

**CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP MEETING**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 7, 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 Pelura, Shaw, Bomba, Johnson and Brown. Also, at the meeting was D. VanNamee Police Chief, J. Proffitt-Clerk, S. Cosaboon, Engineer and A. Telsey- Solicitor. This meeting was not held virtually.

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.

Mrs. Shaw started the **Departmental Reporting** with the first event for the Recreational Commission is Easter in Dunns Park on March 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 am.

Dr. Johnson mentioned the free rabies clinic on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. As of this date the Township has sold 142 licenses. Residents have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to get a license before a \$15.00 last fee is attached to the license. Dr. Johnson mentioned attending the School Board meeting. She mentioned that they looked at youth at he High School and surrounding areas to see what they can do to help. She spoke of making rounds in the township about twice a week.

Mr. Bomba spoke of the number of calls for the Fire and Rescue Department. He said there were around 711 calls, 18 were during the heavy rain storm. There was a house fire earlier today. He said he had no report for the Industrial Commission and no report for the Code Office.

Mr. Pelura said Public Works is working on picking up debris from the storms. The Finance Office is holding Saturday morning budget meetings from 8am to noon. These meetings are open to the public.

Mayor Brown mentioned cyber training being done throughout the township. Also, there is Public Official training being done. This allows for a \$250 deduction on our insurance is all the public officials do the training.

Chief VanNamee reported that the back parking lot has been completed. He mentioned that they just received an email with 611 expungements that have to be done. This is an unfunded mandate on people charged with cannabis. Mayor Brown said this is why they added an extra clerk in the Police Department. Also, mentioned snow removal from sidewalks. He said the township does not have an ordinance for this and there were a lot of complaints where the children walk to schools. Mr. Telsey will look into to this ordinance.

Mr. Cosaboon, Engineer said he sent out a written report of what they are working on. He mentioned the County is going to be starting roadway repaving on Georgetown Road. He also mentioned Ives Ave roadway improvements. There is a proposal for DEP mandated ordinances for Tier A MS4 permit Stormwater Management ordinances. There are three that have to be done by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Two are pretty simple but one is for tree removal which requires more explanation and affects residents.

Mayor Brown mentioned that all properly audited vouchers are being paid in the amount of \$2,736,343.52. Mr. Bomba made a motion to approve the bill list, seconded by Dr. Johnson and all were in favor with Mr. Pelura abstaining from po number 23-01614.

Dr. Johnson motioned to approve the **minutes from the Regular Committee meeting held on January 17, 2024**; seconded by Mr. Bomba and all were in favor.

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-43**

##### **NEW SIGNERS ON ALL TOWNSHIP BANK ACCOUNTS**

Mr. Pelura motioned to approve the change in signers on all Township Bank Accounts, seconded by Dr. Johnson and a unanimous vote was taken.

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-44**

##### **RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND, SAFETY/STABILIZATION GUARANTEE**

A motion was made by Mr. Pelura to authorize the release of the Bond for Exeter 25 N. Golfwood Land, LLC. Seconded by Mrs. Shaw and a unanimous vote was taken.

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-45**

##### **TRANSFER OF BUDGET APPROPRIATION RESERVES**

Mr. Pelura authorize the Appropriation Reserves Transfer of \$9,500 within the 2024 Budget, seconded by Mr. Bomba and a unanimous vote was taken.

#### **ORDINANCE 1043**

**AN ORDINANCE INCREASING COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.**

Mayor Brown explained this ordinance will put in place a scale for increases to members on the Sewerage Authority. There has not been an increase since 1989. Motion to introduce was made by Mr. Bomba, seconded by Dr. Johnson and a unanimous vote was taken.

Under **Correspondence**: Mayor Brown mentioned receiving a letter of resignation from Doug Sparks as Alternate #2 on the Planning Board. Mr. Pelura mentioned that Mr. Sparks has made about 95% of all meetings, he was prepared, asked good questions and always voted with the law. He enjoyed being on the Planning Board. Mayor Brown said he will be missed. Motion to accept the resignation was made by Mr. Pelura, seconded by Mr. Bomba and all were in favor.

Mr. Cosaboon Mentioned the Award of Contract for Ives Ave Roadway Improvements. This will allow for the preconstruction meetings and to get started. He mentioned that there has been changes due to the water company repaving half of the road when they put in a new line. Every time a change happens it has to be sent to the State for review.

Mr. Cosaboon then mentioned the amended Performance Guarantees and Escrow Fees for RPI Construction Equipment at 517 PV-Auburn Rd. Mayor Brown said this is the old Howard Johnson property. Mr. Bomba said they have been in touch with the schools for training purposes.

Mayor Brown mentioned an invite from the Elmer Boro President Lew Schneider to visit the PSEG Energy & Environmental Resource Center on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 1 pm.

Under **Old Business:** Mr. Pine was going to speak on the changes to the employee's handbook. He is not here tonight so this was postponed by Mr. Bomba, seconded by Mr. Pelura and all were in favor.

Under **New Business:** Mayor Brown mentioned an Authorization to Proceed for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant at a cost to the Township of \$4,250.00 from TRIAD. Mr. Bomba motioned to authorize the signing of the paperwork, seconded by Mr. Pelura and all were in favor.

Mayor Brown mentioned a Proposal for 2024 NJDCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant application for Dunns Park Lighting. Mrs. Shaw said Dunns Park is dim at night and this will include all new LED lights and some new poles with lights. Mrs. Shaw motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Bomba and all were in favor.

