

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING – December 21, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Cafferty calls the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Township Committee	<u>Present/ Absent</u>	Professionals	<u>Present/ Absent</u>
		Gina LaPlaca, Business Administrator	<u>Present</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>	Gabriella Siboni, Township Clerk	<u>Present</u>
Nicholas Williams	<u>Present</u>	Gene Anthony, Township Attorney	<u>Present</u>
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>		
Keith Cafferty	<u>Absent</u>		

Mayor Cafferty announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2023, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptuntownship.org).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN OPEN SESSION

- 1. Ordinance Amending §13-1 Excavation of Streets and Sidewalks
Ms. Siboni summarized the requested changes of the ordinance and asked the committee if they had any questions or comments.
- 2. Committee Calendars

No report from the Township Committee tonight.

Res #23- 432 Authorize An Executive Session As Authorized By The Open Public Meetings Act.

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: Williams
Vote: Lane Yes Williams Yes York Yes Cafferty Absent

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – December 21, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Cafferty calls the meeting to order and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Township Committee	Present/ Absent	Professionals	Present/ Absent
	<hr/>	Gina LaPlaca, Business Administrator	<hr/> Present
Robert Lane, Jr.	<hr/> Present	Gabriella Siboni, Township Clerk	<hr/> Present
Nicholas Williams	<hr/> Present	Gene Anthony, Township Attorney	<hr/> Present
Tassie D. York	<hr/> Present		
Keith Cafferty	<hr/> Present		

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

The Clerk states, "Fire exits are located in the rear of the room and to my right. In the event of a fire, you will be notified by fire alarm and/or public address system, then proceed to the nearest smoke-free exit."

Mayor Cafferty announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2023, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion offered by Lane, seconded by, Williams to approve the minutes of meetings of December 11, 2023. All present were in favor.

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing Charles Borges for more than 35Years Dedicated Service to Neptune Township

WHEREAS, It is with great honor that the Township of Neptune recognizes the retirement of Charles Borges after 35 years and 6 months of dedicated, professional, and honorable service, and;

WHEREAS, Charlie began his career at Neptune Township in 1988 as a dedicated asset to the Neptune Township Public Works Department. Charlie started in the Sewer department and served for 20 years before making the shift to the Road department and earning a promotion to Foreman, and;

WHEREAS, Charlie was not only an employee of Neptune Township but was a dedicated volunteer. Charlie is an active volunteer firefighter in Neptune Township since 1986. In 2001, Charlie was appointed to the Chief of the Neptune Fire Department, further showcasing his leadership and dedication, and;

WHEREAS, Charlie has worked constantly for the betterment of Neptune Township and this community. Throughout his tenure, there have been numerous letters, e-mails and reports acknowledging the efforts of Charlie about his hard work and positive attitude. Neptune Township wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Charlie for his dedication to the outstanding performance of his duties over his 35+-year career, and;

WHEREAS, it is with deep gratitude that we recognize Charlie Borges for his service and wish him many happy years in retirement to be spent with his wife, Heather, sons Charles Jr, Steven and Tyler and the rest of his family and friends, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Keith Cafferty, Mayor of the Township of Neptune, along with the entire Township Committee, do hereby recognize and extend appreciation to Charles Borges for his more than 35 years of service to Neptune Township.

VACANCY ON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Dr. James Brown.	Dr. Brown stated he is a member of the land use board. Dr. James Brown had

