

**TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:59 p.m. Mayor Brown led in the Silent Flag Salute.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

“The Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met. Notice of this meeting, Resolution 2021-22, has been transmitted to the Central Record, Burlington County Times, and Courier Post and posted on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall, on January 6, 2021. It is on file with the Municipal Clerk, and has been given to those who have requested and paying for same.”

ROLL CALL

Those members in attendance upon Roll Call were:

Kimberly A. Brown, Mayor
Joseph W. Barton, Committee Member
Nancy K. McGinnis, Committee Member
Samuel R. Moore, III, Deputy Mayor
Robert C. Sunbury, Jr., Committeeman

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM Present:

Douglas A. Cramer, CPWM, Administrator
Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer
Rodney R. Haines, CMFO, Chief Finance Officer
William Burns, Esquire, Township Solicitor
Elaine B. Kennedy, RMC/CMC, Municipal Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items only)

Mayor Brown opened the meeting to public comment.

Fran Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, asked if there was any business after closed session. Mrs. Brooks asked if there anyone else in closed session besides the Committee and Mr. Burns.

Stuart Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, said the website said to submit comments. The Brooks' submitted a comment regarding the solar program and there was no response.

Being no further comment, Mayor Brown closed public comment on agenda items.

Mayor Brown responded that no other action was taken after executive session except to adjourn. The only people in executive session were the Committee, Mr. Burns and the Municipal Clerk. Mayor Brown did not see any comment from the Brooks' concerning the solar program.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2021-49 – AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF STEVENS FARM INTO FARMLAND PRESERVATION WITH NO MUNICIPAL COST SHARE

MOTION – Mr. Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-49, seconded by Mrs. McGinnis. Mr. Sunbury asked Mr. Cramer to explain the program. Mr. Cramer advised the Committee that the Eckert, Stevens, and Cramer farm are in the program with the County picking up the cost. There is no cost to the Township. The Township has supported this program for years.

Ayes – Barton, McGinnis, Moore, Sunbury, Brown. Nays – None. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2021-50 – AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TAXES PURSUANT TO A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION (Block 802.01, Lot 3.20)

MOTION – Mr. Sunbury made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-50, seconded by Mr. Moore.

Ayes – Barton, McGinnis, Moore, Sunbury, Brown. Nays – None. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2021-51 – AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TAXES PURSUANT TO A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION

(Block 328, Lot 6.02)

MOTION – Ms. McGinnis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-51, seconded by Mr. Moore. Mr. Sunbury asked Mr. Cramer to explain the program.

Ayes – Barton, McGinnis, Moore, Sunbury, Brown. Nays – None. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION - Mr. Sunbury made a motion to approve the bills as listed on the bill list, seconded by Mr. Moore.

Ms. McGinnis asked if the bill for 81 Hawkins Road was the old squad building, to which Mr. Cramer advised that it was. Ms. McGinnis questioned if the comcast bill for Community Center is the old squad building, to which Mr. Cramer advised it was for phone and internet services. Ms. McGinnis then asked if the building was occupied. Mr. Cramer advised her the Boy Scouts use it presently. Ms. McGinnis asked if the South Jersey Gas bill for the Community Center was for one month, to which Mr. Cramer advised her it was. Ms. McGinnis asked the age of the heater. Mr. Cramer advised her it is a boiler replaced at least ten years ago. Ms. McGinnis stated for the record it cost \$1089.54 for last month. Mr. Cramer advised her the costs in the winter are higher; also, this building is used for a shelter.

Ayes - Barton, McGinnis, Moore, Sunbury, Brown. Nays – None. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) January 11, 2021 (Executive)
- b) January 25, 2021 (Regular Meeting)

Mr. Sunbury had a correction to the January 25, 2021 minutes, with the website for the vaccine should be www.virtua.org/vaccine.

MOTION – Mr. Sunbury made a motion to approve the above listed minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Moore.

Ayes - Barton, McGinnis, Moore, Sunbury, Brown. Nays – None. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stuart Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, thanked Councilwoman McGinnis about putting things on the agenda. Mr. Brooks asked why requests to have her request put on the agenda not being accommodated. Mr. Brooks requested the status of the reimbursement of part time employees' attendance at webinars. Mr. Brooks asked the status of the review of applications for the fire company and was anyone following up on the volunteers how had their applications in but haven't been on the list of approved members.

Fran Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, noticed on the meeting that Kim Smith and Natalie Lewis were in attendance. Ms. Brooks wanted to know if they were being paid to attend and what was the purpose of their attendance. Ms. Brooks asked if anyone other than Mayor Brown, who stated she did not receive it, received the Brooks' letter concerning the solar proposal. They received nothing back that it was undeliverable. If there are other e-mails the Committee uses, could they supply that. Ms. Brooks questioned the directions given in the registration for the webinar, they have not received any follow up. Being no further public comment, Mayor Brown closed public comment.

REPORTS

ENGINEER

Mr. Guzzi advised they are still waiting for DOT for Phase II of Oak shade and Carranza. Also, the Administrator asked Mr. Guzzi to look into Prickett's Mill drainage problems.

ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Cramer advised that he and Mr. Guzzi are also looking at other drainage problems at Hawkins Road near the fire house and Eldorado Road. There is money aside for these projects. Mr. Cramer thanked Public Works and B & B Landscaping for their clearing of the roads during the ice storm. There was a lot of salting and sanding. Mr. Cramer will have some numbers concerning costs with the Community Center costs; however, he probably cannot go back six years. Ms. McGinnis thanked Mr. Cramer.

