

August 4, 2022
121 Evergreen Rd
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Plumsted Township Committee meeting of August 4, 2022 was called to order by Mayor Bowen.

STATEMENT: "This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act." It was presented for publication to the Asbury Park Press and posted on the Bulletin Board.

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT:

COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI
MAYOR BOWEN ATTORNEY ZABARSKY CLERK WITHAM

Committeeman Cuozzo was excused.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-267 AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The committee returned from Executive Session. Mayor Bowen called the Workshop/Regular Session to order. A second roll call vote was taken. Mayor Bowen asked everyone to rise for the flag salute followed by a moment of silence for those in the Ukraine and the passing of Assemblyman Dancer.

Mayor Bowen spoke about the excessive heat advisory and options for the community. He also spoke about the impact Assemblyman Dancer had on our community. Bowen advised that we were successful in receiving a \$250,000 grant to assist in keeping EMS.

There will be a special meeting to acknowledge the audit on August 23rd at 6 pm.

Committeeman Grilletto and Calabrese spoke about Dancer. Deputy Mayor Marinari mentioned the fireworks and spoke about Pam Valentine and Dancer as well.

Bowen asked for liaison reports. Grilletto spoke about the UTT. Bowen reviewed the agenda.

MINUTES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL:

Deputy Mayor Marinari asked that we vote on all of them as a group. Calabrese said that Cuozzo requested we hold off on voting on the minutes because of proposed edits. There was discussion about the Open Public Meetings Act. Zabarsky spoke about the requirements under the same; they recite what occurred, what action was taken and who voted what. The minutes do not have to be completely comprehensive.

Grilletto is looking for a clause that says the minutes are not verbatim notes but the recording is available at the Clerk's office. Zabarsky said that could be added tonight on the ones up for a vote. There was further discussion and the minutes were tabled. There was a deadline for proposed edits from the committee on Monday, August 8th.

COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE MINUTES OF 2/3/22, 3/3/22, 4/7/22, 4/25/22, 5/5/22, 6/2/22 and 7/7/22 WERE TABLED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI ABSTAINING.

ORDINANCE: INTRODUCTION

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 40 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED ENTITLED "OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES" WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Bowen advised this is to update out Drug and Alcohol Alliance Coordinator position. The second reading and public hearing on Ordinance 2022-04 will be on September 1, 2022.

ORDINANCE: SECOND READING

Bowen spoke about new legislation requiring us to update our vacant and abandoned properties ordinance. Bowen opened up the public hearing; there were no comments.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, ORDINANCE NO. 2022-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 1A OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED "ABANDONED PROPERTIES AND MORTGAGED FORECLOSED PROPERTIES" WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Bowen asked if there were any questions from the Committee on the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 2022-276 acknowledging the audit is being pulled and will be voted upon at the special meeting August 23rd.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA:

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ON A CONSENT AGENDA ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE AND SHALL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. SHOULD ANY MEMBER OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SEEK SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM, THAT ITEM SHALL BE REMOVED AND DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WILL BE VOTED ON IN ONE VOTE.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-249 – SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL NO. A2772 (Sponsored by Assemblyman Freiman, District 16, Assemblyman Mukherji, District 33 and Assemblyman Dancer, District 12)

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-268 – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR THE INSURANCE OPT-OUT PROGRAM FOR 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-269 – RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2022-244 AMENDING RESOLUTION 2022-217 REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:4-87 (MUNICIPAL COURT ALCOHOL EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND ENFORCEMENT FUND GRANT \$7,987.00)

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-270 ¥ AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE FOR BRANDI ROBBINS AS PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-271 ✕AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF UNUSED ESCROWS FOR BLOCK 76, LOT 21.02

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-272 ✕AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF UNUSED ESCROWS FOR BLOCK 24, LOT 13&14

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-273 ✕AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF UNUSED ESCROWS FOR BLOCK 55, LOT 77

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-274 - AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF UNUSED LEAVE TIME FOR KEVIN LUXICH

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-275 - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2022-64 TO WAIVE CLAIMANT SIGNATURE ON PURCHASE ORDERS FOR CERTAIN NAMED VENDORS FOR THE YEAR 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-276 - ACKNOWLEDGING THE RECEIPT OF THE 2021 AUDIT

