

**OXFORD TOWNSHIP MEETING
December 2, 2020**

The meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on December 2, 2020 in the Oxford Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, NJ and by calling the toll-free number: **(877) 853-5247** and entering the Meeting ID: 862 8721 7518

Adequate Notice of this meeting was properly advertised in The Express Times/NJ Zone Edition, Express Times, the Township website (www.oxfordtwpnj.org) and Township Facebook page in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

In attendance was Robert Nyland, Gerald Norton, Georgette Miller, Township Committee, Matthew Hall, Township Administrator, Rich Wenner, Township Attorney, Joe Vuich, Finelli Engineering (via Zoom) and Susan Turner, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes

Mayor Nyland moved to accept the Meeting minutes from the November 11, 2020 Committee meeting. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Ordinances-1st Reading/Public Hearing:

- **Ordinance 2020-16** – Solid Waste Authority – At Richard Wenner’s request, discussion will be held during Executive Session.

Ordinances-2nd Reading/Public Hearing:

- **Ordinance 2020-14** – Vacate Green Street and Axford Avenue Alley.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-14

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO VACATE AN ALLEY RUNNING FROM 48 GREEN STREET TO 29 AXFORD AVE NOT NEEDED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS there is a “paper street” which runs from 48 Green Street to 29 Axford Avenue within the Township which the Township has been requested to vacate by the property owners residing at the respective addresses above; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Engineer of the Township of Oxford has reviewed the proposed vacation and finds that same is consistent with the public interest, and that it is in the best interest of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the interests of the public will be served by this vacation, since the vacation will lead to the improvement of the property in the surrounding areas without any detriment to the interests of the public.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Oxford, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1:

The following described lands are hereby vacated and all the public rights, interests and title arising from the dedication or shown on any map filed or otherwise or any reference to same in any deed or instrument, recorded or otherwise, are hereby vacated, relinquished and extinguished. Those lands constituting of the following are hereby vacated and described as follows:

See Exhibit A, attached hereto.

Section 2:

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3:

Repealer. Any ordinance or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

Section 4:

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

The meeting was opened for public comments on Ordinance 2020-14. No comments were received.

Georgette Miller moved to accept Ordinance 2020-14. Seconded by Gerald Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 2020-77

**TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD
RESOLUTION 2020-77**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides that Budget transfers may be made during the last two months of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, there has been determined a need for such transfers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Oxford, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the following transfers be made:

Description	TO	FROM
Governing Body-SW	1,000.00	
Planning -SW	1,000.00	
Municipal Court-OE	1,100.00	
Municipal Clerk-SW		3,100.00

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\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00

Mayor Nyland moved to adopt **Resolutions 2020-77**. Seconded by Gerald Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0

New Business:

Animal control Shared Service Agreement – Change of Lead Agency – Matthew Hall explained that the services and cost of the agreement will remain the same. The lead agency will change from the Borough of Washington to Washington Long Valley. In addition to the Animal Control Officer there will be two part time deputies available to handle calls which will reduce the private company service fees.

Township Committee Reports and Correspondence:

Mayor Nyland is interested in building a dog park near Furnace Lake or Wilkerson field. Many grants are available that cover start up and maintenance costs and most start accepting applications in April and May.

Covid-19 – Mayor Nyland stated the number of positive cases is rising and encouraged everyone to stay safe and follow all health guidelines.

Solar Project – Matthew Hall held the bid opening yesterday via Zoom. Solar Stone sent revised specs including the additional property; \$5,000 per year during development and \$172,000 per year after.

Gerald Norton moved to accept the revised solar bid. Seconded by Mayor Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0

Gerald Norton stated Solar Stone is amenable to clearing a walking/recreation path by Furnace Lake while clearing the property for the project.

Gerald Norton cited an email from Lou Accetturo, DPW Supervisor, in which he recommends hiring Gary Parr as a part time laborer at the DPW and increasing the pay rate of Scott Rush to \$16.00 per hour. Mayor Nyland moved to hire Gary Parr as a part time DPW laborer at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour, and increase the pay rate of Scott Rush to \$16.00 per hour effectively immediately. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0

Christmas Tree Lighting – The Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, December 5th, rain or shine. If it rains, they will have a “caravan” past Santa. The event will be streamed live on Facebook.

Municipal Parking Lot – Mayor Nyland stated they’d like to get the commercial vehicles out of the municipal parking lot before snow blocks them in. Lieutenant Teter, Washington Township Police Department, (via Zoom) said he will look at the existing ordinance and try to identify the owner. Matthew Hall will also review the ordinance.

Lieutenant Teter read the Police Department October crime statistics for Oxford, Washington Borough and Washington Township.

Mayor Nyland stated the Washington Township Police Chief invited him to participate in a “ride along” in a patrol car. Mayor Nyland encouraged the other committee members and Matt Hall to take advantage of this opportunity.

Matthew Hall stated Oxford has been approved for \$25,000 in CARES Act funding. In addition to PPE (masks, sanitizer, etc.) the additional \$5,000 will be used to purchase items to ease remote working, i.e. simple laptops for committee members, one laptop for office staff or DPW and a phone system upgrade allowing internet access to messages. The use of laptops for Committee meetings will also reduce future paper use.

Motion To Pay Bills:

Georgette Miller moved to pay all bills presented and approved by the Committee. Seconded by Gerald Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Township Engineer:

Joe Vuich, Finelli Engineering (via Zoom) stated the DOT Municipal Aid Grant Program awarded Oxford \$136,700 for resurfacing Minehill Road. Monies can be used for guardrails that fit DOT specifications.

The ADSRF application on the Aspect property is ready and should be submitted by the end of the week.

The LSRP now has the full download from JS Held (former Brennan LSRP) and are getting ready for the next round of investigation.

Mayor Nyland asked to have the public bid specifications for demolition of 45 Bush Street well before the December 16 meeting.

Attorney's Report:

Rich Wenner will give his report during Executive Session.

Public Comment: No public comments.

Executive Session:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist. The public shall be excluded from the discussion of any action upon the hereinafter-specific subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is Contractual Matters – Cambridge West, Solar and Coachlight and Attorney/Client Privilege – Solid Waste.

Mayor Nyland moved to enter Executive Session at 7:45 PM, seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Mayor Nyland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Susan Turner, Deputy Clerk