Lakewood Rd	wonderful things to say about Mr. McMillan and Eric Houghtaling and would be happy to see either of them serve this committee. Dr. Brown expressed some concerns about the consideration of Mr. Jones for ethical reasons.
Bishop Paul Brown Mayfield	Bishop Brown stated that there was discussion that Bishop Brown has extended his support to Jason Jones. Bishop Brown's name was included in a letter of support to Jason Jones. Bishop Brown stated that he wanted to correct the record and note that he has not extended support for any candidate. Bishop Brown asked the committee to understand that his name was incorrectly included on the letter and he wishes to remain impartial in this matter.
Robert Dykeman 213 Overlook Dr.	Mr. Dykeman is a proud graduate of Neptune High school. Mr. Dykeman stated he is disheartened that the Township Committee is considering the appointment of Jason Jones. Mr. Dykeman stated if Mr. Jones is nominated to serve on this committee it will be a testament that the members of this committee are not interested in the voice of the community. Mr. Dykeman stated that Mr. Jones is not in an ethical standing worthy of an appointment to the Township Committee. Mr. Dykeman stated the history of Mr. Jones behavior professionally should preclude Mr. Jones from consideration
Shane Martins Mt. Hermon Way	Mr. Martins stated there has been discourse that Mr. Jones is related to Deputy Mayor York and it is clear the reasons that assumption was made. Mr. Martins stated the Asbury Park Press article had a misleading headline, but even commented that Mr. Jones was not found guilty. Mr. Martins stated that there are members of the committee who have acted on settlement agreements that have questionable ethics. Mr. Martins stated the district leaders chose Jason Jones as the top candidate for filling the vacancy. Mr. Martins stated the committee should not place a person on the committee who has already served. It is time to have new names and progress on this Township Committee.
Charles Day Asbury Park Press	Mr. Daye stated he is an objective reporter. Mr. Daye stated he had reached out to every member of the governing body about the decision tonight. Mr. Daye gave Mr. Jones an opportunity to speak to the press on the matter and Mr. Daye pushed a deadline to offer Mr. Jones an opportunity to address the reports. Mr. Daye stated he stated facts in his story and he stands by the reporting. Mr. Daye also noted that as the reporter, he does not write the headlines.
Cedric Miller 81 Hwy 35	Mr. Miller stated his name was on the letter in support of Mr. Jason Jones. Mr. Miller stated the Township Committee ignored the feelings and sentiments of the residents, especially those who signed the letter of support for Mr. Jones. Mr. Miller stated they are mostly Christian and they decide who we forgive. Mr. Miller stated that the Township Committee should respect the written letter of support for Mr. Jones.
Lydell Aikens	Mr. Aikens stated the letter of support was to be a representation of the legacy of Dr. Brantley Mr. Aikens stated he does not have an issue with Mr. Houghtaling or Mr. McMillan. Mr. Aikens stated the clergy has stood behind Jason Jones because they have seen a relationship between Dr. Brantley and Mr. Jones. Mr. Aikens has seen the reports and the issues with Roselle. Mr. Aikens asked when the Township Committee looks not at what someone has done, but what they are capable of. Mr. Aikens wishes for the Township Committee to choose someone who will push us forward in the legacy of Dr. Brantley, not returning to those who have already had an opportunity to serve on this committee. Mr. Aikens noted those on the clergy who has signed a letter of support.
Dorothea Fernandes	Ms. Fernandes is aware the Township Committee has received numerous letters with concerns about the appointment of Jason Jones. Ms. Fernandes stated she had outlined reasons in her letters to Committee outlining her explicit concerns about Mr. Jones. Ms. Fernandes had previously run and served on the Board of Education due to concerns about the management of the board under Mr. Jones. Under Mr. Jones

there have been issues with financial contributions to campaign, there have been investigations for misappropriation of funds and inappropriate relationships. Ms. Fernandes noted the items uncovered in the report that led to the termination of Mr. Jones. Ms. Fernandes encouraged the Township Committee to support an individual who can be respected in the position.

Nancy Phillips
Neptune Township
Fisher Ave.

Ms. Phillips stated she knows Jason Jones on a personal level and knew Mr. Jason Jones on the board. Ms. Phillips stated she is frustrated that Neptune Township is speaking on ethics when a previous prosecutor reissued a weapon to an officer who murdered his ex-wife, a high school student was raped on campus and where the history of Neptune Township is unethical. Ms. Phillips stated those who have spoken against Mr. Jones are all white and those in support have all been black.

Beverly Holland
56 North Taylor

Ms. Holland stated she is not sure if the allegations against Mr. Jones are true or false, but she does know that Mr. Jones received the most votes at the local democratic committee. Ms. Holland stated she understands it is not required for the Township Committee to consider appointing the person who received the most votes, but believes the members would honor the votes of the district leaders. Ms. Holland stated she believes that Mr. Jones earned the right to serve on the Township Committee and won the votes of the district leaders to do so.

