

SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
May 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting of the Southampton Township Committee was held on May 16th, 2023 at the Robert L. Thompson Building, 5 Retreat Road, Southampton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Mikulski at 6:00 PM and followed by a salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

A roll call confirmed those Committee members who were present, which included: Mayor Michael Mikulski, Committeeman Ronald Heston, Committeewoman Elizabeth Rossell, and Deputy Mayor William Raftery and Committeeman James F. Young.

The Mayor read the following statement: Public Notice of the meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Township in the following manner: Posting a copy of the agenda on the bulletin board in the municipal building; Filing a copy of the agenda with the Central Record and the Burlington County Times; Posting a copy of the agenda on the Township website; Filing a copy of the agenda in the office of the Municipal Clerk; Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule.

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2023

Committeeman Heston made a motion to approve. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Mayor Mikulski, Committeeman Heston, Committeewoman Rossell, Deputy Mayor Raftery and Committeeman Young all voted in the affirmative.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS 2023-45 through 2023-51

If any Committee Member would like a Resolution separated from the Consent Agenda Please Say So Now

Deputy Mayor Raftery made a motion to approve consent agenda resolutions 2023-45 through 2023-51. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Mayor Mikulski, Committeeman Heston, Committeewoman Rossell, Deputy Mayor Raftery, and Committeeman Young all voted in the affirmative.

Resolution 2023-45

Resolution Supporting the New Jersey Forest Fire Service and Fuels Mitigation Projects Using Prescribed Fire and Other Treatments

Resolution 2023-46

Resolution of Township of Southampton Awarding a Contract for a Fireworks Display on July 8, 2023 with a Rain Date of July 9, 2023 to Pyrotecnico Fireworks

Resolution 2023-47

Resolution Authorizing Township Officials to Take Certain Actions Concerning Block 801, Lot 5 to Assign the Township's Tax Lien to an Adjacent Property Owner

Resolution 2023-48

A Resolution of the Township of Southampton Making Certain Further Adjustments in the Tax Collector's Records and Accounts

Resolution 2023-49

A Resolution Appointing the Acting Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") of the Township of Southampton

Resolution 2023-50

Resolution of Southampton Township Approving and Accepting a Maintenance Surety Bond for Reconstruction of Burrs Mill Road and Retreat Road

Resolution 2023-51

A Resolution of the Township of Southampton Authorizing Preparation of Estimated Tax Bills

RESOLUTION

Resolution 2023-52

A Resolution of the Township of Southampton Authorizing Application to Lead Grant Assistance Program

Committeeman Young made a motion to approve. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Mayor Mikulski, Committeeman Heston, Committeewoman Rossell, Deputy Mayor Raftery, and Committeeman Young all voted in the affirmative.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

Committeeman Heston made a motion to approve. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Mayor Mikulski, Committeeman Heston, Committeewoman Rossell and Deputy Mayor Raftery all voted in the affirmative. Committeeman Young abstained.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments during the public comment portion of this meeting. The Committee, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, will not publicly discuss personnel matters and may choose not to respond to comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting; however, the Committee will give all comments appropriate consideration and will refer all individual complaints to the Township Administrator or appropriate Township Representative for resolution. Each citizen will be allotted up to three (3) minutes to speak, in order to allow everyone an opportunity to express their opinions or concerns.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mayor Mikulski opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Douglas Reed, 445 Retreat Road- Supports Leisuretown and Public Works. Expressed his frustration over warehouses and new construction. Wants to keep Southampton rural.

Terri Armstrong, 63 Maidstone Place- Big Hill Road has become a thru way for large trucks and tractor trailers. Asked for a no truck sign.

Bill Kelly, 2 Floyd Lane- Water problem from the catch basins have not been fixed from 2018. Water is flooding his property.

Marlene Kelly, 2 Floyd Lane- Has had to replace septic because of the water flooding issue. Has had two sub pumps running in basement to clear the water.

