

**OCTOBER 25, 2022**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Clerk Wallace at 12:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Clerk who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Moffatt, Commissioner Busch and Commissioner vanHeeswyk answered roll call. Also in attendance: Administrator Ed Grant, Clerk Elaine Wallace, and Solicitor John Amenhauser. This meeting was held electronically via Zoom under local operation guidance from the NJDCA pursuant to P.L. 2020, c. 11.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

Commercial Beach Tags: Beach Director Chris Garrison joined the Commissioners to discuss the possibility of creating commercial beach tags. He explained the Borough loses money on weekly and daily tag purchases each time an owner buy seasonal tags as an amenity for their renters. If the Borough created a commercial tag, it would recoup some of the cost by charging more for them or, if the owners decide not to provide them, the Borough will sell more tags directly to the renters. Administrator Grant reported the beach tag revenue fell short of the anticipated revenue by roughly \$15,000, even after raising the cost of seasonal tags. This puts the Borough in the position of cutting the beach budget, raising tag fees again or creating a commercial tag. Commissioner Busch asked if beach tag revenue pays for beach protection. Commissioner Busch said Cape May has a beach utility and all tag revenue has to be used for running the beaches. Mr. Grant explained the Borough also uses beach tag revenues to pay taggers and lifeguards and to purchase equipment for use on the beaches but it does not provide funds for the cleaning and maintenance of the beaches performed by public works or any beach replenishment costs. Commissioner vanHeeswyk asked if any consideration was given to increasing weekly and daily tag prices. Mr. Grant did an analysis of tag costs and the Point's are a bit higher than any other town in the County, so didn't feel that was a viable option. The Commissioners were in favor of drafting an ordinance of how commercial tags would be implemented in Cape May Point. Commissioner Busch felt it was important to recover more expenses from commercial concerns and this was a good proposal for better covering the cost of running the beach program.

Reducing Speed Limits on Non-County Roads: Mayor Moffatt proposed reducing the speed limit on Borough roads to 20 MPH to improve safety for cars, pedestrians, bicyclists, etc. Commissioner vanHeeswyk agreed it was a good step. The Borough has also requested the County decrease the speed on Lighthouse and Cape Avenues to 25 MPH. Borough Engineer Dale Foster advised a resolution is on the County Commissioner meeting agenda later in the day. Commissioner Busch was concerned with how motorists would know the speed limit is 20 MPH. There are currently only speed limit signs on the larger roads, probably because state law says the speed limit is 25 MPH unless otherwise established. If the speed limit is decreased, signs will be necessary on all the streets. A single sign at the entrances on Cape and Lighthouse

were suggested stating speed limit is 20 MPH unless otherwise posted. It might get people to slow down on the County roads as well. Ms. Busch would like to know the cost before making the change. The possibility of seasonal speed limits was also mentioned. The Commissioners invited the public to share their opinions during the public portion.

Security Cameras: Commissioner Busch advised the existing security cameras at the entrances are over 10 years old, malfunctioning, and obsolete. She asked the Commissioner if they felt they were needed and should be replaced. Mayor Moffatt said there are times they are beneficial and it would be good to have working cameras. Commissioner vanHeeswyk felt there are certain places they would be helpful for avoiding vandalism. Ms. Busch has not done research into the topic, as her department is only responsible for acquiring and maintaining the equipment, not the public safety aspects. She had questions about who would monitor them, privacy concerns, who would have access to them and the recordings, and any public notifications requirements. She was under the impression the cameras were used to record license plates into and out of the Borough and questioned if that was necessary. Commissioner vanHeeswyk had similar questions when they were first purchased, but they have been helpful on the occasions the police have needed them, but there was never a log created. She felt the Borough would be remiss if they didn't have them. Solicitor Amenhauser stated the purpose of the cameras would be protection of the Borough and if they were focused on Borough property, anything ancillary caught on camera would not be an intrusion of privacy. Administrator Grant felt cameras are important, especially in the winter months. He's seen the benefit of them in investigations. Commissioner Busch felt the topic needed group discussion, especially since a new system will cost more than what was set aside in the capital budget.

Best Practices: Clerk Wallace reviewed the results of the 2022 Best Practices Inventory which will be filed after the meeting through the State Portal including the Chief Financial Chief Administrator Officers certifications. The Boroughs final score was 34. A minimum score of 24 was required to receive 100% of the final state aid payment.

Mayor Moffatt thanked County Engineer Bob Church for his quick response to recent concerns about plans on Cape Avenue. He also reported Verizon contractors began moving their poles on Lighthouse.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Grant reiterated the Mayor Moffatt's report regarding the traffic calming project, which is moving along nicely. He also reported he attended a JIF conference that offered a great deal of good information. There was an increase in rates, much of which is attributed to workers compensation claims. Of those claims, 73% were COVID related. Another thing stressed was the important of cyber security. He was pleased to say the Borough is tier 3 in cyber security, only 30% of participants have reached that level, which reduced the deductible for any cyber claims from \$50,000 to

\$0. Lastly, Mr. Grant reported his most recent budget review showed the Borough is in relatively good shape with no need for budget transfers at this time.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

119-22 Recommending the Elevation of Evacuation Routes in Cape May County

*Motions: vanHeeswyk, Busch*

*Roll call: all those present in favor*

120-22 Approval of Bill List

*Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt*

*Roll call: all those present in favor*

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

Barb Bassett felt purchasing new security cameras would be well worth it to keep the town safe. She suggested reconsidering where they are possible additional locations, making sure the footage can be archived, and making sure they are high enough that people cannot tamper with them.

Sandy Allison agreed with Ms. Bassett's comments on cameras. She asked for clarification on a comment Mayor Moffatt made about traffic calming on Cape Avenue. The matter was the correction of a recent change to the proposed speed table location. Ms. Allison asked if every owner who gets a rental permit would have to purchase commercial tags. Mr. Grant responded further questions would be addressed when putting together a draft. Ms. Allison mentioned Cape May has discussed looking at licensing golf carts and low speed vehicles and thinks it is a good idea because the numbers are increasing. She spoke in support of reducing the speed limit on all streets to 20 mph and suggested doing something to prevent unsanctioned car rallies, like the one in Wildwood recently that resulted in injuries and death.

Barb Bassett seconded Ms. Allison's comments on cars and racing. As a resident on Lighthouse Avenue, she's seen cars parked at the State Park and driving along Lighthouse.

Helen Chezem wondered how 20 mph speed limits would be enforced when the 25 mph limit isn't being enforced. She then had questions about how commercial tags would be handled. She rents her house sometimes and other times she has family stay and she was concerned she would need to buy commercial tags for her family. She also felt the estimated revenue might be off. Administrator Grant stated that will need to be part of further discussions. The Borough hopes the new tag will encourage rental owners to stop providing tags as an amenity to guests so they will purchase their own tags.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm on motion of Commissioner vanHeeswyk, seconded by Mayor Moffatt.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk

Accepted:

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Commissioner Busch

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Mayor Moffatt

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Commissioner vanHeeswyk