Derrell Stroud
Ridge Dr.

Mr. Stroud stated Mr. Jones had won the election with the district leaders. Mr. Stroud stated a family member of a committee member spoke to Mr. Stroud that his removal of candidacy and support of Mr. Jones was extremely political. Mr. Stroud is strongly in support of Mr. Jones.

Res#23- 433 Appointing A Successor To Fill The Vacancy Of An Incumbent Committeeperson On The Neptune Township Committee Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:16-11

Committeeman Lane nominated Kevin McMillan to fill the vacancy

Offered by:	<u>Lane</u>	Seconded by:	<u>Williams</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	Lane	<u>Yes</u>	Williams <u>Yes</u> York <u>Abstain</u> Cafferty <u>Yes</u>

Oath of Office Administered to Mr. McMillan and Mr. McMillan joined the Committee on dais.

COMMENTS FROM THE DAIS

Comments from the Dais regarding business on this agenda or any reports on recent events in their respective departments.

- Williams Mr. Williams stated the marina is preparing to shutdown for the season.
- Lane Mr. Lane attended the Homeowners association Christmas breakfast, Wreaths Across America and the toy giveaway at the firehouse. Mr. Lane wished everyone a happy holiday season and new year and hoped to see everyone in the new year.
- York Ms. York stated she had attended the events with Mr. Lane. Ms. York stated there was a toy giveaway held at Liberty firehouse where 500 children served. Ms. York wished everyone a happy holiday
- Cafferty Mayor Cafferty stated that he was not at the workshop or executive session because he was at the first annual

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The Business Administrator will report on capital projects and matters of general interest.

- **Ocean Grove Pier Update:** As the Committee and the public is well aware, the Ocean Grove pier remains closed for repairs and further evaluation. The Township was recently informed that the Camp

Meeting Association is currently looking for a 3rd party engineer, in addition to Avakian, to investigate the structural integrity of the pier before reopening. In the meantime, Avakian’s office had the pier contractor on site this week to repair the damaged pile, and the contractor will be held to providing a solution to hopefully prevent this issue from occurring again. In my communications with both Avakian and OGCMA, I have expressed the increasing level of concern that the Mayor and Township Committee members have about the safety of the pier, and the quantity of resident inquiries we continue to receive, and urged them to maintain constant and transparent communication with both us and the public about what they are doing to ensure the long-term integrity of the pier.

- **Homeless Encampment Issues:** The Monmouth County Continuum of Care had their monthly case conference last Wednesday December 13th. At present, the official active population of the encampment with whom we are engaging is approximately 17 people, with four individuals slated to move out of the camp and into housing in the very near future. With respect to the public health, safety and quality of life issues that have been raised with regards to the encampment, our Special Counsel has been in communication with counsel for the landowner. They recognize that the violations continue to mount and could result in severe economic penalties for them. We are planning to have a meeting in early January to try to find a permanent solution for all concerns.
- **Library Reopening:** The Library lighting project is almost complete, and residents and visitors can expect the Library to reopen on Tuesday December 26th. The project manager has assured our Library Director that at least 95 percent of the project will be completed by tomorrow (Dec. 22), and in the event that a particular department or area is not completed in time, that section will simply be closed so that the remainder of the facility can still be open and utilized by the public next week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk will announce additional information regarding Separated Resolutions if necessary.

Resolution 23-447 Personnel Code

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Todd A. Puryear	Code	Code Enforcement Inspector	\$33,200.00	1/2/2024

Resolution 23-448 Personnel Public Works

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Kyle Kohlmann	Public Works	Laborer	\$31,500.00	12/22/2023

Resolution 23-449 Personnel Zoning

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Heather Kepler	Zoning	Assistant Zoning Officer	\$3,700 Stipend	1/2/2024

Public comments regarding resolutions presented on this agenda only.

The public comment portion of our meeting is to allow the public to bring to the Committee’s attention their concerns or comments. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12(a) and the Neptune Rules of Committee, the Committee asks the public to limit their comments to five minutes or less. The Committee will respect the public’s time by refraining any comment until the speaker has finished with their allotted time. It should be further noted that public comment portion of our meeting is not structured as a question-and-answer session. If

a member of the public has questions, they seek answers to, an appointment can be made with the appropriate office, Business Administrator or Township Committee Liaison during regular business hours. The Township Clerk will regulate the time during the comment portion of our meeting. The Committee reserves the right to respond to comments or questions at the conclusion of the speaker's time.