Mayor Mikulski stated there will not be any other switch boxes on islands in Leisuretoun. Spoke with the President of PSE&G to verify. Explained the landfill's previous owner stopped paying taxes on the property. Tax liens were sold to BEMS Solar Company. It became a redevelopment zone. The plans first went through the Planning Board and then went before the Township Committee. Met with residents that were impacted by the switch box last night. Construction will be coming to an end. The size of the box is dictated by PSE&G. The switchbox will not make noise when it is running. There will not be any radiation from the box. A meter will be used to measure the electromagnetic field. The switchbox will have a fence installed around it. Any damages to property caused by construction will be fixed. The cul-de-sac that it is located in will be repaved. Previous artist renderings of the switchbox were presented to the President of the Leisuretoun Association for approval of the proposed project in early August of 2022 and Leisuretoun received \$400,000. By land use law residents were not required to be notified because the project is considered minor. Mayor Mikulski spoke on other new construction in the Township. Property owners are entitled to sell to developers.

Greg Shivers, General Counsel to the Leisuretoun Homeowners Association- The meeting in Leisuretoun back in April of 2022 did not have plans for the switchbox at its current location. It was originally going on Big Hill Road. The Association supported those plans at that time and were not notified that the location plans had changed. The previous President had left and the artist renderings were not shown to the Board. Wants to make clear that the Association did not overlook anything and the information was not made available.

A group of residents from Leisuretoun expressed their concerns over the installation of the switchbox on the island located on St Davids Place. Complaints consisted of the large size of the switchbox, nearby residents not being notified before the start of construction, the location of the box, real estate value being lost and the voltage of the electric in the switchbox.

Evie Doherty, 56 Stratford Road- Suggested that residents from Leisuretoun be on the Planning Board.

Mayor Mikulski stated there is a vacant alternate position on the zoning board and applications can be submitted to the Township Administrator.

Pat Kennedy, 11 Retreat Road- Questioned tax bill and the local purpose amount.

Douglas Reed, 445 Retreat Road- Suggested use of trail cameras to catch illegal dumping around the Township.

Eamonn Fitzpatrick- Ruth, OEM- Rise in water levels from heavy rain. Working toward mitigation options through the resiliency grant that is near completion. Last requirement is an annual exercise to be done before June 30th. Emergency Operations revision plan is ready to be submitted. It is revised every two years.

Eamonn Fitzpatrick- Ruth, Hampton Lakes Emergency Squad- Reported on calls for service for the month of April.

No one else wishing to be heard the public portion was closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ron Heston: 146th Memorial Day Parade starts at 10 am on the 29th. Rain or shine. Looking for Veteran's to participate in the firing squad.

Jim Young: Mark Prescott is the Grand Marshall. Summer concerts start July 5th and run through the end of August. 9 total Concerts.

Elizabeth Rossell: Thanked residents for expressing their concerns. May 20th is the geranium sale hosted by the Historical Society. Library celebration is May 20th from 1-3pm.

Michael Mikulski: Appreciated the residents that came to the meeting and the comments presented to the Committee. Working on a resolution for the residents of St. Davids.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 9:01 P.M.

Resolution 2023-53

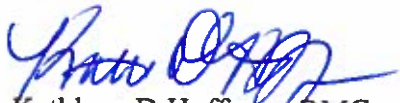
Authorizing Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Contracts and Potential Litigation. No Formal Action will be Taken.

Committeewoman Rossell made a motion to approve. Committeeman Young seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Mayor Mikulski, Committeeman Heston, Committeewoman Rossell, Deputy Mayor Raftery, and Committeeman Young all voted in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:22

Committeeman Heston made a motion to adjourn. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Mayor Mikulski, Committeeman Heston, Committeewoman Rossell, Deputy Mayor Raftery, and Committeeman Young all voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen D Hoffman, RMC
Township Administrator/Clerk