

**PILESGROVE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 8, 2008
MINUTES**

Mayor Ernie Bickford called the regular meeting of the Pilesgrove Township Committee to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk read the annual notice statement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings law. This meeting of July 8, 2008 was included in a list of meetings notice sent to the Today's Sunbeam and the Elmer Times on January 5, 2008, posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building on January 5, 2008 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Bickford advised that proper notice having been given; the Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

Attendance: Ernest Bickford
William Miller
Michael Mulligan, Esq.
Ruth Moynihan, CFO
David Rollison, RMA

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the minutes of the June 6, 10 (am), and 10 (pm), 2008 minutes. Ayes all.
Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Bickford to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2008 meeting. Ayes Kille and Bickford, Miller abstained.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Bickford to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2008 regular evening meeting. Ayes Bickford and Miller, Kille abstained.

Ms. Debbie Duffield, representing the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Board of Education, updated Committee on the School District's referendum scheduled for September 30, 2008. Ms. Duffield advised that the September referendum will be for the construction of a new middle school, and some renovations to the existing high school and elementary school. The dollar amount of the referendum will be under \$29 mm. Ms. Duffield also advised that the facilities task force is still active, and the school district is looking for volunteers for a "come out to vote" effort for the referendum.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the bill list in the amount of \$553,085.29 as presented by the Treasurer. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to accept the Tax Collectors report for the month of June, 2008. Mayor Bickford inquired on the status of the preparation of the tax bills; Ms. Moynihan advised that the Township does not yet have a rate from the County, so the bills have not been mailed. Ayes all to accept the June Collectors report.

Township Auditor David Rollison explained to Committee the process to adopt the 2008 Municipal budget. The State has restored a portion of the Township's state aid, and if the Township Committee intends to return that money to surplus, the introduced budget must be amended. There must be a public hearing on the introduced budget, but since the anticipated amendment to return the aid to surplus does not create an increase in the tax rate or appropriations to the introduced budget, another public hearing after the amendment is not required.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to open the public hearing on the 2008 Municipal budget. Ayes all. There being no public comment, motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to close the public hearing on the 2008 Municipal Budget. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 08-066, amending the 2008 Municipal Budget. Ayes all.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to adopt the 2008 Municipal budget by title only. Roll call: Miller yes, Kille yes, Bickford yes.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to authorize the submission of the Township's 2009 renewal information to the TRICO JIF. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to award the contract to QC Laboratories for the 2008 – 2009 quarterly and annual sampling and laboratory analysis for the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Sanitary Landfill in the amount of \$10,122.50. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve the Tax Assessor's attendance at the 2008 Annual Educational Conference at a cost of \$425.00. Ayes all.

Ms. Christi Carpenter and Ms. Jen Dubler, representing the Fall Festival updated Committee on the plans for this year's Fall Festival. The day has three parts – April's Run in the morning, which ends at the Marlton Park, the events during the day are centered in the business district of the Borough of Woodstown, and the evening events (music, food and other entertainment) take place at the Marlton Park. Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Dubler advised that the event is scheduled for the last Saturday in September and if anyone should approach the Township to participate, they should be directed to the Fall Festival Committee.

Solicitor Mulligan recommended a minor amendment to the proposed wording for Resolution 08-067. Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to approve Resolution 08-067, Appointing Members to the Township Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee, with Solicitor Mulligan's amended wording. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to open the public hearing on

Ordinance 08-07
An Ordinance Amending Chapter 145 "Land Use"
Of the Code of the Township of Pilesgrove to
Revise the Definition of "Minor Subdivision"

Ayes all.

There being no public comment, motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to close the public hearing on Ordinance 08-07. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to adopt Ordinance 08-04.

Roll call: Bickford yes, Miller yes. Kille yes. Mr. Miller asked to make a statement on the adoption of this Ordinance. A copy of the statement is included herein.

Motion made by Bickford, 2nd by Kille to open the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Resident Cheryl Reardon asked if a vote had taken place on Resolution 08-067, Mr. Kille confirmed that the vote did take place. Ms. Reardon stated that in her opinion, all 10 possible members should have been appointed to the Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee instead of the 8 appointed by the Resolution. Ms. Reardon expressed her appreciation to Township Committee for adopting Ordinance 08-07, and advised that she strongly disagrees with Mr. Miller's statement on the ordinance. She feels that the June 1960 date in the ordinance shows no favoritism to any property owner.

Resident Phyllis Sauler advised the Clerk that her name is misspelled in Resolution 08-067, the Clerk advised it will be corrected. Ms. Sauler agrees with Ms. Reardon that the Plan Endorsement Committee should have been the full compliment. Neighboring municipality Woolwich Township has their Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee in place, and the plan endorsement process has taken three years.

There being no further public comment, motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Mayor Bickford asked Ms. Jodie Loufik, representing Ashwood Girl Scout Council, to explain the gold and silver awards received by residents of the Township. Mayor Bickford recognized Girl Scout Anna Foster on achieving the gold award, and Girl Scouts Lauren Gardiner, Lily Baum, Alex Nowicki, Christine Finkle and Nikita Walker on achieving the silver award.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Resident Stephen Sulvetta, 400 Lincoln Road, objected to the adjournment, as he had not been heard. He read a letter from the Clerk advising him that he would be on the agenda. The Clerk advised Mr. Sulvetta that a second letter was sent to him, stating that on advice of the Township Solicitor, he would not be on the agenda, and could address Committee during the public comment portion of the meeting. Mr. Sulvetta advised that he did not receive the second letter.

Mr. Mulligan recommended that Committee re-open the public comment portion of the meeting to hear Mr. Sulvetta. Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to reopen the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Mr. and Mrs. Sulvetta addressed Committee and presented various documents detailing the ongoing issues regarding a drainage easement and swale on his property. Mr. Sulvetta has an expired temporary certificate of occupancy, and the Township Construction Office will not issue a full certificate of occupancy until the balance of Mr. Sulvetta's developer fee has been paid and his escrow account is brought current. Mayor Bickford asked Mr. Sulvetta to state his reason for addressing Committee on this matter. Mr. Sulvetta advised that he has spent \$3,400.00 on the drainage swale, and he wants that money back from the Township. Solicitor Mulligan advised Mayor Bickford that there should be no back and forth with Mr. Sulvetta on this matter, as this could be considered potential litigation. Mr. Sulvetta advised that this will be litigated, he will not pay any bills until ordered by the Court, and his lawyer has advised him that his civil rights have been violated. Mr. Sulvetta asked if he is going to get his certificate of occupancy – Mayor Bickford replied that on advice of Counsel, he would not answer that question. Mr. Sulvetta stated that he will sue.

Motion made by Miller, 2nd by Kille to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Ayes all.

Motion made by Kille, 2nd by Miller to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Ayes all.

Maureen R. Abdill, Clerk