Name and Address Comment

Rich Williams Mr. Williams asked to confirm that the charging station is a high speed charging station. Ms. LaPlaca stated she will need to confirm that and get back to Mr. Williams
Abbott Ave.

ORDINANCES - For each ordinance with a public hearing, the public is permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

There are no ordinances scheduled for this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Res #23- 434** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing The Cancellation Of Sewer Rent
- Res #23- 435** Authorizing Fees And For Use Of Electric Charging Station
- Res #23- 436** Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune To Terminate Employee In Public Works
- Res #23- 437** Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Awarding Fernandes Construction, Inc. Contract "Improvements To Neptune Boulevard, Phase II" In An Amount Not To Exceed \$397,790.10
- Res #23- 438** Resolution Authorizing The Professional Services Agreement With T&M Associates For Engineering Services Relating To 2023 Monmouth County Community Development Block Grant Municipal Building Elevator Improvements Project In An Amount Not To Exceed \$25,400.00
- Res#23- 439** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Accepting Resignations
- Res#23- 440** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Reclassification
- Res#23- 441** Resolution Authorizing Agreement For Purchase Of Two (2) 2024 Mason Dump Bodies From DeJana Truck And Utility Equipment Under New Jersey State Co-Op #65mcesccps, Contract # ESCNJ 23/24-04 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$49,247.10
- Res#23- 442** Resolution Authorizing Agreement For Purchase Of 2024 Eager Beaver 25 Ton Trailer To Jesco, Inc In An Amount Not To Exceed \$29,400.00
- Res#23- 443** Resolution Authorizing Purchase Of Two (2) 2024 Ford F450 Cab And Chassis Crew 4x4 With Plow From Winner Ford Under New Jersey State Contract #88215 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$122,944.00
- Res#23- 444** Authorizing the Payment of Bills
- Res#23- 445** Establish Annual Compensation For Fire Commissioners District #1
- Res#23- 446** Resolution Authorizing The Chief Financial Officer And Other Township Officials To Undertake Certain Actions In Connection With The Issuance Of A Not To Exceed \$816,466 General Improvement Bond Anticipation Note

CONSENT AGENDA

Offered by: York Seconded by: Lane
Vote: Lane Yes McMillan Abstain Williams Yes York Yes Cafferty Yes

SEPARATED RESOLUTION

Res#23- 447 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Code Department

Offered by: York Seconded by: Lane
Vote: Lane Yes McMillan Abstain Williams Yes York Yes Cafferty Yes

Res#23- 448 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Public Works

Offered by: York Seconded by: Lane
Vote: Lane Yes McMillan Abstain Williams Yes York Yes Cafferty Yes

Res#23- 449 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Zoning

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: Williams
Vote: Lane Yes McMillan Abstain Williams Yes York Yes Cafferty Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address any concern relating to the Township.

The public comment portion of our meeting is to allow the public to bring to the Committee’s attention their concerns or comments. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12(a) and the Neptune Rules of Committee, the Committee asks the public to limit their comments to five minutes or less. The Committee will respect the public’s time by refraining any comment until the speaker has finished with their allotted time. It should be further noted that public comment portion of our meeting is not structured as a question-and-answer session. If a member of the public has questions, they seek answers to, an appointment can be made with the appropriate office, Business Administrator or Township Committee Liaison during regular business hours. The Township Clerk will regulate the time during the comment portion of our meeting. The Committee reserves the right to respond to comments or questions at the conclusion of the speaker’s time.

Name and Address Comment

Barbara Burns Ms. Burns wished everyone a happy holiday season. Ms. Burns thanked the
Ocean Ave committee to provide all the documents regarding Ocean Grove North End and
noted she had sent a letter to the Township Committee remarks on the proposed
development. Ms. Burns stated she would be happy t address her concerns privately
with the members of the committee. Ms. Burns stated that the residents want some
form of development at the site, but would like it to be sizeable and appropriate to

the area. Ms. Burns stated that she has concerns that litigation is being used to bypass the proper process and back the Township Committee into a corner. Ms. Burns stated she does not believe the area is a need in redevelopment as it has been defined and hopes the Township committee will consider a project that is more fitting to the area.

