

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER ALLOWAYS CREEK HELD MAY 18, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Lower Alloways Creek Township Committee was held on April 18, 2020 with Mayor Ellen B. Pompper calling the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF NOTICE GIVEN**

The Township Clerk read the following statement.

This is a Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Lower Alloways Creek being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" N.J.S.A. 10:4-6. To insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting them is discussed or acted upon. Advance written notice of this meeting was given by way of the Annual Notice which was filed with the Lower Alloways Creek Township Clerk, forwarded to the South Jersey Times and posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of the Lower Alloways Creek Township Municipal Building in compliance with said Act.

[Because of a pandemic spreading of the Covid-19 virus, federal and state officials have ordered citizens to shelter in their homes, not gather in groups of more than ten, wear face masks when in public places and wash your hands often, for at least twenty seconds and therefore no meetings are being held in person at this time, this meeting was held via telephone conference]

This meeting was in addition, advertised as a teleconference meeting via the South Jersey Times, posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of the Lower Alloways Creek Township Municipal Building and placed on the home page of the Township's website.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Pompper led in the Flag Salute.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE**

Present: Mr. Bradway, Mr. Collier, Mr. Palombo, Mr. Venable and Mayor Pompper

Absent: none

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Also in attendance were four- (4) members of the public including, Lewis Fogg; Superintendent of Public Works; Police Chief Richard Venable; Solicitor, Linwood Donelson III and Township Clerk Ronald L Campbell Sr.

**PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS**

Motion (Venable, Bradway) that all properly audited vouchers be paid.

The motion to pay properly audited vouchers passed a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 5-0

Ayes: Venable, Bradway, Collier, Palombo and Pompper

Nays: none    Abstain: none    Absent: none

**REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE**

The Mayor requested that the minutes reflect that the April 2020 Monthly reports to the Township Committee have been received from the following Departments and are on file with the Clerk: Construction Office, Engineer, Finance, Municipal Court, Police Department, Public Works, Sewer and Tax Collector.

## MINUTES

Motion (Venable, Bradway) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Township Committee Meeting held on April 21, 2020.

The motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Township Committee Meeting held on April 21, 2020 passed a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 5-0

Ayes: Venable, Bradway, Collier, Palombo and Pompper

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: none

## RESOLUTIONS

Motion (Venable, Bradway) for Resolution 2020- 42, a Resolution extending the grace period for May 1<sup>st</sup> property tax payments until June 1<sup>st</sup> in accordance with Executive Order 130.

### **RESOLUTION 2020-42**

#### **A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS UNTIL JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 130**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(0), second-quarter property taxes are due for property taxpayers within Township of Lower Alloways Creek on May 1,2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a). local governments may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges, on or before the date when they would become delinquent and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became delinquent, thereby establishing a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for second-quarter property taxes; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to take action to minimize and mitigate additional hardships, losses, or suffering by individuals and local government units as the State and its political subdivisions respond to the spread of COVID-19, on April 28, 2020, The Honorable Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, issued Executive Order 130, permitting municipalities to adopt a resolution instituting a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of fourth-quarter property taxes: and

WHEREAS, in an effort to mitigate financial hardship and to alleviate some of the financial burden caused as a result of COVID-19 on property taxpayers within the Township of Lower Alloways Creek, the Township Committee of the Township of Lower Alloways Creek desire to take action in accordance with Executive Order 130 and institute a grace period to the fullest extent permitted by the Order, concluding on June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lower Alloways Creek, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey, that:

1. The provisions of the WHEREAS clauses set forth above are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.
2. The Township Committee of the Township of Lower Alloways Creek hereby institutes a grace period concluding on June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes in accordance with Executive Order 130.
3. The Township will not include second-quarter taxes in the CY 20 accelerated tax sale.

4. Payments received after June 1, 2020 will accrue interest from the statutory due date of May 1, 2020.

5. The Township Clerk is directed to notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of this resolution instituting an extended grace period adopted under authority of Executive Order 130 not later than the third business day next following the adoption of this resolution.

6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The motion for Resolution 2020- 42 extending the grace period for May 1<sup>st</sup> property tax payments until June 1<sup>st</sup> in accordance with Executive Order 130 passed a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 5-0

Ayes: Venable, Bradway, Collier, Palombo and Pompper

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: none

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Pompper stated that she had spoken with Freeholder Charley Hassler about the County financially contributing to the road work on Locust Island Road, when the Township finishes paving Alloways Creek Neck Road and the intersection at Locust Island Road. Mayor Pompper said that she explained that LAC Twp had already paid for the engineering and that we just wanted funds to complete the project where the older pavement is. He indicated that he would ask for the funds from the Freeholder Board (approximately \$80,000.00).

Mayor Pompper also stated that July is the deadline for the applications to the NJDOT for road project funding and what roads if any did the Committee want to submit for possible funding.

