

Upper Pittsgrove Township

June 10, 2014

A regular meeting of the Upper Pittsgrove Township Committee was held in the Township Hall on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Deputy Mayor Edward Meschi reading the public announcement stating that adequate notice had been given provided under the "Open Public Meetings Act" with a flag salute and the following present:

Bruce Bishop	Committeeman
William Brooks	"
William Gantz	"
Susan DeFrancesco	Treasurer
Barry Foote	Public Works Superintendent
& Township Visitors	

Gantz moved that the minutes of the May 13, 2014 regular meeting be approved as received which motion was seconded by Brooks adopted unanimously.

The following monies were received from:

Susan DeFrancesco, Tax Collector – Taxes Collected	\$1,038,451.12
Linda S. Buzby – Zoning Permit	280.00
– CO	100.00
– Marriage License	28.00
– Certified Copies	10.00
– White Goods	101.00
– Land Use Ordinance	150.00
– Copies	6.00
Michael Raio – 3 Certified Lists	30.00
County of Salem – Municipal Alliance	1,114.12
Borough of Elmer – Shared Services	4,977.50
Pilesgrove Joint Court - Court Costs	1,549.12
TRICO JIF – 2013 Safety Award	1,316.25
Cumberland Recycling – Recyclables	2,574.09
Garden Homes – May/June Pad Fees	1,600.00
First National Bank of Elmer - Int. on NOW	156.61
First National Bank of Elmer - Int. on MMA	<u>250.30</u>
TOTAL	\$1,055,860.11

The Treasurer’s report showed the following balance as of May 31, 2014:

Current Fund - Checking Account	\$ 510,801.64
Current Fund - Money Market Account	783,575.56
Alt. Landfill Closure Escrow Fund	45,564.20
Capital Improvement Fund	490,583.12
COAH Developer’s Fees Escrow Fund	13,979.35
COAH Twp. Contributions	326,924.74
Farmland Preservation Fund	414,949.74
Municipal Alliance Trust Fund	3,261.22
Veterans Memorial Fund	<u>464.41</u>
Total	\$2,590,103.64

Gantz moved that the approved bills listed on the “BILL PAYING LIST” as presented to the Committee be paid which motion was seconded by Bishop and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Yes Brooks – Yes Gantz - Yes Meschi - Yes Cimprich - Absent

The Deputy Mayor opened the Public Hearing for “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EXPENDITURE OF MONIES FROM THE 2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE 2014 MAINTENANCE & REPAIR PROGRAM” known as Ordinance 2014-3 at 7:00PM as advertised.

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stating that it had been published in *South Jersey Times* issue of May 16, 2014 as required.

After hearing no comments for or against this Ordinance, the Deputy Mayor declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:05PM.

Bishop moved that this ordinance be finally adopted on second reading and that a notice of its adoption be published in the *South Jersey Times* issue of June 13, 2014. This motion was seconded by Brooks and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Yes Brooks – Yes Gantz - Yes Meschi - Yes Cimprich - Absent

The Deputy Mayor opened the Public Hearing for “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EXPENDITURE OF MONIES FROM THE 2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLE” known as Ordinance 2014-4 at 7:00PM as advertised.

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stating that it had been published in *South Jersey Times* issue of May 16, 2014 as required.

After hearing no comments for or against this Ordinance, the Deputy Mayor declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:05PM.

Bishop moved that this ordinance be finally adopted on second reading and that a notice of its adoption be published in the *South Jersey Times* issue of June 13, 2014. This motion was seconded by Brooks and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Yes Brooks – Yes Gantz - Yes Meschi - Yes Cimprich - Absent

Brooks introduced “RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 CLEAN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM” known as resolution R-26-2014.

Brooks moved that this Resolution be adopted, which motion was seconded by Gantz and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Yes Brooks – Yes Gantz - Yes Meschi - Yes Cimprich - Absent

The Township Committee conducted proceedings to terminate the employment of James B. Hackett since his absence for medical procedures has caused an undue hardship of the functions of the Public Works department. The Solicitor swore in the Municipal Clerk, Linda Buzby, who was in charge of Personnel. The Clerk gave testimony regarding certain events that occurred to create Mr. Hackett’s extended leave. At this time no doctor’s note had been received by the Township that stated he was fit to return to work. Mr. Hackett expanded on his non-work related injury that happened in November. Public Works Superintendent, Barry Foote was sworn in and gave testimony as to the impact of Mr. Hackett’s inability to return to work on his department. The Superintendent lost valuable work time having to train temporary employees who leave for more permanent positions. Work had fallen behind both in the Township as well as the Borough of Elmer with whom the Township has a Shared Services Agreement to perform Public works duties. Mr. Hackett stated that he has limitations on his movements that he was uncertain would ever change and knew this limited his ability to perform his duties. The Deputy Mayor explains that the termination was based on Mr. Hackett’s inability to perform his duties. While sympathetic to Mr. Hackett’s circumstances, ultimately the Committee had to consider what was in the best interest of the township and the Public Works ability to function. Several members from the public spoke against Mr. Hackett’s termination based on his past job performance. The Solicitor stated, as did several Township Committee members that Mr. Hackett’s job performance was not in question regarding the termination. It was based strictly on his lack of ability to perform his duties per his job description. The Township had been fourteen months trying to function without Mr. Hackett. After a brief discussion, the Deputy Mayor asked for a motion to terminate Mr. Hackett’s employment with Upper Pittsgrove Township.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to meet at the call of the Mayor.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Buzby, Clerk