OLDMANS TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Oldmans Township Committee was held on May 11, 2022. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sparks at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: April 13, 2022 Regular Meeting

April 13, 2022 Executive Meeting

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and all agreed.

County Commissioner Ed Ramsey and Salem County Engineer John Sievers presented their findings regarding the truck and auto traffic on Mill Street and the Causeway. They met with Bill Ferrell and Nick DiSalva, Gloucester County Commissioner, at the site to see that was happening with the traffic patterns.

Dean Sparks Poor engineering at exit 10 which can’t handle the volume of truck traffic is causing more trucks to use Mill Street. The “S” turn can’t be navigated safely by the larger trucks that are now on the road.

George Bradford Expressed his concern about the “S” turn and the fact that Mill Street and the Causeway are being used as shortcuts rather than staying on Route 295 or Route 130.

David Murphy When road floods trucks must back up East Mill Street the whole way as they cannot turn around. Trucks use both lanes on Mill Street. There are two schools in the area, a pre-school and elementary school.

Ed Ramsey There are two issues: 1. Truck traffic and 2. Flooding. There are two options: 1. Close the bridge or 2. Raise the causeway. The Causeway is owned by Gloucester County; Salem County owns the bridge and ten feet of the Causeway. Can limit truck weight to allow box trucks but not allow tractor trailers. Could also make a designated truck traffic route.

Jeff Moore Logan Fire Chief. Between 2018 and 2022 there have been sixteen (16) water rescues. The Fire Company is going to borrow a boat and take pictures of the road washout.

Ed Ramsey The County did a traffic study in 2020 on Mill Street and Straughns Mill. During a nine (9) day period there were 1,931 trucks on Straughns Mill and 1,637 large trucks on Mill Street. Mr. Ramsey suggested that the Township Committee prepare a resolution to present to the County Commissioners notating the safety concerns about Mill Street and the Causeway: water rescues, damage to bridge, designate a truck route via Straughns Mill and Porcupine, prohibit tractor trailer thru traffic on Mill Street.

FINANCE OFFICE:

**Resolution 2022-75** Self-Exam of 2022 Municipal Budget

The State is scheduled to examine the municipal budget in 2023. In the meantime, Oldmans Township being financially sound, is allowed to examine our own budget.

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and all agreed.

**Resolution 2022-80** Read 2022 Municipal Budget by Title Only

The budget was advertised and available to the public for review.

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and all agreed.

**Public Hearing** 2022 Municipal Budget – no comment from the public.

**Resolution 2022-76** Adoption of 2022 Municipal Budget

Roll call vote: Dean Sparks Yes

David Murphy Yes

George Bradford Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Deputy Mayor David Murphy left the room – conflict of interest.

**Ordinance 2022-06** Tax Abatement Agreement for PLDCF Redevelopment Agency, Inc., Block 45/Lot 5.05

**Public Hearing** No comment.

**Resolution 2022-77** Adoption of Ordinance 2022-06

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and both agreed.

Deputy Mayor David Murphy returned to the room.

**Resolution 2022-78** Acceptance of Bid for Sale of 1 Maple Avenue to King Companies LLC

A public auction was held with the highest bid being $13,000.

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and all agreed.

**Resolution 2022-79** Sale of 16 Pennsville-Pedricktown Road, Block 36/Lot 37

The sales price is $550.00 which is being sold to the contiguous property owner.

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and all agreed.

NJ DOT 2021 Grant – New Road

Oldmans Township requested $240,00 for repaving New Road and was awarded $160,000. Mr. Tedesco estimated that to complete all of New Road that needs repaving would be $250,000. He wanted the Committee to think about whether or not he should make the bid for the whole road or just for the $160,000 bid portion. Asked that the Committee get back to him.

NJ DOT Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Program

Township can submit another grant request to the NJ DOT; maybe Phase II for New Road. Committee to talk with Jim Nipe, Public Works.

