigation Plan on our website. It is located on the Emergency Management tab. Comments and questions can be left on the site. She mentioned the Recreations Commission is holding movie night in the Dunns Park on August 23 at 8 pm and again on September 22 at 7:30 pm. There is a Community Yard Sale on September 16th & 17th. So please register to participate. Coming up on October 11th is Halloween party for Dogs in Dunns Park. There will be a costume contest. On October 25th is Halloween Party in Dunns Park for families with children costume contests. Mrs. Shaw said the new Township website will be completed by early October.

Mr. Dennis said he had no reports from Public Works so things must be running well. Nothing to report in Administration. The Fire Department has all new overhead doors. He said all have been installed and working well.

Mr. Brown mentioned Atlantic Electric is installing new smart meter. He said there are pamphlets on the table out front if anyone is interested. He said Pennsville has received a FEMA grant for flooding and a new wall. He said the infostructure is 50 to 70 years old and it cannot handle the demands. He mentioned things that can be done incase of flooding. He mentioned flyers he received that he will have copied and also put out.

Mayor Pelura mentioned that our Construction Code Official is now a full-time, 35-hour, employee. He said with the increased constructions the Committee felt he needed to be full time. Mr. Snowden Engineer mentioned the DEP amended regulations in July. We have one full year to approve the new regulations. They will have to go to the County for their approval also. He also mentioned the County is counting inlets but only on county roads. There are some 2,500 and they are up to about 600.

Mayor Pelura asked for a motion that all properly audited vouchers be paid in the amount of \$1,561,736.12. Mr. Dennis made a motion to approve the bill list, seconded by Mr. Bomba. Mr. Brown abstained from one payment due to he is a part of the organization. Mr. Brown also asked where was the money from for the employee's picnic. Mayor Pelura said all the money was donated. All were in favor.

Mr. Bomba made a motion to approve the Committee reports for the month of July. Seconded by Mrs. Shaw and all were in favor.

Mr. Dennis made a motion to approve the **Compensatory Time** report, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and all were in favor. Mr. Bomba made a motion to approve the **minutes** from the regular Committee meeting held on **July 19, 2023**, seconded by Mr. Brown and all were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-127

CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR RECREATION COMPLEX PLAYGROUND

Mr. Brown made a motion to authorize the decrease in the contract amount by \$15,213.31 for the Recreation Complex Playground Improvements. Seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken.

RESOLUTION 2023-128

FINAL PAYMENT #5 TO THINK PAVERS HARDSCAPING, LLC

Motion made by Mr. Brown to authorize final payment #5 in the amount of \$11,633.75 to Think Pavers Hardscaping, LLC for Recreation Complex Playground Improvements. Seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken.

RESOLUTION 2023-129

CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR N. DUPONT ROAD PHASE II

Mr. Brown motioned to approve Change Order #2 in a decrease of \$3,004.00 to Paving plus for N. DuPont Rd. Phase II Roadway Improvements, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken.

RESOLUTION 2023-130

FINAL PAYMENT #2 TO PAVING PLUS, LLC

Motioned by Mr. Brown to authorize the final payment #2 to Paving Plus, LLC for North DuPont Road Phase II-Roadway Improvements in the amount of \$13,959.38, seconded by Mr. Dennis and a unanimous vote was taken.

RESOLUTION 2023-131

REFUND AND CANCELLATION OF TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the cancellation (\$4,326.49) and refund (\$2,089.00) of taxes paid for a 100% Total Disabled Veteran at Bk 160.03, Lot 15. Mr. Dennis seconded and a unanimous vote was taken.

RESOLUTION 2023-132

SIGN AN AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR CLEANING SERVICES

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve an amendment to the Contract with Allie's Heaven Scent Cleaning Services for a one-year extension, seconded by Mr. Bomba and a unanimous vote was taken.

