Oldmans Township Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Oldmans Township Committee was held on December 11, 2024. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Murphy at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: November 13, 2024 Regular Meeting

November 13, 2024 Executive Meeting

November 25, 2024 Budget Meeting

November 25, 2024 Executive Meeting

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

FINANCE:

**Resolution 2024-142** Transfer of Funds Resolution

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

**Resolution 2024-143** Requiring Claimant Certifications on Certain Types of Transactions

The State has changed the procedure for purchase orders; not all purchase orders need to be sent to the vendor for signature. Will streamline the process.

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

**Ordinance 2024-11** Amending Chapter 42: Salary Compensation for Officers and Employees for 2025

**Public Hearing** No comment

**Resolution 2024-144** Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024-11

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

ADMINISTRATIVE

**Resolution 2024-145** Renewing Contract with GovPilot LLC for Software Services for the Construction Dept. and Dog Licensing

One year renewal.

Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

**Resolution 2024-146** Mid-Salem County Municipal Court 2025 Renewal

Oldmans percentage contribution remains the same as last year (19%). The court system was set up to handle 6,500-7,000 cases per year. In 2019 there were approximately 6,000 cases. In 2024 there are 3,424 cases and revenue has declined to $92,898. May need to consider adding more municipalities to the court system to increase revenue. Court employees received a 3.0% salary increase. All security items have been addressed with the exception of the window coverings in the court room.

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

**Resolution 2024-152** Appointment of Judge Martin Whitcraft as Municipal Judge of the Mid Salem County Municipal Court for Another Three Year Term

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

**Resolution 2024-147** Authorizing Shared Services Agreement With and Between Elsinboro Township, Mannington Township, Oldmans Township and Lower Alloways Creek Township for Trash and Recycling Collection Services for 2025

There is a slight increase from last year, approximately $2,000. LAC is in negotiations for a new labor contract for their public works employees. Oldmans Township was charged the most in overtime payments $10,240. Overtime pay is needed for Oldmans since there has been an increase in the number of trash and recycle containers – rental containers and additional houses. It now takes two trips to the landfill and recycling center for each pickup date.

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

**Ordinance 2024-12** Amending Chapter 15 of the Oldmans Township Code Entitled “Rules and Regulations Governing Activities of Junior Firefighters”

**Public Hearing** No comment

**Resolution 2024-148** Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024-12

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and both agreed. Mr. Ferrell abstained.

**Ordinance 2024-13** Amending Chapter 15 of the Oldmans Township Code Entitled “Fire Department - Deployment”

Mayor Murphy read the changes to the audience.

**Public Hearing**

Melissa Powell Who asked for the changes?

David Murphy He recommended the changes

Melissa Powell Why are four firefighters required to be on the truck?

David Murphy First truck should have sufficient number of firefighters to attend to the fire.

Melissa Powell Believes ordinance to be violation of the Newfield case law.

Joe DiNicola Oldmans ordinance is not in violation of the Newfield law. Equipment and supervision of the equipment is under municipal jurisdiction.

Melody Reese NFPA 1710 speaks to paid firefighters and NFPA 1720 regulates volunteer firefighters. Believes Committee referenced the incorrect statute. The first fire truck can fight the exterior fire, but not interior fire if there are insufficient number of firefighters at the scene while waiting for mutual aid to arrive.

Brenda Powell Concerned about firetruck waiting at firehouse rather than responding quickly to a fire.

Ann Frambes Would like a quick response to fire call and not have to wait for full firetruck.

David Murphy The number of mutual aid volunteers cannot be guaranteed.

Bill Ferrell Current ordinance already has the requirement for four members on the first truck.

Melody Reese Paid company versus volunteer company can have different criteria.

Joe DiNicola Tonight’s ordinance is only changing the number of required firefighters for the second truck, not the first truck, and to assist the ambulance with only two firefighters.

Ann Frambes Ordinance requiring four firefighters has been on the books but wasn’t enforced.

Debbie Ashcraft Has been a firefighter since 1987 for Penns Grove. Requested the Township Committee reconsider four firefighters as the required first truck response. Volunteerism is hurting; ambulance squad needs help to.

Justin Adams He is not concerned about the number of people on a truck, concerned about lack of volunteers showing up. Believes a lower number should be considered since mutual aid will help with the numbers.

Melody Reese Not a paid company. Want to help the residents. Lots of training is conducted, same training as a paid company. First on scene can assess the call upon arrival to see if mutual aid is necessary.

Melissa Powell Do other Township’s have a similar ordinance?

Bill Ferrell Four was approved in the prior ordinance. When Cordy Taylor was committeeman, the minimum number was changed to four.

Ann Frambes Requested that the ordinance be reconsidered to suit the needs of rural Oldmans.

Kevin Norton Is 4 a Township number or State mandated. Suggested the Township follow state guidelines. Population is increasing but volunteerism is declining.

Joe DiNicola Tonight’s changes to the ordinance will make it easier for the second truck to leave and to assist the ambulance. Can amend the first truck number of 4 at a later date. There are liability issues for the Township – residents and firefighters to consider. Thie ordinance will make it easier for the fire companies to get out.