Mayor Brown asked the status of the applications for the new fire department and the duty crew during the day. Mr. Cramer advised her he is still working with the Chief and Deputy Chief on these items. They are working with a consultant free of charge on next year's grant for the fire company.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Mr. Haines has nothing at this time as he is waiting for the Governor's address for the budget number.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Burns reported there was a settlement conference which is postponed until August.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr. Barton had nothing to report at this time.

Ms. McGinnis asked for a motion or second to get proposals from realtors for sale of the building. Mr. Cramer advised they had one appraisal for approximately \$186,000. Mr. Burns advised the Committee

that there is a statute pertaining to the process of sale of public properties. Mr. Moore thought they should discuss this matter first. It will be discussed at the workshop meeting.

Ms. McGinnis questioned Mr. Burns, Mr. Cramer and Mr. Guzzi as to the next step for the solar farm project. Mr. Burns advised that there was a consultation be procured for the redevelopment program with a fair and open process. The Committee would have to authorize professional services for redevelopment council. Mr. Guzzi advised that the Land Development Board would have to be involved with that. Mr. Cramer needed clear direction as to where the Committee wants to go. Mr. Barton asked if the company would have to post a bond. Mr. Burns felt the solar committee recollected that DEP would pay for some of these costs.

MOTION – Ms. McGinnis made a motion to move ahead with the solar project. Ms. McGinnis asked for a second. There was no second.

Motion died.

Ms. McGinnis asked if anyone has heard back from the Pinelands about the sign for Murphy’s Market. Mr. Cramer advised they had nothing yet; however, the LDB does not meet until next week.

Mr. Moore had nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Sunbury addressed Stuart Brook’s ongoing harassment toward Rodney Haines regarding the webinar he attended. Mr. Haines is one of the finest CFO’s for this municipality. He felt that if Mr. Haines were full time here and part time somewhere else, Mr. Brooks would want the part time municipality to pay for some of the training.

Mayor Brown stated that the workshop agenda will have Community Center, solar project, with questions that need to be answered. Mayor Brown reported that sadly as of today, 500,000 deaths due to covid in the United States.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION - Mr. Moore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Sunbury, and unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine B. Kennedy, RMC/CMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
RESOLUTION 2021-49**

**PRELIMINARY APPROVAL FOR A PROPERTY THAT
REQUIRES NO MUNICIPAL COST SHARE
BLOCK 902, LOT 9.01**

WHEREAS, the Township of Tabernacle is committed to preserving, to the extent possible, farmland within the Township for the benefit of the citizens of the Township of Tabernacle as well as for the County of Burlington and for the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington County Agriculture Development Board has accepted the application of **John & Denise Stevens, Block 902, Lot 9.01** into the 2021 Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Township of Tabernacle to approve the application of the above farm for consideration into the 2021 Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle, County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey that they support preservation of the property listed above through the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program.

**RESOLUTION 2021-50
AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TAXES
PURSUANT TO A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS, Jose Santana, **owner and resident of 45 Sleepy Hollow Drive (Block 802.01, Lot 3.20)** has applied for exemption from property taxes as a 100% Totally Disabled Veteran pursuant to NJSA 54:4-3.30; and

WHEREAS, said application has been received by the Township Assessor; and

WHEREAS, the Assessor has reviewed the application and requisite proofs, and finding them to be in order, recommends approval of the exemption; and

WHEREAS, the exemption commenced December 31, 2020 in accord with certification of 100% disability granted by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Tabernacle Township Committee that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel 2021 Preliminary Property Taxes and refund \$3,839.02, the amount Quarter 1 2021 taxes paid, pursuant to Totally Disabled Veteran status, to **CoreLogic Centralized Refunds, PO Box 9202, Coppell, TX 75019-9760**, mortgage servicer, on behalf of Jose Santana, owner and resident of 45 Sleepy Hollow Drive, Tabernacle, NJ 08088.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Assessor.

RESOLUTION 2021-51
AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TAXES
PURSUANT TO A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, Ronald D. Combs, **owner and resident of 64 Richter Road (Block 328, Lot 6.02)** has applied for exemption from property taxes as a 100% Totally Disabled Veteran pursuant to NJSA 54:4-3.30; and

WHEREAS, said application has been received by the Township Assessor; and

WHEREAS, the Assessor has reviewed the application and requisite proofs, and finding them to be in order, recommends approval of the exemption; and

WHEREAS, the exemption commenced December 23, 2020 in accord with certification of 100% disability granted by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Tabernacle Township Committee that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel 2021 Preliminary Property Taxes pursuant to Totally Disabled Veteran status and refund \$1,544.07, the prorated amount (nine days) of 2020 plus Quarter 1, 2021 taxes paid. Funds shall be split between the owner, Ronald D. Combs and the Mortgage Servicer, CoreLogic. Ronald D. Combs will receive \$216.93, which was paid by Republic Title on his behalf, and \$1,327.14 will be refunded to **CoreLogic Centralized Refunds, PO Box 9202, Coppell, TX 75019-9760**, mortgage servicer of Ronald D. Combs, owner and resident of 64 Richter Road, Tabernacle, NJ 08088.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Assessor.