

OXFORD TOWNSHIP MEETING
October 20, 2021

The meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on October 20, 2021 in the Oxford Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, NJ.

Notice of time, date, location and agenda of this meeting, to the extent then known was provided at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of this meeting in the following manner pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the law of 1975 “the Open Public Meetings Act”:

- Emailing to the Express Times / Warren County NJ Zoned Edition
- Posting on the Township web-site and Facebook page

In attendance was Gerald Norton, Georgette Miller and Linda Koufodontes, Township Committee, Matthew Hall, Township Administrator, Richard Wenner, Township Attorney, and Laurie Barton, Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Norton opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes:

Georgette Miller moved to accept the October 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Public Comment on Agenda items: - No comments

New Business:

- Request from Warren County Cultural & Heritage Affairs – Mayor Norton stated the Warren County Cultural & Heritage Affairs would like to put up a banner in the triangle announcing an upcoming event at Shippen Manor. Mayor Norton moved to allow the banner be placed in the triangle at least 10 feet in from curbing. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.
- Meeting Date change - Georgette Miller moved to change the November 17, 2021 Committee Meeting to Monday, November 15, 2021. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Old Business:

- Habitability Hearing – 6 Hill Street Block 34, Lot 37 – Georgette Miller moved to open the Habitability Hearing for Block 34, Lot 37, 6 Hill Street. Seconded by Gerald Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0. Mr. Charles, the contractor hired to work on 6 Hill St, was attending in Mr. Bista’s stead. Mr. Wenner reminded the contractor, Mr. Charles, he was still under oath. Mr. Wenner stated the property owner, Mr. Bista, contacted him. Mr. Bista is not able to attend this meeting, and stated he is still waiting for the plumbing permits. Mr. Wenner is in receipt of an estimate of work submitted by a plumber, Mr. Nolan, which he read into the record. His contractor, Mr. Charles, stated the chimney will be torn down, they are waiting for plumbing permits, and have received the electrical permit. Electrical work is starting next week. Georgette Miller moved to continue the habitability hearing on November 3, 2021. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Township Committee Reports and Correspondence

- Linda Koufodontes attended the Board of Education meeting during which ethics training took place. The school raised over \$1,000 with the Hat Day fundraiser. The Start Strong assessments were done and went well.

- The Land Use Board scheduled for October 26, 2021 is cancelled. The next Land Use Board meeting will be on November 23, 2021. Mike Finelli asked that the Land Use Board meeting for November 2022 not be scheduled the day before Thanksgiving.
- Mayor Norton stated he was sworn in to the Warren County Pequest Municipal Utility Authority. At their meeting the Authority stated sewer rates are going up by about 5%. They are waiting for the final flow numbers from one community. The Oxford Committee will discuss how the increase may affect residents during budget discussions.

Township Administrator – Matt Hall stated he spoke with the Highlands Council. Oxford is most likely opting out. One ordinance will need to be rescinded. Matt will check the status of any invoices with the CFO and make sure any work done by Oxford towards Highland Council compliance is reimbursed. Future work done in compliance will also be reimbursed. Mayor Norton stated he feels this is in the best interest of the town due to its effect on future developments.

Township Engineer Report – Mike Finelli stated he has an item for Executive Session. The Spring Meadows underground work is mostly done. There are some pavement and inlet repairs to be done. The Mine Hill project, Buckley and Snyders Road projects may not be completed this year because the Co-op contractor is backed up on other jobs. The Oxford Dam Inspection Report was completed and will be sent to the state. The 2022 DOT Grant awards should be announced soon. Georgette Miller asked who is responsible for maintaining “paper” roads. She and Mike Finelli exited the meeting to review the paper roads on the Township tax maps.

Township Attorney’s Report – Rich Wenner stated he has an item for Executive Session. Rich received comments back from the Hilltop developer but has not had time to review them.

Motion To Pay Bills:

Linda Koufodontes moved to pay all bills presented to and approved by the Committee. Seconded by Mayor Norton. Ayes: 2, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1. Motion passed

Reports:

Lieutenant Smith, Washington Township Police Department, stated the next court date for 119 Belvidere Avenue is October 26, 2021. 13 summonses were issued, mostly for abandoned vehicles.

Public Comment:

Bob Magnuson, Superintendent, Oxford Central School, is concerned about the buses getting through the Spring Meadows area. The contractor has the schedule and is to direct all busses through.

Township Engineer, continued– Michael Finelli and Georgette Miller returned to the meeting. One of the streets in questions, off Belvidere Avenue, shows as private property on the tax maps. The other, Sweeney Avenue, appears to be an abandoned railroad right of way. Rich asked that that be confirmed and if it is, he suggested offering the property to owners around it. Discussion regarding locations of paper streets took place.

Georgette Miller asked about the status of the Route 31 property with overgrown grass and weeds. Mike Finelli stated they will be fined.

Meeting Recap:

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 matters to be discussed are Personnel and Contractual.

Linda Koufodontes moved to enter Executive Session at 7:52 PM, seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Georgette Miller moved to end Executive Session and resume public session at 8:06 PM. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Linda Koufodontes moved to accept the resignation of Brian Mecca. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Mayor Norton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. Seconded by Georgette Miller. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Susan Turner, Deputy Clerk