ORDINANCE 1025

AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES WITH RG CARNEYS POINT URBAN RENEWAL, LLC PURSUANT TO THE LONG-TERM TAX EXEMPTION LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 ET SEQ. Mayor Pelura opened this ordinance up for public questions or comments. With none, Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Dennis and a unanimous vote was taken.

ORDINANCE 1026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP CODE, CHAPTER 37, AND FIXING SALARY RANGES AND COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CARNEYS POINT. Mayor Pelura explained the ordinance sets a salary range for the Construction Code Officer who is now full-time. Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Dennis and a unanimous vote was taken.

Under Correspondence: Mayor Pelura mentioned that Mrs. Shaw has already given this information for the Mitigation Plan.

Old Business, Mayor Pelura brought up from the last meeting the Ordinance for keeping foul (chickens). He said a proposed ordinance was sent to him and forwarded to the Committee to review. So, currently it states you need at least 1 acre for up to 25 chickens. Mayor Pelura said he has been in contact with the Housing/Zoning Officer on this matter. He has received phone calls for both keeping and removing the chickens from residential properties. The Housing Officer showed him photos of homes where they have chickens and it is disturbing. He said he is aware not everyone is the same but how do we manage this. He asked if the rest of the Committee members has anything to add. With nothing, Mayor Pelura said at this time he feels this is not going to be adopted and will have to be looked at in the future.

Under **New Business;** Mayor Pelura said Mr. Bibeau was called out so this topic will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

Public Participation.

Amy Tighe of Pine St mentioned she did remove the rooster from her property. Her husband did pick up the variance from the Township. She commented it was like 40 pages and she is not sure where to start. Mr. Avedission explained the process for the paperwork.

Patty Bomba of N. Broad St. mentioned the County is closing Hawks Bridge Road on September 24th for the dedication of the bridge to fallen Veteran SPC Kevin Hardin. Mrs. Bomba also mentioned the dedication of the Habitat for Humanity house and thanked the Mayor, Police Chief, Officer Haies, Schultz and Officer Racite for attending. She also mentioned Committee Bomba as attending.

Wendy Green of Highland Ave spoke of all the rain and the flooding on their road. She said she went to Public Works a few years ago about the flooding but it's getting worse. Mayor Pelura said Public Works will get with the Engineer to look at the drains. She also mentioned speeding.

Dave Raymond HOA President for Cornerstone said they have been having a lot of large trucks go through the development. Can he get a sign to say no truck traffic. Mayor Pelura said he feels this could be because of the bridge that is down over Rt 295. Trucks are diverting to get around.

Eleanor Washington of Sandy Ridge Apts. said she is tired of Sandy Ridge Apartments looking a mess with high grass around the buildings, she also mentioned the high grass around the Rec. Complex. She mentioned she went to the Code Office to put in a formal complaint on the Sandy Ridge high grass. Mr. Avedission explained the process on how they will inspect and then act.

Amy Tighe-Mother said more people need to attend these meetings. She mentioned the National Night Out and how the Police interacted with the children and residents. They do not get the recognition they deserve, great job.

Mayor Pelura mentioned the Committee will start back to two meetings a month in September. With no more questions or comments from the public this portion was closed. Mayor Pelura asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

**RESOLUTION 2023-133
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Shaw to convene into Executive Session. A unanimous vote was taken. The regular meeting ended at 7:03 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Dennis to reconvene in regular session, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and all was in favor. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:05 pm.

**RESOLUTION 2023-134
AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4.5 OF THE JULY 22, 2022
REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARNEYS POINT AND DELAWARE
VIEW APARTMENTS, LP FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS DELAWARE VIEW
APARTMENTS**

Mr. Bomba made the motion to approve the Amendment, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and the vote was as follows: Mr. Bomba, Mr. Dennis, Mrs. Shaw and Mayor Pelura voted yes and Mr. Brown abstained from the vote.

After discussion with Mr. Avedissian, Mr. Dennis made a motion to shut Fertl Soil down, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and all were in favor.

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Mrs. Shaw to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Bomba. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Approved: Sept. 6, 2023


June Proffitt, Township Clerk