

August 22, 2023
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/REPORTS:

Cape May Point Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 Fire Truck Presentation: Several members of the Volunteer Fire Company joined the meeting. Assistant Chief Lance Lipset gave a presentation on the need for a new fire engine. He stated the process was begun with the borough nearly 2 years ago, while the fire company has been discussing it for 4 years. He explained municipalities purchasing fire trucks for volunteer companies has been a long-standing tradition, while the volunteer companies provide the manpower and other equipment. The Borough's only expenses for fire service are the purchase of fire trucks and the annual funding, which does not cover the expense of outfitting one firefighter. All other expenses are covered by the fire company. The first line truck is 15 years old and the reserve truck is 27 years old. The trucks do not meet the current NFPA standards for safety, which recommends not having primary apparatuses over 15 years old and having reserve equipment's safety features upgraded. The cost of upgrading the existing truck was cost prohibitive at \$720,000. The truck originally discussed with the Borough was quoted at roughly \$800,000 with 2-year delivery. Unfortunately, the manufacturer has notified the fire company the last of those trucks has been spoken for. The new truck will be over \$900,000 with 3-year delivery. Mr. Lipset said waiting any longer to purchase will only result in a higher cost for a new truck and a reduced value on the trade-in. Administrator Grant stated the borough has been waiting for concrete information and a plan for the last 2 ½ years. The borough is ready to put money in the capital budget for next year, but can't appropriate \$1 million without a plan of what is actually needed. Mr. Lipset wasn't aware of anything that he was asked for that hadn't been provided and the process that has to be followed has never been explained. Mr. Grant explained if the delivery time is 3 years, it would give the borough that long to gather the funds. The borough supports the fire company and is ready to do what is necessary, but needs details. Mr. Lipset will provide the most recent quote as soon as he leaves the meeting. Once received, Mr. Grant would be able to coordinate financing based on details of the quote such as payment schedule, downpayment, etc. The members of the fire company didn't understand why the truck wasn't put in the capital budget after they first approached the borough. Mr. Grant stated that without the information requested that still hasn't been provided as of this meeting, it couldn't be processed. Mr. Lipset said, while the fire company would like the truck yesterday, it will make due for the 2 to 3 years it will take for a

new truck to be delivered. He wanted to see the borough have the same sense of urgency as the fire company. Borough solicitor John Amenhauser said the fire company's presentation was clear, but the meeting wasn't the time or place to hammer down those details. Mr. Lipset asked what had to be done to put the ball back in the borough's court. Mr. Grant said once he receives the proposal, he'll have something to take to the CFO for planning. Money will be put in the capital budget next year and eventually an ordinance would have to be adopted. Mr. Lipset asked if anyone had an idea of which year the purchase could be made. Mr. Amenhauser said that no one can answer with surety so it would be best not to offer conjecture. Commissioner vanHeeswyk deferred to the mayor since the fire company is in his department and hoped it could be moved forward quickly since it is important for the borough's protection. Mayor Moffatt said the borough will get it done. Commissioner Busch said she is also interested in the financing and what impact it might have on other existing capital projects. Lastly, Mayor Moffatt thanked Lance Liset for his excellent presentation.

Commissioner Busch reported public works is doing end of summer maintenance. The contractor has finished the pole barn addition and the engineer and public works supervisor will be conducting a walkthrough. The Harvard and Alexander Avenues road project is slated to begin this fall.

Mayor Moffatt commented there has been a greater police presence and focus on parking and traffic this summer. He also explained there are some issues with the borough's website, but the clerk and developer are working on getting it corrected.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Ed Grant reported the veteran's memorial surveyor quotes have been received and he will be working with the Taxpayers Association on financing. He is also putting together an RFQ for an energy consultant which will be out by the end of this week.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

August 10, 2023 Regular Meeting
Motion: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION:

06-2023 Ordinance Appropriating \$21,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Engineering Cost Related to Road Improvements Projects
Motion: Busch, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor

RESOLUTIONS:

95-23 Office of Emergency Management Appointment
Motion: Moffatt, Busch
Roll call: all in favor

96-23 Approval of Bill List

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING/ PUBLIC HEARING/ ADOPTION: None

PROCLAMATION:

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month – September 2023

PUBLIC PORTION:

When no one wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 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