

OXFORD TOWNSHIP MEETING
September 21, 2022

The meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on September 21, 2022 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, Michael Finelli, Township Engineer, and Susan Turner, Deputy Clerk.

Absent: Rich Wenner, Township Attorney

Mayor Norton opened the meeting at 7:02 PM

Meeting Minutes: Georgette Miller moved to accept the September 7, 2022 Regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0.

Public Comment on Agenda items: - No comments

Eagle Scout Leadership Project Presentation – Richard McDonald, Troop 175 presented his plan for a tent platform with a lamppost and table at the lower campsite at Oxford Lake. The Committee approved his project and asked to be kept informed of its progress.

Ordinances: 1st Reading/ Public Hearing – No ordinances for 1st reading.

Ordinances: 2nd Reading/ Public Hearing

ORDINANCE 2022-14

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD, COUNTY OF
WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE
ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF LAND FROM COUNTY OF
WARREN AND FROM POPINKO FAMILY LIMITED
PARTNERSHIP**

Section 1

WHEREAS, the County of Warren has offered to convey to the Township of Oxford real property situated within the Township and described as a portion of Block 26, Lot 89; Block 26, Lot 84.03; and Block 26, Lot 87.02, all as more particularly described on the metes and bounds descriptions prepared by Finelli Consulting and attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Popinko Family Limited Partnership has offered to convey to the Township of Oxford an approximate 60-foot wide easement located in Block 26, Lot 89, as more particularly described on the metes and bounds descriptions prepared by Finelli Consulting and attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Township is desirous of accepting said properties and property interests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the Township of Oxford is hereby authorized to accept title to the aforementioned properties for the total sum of one dollar (\$1.00).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor and the Clerk of the Township of Oxford are hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents to obtain title to said properties.

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 ordinances 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 immediately upon adoption.

Georgette Miller moved to approve Ordinance 2022-14. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 2022-63

RESOLUTION IMPOSING A HALLOWEEN CURFEW AND ESTABLISHING OBSERVANCE OF TRICK-OR-TREAT WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD

WHEREAS, Halloween Night and several nights before and after have historically been nights when acts of criminal mischief and vandalism have increased throughout the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Oxford desires to take some action to help reduce the likelihood of such incidents by establishing a **suggested curfew** to assist parents and lawful guardians of minor children; and

WHEREAS, said curfew is viewed as an important part of maintaining the peace and order of the community and all persons are strongly urged to cooperate with the Washington Township Police Department by abiding by the curfew; and

WHEREAS, the door to door solicitation of treats is a tradition enjoyed by many as well as an annoyance and inconvenience to others and, therefore, needs to be regulated to provide for the safety, health, and welfare of all persons within the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Oxford, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that there is hereby established a suggested curfew for all persons seventeen (17) years of age or younger of 9:00 pm Friday, October 28, 2022 until 6:00 am Wednesday, November 2, 2022. Curfew shall be extended for school sponsored events to one (1) hour after the conclusion of the event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Trick-or-Treat Night shall be observed within the Township of Oxford on Monday, October 31, 2022 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Georgette Miller moved to approve Resolution 2022-63. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0.

RESOLUTION 2022-64

AMENDING RESOLUTION 2022-61 TO APPOINT MATTHEW MOENCH AS MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR OXFORD TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the position of Municipal Prosecutor is filled by a person providing a service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of Oxford Township, Warren County, New Jersey as follows:

That Matthew Moench be appointed as Municipal Prosecutor beginning January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022.

Georgette Miller moved to approve Resolution 2022-64. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0.

RESOLUTION 2022-65

OXFORD TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONSTITUTION DAY: SEPTEMBER 17

Whereas: Our rights and liberties are rooted in the cherished documents that gave birth to our nation, those being the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights which document sets forth the principals upon which our government is based; and **Whereas:** The core principles embodied in the foundational documents that define the United States system of government form a common bond to unite the people of the United States; and

Whereas: We as Americans enjoy our freedom and the rule of law through these documents our founding fathers created; and **Whereas:** The civic culture that defines the United States can be sustained as long as each generation develops a deep understanding and Commitment to the principles of our founding documents and, Accordingly, it is vital that every American be educated in the Knowledge of our Constitution; and

Whereas: Informed citizens are necessary to exercise and exhibit responsible and civic knowledge, which will ensure the preservation of our form of constitutional self-government; and