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-277 - AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 2022 STATE BODY ARMOR REPLACEMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-278 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND FILE THE 2022 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FIREFIGHTER GRANT (ARPPFG) APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-279 - AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF SEWER LOANS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-280 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY ACCESS AND RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED AND JACK AND KATHERINE TROTTA, OWNERS OF BLOCK 42, LOT 1.02 FOR THE UNION TRANSPORTATION TRAIL (UTT) PROJECT

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTIONS 2022-249 THROUGH 2022-280, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RESOLUTION 2022-276 WHICH WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA, WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-281 – AUTHORIZING THE REPAIR OF RED MAPLE ROAD BY EARLE ASPHALT COMPANY WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-282 – AUTHORIZING ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTIONS, INC., TOWNSHIP ENGINEER AS PROJECT ENGINEER FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT FY2022 MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO LAKEVIEW DRIVE WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS:

Mayor Bowen asked if there were any comments on the Bill List of August 4, 2022. There were none. Bowen asked for a motion to approve the bill list.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE BILL LIST OF AUGUST 4, 2022 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW:

ENGINEER'S REPORT – August 4, 2022; CONSTRUCTION REPORT – Plumsted & New Hanover June 2022; TAX COLLECTOR REPORT – June 2022; FINANCIAL REPORTS – Revenue Summary by Month June 2022; Abbreviated Summary Budget Account Status June 2022; Treasurer's Report (None); POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – June 2022; PLUMSTED BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT #1 MEETING MINUTES – 6/6/22; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUA MINUTES – 2/15/22, 4/19/22, 5/17/22; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MINUTES – 1/27/22, 2/24/22, 3/31/22

Bowen asked if there were any questions on the reports. Committeeman Grilletto had a question on the report from the Police Department. There were no other questions.

Bowen asked if there was any old business from the committee. There was none. Bowen asked for any new business; there was none.

Mayor Bowen asked for public comment as well as any comments about Assemblyman Dancer.

Earl Meroney, Chief of Police, said he has a comment about Assemblyman Dancer. About 21 years ago he gave Meroney the opportunity to work here, knowing he was still full-time in the military. Meroney worked as a Class II officer for a year and was brought on full-time in 2002. Dancer was a great guy. He helped him out with Ocean County Chiefs of Police a couple times in the past.

Meroney asked if the American Rescue Plan grant for the fire department is on top of the one the township dealt the LEAP grant to keep EMS. Yes. The American Rescue Plan is a grant that is being prepared by the fire department. It has to be approved by the township before it can be submitted through the municipality. It is controlled by the fire district.

Meroney asked about the repair of the sinkhole in the police department parking lot. He said Randy was unable to find a plate to go across it. Meroney wants to know what is being done. Witham said that Randy was working on something. She will follow up with him. Bowen said the township is waiting to hear back from Dewberry about going out to bid on the project and will follow up with them.

Stacey Reed, 791 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, New Jersey said Assemblyman Dancer's death is a huge loss for her. She can remember 33 years ago when he said he had to have a kidney transplant and Jimmy was the lucky person to give him that kidney. She was lucky enough to thank Jimmy at the funeral for giving him a chance for another 33 years. Dancer was definitely one of kind. She and Dancer did not always agree on everything, but at the end of the day, he was family to her. He will be greatly missed.

Reed asked how long it has been since the public has waited 5, 4 and 3 months to get meeting minutes approved. Witham said, prior to this, not to her knowledge. Reed said she has a major issue. These minutes have been OPRA'd. They've been denied because they have not been approved. The minutes are the minutes. What she is trying to understand is—what is being adjusted if the meeting minutes are the minutes. What is she missing? Grilletto said according to counsel, they do not have to be verbatim, so they are not fully actually what is being described. They are just the major points. If they are not, people should be well aware that these are not verbatim minutes. Witham said the Clerk's office used to do them more verbatim. They are 20 pages longer and it would take several months to do them because it takes hours to listen to a 5 hour meeting. It was decided that under the Open Public Meetings Act it is not

required to have them be that detailed. Prior mayors wanted them that way, so that is the way they were always done. Minutes were verbatim up until April 7, 2022. She said she spoke with the mayor and it was decided that in accordance with the law to make them more brief as long as they include roll call, action, and public comment. So it was decided to shorten the minutes and if anyone wanted to, they could listen to the recording of the meeting. Up until April 7th, they were verbatim, but then the switch was made so that they could be done in a more timely fashion and put on the website for the public.

