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HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 13, 2022
7:00 P.M.

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of December 13, 2022 with instructions for internet access was included in a meeting notice sent to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post On January 6, 2022 and advertised in said newspapers on January 9, 2022, and January 12, 2022 respectively posted on the website and the bulletin board in the municipal building on January 6, 2022 and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

1. **FLAG SALUTE**

2. **ROLL CALL** - present were Mayor MacLachlan, Committeeman Clauss, Committeeman Levinson, Committeewoman Gilmore and Committeeman Montgomery. Also present were Township Clerk/Administrator Paula Kosko and Attorney John Gillespie

3. **DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION**

A. Branding Report

Ms. Kosko moved the presentation to her Comment Section due to technical difficulties.

4. **MINUTES**

A. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeeman Levinson. Abstain: Committeeman Montgomery. All others yes.

5. **REPORTS**

NJSP In-Person Report – November 2022

SSgt. Antenucci, NJSP - reported that they are still seeing car thefts and burglaries and catalytic converters are still being stolen. Please continue to lock your cars and secure valuables. They are also hearing of grandparent scams where people call senior citizens pretending their grandchild is in legal trouble and needs cash bail. Do not believe these scams. There is no cash bail in New Jersey. The State Police continue to attend many Township events, including the Veteran's Day lunch and the Christmas tree lighting. If you see any criminal or suspicious activity please call us.

- A. **Tax Collector** – November 2022
- B. **Code Enforcement** – November 2022
- C. **Fire Official** – November 2022
- D. **Construction** – November 2022
- E. **Emergency Services Reports** – November 2022

Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

6. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda items only
(Comments are limited to 5 minutes)**

No Comments.

7. **ORDINANCES**

- A. **ORDINANCE 2022-8** – Amending Section 104-34 of the Code of the Township of Hainesport Entitled “Schedule of Fees and Escrow Sums” (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption**)

Mr. Gillespie explained that we had a request for a road vacation. These are usually paper streets, but there are fees associated with the process, including professional reviews. When an individual requests a road vacation or zone change which also requires reviews, they should pay the fees – not the taxpayers of Hainesport. **Mr. Montgomery** remarked that he thought that was a good idea.

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

8. **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **RESOLUTION 2022-143-12** – Authorizing Transfers of Funds During the Last Two Months of the Current Fiscal Year and the First Three Months of the Subsequent Year

Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

- B. **RESOLUTION 2022-144-12** – Approve Firefighters into the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.

- C. **RESOLUTION 2022-145-12**– Authorizing Signers of Checks for Hainesport Checking Accounts

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

9. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Business Licenses (See Attached)

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Comments are limited to 5 minutes)

Anna Evans, 63 Parry Drive – said she was honored and humbled to have been elected to serve on the Hainesport Township Committee. She has been working for this for 7 years, and at this point felt she was doing good to keep showing up. She will be resigning as the Hainesport Democratic Chair. She did not feel it was right to try and represent all of the residents of Hainesport while being the leader of a partisan group, but she is still a Democrat. She wished all a Happy Christmas.

Debra Harris, 7 Elsinore Drive – reported that in January, she will be stepping into Anna’s shoes as Hainesport Democratic Chair. She congratulated the winners of the election. She complimented Mr. Gillespie’s holiday socks. She said she looks forward to the New Year with the new Committee.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Kosko presented the rebranding report. She explained that this has been a yearlong process. Many people have provided input to the project with Gruskin Creative, including Jen Koutsouris, Committeewoman Gilmore, the community, the employees, the Governing Body and our Planner Scott Taylor. She showed the phases of the project and highlighted the visuals that were important to the town for the logo. The Rancocas Creek and the Municipal Park are important representations, but we also wanted to show homage to the past by including the steamboat stacks in the “H”. **Mr. Montgomery** commented that while he likes the idea of representing the past through the steamboat, the smoke stacks remind him of a factory. **Mr. Levinson** suggested we change the trees on the logo to different shapes to open up the back and make the paddle wheel black to stand out. **Mayor MacLachlan** and **Mr. Clauss** said it might look good to make the “O” in Hainesport into a paddle wheel to represent the steamboats of the past. The Committee thanked everyone for the work that went into the development so far. Ms. Kosko also presented some taglines for the town. **Mr. Clauss** joked that we should use “Great Town, Don’t Tell Anybody”, but the Committee seemed to like “Rich History, Bright Future”. She said we may do a survey for the community to vote. She summarized the changes she will present to Gruskin. They also discussed the colors that will be used.

The stormpipe at 22 Bancroft Lane that has been an issue since 2011 should finally be completed in 1 – 2 weeks. The contract was locally funded through our Capital budget and was awarded to Mac-Rose contractors. She was informed that we were awarded \$226,000 in Municipal Aid funds from the State for road improvements to Pulaski Avenue, Laurel Ridge and Fenimore Roads. This grant supplements the prior year \$185,000 DOT award, which gives us \$411,000 total for our local residential roads. Prior to the second award, we are planning to leverage the significant balance through our Capital funds. She expects that amount will now be reduced to \$20,000 - \$30,000. She expects the bid for the work to be out in February. We still have Ark Road to complete. The engineer with that project has had it for quite some time. It is being done by Turek Consulting in Moorestown. The LSRP for Paul’s Tank Farm

property had a site visit in November to begin the required remedial investigation and regulatory filings required prior to the EPA funded physical clean up and capping of the site to begin. She ended by saying it has been a pleasure working with Mayor MacLachlan for the past 3 years. She values his knowledge of Hainesport Governance. She has appreciated his trust, his ability to manage the day to day operations and his genuine care for Hainesport Township residents and businesses. She wished the best of luck to him and Laura. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy New Year and we will see you in 2023.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR

