

**CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2024**

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 Shaw, Pelura, Bomba, and Brown. Dr. Johnson was not in attendance. Also at the meeting was Police Chief VanNamee, S. Cosaboon, Engineer, T. Pine Administrator, J. Proffitt-Township Clerk, C. Ehret CFO and A. Telsey, Solicitor. The meeting was also presented via teleconference.

Mayor Brown 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.

Dr. Johnson arrived to the meeting.

Departmental Reporting:

Mrs. Shaw said she had no report for EMO or the IT for Carneys Point. The fountain in Dunns Park will be dedicated on Saturday, May 11th the same day as the Garden Mart Festival. Mrs. Shaw said the Community Yard Sale is going to be May 18th and 19th.

Dr. Johnson gave her apology for being late tonight, she said her son is in the hospital. She commented that all is well with Health and Safety. Dog licenses are continuing to be taken. The Police Department has applied for a Distracted Driving grant. In the Courts she commented they have reduced their back log by 11.4%.

Mr. Bomba said he had no report for the Industrial Commission. They met but what was spoken about was in executive. He said tonight we will be adopting three Stormwater ordinances. All are mandated by the State.

Mr. Pelura mentioned that later in this meeting we will be adopting the 2024 Municipal Budget. He mentioned receiving a letter from the State of NJ, Dept. of Transportation for a grant that was applied for last year for Bus Shelters and Storm Sewer Improvements projects. This is for \$275,000.00. Public Works has been picking up branches and cutting grass. Mr. Pelura displayed his outrage about the fountain. He said it was painted and there is no water in it, yet somebody went into the bowl and broke the water return pipe. It will be replaced but with a steel pipe. He said he spoke to the Chief about keeping their eyes out for problems. He also mentioned that to the audience. Mrs. Shaw said a camera will be installed closer to the fountain. He said he is disheartened about how people act to destroy things that are not theirs.

Mayor Brown mentioned a letter from the PG-Carneys Point School District on approving the tentative budget for the 24-25 school year. They are looking at an increase of .002 cents which translates to \$2.92 per an average home of \$146,200. Mayor Brown said they received State Aid in the amount of 3.6 million. The budget presentation will be on April 29th at 7 pm in the District Office. Mayor Brown mentioned the State has been working on flooding along Route 130. There are two pipes, one has been cleared and is working, the other is clogged. They are going to try again, then put a camera to make sure the line is not broken. He also mentioned there is a beaver problem there. He told everyone is they are planning on going to the nursing home on 6th Ave. to go through Penns Grove. There is going to be road work being done to replace pipes.

He mentioned the Service Station on Shell Road that is working on reopening. They were told they need to go to the Planning Board for permits.

Mr. Cosaboon Engineer said that Ives Ave. repaving will start tomorrow rain or shine.

Chief VanNamee said he had nothing to report at this meeting.

Mayor Brown asked for a motion to approve the Committee reports. Mr. Bomba motioned to approve all the reports, seconded by Mr. Pelura and all were in favor.

Mayor Brown asked for a motion to approve the **properly audited vouchers** in the amount of \$183,777.65. Mr. Pelura motioned to approve, seconded by Dr. Johnson and all were in favor.

Mayor Brown asked for a motion to approve the **Committee Reports** for the month of March. Motion was made by Mr. Bomba, seconded by Dr. Johnson and all were in favor. Mayor Brown mentioned approval for the **meeting minutes from April 3, 2024**, motion to approve was made by Mr. Bomba, seconded by Mrs. Shaw. and all were in favor. Lastly, Mayor Brown asked for a motion to approve the **Compensation time report**. Mr. Pelura approved, seconded by Mr. Bomba and all were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2024-68

TO SELF EXAMINATION OF THE BUDGET

Mr. Bomba made a motion to authorize the Township to Self-Examination the Budget for 2024. Seconded by Mr. Pelura and a unanimous vote was taken.

RESOLUTION 2024-69

ALLOW FOR THE BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

Motioned by Mr. Pelura to authorize the Mayor to propose the budget for adoption, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken.

Introduction of ordinances

ORDINANCE 1050

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING LIQUOR LICENSE FEES UNDER SECTION 46-3 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CARNEYS POINT.

Mr. Bomba made a motion to approve the ordinance to increase Liquor License fees, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken.

ORDINANCE 1051

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING FEES UNDER SECTION 206-10.4 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CARNEYS POINT-DISPOSAL OF WASTE & RECYCLING.

Mr. Pelura made a motion to approve the increase to trash stickers, seconded by Mr. Bomba and a unanimous vote was taken.

Final Reading and Public Hearing

ORDINANCE 1044

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STORAGE OF SALT AND OTHER DE-ICING MATERIALS ON PROPERTIES NOT OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE TOWNSHIP.

Mayor Brown opened it up to the public for any questions or comments, with none this portion was closed. Mr. Bomba made the motion to adopt Ordinance 1044, seconded by Mr. Pelura and a unanimous vote was taken.

Mayor Brown stopped the meeting at 6:15 pm to propose the adoption of the 2024 Municipal Budget. Mayor Brown asked for a public hearing for the Budget only. With none this portion was closed. Mr. Pelura wanted to thank the Committee for working together to put this budget together. He also wanted to thank all the Department Heads and Employees for working with the Committee. He said it was five or six weeks on Saturday mornings, not always easy but working together to this outcome. Mayor Brown said it started at 9 1/2 cents and got it down to 4 cents, not bad. Slowly we are getting money from the warehouses, but the loss of the CoGen and increases we have no control over like Insurance does not help. Our Finance Officer Ms. Ehret said it is a process and hard work on everyone's part to get it to where it is today.