Reed asked for the exact reason why February minutes have not been approved. Bowen said it is because the committee does not have the votes to approve them. Grilletto said some of them were delayed. He said he explained the reason to her before...because they have to be in detail. It does make a difference. These notes have to be in detail. He had to review something last year and he had to go online to make sure that they were correct. He had to ask for the audio to make sure...that was Land Use...it doesn't make a difference...they have to be verbatim because he had to prove his case. Reed said absolutely, but she disagrees with that...she thinks that zoning and land use are much more complicated than a township meeting. Grilletto said, but they were verbatim...because he used them and he still has them. Reed said that works for you and asked Grilletto to consider why an OPRA request was put in for February 2022 minutes. It is now August and the public cannot get them because they still have not been approved. We have obviously never had this problem in the past....and honestly, the way she looks at it, it is very shady. What are we hiding?

Grilletto said Witham just explained that the minutes were verbatim until April. Reed said they are already done...Committeeman Calabrese said he doesn't think that the committee first voted on the minutes until June. Grilletto said yes, they were delayed. Calabrese said the first time the committee received all those minutes for the many months...he said Reed has been here, so she know how those meetings were hours and hours long with a lot of information, content...even for the first one he sent his comments super late...Jen got right on them for the next month...he knows there are still some outstanding comments that other members have, so that is his reasoning...he does not want to vote on something without members who are working on comments or putting in comments that are not here today.

Reed said that that committeeman should not really work on his comments...it is August and the public cannot get minutes for February. Witham said she already has the February comments, so that has been resolved. She does not have any for after February. Bowen said his goal is to have them adopted at the next meeting so they can be posted for public view and because with today's technology...this goes back decades when you were either here in person or you read the minutes afterwards...now you have audio and video recordings of meetings. So, if somebody wants to review a four hour meeting and sit there and listen to each word, they can do that.

The goal of these minutes is to release to the public as quickly as possible the actions taken by the committee, in addition to public comment. Those are the things that are required by law and he agrees with Reed that we are trying to do it in a manner that complies with the law and gets the information out quickly. In order to do that, he knows that other mayors have asked for exhaustive versions of them. He does not feel that is necessary and he appreciates the fact that there has to be a reasonable approach to it in order to get the clerk's office to get them out in three weeks, in addition to all their other work. If they get out the requirements which includes again, the committee's attendance, all the actions taken by the committee and public comment...those are the requirements and he thinks that is the essential elements of the minutes. If someone wants to listen to all the discussion the committee has that leads to

something, that is fine, but usually for our board, the Land Use Board, it is the final action that reflects the final decision of the board.

The goal is for the clerk's office to be able to get the minutes done and to the committee, the committee to get their comments back so they are ready to be approved at the next meeting and adopted. Generally speaking, the committee gets them back and try to turn around the comments in a couple of days back to the clerk's office and allow them some time to make the changes and send them back out. But, the goal is to get them done for the next meeting so the township can post them and everybody can see them.

Reed said she is going to make this comment and say it out loud, she has never ever had a problem. Jen has always had the minutes done in a timely fashion. They may not always get done in thirty days...it may be the next month...but they always get done. It just seems that since Committeeman Cuozzo has been on the board, everything seems to be changing and things are being done differently and there are hold ups and she listens to him say "I can't vote on this...I can't do that...I didn't get it..." Everybody else got it, he didn't get it...she is just putting it out there that it seems that we are making all these changes and things are happening differently with the new regime, starting in February. Just so you know, from the cheap seats back here, it definitely looks shady.

Bowen said he appreciates that. He would say that a lot of the minutes on the agenda tonight for review go back to January and February, so it is challenge. He did minutes for years. It takes a lot of time to go through hours and hours of recording, but he agrees with Reed that as township we would benefit the public to get our minutes done and published and available to the public as quickly as possible.

Carol Reed, 63 Brindletown Road, New Egypt, NJ, spoke about Ron Dancer. She said a long time ago, when he first became involved in politics, he made a comment. She did not agree with him and said "Ronnie, you sound just like a politician," and he said "I am not a politician. I am a student of government." She will never forget that. Speaking for the Historical Society...they have that building because of Ron Dancer. When the Board of Education bought this property...next door was in that purchase because of Ron. This building is here and the Historical Society building is there. They are indebted to him and the foresight he had, and he is greatly missed.

Committeeman Grilletto said he surely will be missed. He is known as Mr. New Egypt/Mr. Plumsted Township.