Mr. Lane stated there was a meeting today to review all of the information on the project.

Paul Kaplan
Mt. Zion Way

Mr. Kaplan stated that Ocean Grove North End Development was initially approved in 2008 and asked the Committee to think about what Asbury Park looked like in 2008. The way the area has changed significantly especially in relation to parking. Mr. Kaplan wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Natale Labrun
Lynn Dr.

Ms. Labrun stated she was here a a previous meeting to address a gaping pot hole. At the time, three employees were out to address the cncner, but the hole remains. Mr. Lane stated he would follow up with her after the meeting.

Eileen Michaels
15 Seaview Ave.

Ms. Michaels stated she is confused about how the vote for the candidate was chosen. Ms. Michaels has concerns that there is information brought to the committee that was not taken into consideration when they chose a new candidate. Ms. Michaels stated she has real concerns that the understanding of stormwater and fire safety for the Ocean Grove North End Development are not being discussed. Ms. Michaels stated she is not aware of who Mr. Bernard Haney is and his credentials when he will be making many decisions for her in Ocean Grove. Ms. Michaels asked the committee to really commit to the information

Mayor Cafferty stated Mr. Haney is a highly skilled professional that is trusted on these matters.

Mr. Anthony stated the filling of the vacancy is not a public referendum or that the candidates are not ranked. The political party is required to produce three names for the Township Committee to consider. The Public is allowed to speak when the resolution is proposed, but the matter is not a public referendum.

JP Thompson

Ms. Thompson thanked for the swift responses of Ms. LaPlaca regarding concerns about the safety of the pier. Ms. Thompson stated she does not believe the pier looks safe and is happy that a third party engineer will be involved.

Nancy Clarke
Embury
Rich Williams
Abbott Ave.

Ms. Clarke congratulated Mr. Mcmillan for being appointed to the vacancy and wished the committee a great holiday

Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Lane and Deputy Mayor York for attending the homeowners breakfast. Mr. Williams also expressed gratitude for the presence of Scarlet Sound who sang at the event.

Mr. Williams thanked the legal committee of the homeowners association for the preparation of the letter that was sent to the Township committee on Ocean Grove North End .

Mr. Williams stated he spoke to Scott Liddick, the fire marshall in Ocean Grove. Mr. Liddick has not been included on the plans for North End, but stated the previous fire marshal may have reviewed the plan, but he cannot note a record of that.

Mr. Williams wished the committee happy holidays and happy new year.

Mr. Lane stated that the department has signed off on the safety for fire. Mr. Lane will confirm who signed off on the plans and notify residents.

Ivy Jones
Princeton Ave.

Ms. Jones thanked the Committee so much for the removal of the tree after she was here making a request of the committee.

Ms. Jones stated there has been a smell from the landfill and confirmed that the County is no longer managing the landfill. Ms. Jones stated the smell is horrible and the smell can keep you awake.

Mayor Cafferty asked if a letter can be drafted to look into this matter because this is a safety hazard.

Gary Brown
Cardinal Road

Mr. Brown wished everyone happy and healthy holidays. Mr. Brown has been coming many many months and the progress speaks volumes of the dedication of the Township to resolve the issues of the homeless encampment. Mr. Brown hopes that pressure on the land owner will address some of the debris concerns.

Mr. Brown stated that the Chief of Police and two lieutenants attended the neighborhood watch meeting. Mr. Brown thanked Ms. LaPlaca for coming to the meeting on her own time to meet with the residents.

Mr. Brown stated there were 15 propane tanked removed from the woods. Mr. Brown stated one of the members of the encampment has moved from playing drums to playing propane tank. Mr. Brown is hoping that in court, there is a requirement to pay the fines and they are not reduced because the residents have had to live through the issues caused by the encampment.

ADJOURNMENT

Offered by: York

Seconded by: Williams

Time adjourned: 8:27PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Gabriella Siboni
Township Clerk