Speed Limit – Straughns Mill

The County Sherriff’s Dept. had relayed to the Municipal Clerk that they were having difficulty in writing speeding tickets on Straughns Mill Road because there wasn’t sufficient signage declaring what the speed limit should be. In addition to more speed limit signs, the Committee also discussed reducing the speed limit, which is a mix of 50 mph and 35 mph, to a flat 40 mph. All of Straughns Mill and Porcupine Road would be 40 mph. A resolution will be prepared for the June meeting.

PLANNING BOARD

**Ordinance 2022-05** Trailers and Portable Storage Containers

Containers would be allowed on property that is farmland assessed. All current containers would be grandfathered.

**Resolution 2022-72** Introduction to Ordinance 2022-05

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and both agreed. Mr. Sparks voted no.

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Discussion of Amending Chapter 101 of the Code of the Township of Oldmans Providing for Recovery of Costs and Associated Emergency Services to Clean up or Abate Discharges of Hazardous Substances and to Obtain Reimbursement for Time and Materials Expended in Cleaning up or Abating any Such Discharges – It was suggested that a meeting be scheduled between the fire companies, Township Committee and Emergency Management to discuss in more detail.

Discussion of False Alarm Ordinance – Property owners are allowed two false alarms per calendar year. If exceeded, a $300 fine is assessed. Logan Fire is requesting that they receive the fine money. Ms. Elwell stated that since the Ordinance is a Township ordinance, the funds come to the municipality and could then may be administered through emergency services. This topic will be added to the abovementioned meeting.

**Resolution 2022-**81 Salem County Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement Between Participating Units

Mr. Newman had reviewed the proposal and recommended its acceptance.

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and all agreed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve, Mr. Bradford seconded and all agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cordy Taylor Recommended reducing the speed limit on Mill Street from 35 mph to 25 mph and include in the resolution to the County about the bridge.

Jeff Moore There is a pre-school located on Mill Street. Liked the idea of reducing the speed limit on Mill Street and Straughns Mill.

CLOSED TO PUBLIC

George Bradford Landscaping to be done at Auburn Water.

David Murphy It was suggested that Logan Fire and Auburn Fire tour the warehouses together. The Township would send a letter requesting a tour, maybe once per month.

George Bradford The school will be raising the school tax by 1.4 cents.

The County has a new Public Works Director.

Dean Sparks Arts League is sponsoring “Arts in Bloom” this weekend. Some of the artists from Pedricktown.

He and George Bradford attended the State District Breakfast. BethAnn McCarthy-Patrick, Beth Sawyer and Ed Durr were the speakers. It was announced that there will be a district office in Woodstown.

Plastic bag ban is in effect.

Tom Tedesco He and Dean Sparks will be meeting with the NJ DOT about widening the NJ Turnpike to three lanes. There are four overpasses in Oldmans Township.

**Resolution 2022-** Executive Session: (8:15 pm)

Camp Pedricktown – Second Draft to Redevelopment Agreement

Camp Pedricktown – Revised Declaration of Covenants & Restrictions

Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and all agreed.

Mr. Murphy left the room.

SUMMARY OF EXECTUTIVE: (8:20)

The Committee reviewed the revised Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions, as well as the revised Redevelopment Agreement. It was motioned by Mr. Bradford and seconded by Mr. Sparks that the documents could be executed by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk.

Mr. Murphy returned to the room.

Mr. Sparks asked the Committee if they had any further considerations about the Bibeau COAH project in Kay Gardens. There are still questions about how to fund the project using the COAH funds. Mr. Sparks will contact Brian Slaugh to discuss funding options.

Farmland Preservation – The County Ag Board has approved the updated Farmland Preservation Element which now includes Oldmans Township up to Route 295. The County Planning Board also has to approve the element. The Township’s Farmland Preservation Element will coincide with the County’s plan in order to obtain State approval.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Bradford and agreed to by all, meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Taylor  
Municipal Clerk