

JULY 27, 2021
WORK SESSION 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' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)

Fire Company Infrastructure and Planning: Jeff Sowers represented the Volunteer Fire Company to open dialogue on their future planning goals. He gave an overview of the Fire Company's priorities, risk assessment, and capital plan. One problem faced by the Fire Company is they are the sole provider of ocean rescues after lifeguard hours and in the off-season. Response time is hampered by not having adequate storage space to have the equipment necessary for ocean rescues together and ready to hitch and take to a rescue. They've considered several options to resolve the problem – placing a shed on the property, building a standalone structure or putting an addition on the existing building as shown in a past design which included an additional bay and second floor meeting space. As part of their 10-year capital plan, they are looking at replacing the jet ski and Rhino ATV, as well as purchasing an extractor board for ocean rescues, regular replacement of air packs, and vehicle replacements. The largest undertaking is the eventual need for a replacement of the 1996 engine/pumper truck, which can range in price from \$400,000 to \$600,000 in the next few years. That cost is beyond the fire company's budget and they hope to get assistance from the Borough in applying for grants. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Sowers for his presentation. Administrator Grant had already worked with the fire company on the things that need to be in place to be able to apply for a grant which would most likely come through FEMA. In order to be successful, the fire company has to be the applicant, not the Borough, but the Borough will help and support their efforts.

2021 Dune Day Plan: The Environmental Commission reviewed the plan submitted by the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association and has recommended approval to the Board of Commissioners. Afterward, Commissioner Busch went over the plan with the Public Works Supervisor to determine if parts of the plan would affect the Borough's land management. As a result, she has recommended two changes to the initial plan. First, to clarify that planting of milkweed along the roadways should be at least 4' from the road edge to avoid having them mowed down during regular maintenance. Second, Public Works will be placing snow fencing between St. Mary's and the State Park and would like to have seeding in that area as well. All the commissioners were in favor of the plan as revised. The clerk will prepare an approving resolution for the next meeting.

East Lake and Oak Traffic Calming: Previously, the Borough had received a request for more one-way signs on East Lake Drive. Commissioner Busch showed a photo of the intersection of East Lake and Oak Avenue, where the roadway is very wide, making it seem like people should turn onto East Lake from Oak. Bill Gibson recommended taking out some of the pavement and filling the area with dirt and grass seed and moving the one-way sign accordingly. The Commissioners were all in favor of the plan.

Commissioner Busch reported the sewer pump at the circle has failed and will need to be replaced. Currently the backup pump is being used. Once a new pump is installed, the failed one will be reconditioned and kept for emergencies. She also reported Public Works is doing a lot of maintenance and trimming of trees and shrubs that impeded road visibility. Ms. Busch has asked the Borough Clerk to include a provision in the special event permit application that anyone putting a tent or signs, or anything else that requires stakes to be driven into Pavilion Circle must contact Public Works before the event to mark out utility and irrigation lines. Finally, she announced there was a meeting to further work on the landscaping section of the zoning. Some issues of enforcement were worked on and she was hoping to make headway in the not-to-distant future.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk reported the 3rd quarter tax bills were mailed Monday afternoon. The bills were mailed late waiting for the county tax board to strike the rate, so a resolution is being adopted to extend the grace period to August 25th. Mrs. vanHeeswyk reported the 2021 annual update to the Multi-jurisdictional Plan for Public Information has been provided by Paul Dietrich, Upper Township Engineer on behalf of Coastal Coalition. In addition, she received the Watershed Management Plan, which was done by Dr. Stew Farrell. This is the first time the Borough has had one done and it was possible by combining with West Cape May and Cape May City to share the cost. The plan is very comprehensive and can probably be used to update the Borough ERI and sustainability plan. The conclusion of the plan is that the Borough is in good shape with elevations high enough to endure up to a 3' sea level rise. One thing looked at is direct infiltration into permeable soils, which allows roadway water to infiltrate into soil along the sides of the road. That goes hand in hand with the Master Plan recommendation against curbs and sidewalks.

Mayor Moffatt reminded everyone the Women's Lifeguard Challenge was being held the following afternoon on St. Pete's Beach. He also reported the beach tags sales have been very brisk and there are 40 more days of sales to go.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ed Grant reported the Borough has selected a background check company and the system will be operational later this week. In addition, the JIF exposure review has begun. He announced Cape May City's dispatch was struck by lightning and is disabled. Dispatching has been switched to the County central dispatch system. The system has technology to alert them to where the call is coming from so there won't be any confusion. He reminded everyone the next meeting will be held in person at

the fire house. Work session will remain via Zoom. Lastly, he reported historic preservation survey cards have been included in the tax bills and he's hoping for a good response from the community. He noted the vote must be determined by a majority of the properties in town.

RESOLUTIONS:

89-12 Authorizing Special Event Permit for Cape May Point Taxpayers Association

Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

90-21 Authorizing Shared Services Contract between West Cape May, Cape May and Cape May Point for Cape Island Joint Rabies Clinic

Motions: Moffatt, vanHeeswyk

Roll call: all in favor

91-21 Authorizing Shared Services Contract with the Borough of West Cape May for Various Vehicles and Equipment

Motions: Busch, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

92-21 Authorizing the Extension of the Grace Period for the August 2021 Tax Quarter

Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

93-21 Approval of Bill List

Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

94-21 Request of Extension of Time to Award a Contract for Yale Avenue Road Reconstruction

Motions: Busch, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

PUBLIC PORTION:

Jeff Sowers commended the patching work done by the contractor on Yale Avenue. He wondered if it was possible to just seal the edges of the patches rather than milling and paving the entire street. Commissioner Busch said the Borough Engineer would be the one to determine what work is required.

Dan Simmler introduced himself as the new President of the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association. He is working hard to get informed and move ahead and is hoping to maintain the relationship between the Borough and the CMPTA.

Sandy Allison thanked Jeff Sowers and Commissioner Busch on their thorough presentations and visual aids.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm on motion of Commissioner vanHeeswyk, seconded by Mayor Moffatt.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Busch

Mayor Moffatt

Commissioner vanHeeswyk