**Resolution 2024-149** Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024-13

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve as is, Mr. Murphy seconded and both agreed. Mr. Ferrell abstained.

**Ordinance 2024-14** Agreement Between Oldmans Township and Emergency Services: Fire

Allows the Township to enter into a contract with the fire companies and ambulance squad. Mr. DiNicola stated that state statute allows a municipality to contract for volunteer fire services. Since both companies are very old, there was no contractual relationship between the municipality and fire company, just an understanding. State wants a contract.

**Public Hearing**

Debbie Ashcraft OEM has plan every two years. What is the difference between the OEM plan versus the contract?

Bill Ferrell No the same. OEM doesn’t purchase equipment or adopt ordinances. Township supplies equipment.

Joe DiNicola The contract can be reviewed by all three emergency services – Auburn Fire, Logan Fire and Ambulance Squad.

David Murphy Outlines responsibilities of the Township and emergency services.

Ann Frambes Wants both fire companies to remain open.

David Murphy Each company will be issued a contract.

Joe DiNicola All parties will have input on the contract.

**Resolution 2024-150** Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024-14

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and both agreed. Mr. Ferrell abstained.

Membership Application to Auburn Volunteer Fire Company:

* Jason Good – Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and both agreed. Mr. Ferrell abstained.
* Caley Loveland (Junior Firefighter)
* Brent Reardon (Junior Firefighter)

Mr. Sparks wants to meet with the junior applicant and parents. Following some discuss it was agreed that going forward the Township Committee can meet with the parents/legal guardian and junior in executive session of a meeting. Mr. DiNicola state that the Township oversees the fire department and approves membership. Mr. Ferrell stated the Township Committee wants to be cautious in regard to junior members and would like the extra step of having a conversation with the parents and junior. Melody Reese inquired if the parents and junior could meet with the Township liaison. Mr. Ferrell thought it would be better if the family met with the whole committee rather than just one person.

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve the two junior applications, subject to a future meeting with the junior member and parents. Mr. Murphy seconded and both agreed. Mr. Ferrell abstained.

PLANNING BOARD

**Ordinance 2024-15** Amending Chapter 110 of the Oldmans Township Code Providing for Increased Fees in Connection with Applications to the Oldmans

Township Joint Planning and Zoning Board

Mayor Murphy read the proposed fee changes

**Public Hearing**

Brenda Powell Asked why the fees were being increased.

Dean Sparks The fees will effect developers the most, not residents.

David Murphy Increased fees are now in comparison with other municipalities.

**Resolution 2024-151** Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024-15

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Manahl Wanted an update on the tractor trailer traffic on Mill Street.

Bill Ferrell Still in the works. County needs to purchase the signs.

Ken Manahl Is there a weight limit over Beaver Creek at Pedricktown-Woodstown Road?

Bill Ferrell There is a weight limit; better signage is needed.

Harry Moore Inquired about a memorial for the Gaudreau brothers.

David Murphy The elementary school agreed at last night’s school board meeting to have a memorial plaque for the Gaudreas.

Kevin Norton Requested better and bigger signs along Route 130 to direct truck traffic off Pedricktown-Penns Grove Road and encourage truck traffic to use Porcupine Road.

Also requested better signage for trucks to get to the Manfredi warehouse by staying on Route 130 rather than using Penns Grove-Pedricktown Road.

Scott Myers He will check the signage in that area and report back to the Committee.

Justin Adams December 22 at 1:00 pm, Santa will be driving around town on a fire truck, sponsored b Pedricktown Volunteer Fire.

CLOSED TO PUBLIC

Dean Sparks Oldmans School: Mrs. Taylor will be retiring in June 2025.

A new Administrator will be hired shortly.

Bonnie Turpin is also retiring.

Pedricktown-Pennsville Road will be repaved in spring, 2025.

Animal Shelter- 8 out of 15 municipalities do not have a shelter for 2025. Encouraged residents to neuter stray animals.

Bill Ferrell Has a meeting with Commissioner Ed Ramsey in January to discuss the federal road grant program.

David Murphy Route 130 Bridge will be temporarily closed for 6-8 weeks for painting and maintenance.

Route 295 overpass at Perkintown Road will be down to one lane beginning January, 2025. A traffic light will direct traffic. The overpass is being raised.

There is a public meeting sponsored by the NJ Turnpike Authority for December 17 at 6:00 pm to discuss emergency vehicle turnaround.

Dean Sparks Mentioned the dedication ceremony for Hometown Heroes.

Nancy Bond Dedication ceremony. Flags will be displayed Sunday, December 15th 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm with light refreshments at the Logan Volunteer Firehouse

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**Resolution 2024-153** Contract Negotiations – 15 S. Railroad & Emergency Services

Litigation – Emergency Services (8:35 pm)

SUMMARY: (9:34 pm)

Contract Negotiations – former elementary school; progress report was given by the property owner.

Contract Negotiations – Emergency Services – reviewed the draft contract.

Litigation – Involved emergency services.

There being no further business, with a motion from Mr. Ferrell and seconded by Mr. Sparks, all agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Taylor

Municipal Clerk