Mr. Cosaboon said he mentioned this earlier about the Tier A MS4 Permit for Stormwater Management Ordinances. He said three ordinances have to be done by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Some of the changes will be increase in basin sizes to hold more rain fall, salt for de-icing will have to be covered or under a canape. He said if a seasonal item, then just covered by a tarp. The goal is to improve water quality and help minimize contaminates in our water ways. Mr. Pelura motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign, seconded by Mr. Bomba and all were in favor.

Mayor Brown mentioned from the last meeting the ditch that runs from Grandview to Golfwood. He called the County to see if they maintain this ditch and has not heard back from anyone there.

**Public Participations:** Amy Secreto of Pine Street mentioned she has been addressing chickens in residential areas since June of last year. She stated that the Zoning Officer took photos of her yard from the neighbor's yard over a fence. She said this is illegal. Also, she said the ordinance for what he is charging her is incorrect, due to it being for large animals 212-42.1. She said she submitted a few Pilot programs from different municipalities for this Committee to consider. She mentioned the former Mayor assigned a sub-committee to review and report on the Pilot Programs. She said the Zoning Officer is not correct. Mr. Bomba never returned a call or email that was sent to him. She said a lot of residents are supportive of being allowed to have chickens. Mr. Pelura addressed a few items to Mrs. Secreto about her chickens. Mr. Pelura said she told people he told her to get rid of the rooster. He said I told you we as a committee would look at the ordinances. If we decide to change anything I said that roosters will not be allowed. Mr. Pelura went on to address the sub-committee issue and timing. He explained that there cannot be all five members on a committee due to statutes. So, he assigned a subcommittee of Mr. Bomba and Mr. Dennis to work with the Solicitor. Mr. Pelura said we did not vote on the findings from the subcommittee. We all agreed with their findings that our community is not suited for this Pilot program. He said in the mean time he has spoken to many residents who are not supportive of allowing chickens. Mayor Brown said the Zoning Officer has given you options.

Martin Cleary of Broad St. said when he was young, they had about 20 chickens and no one ever said anything about them. He said the Committee should change the ordinances to allow for the chickens. Mr. Cleary mentioned the lights for Dunns Park, he said we should worry about the

lights around the township. Next, Mr. Cleary said you need to tell the Police to patrol the roads in the township. He mentioned three gas stations that have multiple vehicles parked on their lots. He said one is Scotts and one is on Delavue Ave. Chief VanNamee said the last time he complained he sent the Code Office out there only to find they have different rules as a business. Mr. Cleary then moved on to address ditches such as the one on C Street which floods all the time. He mentioned seeing our Public Works workers dragging a six foot branch to their vehicle. Amy Tighe of Harding Highway said she came to a meeting in December and we celebrated a local business which was nice. Mr. Pelura always speaks to everyone respectfully. To many warehouses seem to be a problem instead this Committee is worried about 10 chickens in someone's yard who loves and cares for them. She said she has seen each of the Committee members at the Salem County Fair. She said they show their face and be proud but don't want anything to do with the County life.

Lady from Jordan Ave said she feels the residents should be allowed to have chickens. She feels people should be able to take care of themselves.

Kelly Johnston of N. Game Creek Rd. mentioned the tractor trailers that still go up and down her road. She said when they see the sign about the bridge with weight limits they attempt to turn around on her property which is damaging the ground. She asked for any assistance they could give her. Mayor Brown said he and Mr. Pelura has spoken to the warehouses before about their trucks. Chief VanNamee said only the County can put signs up. Mayor Brown said he will look into this.

Eleanor Washington of Sandy Ridge Apartments thanked everyone who showed her family care and support with the passing of her brother Former Mayor Washington of Penns Grove. Ms. Washington said she also has concerns for about the chickens.

Greg Martin of Cedarwood Rd. asked if anyone knows who is going into the warehouse behind Roman Pantry. Mayor Brown said Rivan is the company and it will be a parts warehouse.

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

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-46**

Mr. Pelura made the motion to convene into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Bomba. A unanimous vote was taken and the regular meeting ended at 7:01 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 9:07 pm with the following action taking place.

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-47**

##### **HIRE A PART-TIME TAX COLLECTOR**

Motion was made by Mr. Pelura to authorize the hiring of Jennifer Koeturis as our part-time Certified Tax Collector, to be paid \$50.00 per hour and not to work more than ten hours in a week. Seconded by Mr. Bomba and a unanimous vote was taken.

Mr. Bomba made a motion to approve the amendment to the contract for Ambulance Services to allow for the payment of \$250,000 per year, seconded by Dr. Johnson and a unanimous vote was taken.

Mr. Bomba motioned to authorize to approve the assignment of payment of \$120,000 in the interim on the contract until the budget is completed at which time there will be retro payments. Seconded by Mr. Pelura and all were in favor.

Mr. Telsey asked if Mr. Avedissian-Conflict Solicitor could handle the Fertl Soil Municipal Court matter due to he having more experience with this matter. Mr. Pelura made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bomba to authorize Mr. Avedissian to take over the case and all were in favor.

Mr. Pelura made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with the TBLS Group as discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Bomba and a unanimous vote was taken.

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Mrs. Shaw to adjourn and seconded by Dr. Johnson. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Approved: 2-21-2024

  
June Proffitt, Township Clerk