Deputy Mayor Marinari said he was in a meeting with Joe Malone, Ron Dancer and Mrs. Marinari. They were done talking and Mrs. Marinari made a comment about Ron. Malone said he did not know if Dancer was going to last—he is too honest of a guy...and he proved Malone wrong. Grilletto said he was a good man.

Barbara Diblin, 12 Terrace Avenue, New Egypt, NJ, said she would like to say that Ron Dancer was a statesman. You could always trust what he was saying. He was a man of his word. He did not double-talk you...he did not mince words at all. He tried to be straightforward, transparent, honest, and she appreciated that because you knew where you stood with him. Even if you did not agree, you knew where you stood. She appreciated that and she is sure everyone did. He will be greatly missed. One of the best things was his godly characters. We appreciated so much his fight for life with pro-life and standing for the biblical values of our country, the Christian

foundation...we appreciate all of you on the board and we are praying for you. We appreciate your serving our town and our country. She feels that the board is honest in trying to promote good government. She is grateful that she has all the members on the board. She believes that all members are trying to do their best and trying to keep the godly principles of our country strong and showing forth everything that the bible says that our country should be. Thank you so much. She really appreciates that.

Ed Vienckowski, 256 East Colliers Mill Road, New Egypt, NJ, said he recalled when Ron Dancer was finishing his term as mayor...probably at a Christmas tree ceremony...he thanked Dancer and told him he was the reason that Vienckowski and his wife moved to New Egypt...because of the way the town was so well managed. He saw in his eyes that that meant a lot to him. He is repeating that story here today and may he rest in peace. God bless Ron Dancer.

Vienckowski said he wants to reiterate the comment about the meeting minutes. As a resident of this town, it is embarrassing to him that we are trying to get meeting minutes from February approved in August. It has nothing to do with whether it is verbatim or not verbatim. It is just taking too long. We are allowing someone who is not even here to hold them hostage by saying "I'm still working on comments." That is unacceptable. He takes it on the Mayor's word that all of them will be voted upon on September 1st and hopefully approved and released. Let's going forward from there, please set deadlines that we hold the committeemen to. He is not going to suggest what they be...but the goal is to have the minutes approved within a month of the prior meeting. He knows that is difficult. He is on the Environmental Committee and they also struggle with that...but they work hard at it. It just does not look good. It looks like someone is trying to put a spin on something that says "I don't want it to say that." He certainly trusts the municipal clerk and deputy clerk that they are doing their jobs and are recording the minutes properly and accurately. The optics are bad and he thinks the committee should take heed of that and get it corrected.

Bowen said that the township is going to try and switch to Facebook live for the September meeting, which will automatically archive the meeting when it is done. It can either be watched live or on recording. There will essentially be a complete record of the meeting the same day, right after it is concluded, so it will be out there immediately. The goal is to get the minutes approved and posted after the following meeting.

Sam Russo, 148 Brynmore Road, New Egypt, NJ, said he wants to congratulate the police department for promoting from within the department. He has been pretty active...maybe three years ago...at the township committee meetings...but due to health, his doctor told him to stay away and stay calm. First, he wants to comment on Ron Dancer. He was assemblyman, mayor and also worked for the Ocean County Freeholders. Every Tuesday, when he was in Toms River, they would meet and have lunch together. Many items we agreed on...lots of times he was looking for Russo's input...other times he disagreed with Dancer...He was a good christian and a good man. May he rest in peace and may his family find some comfort.

Russo said as far as the minutes go, every meeting he has been to, they have had the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and any comments or corrections, and then they are voted on...and that is it. He sees that they are kind of backed up a little...you run your town...it is only a suggestion.

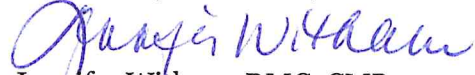
Russo said if anyone has any questions about himself or his family, please contact him. He will sit down and discuss anything or any questions anyone might have. His family is well known in the town. He just moved here recently because he sold his house in another town.

Grilletto made an announcement about a golf tournament being held on August 24, 2022 by American Legion 455.

Bowen closed public comment. Bowen said there is no need for the committee to go into a second executive session. The next meeting will be held on August 23, 2022 to adopt the audit.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE AUGUST 4, 2022 MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

****Please be advised that these minutes are adopted pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-14. They are not intended to be a verbatim record of the meeting. There is a verbatim recording of the meeting a copy of which may be requested through the Plumsted Township Clerk's Office.***