Motion to adopt the 2024 Municipal Budget was moved on by Mr. Bomba, seconded by Dr. Johnson and a unanimous roll call vote was taken.

ORDINANCE 1045

MUNICIPAL STORMWATER CONTROL ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM STORMWATER MANAGEMEBTN REQUIREMENTS AND CONTROLS FOR "MAJOR DEVELOPMENT". Mayor Brown opened it up to the public for any questions or comments, with none this portion was closed. Mr. Bomba made the motion to adopt Ordinance 1045, seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken.

ORDINANCE 1046

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CARNEYS POINT TO REDUCE SOIL EROSION AND POLLUTANT RUNOFF PROMOTE INFILTRATION OF RAIN WATER INTO THE SOIL, AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE. Mayor Brown opened it up to the public for any questions or comments, with none this portion was closed. Mr. Bomba made the motion to adopt Ordinance 1046, seconded by Mr. Pelura and a unanimous vote was taken.

ORDINANCE 1049

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARY RANGES FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CARNEYS POINT IN THE COUNTY OF SALEM NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE CARNEYS POINT POLICE ASSOCIATION OR THE TERMSTERS LOCAL 676. Mayor Brown opened it up to the public for any questions or comments. Amy Tighe of Harding Highway asked if this is part of a Union. Mr. Pelura said this is for all non-contractual employees setting ranges of salaries. With no more questions, this portion was closed. Mr. Pelura made the motion to adopt Ordinance 1049, seconded by Mr. Bomba and a unanimous vote was taken.

RESOLUTION 2024-70, SETTING SALARIES

Mr. Pelura motioned to set the salaries for each employee not recognized by the Carneys Point Police Association or the Teamsters Local 676, seconded by Mr. Bomba and a unanimous vote was taken. Mr. Pelura commented that during the budget process all the non-contractual employees received an increase. This resolution sets the salaries of each employee.

Under **Correspondence**: Mayor Brown mentioned a letter the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation with an allotment of \$275,000.00 for bus shelters & Storm Sewer Improvements projects. Mr. Pelura said this is a grant that was applied for last year but received this year. Mr. Brown said he already spoke about the School Budget and public meeting. Mr. Brown said Ives Ave repaving project is supposed to start tomorrow.

There being no **Old or New Business** the Committee moved on to **Public Participation**.

Ruth Ellen of Grandview Court spoke on the storm drain by her property. She said it was flooding during the last storm. Could it be blocked and could it be checked. Mr. Pelura said they were checked prior to the storm but he will ask Public Works to take another look.

Martin Cleary of Broad St. mentioned the ditch by his house and the Sewerage Plant. He asked if it will ever get cleaned. He also mentioned the dirt pile looking bad. Mr. Pelura said he spoke to Public Works and the pile of dirt on the asphalt will be removed by the Company who put it there.

Joe Wright of Grandview Court said a study for the ditch will take a year or more to complete. He said basements are flooding, we all need help. He said it is the Church who has to clean and clear the ditch. Tell them they have 30 days to do it. Mayor Brown said he does not think the ditch is theirs and they have no responsibility to clear or clean it. Mr. Wright mentioned the cell service in Carneys Point is poor. Mr. Pelura said that is not in our control. Mrs. Shaw said she and Verizon is doing a walk through at the Rec. Complex for a cell tower. Mr. Pelura said it could take over a year to get up and running.

Craig Benedik of Grandview Court also mentioned his basement has flooded many times. A tree fell from the water but it was cleared.

Amy Tighe of Harding Hwy thanked Dr. Johnson for attending the School Board meeting on the 204/25 School Budget. She said you need to make this an important item so it gets addressed by the County.

Rose Taylor who's Mother lives on Grandview Court had a copy of a letter from the County who said the ditch is the Townships responsibility. Her mother has lived here for 37 years and she had four foot of water in the basement. It cost her \$4,500 to drain the basement. The drywall had to be removed due to water damage. Mr. Pelura said if there is no easement then the home owners are responsible for the ditch care. He said we need to see your survey of your properties. This will help determine where and who owns the ditch.

Rosemary Boyer of Grandview Court asked who owns the ditch. She said this has gotten worse over the years. She said she has seen beavers along the ditch. She said she thinks the Township owns the ditch.

Jarred McCart of Grandview Court said the consent flooding has caused his sump pumps to run constantly causing his electric bill to be \$1,000. This is the second month his bill has been high.

Rose Taylor mentioned access to the surveys will show the boundaries of our properties end before the ditch. Mr. Bomba said the ditch was put in by who knows who over 50 years ago. We need copies so the Engineer can figure this out.

Amy Scretto of Pine Street asked when does this fall on the Township. She said you are not taking this seriously. Mayor Brown said we have been working on this over the years. Mr.

Pelura said if it's on the homeowner's property then it is their responsibility. We need the surveys. He commented that we cannot spend tax payers' money fixing something that is not owned by the Township. The rules have to be followed.

Amy Screto of Pine Street she said you are not allowed on others property, then why did the Zoning Officer go on my property.

With no questions or comments from the public this portion was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 2024-71

Motioned to go into executive session was made by Mr. Bomba, seconded by Dr. Johnson and a unanimous vote was taken. Regular Session ended at 7:04 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Bomba to reconvene in regular session, seconded by Dr. Johnson and all was in favor. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:02 pm.

Mr. Pelura mentioned changing the working hours of the Treasures in the Finance Office from 8 to 4:30 to 7:30 to 4 starting Monday. It was stated she may need to adjust her hours for vacations or sickness if needed. Seconded by Mr. Bomba and all were in favor.

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Mr. Pelura to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Bomba. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Approved: _____

5-1-2024


June Proffitt, Township Clerk