

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION NOVEMBER 9, 2023

The Township Committee met on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 295 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road, Chesterfield, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Denise Koetas-Dale at 7:00 p.m.

The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Belinda Blazic, Shreekant Dhopte, Jeremy Liedtka (phone), Matthew Litt and Denise Koetas-Dale

Also present: Thomas A. Sahol, Administrator; Rachel Fryc, Deputy Clerk; Carmela Roberts, Township Engineer and Dominic P. DiYanni, Township Attorney

AGENDA MATTER(S) REQUIRING RECUSAL(S) – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve the October 26th Regular and Executive minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Koetas-Dale advised the public of the “public comment code of conduct” as listed on the agenda.

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment. Hearing none, Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to close public comment. All were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to approve Resolution 2023-11-2
Voice vote - All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-11-1 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to approve Resolution 2023-11-2
Voice vote - All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-11-2 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD, BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT WITH HUNTERDON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

BILL LIST

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to approve the bill list. Voice vote – All in favor.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Mayor:

Paving of Main Street, Crosswicks – Mayor Koetas-Dale stated that the contractor has requested to do an all-night session instead of closing down Main Street for a few days in order to repair and pave. Paving is scheduled for next week. Mayor Koetas-Dale said that she spoke to Chief Davison who strongly agrees with the all-night session since it was very difficult when they were paving Bordentown-Crosswicks Road and had to close portions of Main Street. Mayor Koetas-Dale said that she reached out to several residents on Main Street and took an informal poll and they all agreed to pave overnight instead of closing the street during the day. Mr. Litt asked that we communicate to the residents that will be effected in Crosswicks. Mr. Liedtka said the homes will vibrate all night long due to the heavy machinery and is concerned that the residents will not be able to sleep. He would rather shut down Main Street during the day then overnight. Mr. Litt and Mr. Dhopte also agreed to shut down Main Street during the day instead of overnight. Mr. Sahol will notify the contractor.

Proclamation Acknowledging Family Court Awareness Month – Mayor Koetas-Dale stated she will skip at this time.

Administration:

Best Practices – Mr. Sahol said that every year the Township has to submit a Best Practice Survey of questions to the State of New Jersey in order to continue to receive 100% of our State Aid. Mr. Sahol reported that the Township will continue to receive the same amount of State Aid as we have in the past due to a job well done by the entire staff.

Network Upgrades – Mr. Sahol reported that the Township is starting necessary upgrades to the network, cloud, email and hardware. All upgrading will start in the next 6-8 weeks. Covid relief funds will be used to fund this project.

ENGINEER:

Ms. Roberts reviewed her detailed report dated November 9, 2023, which is attached hereto and made part these minutes, on the engineering items that have been completed this year. Highlighting the following:

MS4 Stormwater Tier A Permit:

Roberts Engineering has had a number of meetings with Administration and Public Works to coordinate, determine deficiencies, create procedures and plan in order to comply with the Tier A Stormwater Permit. This is an ongoing process that will continue into 2024.

Sykesville Road Phases IV & V:

Anticipated construction schedule – November 27 through December 6.

Emergency Generators at Sanitary Pump Stations 1 & 2:

Contract advertisement is anticipated for December 2023 or January 2024, subject to PSEG approvals.

Department of Public Works Evaluation:

The evaluation will be completed as soon as the Green Acres limits are formally verified by NJDEP.

Improvements to Sykesville Road Phase 1 thru 3:

Earle Asphalt is scheduled to complete repairs at no cost to the Township in December 2023.

Improvements to Margerum Road:

Currently evaluating and preparing a recommendation.

Improvements to Fenton Lane Park:

Will perform a limited field survey to complete the work. Roberts Engineering is ready to move forward upon notification.

Improvements to Olivia Park:

Roberts Engineering is ready to move forward upon notification.

Mr. Liedtka asked Ms. Roberts when the generators will be ready to go out to bid. Ms. Roberts replied sometime in December but no later than January. She said it is a delay due to PSE&G. Mr. Dhopte asked where the funding for the generators is coming from. Mr. Sahol explained that the \$48,000.00 fee to the Engineer for the design and bid is coming from the Sewer Fund.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Litt thanked Troy Ulshafer for moving so quickly on planting the trees in the island at Old York Village in front of the shops. He said it looks nice and helps with the safety concerns of people driving through the island. Mayor Koetas-Dale also thanked Mr. Kuser for assisting Troy with the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Dawn Donahue, 79 Bord-Chesterfield Road is concerned that Brett Anderson is running the Democratic political campaign, a member of the Township Budget Advisory Committee and he is currently suing the Township. Ms. Donahue does not agree with what the HPC is trying to propose with expanding the historic district and does not want her house to be listed in the historic district.

Mayor Koetas-Dale responded stating that there is no plan to expand the historic district and these are all rumors. The survey needs to be done on a regular basis and has not been done since the 1970's. The Mayor stated this will only apply to certain properties such as the Black House and the Bullock mansion. She stated that any changes would have to be adopted by an ordinance. She is very upset that the volunteers are being pointed out for political reasons. Ms. Blazic stated the misunderstanding is coming from James Codella based on an email he wrote. Mr. Litt stated that wholesale expansion was never discussed. What was discussed, was a need for a historic research inventory that has not been done since the 1970's. The inventory will locate historic buildings and landmarks. Mr. Litt is concerned that the historic inventory will not happen and it only happens once a century.

Mukesh Shah, 6 Colemantown Drive is asking the Township Committee to prohibit parking in alley ways in Chesterfield. He supplied all of the Township Committee members with a packet that he put together with his concerns with parking in alleys. Mayor Koetas-Dale said she will take his concerns under consideration and will discuss at a future meeting.

Agnes Marsala, 42 Cromwell Drive thanked Troy Ulshafer and everyone involved with the design and paving of the Town Hall parking lot. Being that she is handicapped the new design works well for her.

Hearing no further public comment, Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to close public comment. All were in favor.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Ms. Blazic asked for a follow-up on the repairs from an event held in Village Square Park last September. Mr. Sahol replied the damage cost is approximately \$1,600.00 and he is trying to schedule a meeting with the resident that was in charge of the event. Mr. Litt suggested submitting a claim through their insurance company to pay for the damage.

Due to technical issues Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to re-open to public comment. All were in favor.

James Codella, 470 Main Street stated that he is the HPC Chair and wanted to set the record straight about the historic expansion rumors. Mr. Codella stated he was in a meeting with Tom Sahol, Debbie Kelly and Mayor Koetas-Dale where Mr. Sahol said that the Historic Inventory needed to be moved forward due to the budget. Mr. Codella stated that after the meeting he received an email from Mr. Sahol to his personal gmail account saying that it appears the HPC is trying to take over part of the town by expanding the historic district. Mr. Codella said this email was then posted on the internet. Mr. Codella said the HPC has never considered expanding outside the historic district and their intentions are to do an inventory which has not been done since the 1970's. He said the HPC has no power and they are volunteers giving suggestions. Mr. Codella said his rights were violated when someone posted his private email on the internet. He read his email response that he wrote to Mr. Sahol.

Hearing no further public comment, Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to close public comment. All were in favor.

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fryc, RMC
Deputy Township Clerk