After discussion the Committee suggested Silver Lake Road as the one to seek funding to resurface.

Motion (Bradway, Venable) to submit Silver Lake Road to the NJDOT for resurfacing funding.

The motion to submit Silver Lake Road to the NJDOT for resurfacing funding was passed by a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 5-0

Ayes: Bradway, Venable, Collier, Palombo and Pompper

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: none

#### NEW BUSINESS

Motion (Palombo, Bradway) to approve the purchase of chain and parts to repair the worn arm chain on Truck 9A from Granturk Equipment at a cost of \$ 2,903.80.

The motion to approve the purchase of chain and parts to repair the worn arm chain on Truck 9A from Granturk Equipment at a cost of \$ 2,903.80 was passed by a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 5-0

Ayes: Bradway, Palombo, Collier, Venable, and Pompper

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent:

The Clerk and Solicitor shared with the Committee the details as known, regarding the State's Municipal Court System using Zoom video conferencing to open up the Municipal Courts, which have been closed completely during the Covid pandemic. During a telephone/video conference the State Municipal Court Vintage laid out how the State was recommending that ZOOM video conference software be used to accomplish this, as it could be set for the security settings the

State Judiciary desired. Their researched indicated that all of Salem County Municipal Courts could share one Zoom account as each had court on different days of the month. The Clerk stated that calls between county municipal clerks have taken place on this issue and in addition talking with our municipal Court Administrator some county municipal courts have already acquired a Zoom account individually and had not indicated that they were willing to share those accounts with others. The Clerk will keep inquiring with other municipalities to try to establish a shared services agreement on this. Mayor Pompper stated that she feels that the larger Municipal Courts in the County should be the ones to get the account and then share the cost with the others in the county.

Motion (Bradway, Venable) to authorize a Shared Services agreement with other Salem County Municipal Courts to share a “Zoom” video conferencing account to facilitate Virtual Court Sessions.

The motion to authorize a Shared Services agreement with other Salem County Municipal Courts to share a “Zoom” video conferencing account to facilitate Virtual Court Sessions was passed by a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 5-0

Ayes: Bradway, Venable, Collier, Palombo and Pompper

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: none

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mayor Pompper ask if the Committee had read the letter received from Mrs. Ehrenkrantz regarding requesting a partial refund of her Monthly rent. The Committee took no action on the request.

#### **REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **Public Works:**

Superintendent Fogg stated that several weeks ago the wind had damaged the roof shingles and siding at the Senior Complex, Municipal Building and Canton Fire House. Superintendent Fogg had the JIF Insurance adjustors come to assess at the damage and it looks like \$5,500.00 would be needed for repairs.

Motion (Venable, Bradway) to authorize up to \$5,500.00 for repairs to the wind damage at the Senior Complex, Municipal Building and Canton Fire House.

The motion authorize up to \$5,500.00 for repairs to the wind damage at the Senior Complex, Municipal Building and Canton Fire House passed a vote of the Township Committee as follows: 5-0

Ayes: Venable, Bradway, Collier, Palombo and Pompper

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: none

Mayor Pompper asked the Committee if they were good with not selling Bulk Stickers at the Convenience Center during the Covid Social Distancing period, the Committee was in agreement.

Superintendent Fogg stated that the flag pole which was removed from the PW Garage weeks ago had been located and returned to the PW yard. Superintendent Fogg related the story of the participants behind its removal. Chief Venable also provided what the investigation discovered. The Committee agreed that charges should be brought against the perpetrators.

Superintendent Fogg stated that a few units at Leisure Arms were experiencing termites and that pest control would be done after a mark-out was completed. Mr. Bradway commented that perhaps we should institute a program to treat the units a few at a time over a period of years.

Mr. Venable asked the Superintendent if steel roofs had been considered as replacements to shingles. Superintendent Fogg stated that perhaps the Canton Fire House could be considered for a steel roof. Superintendent Fogg stated that the units at Leisure Arms had almost all been replaced recently with shingles. The PW pole barn had a steel roof, done in the mid 2000's and it has corrosion and pitting, so he is not sure that is any more reliable. Superintendent Fogg stated that the Township has specified lifetime shingles in the latest projects looking for durability.

**Police Department:**

Chief Venable stated that the Body worn cameras need to be replaced as the quality of the video is has diminished and the newer systems offer much better quality. Chief Venable stated that WatchGuard gave him an estimate of \$28,000.00 for a new computer server and cameras.

**Mayor and Committee Members**

No one from the Committee had any further comments, other than to stay safe and healthy.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one from the Public indicated that they wished to make any comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion (Venable, Bradway) to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

The motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

Minutes of the May 18, 2020 Meeting were approved at a Township Committee Meeting held June 16, 2020

ATTEST:

LOWER ALLOWAYS CREEK TOWNSHIP

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Ronald L Campbell Sr. Clerk

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Mayor, Ellen B. Pompper