Mr. Gillespie said for the record, Hainesport's transfer resolution moved money out of the legal budget, not into it. He echoed Paula's comments about the Mayor. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Committeeman Montgomery - said he was disturbed by the new squatter situation. We are getting information faster to the community and hopefully it will resolve soon. He said great job to all working on the Branding project. He commented on the Bill List. The schools, Hainesport School and Rancocas Valley High School, receive over one million dollars on the bill list every month. We as a Township, collect that money for the schools. The Township runs on 13% of the total taxes collected. 70% goes to the schools. Good schools make for a good community. We just want the taxpayers to be aware. We welcome Dawn Gorman as our new CFO. Paula did a great job securing the Grant for more money for our roads. He congratulated his neighbor Anna Evans for winning a hard fought election. He will miss Mayor MacLachlan's institutional knowledge of our town. He thanked the Mayor. He congratulated Leila Gilmore on her win and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year.

Committeeman Clauss – congratulated Anna and Leila. He thanked Mayor MacLachlan for teaching him so much about business and finance. He said the Mayor's knowledge helped put the town in a sound fiscal surplus. The Mayor will be truly missed. He presented Mayor MacLachlan with a plaque from the Township thanking him for his leadership and service to the Hainesport community. He added that the Mayor leaves the town with no debt and in great shape.

Committeewoman Gilmore – said Recreation has been very busy. We had the gingerbread house contest. They expanded on it to coincide with the Firehouse sale of Christmas trees and poinsettias. The kids went over to the Firehouse and made crafts, they had a choir and a dance troop perform. There were 16 entries this year. They did a great job. She announced the winners of the Holiday lights contest. First place went to 1326 Woodgreen Lane, second place went to 208 New Jersey Ave. and third place was 115 Washington. Unfortunately, 9 Chaucer Circle was a late entry, but they had a nice display. It is worth it to drive around and see the houses. She enjoyed working with Mayor MacLachlan. She congratulated him on the award he won in Texas for his business. She reported that US News has listed their 2023 Top Law Firms and lawyers. Parker McCay is listed as #3. Our solicitor, John Gillespie is

listed as a Top Municipal Attorney in the country. She presented him with a plaque for his achievement.

Committeeman Levinson – said he enjoyed the New Jersey League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City. He sat in on a meeting about the precarious states of volunteer fire and EMS departments. They have a continuous battle to solicit staff. Extra incentives may be required to retain and encourage on call participation. Some towns have given up on volunteers and gone to third party providers. They are now at the mercy of profit driven providers. This can result in an increased response time. He does not support this approach, but Hainesport should always be pursuing additional revenue for our town in case we need to hire for these services. We do not want to have to increase taxes. He commented that Anna Evans has grit. He wished the election winners the very best. Mayor MacLachlan has been an asset to the Township for many years. His guidance has led the town in a wonderful direction. He respects the taxpayers. Mr. Levinson thanked all who participated in the Tree Lighting, especially Mike Lontoc’s daughters and Elizabeth Gallagher. He encouraged everyone to volunteer and wished all a Happy Holidays.

Mayor MacLachlan – recalled how he first got involved in Hainesport politics. There was an outcry over the Creekview development being residential and giving up commercial ratable space. He said meetings were a bit like the Jerry Springer show back then. Bill Boettcher, Tom Charrier and Ron Corn were on the Committee. A short time later, Paul Tuliano came off Committee to be the Administrator which created an opening and Mayor MacLachlan was asked to join. He is proud of the way that Hainesport has protected taxpayer funds over the years and he hopes it continues. He congratulated Anna Evans. He said running the town is running a business. A surplus is really just working capital. The Township does a great job of managing its business and he just happened to be here at the time. He is proud to have involved Bruce Levinson, Gerry Clauss and Ken Montgomery. He was honored to run with Leila Gilmore. He is glad to know that the town will receive \$30 million from the warehouses in the next 30 years. This puts Hainesport in a real good spot. He believes we have enough warehouses, but that will be up to future Committees.

14. **BILL LIST**

Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

Mayor MacLachlan excused himself from the meeting before Executive Session. He said it has been an honor serving with everyone.

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. **RESOLUTION 2022-146-12** – Entering into Executive Session

1. Anticipated Litigation/Attorney Client Privilege
2. 2023 Professional Service Contracts

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

Motion to re-enter regular meeting

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.

16. ADJOURNMENT @ 9:52 P. M.

Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula L. Kosko

Administrator/Municipal Clerk

OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Township Committee Meeting
December 13, 2022
7 pm

The public may electronically submit questions or comments to pkosko@hainestownship.com or in written letter form to the Clerk's Office at the Municipal Building (can drop in Tax Payment Drop Box as well) no later than 4pm the Monday prior to the Committee Meeting. Name, address and phone or email must be included. Previously submitted questions or public comment shall be read aloud and addressed during the public meeting. Duplicated written questions or comments may be summarized and shall be done consistently.

To eliminate background noise so that all meeting participants can hear, please mute your microphone and remain in listening mode only. The Clerk will place all remote attendees on this platform on mute as well. During public comment period(s), the Clerk will unmute all remote participants. If you do not have a question or comment, please manually re-mute your microphone. The Clerk will manage the remote users for public comments. All remote users must state their name and address at the beginning of his/her public comment.

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2. YouTube Live

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The governing body requests that **questions or comments on agenda items be directed to the Administrator/Municipal Clerk by 4pm on the Tuesday of the meeting**. All questions and comments will be considered by the Township Committee and entered into the official minutes of the meeting.

Individuals calling into the phone number or accessing from a computer will be able to fully participate in the meeting. However, all persons calling in will be asked to place their phones on mute unless speaking and being recognized to speak during a Public Hearing or Comments from the Public. A non-public dial in number will be used if executive session is required.