Whereas: Constitutional self-government places a tremendous degree of responsibility and trust upon the citizens who are to govern themselves; and **Whereas:** In the words of our nation's first President, George Washington, during his April 30, 1789 inaugural address, "The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered...deeply,...finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.;" and

Whereas: By the unanimous consent of the States present at the Constitutional Congress on Monday, September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Constitution was submitted to the state delegations for ratification, and it subsequently was ratified and amended to include its Bill of Rights, where our unalienable rights and liberties are enumerated; and

Whereas: Constitution Day was established to celebrate the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights; and **Whereas:** Constitution Day provides an opportunity for American citizens to reaffirm the achievements of our founding fathers and recommit ourselves to preserving the rights, privileges and responsibilities our nation’s founders secured for themselves and for the posterity of future generations of Americans;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved: that Mayor Gerald Norton and the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby commemorate September 17 as Constitution Day to celebrate our representative republic system of government and the central contributions of the Constitution to the freedom Americans are privileged to enjoy.

Mayor Norton moved to approve Resolution 2022-65. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0.

RESOLUTION 2022-66

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OXFORD TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP) FOR 2022

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey requires that municipalities recertify and adopt their Emergency Operations Plan “EOP”) every four years; and

WHEREAS, Oxford Township’s EOP is due for recertification in 2022;

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

1. The Township Administrator is hereby authorized to transmit the EOP as presented to the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management.
2. A hard copy of the EOP shall be retained within the Clerk’s Office.
3. Upon receipt, a copy of the EOP recertification letter shall be filed with the plan.

Georgette Miller moved to approve Resolution 2022-66. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0.

New Business:

-Oxford Lake – Georgette Miller will work with Michael Finelli to draft plans for a water park at Oxford Lake.

-Dog Park – Georgette Miller would like to move forward with plans for a dog park at Oxford Lake.

Old Business:

-Municipal Court Shared Service – Matt Hall has information for 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 Contract Negotiations.

Mayor Norton moved to enter Executive Session at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Georgette Miller moved to return to Public Session at 7:34 PM. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Township Committee Reports and Correspondence.

- Linda Koufodontes attended the Oxford Board of Education meeting. The next meeting is September 22, 2022. Mayor Norton attended a meeting regarding the new standards in the K-6 curriculum.

Superintendent Magnuson stated the standards have to be legally adopted but not followed exactly as outlined. Mayor Norton is concerned that after Mr. Magnuson's retirement at the end of the year a new superintendent could persuade the Board to make changes.

-DPW – Mayor Norton stated the DPW has begun preparing trucks and equipment for winter weather.

-PRMUA – Mayor Norton stated PRMUA (Pequest River Municipal Utilities Authority) held a meeting on Sept 20, 2022 at which they had budget discussions. These discussions included a preliminary 5%, \$55,000 increase for Oxford Township. The new preliminary cost for Oxford, \$1.1 million, represents 50% of the PRMUA budget. Mayor Norton spoke with the PRMUA Supervisor John Inscho. He provided the information regarding the flow meter company Oxford had recently used and reminded him that they still have, but have not acted upon, the results from the 2014 Oxford report. Mayor Norton requested that Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Koufodontes present the Oxford reports to the board as he, as a sitting member, cannot.

-Georgette Miller stated the remaining food and drinks at the Oxford Lake concession stand was donated to the DPW, the Police Department and the Oxford Youth Association soccer team.

The walking trails at Oxford Lake are expected to be open very soon.

Treatment for the water chestnuts was started and about 75% have been removed.

Mayor Norton has not heard back from Washington Township Police Department regarding a goose hunt.

Township Administrator: Matt Hall stated the striker bar for the municipal building door is to be installed in about 2 weeks. Delivery of the generator for the municipal building is expected soon.

Township Engineer Report: Michael Finelli stated the Kent Street project has received SHPO approval and the bid has been advertised. The bid opening will be October 12, 2022 and the project will be awarded at the October 19, 2022 Committee meeting. He noted that this project has items for which there are no co-op contracts and had to go out to bid conventionally.

Mike received a letter last week from DEP to adopt a new FEMA required ordinance for flood damage prevention. He will work on the ordinance with the Township Attorney.

Georgette Miller asked if there was information regarding the demolished residence on Mine Hill Road. Mayor Norton stated he will follow up with the owner.

Township Attorney's Report: No report

Motion To Pay Bills:

Georgette Miller moved to pay all bills presented to and approved by the Committee. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Public Comment: No comments.

Meeting Recap:

Georgette Miller moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. Seconded by Mayor Norton. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Susan Turner, Deputy Clerk