

AUGUST 6, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Deputy Mayor vanHeeswyk at 12:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Mayor who then led those present in the flag salute. Commissioner Mullock and Deputy Mayor vanHeeswyk answered roll call. Mayor Moffatt was absent. Also in attendance: Administrator Steve O'Connor, Clerk Elaine Wallace, and Solicitor Brock Russell.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: The Borough Engineer will give a presentation on upcoming projects at Thursday night's regular meeting. As a result of discussions at the previous work session, Mr. O'Connor spoke with the police who agreed to step-up patrol and enforcement. In addition, the County will be installing a new electronic speed sign on Cape Avenue within the next week or so. Lastly, the assistant code enforcement officer will be working Saturdays to enforcement trash regulations.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)

Request to connect to Borough water system: The Commissioners were opposed to allowing the requestor to connect to the Borough's water system for the purpose of subdividing lots along Seagrove Avenue in Lower Township. The Borough Clerk will send a response to the requestor.

Request by Clerk to change deadline for early renewal discount on rental permits: The Commissioners considered the request and agreed to make the change. The Clerk will prepare an ordinance to make the change beginning with the 2020-21 permit year.

Commissioner Mullock was pleased to see the audit and congratulated everyone on it. Commissioner vanHeeswyk explained the audit was clean, except for minor recommendations such as cancelling outstanding checks.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk reported on the most recent Coastal Coalition meeting where Dr. Stewart Farrell spoke about a project measuring water levels at the sewer grates in Avalon and Ventnor. Much data has been collected and Dr. Farrell suggests elected officials use the information to ask for funding for flood mitigation projects. FEMA will alsoDr. Farrell will be at the Thursday night regular meeting to present the governing body with the annual beach survey. Mrs. vanHeeswyk also reported she attended a meeting with Senator Menendez about flooding. He is working on a bi-partisan effort to find a way to minimize increases in flood insurance premiums and combat the effects of legislation that Maxine Waters is working on in Congress. The current NFIP funding expires at the end of September, but may once again receive a 6-month extension. Mr. Menendez is particularly interested in infrastructure that could help prevent flooding. This year is the Borough's big 5 -year renewal with CRS and the Borough has been working hard to get additional discounts for the next 5-year

cycle. FEMA is, again, working on updating flood maps and has a target date for completion of 2024. Commissioner vanHeeswyk is worried new maps could negatively change the Borough's flood elevation and that could have an impact on properties being built to current standards. If that happened, a relatively new home would either have to be raised or lose the premium discount. Commissioner Mullock pointed out that insurance companies are compounding the problem of insurance. Some companies will not write homeowners policies unless there is a flood policy in place.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk, who is in favor of the pedestrian crossing signs on Lincoln Avenue, is aware of some issues with cars being about to get through when there are cars parked on the street. The County places signs in accordance with traffic regulation, including no parking within 25' of a corner. She suggested contacting the County about them marking the no parking areas, which may eliminate the problem. Solicitor Russell suggested speaking with the Borough Engineer.

REVIEW OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA: The Clerk reviewed the agenda items for the August 8, 2019 regular meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Catherine Busch asked how the rental permit fee was determined and if they can be increased to cover costs like trash collection. Solicitor Russell explained charges can only be based on what the program costs to administer.

Chris Meyerink asked if code enforcement is working on trash pickup. Solicitor Russell confirmed that.

Emelia Oleson asked if there is a limit on the number of people that can rent a house. Solicitor Russell explained, while there are limits on the books, enforcement has not been successful in New Jersey. Mr. Russell stated limiting trash and recycling containers can help limit density.

Joanne Marra asked if speed bumps would be a more permanent solution to speeding on Cape Avenue. Solicitor Russell explained sometimes they create unwanted liability for towns. Mrs. Marra also worried about trucks and SUVs that back up the Alexander beach entrance with their kayaks. Commissioner vanHeeswyk agreed it could be dangerous and has suggested putting something in the middle of the path to keep vehicles from entering there. Commissioner Mullock agreed that something could be done.

Connie Campanella asked Solicitor Russell to explain what he meant by mandatory trash and recycling cans. Commissioner vanHeeswyk said, once the recycling cans are distributed, the Borough could make them mandatory. However, people could still purchase their own, similar cans if necessary. Catherine Busch noted the new MUA regulations will require some changes to the Borough's code.

Mary Kelly suggested putting a minimum fine amount on any signs prohibiting vehicles from using Alexander Avenue beach entrance, saying people might be less likely to disregard the sign if there is the risk of a high fine. By law, the local fine can be between \$100 and \$1,000, the actual amount determined by the judge. Ms. Kelly was pleased to hear the part-time code enforcement officer is working. She was also pleased with the quiet on Saturday afternoon and Sunday now that the construction ordinance has gone into effect. She feels the Borough needs to write more summonses and tickets to get people to follow the rules. Clerk Wallace advised there are some tickets being issued because the Borough has been receiving its share of the court fines for the last several months. Solicitor Russell suggested the Borough ask the police chief to provide a monthly activity report.

Tom Maye suggested homeowners appropriating the Borough right-of-way with rocks and vegetation exacerbates the issue on Lincoln Avenue with not having enough room between parked cars the pedestrian signs. Mr. Maye also referred to State traffic statutes regarding parking and signs and believes 80% of the signs in town don't meet the requirements. He further stated that unless things are uniform, the police can't enforce them. Commissioner vanHeeswyk said his points were well taken, but they fall in Mayor Moffatt's department who will be able to read about them in the minutes. Mr. Maye also said taking parking away in the summer would be a problem. Commissioner Mullock stated the problem is not a new one, he's seen it firsthand for 35 years. Mrs. vanHeeswyk said a balance has to be struck between appearance, practicality, and safety. Commissioner Mullock commented that the very successful women's race and St. Pete's bazaar were an prime example of the parking issues.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm on motion of Commissioner Mullock, seconded by Commissioner vanHeeswyk.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Mullock

Commissioner vanHeeswyk

A B S E N T
Mayor Moffatt