

HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

**October 10, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of October 10, 2017 was included in a meeting notice sent to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post On January 10, 2017 and advertised in said newspapers on January 12, 2017, respectively posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building on January 10, 2017 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. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mayor Porto at 7:00 P.M.
2. **FLAG SALUTE**
3. **ROLL CALL** - present were Committeewoman Gilmore, Committeeman Dickinson, Committeeman Fitzpatrick, Deputy Mayor Masciocchi and Mayor Porto. Also present were Township Administrator/Acting Clerk Paula Kosko and Solicitor John Gillespie.
4. **MINUTES**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**
 - B. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

Motion: Committeeman Dickinson. Second: Committeeman Masciocchi. All yes.
5. **REPORTS**
 - A. **Tax Collector** – September 2017 & 3rd Quarter Report
 - B. **Code Enforcement** – September 2017
 - C. **Fire Official** – September 2017
 - D. **Construction** – September 2017

Motion to approve the minutes and spread the Tax Collector's report across the minutes: Committeeman Dickinson. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.

6. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. Hainesport Enterprises Performance Bond

Doug Heinold, an attorney with Raymond, Coleman and Heinold in Moorestown, was here tonight to represent Hainesport Enterprises to request a waiver from a performance bond. The company is in the process of making a considerable amount of improvements on their property that will not be visible to the public. On a backlot there are two garages and they are putting in a third building, putting in parking and substantial storm water improvements. They have gone through everything they need to do for conformance and one of the open items is an open performance bond. The company is requesting a waiver from that requirement. The drainage improvements are the first things that have to go in and they are the only things that can impact the public. They aren't needed unless the pavement and the building go in. So those things are going in first followed by the other improvements that would cause the need for the stormwater improvement. Mr. Heinold said for those reasons, they respectfully request the waiver for the performance bond requirement. Mr. Fitzpatrick wanted to stress that this would not impact the township financially as far as the bond goes. All the inspections will be done. Mr. Heinold agreed and said he wouldn't be asking for this if he didn't think the township would be properly protected. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how long the business has been in town and Mr. Tom Amendola, secretary/treasurer of Hainesport Enterprise, answered that, depending on when they get started, the work should be done by the end of next summer. Mayor Porto asked Ms. Kosko to read the title of the resolution they need to go forward with the waiver.

Motion to amend the agenda: Committeeman Masciocchi. Second: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. All yes.

Motion to approve the RESOLUTION 2017-145-10 – Authorizing Waiver of Bonds for Hainesport Enterprises Inc.: Committeeman Masciocchi. Second: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. All yes.

7. ORDINANCES

A. ORDINANCE 2017-13 – To Amend the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances of the Township of Hainesport in Order to Continue Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) (First Reading and Introduction) (Public Hearing and Final Adoption November 9, 2017)

Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Committeeman Dickinson. All yes.

8. RESOLUTIONS

- A. **RESOLUTION 2017-143 -10** - Authorizing Lien for Property Maintenance Expenses for Property Located at 10 Pennsylvania Avenue

Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Committeeman Dickinson. All yes.

9. BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Business Licenses (See Attached)

Motion: Committeeman Dickinson. Second: Committeeman Masciocchi. All yes.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Mayor Porto's letter to MHMUA – postage & handling charge
- B. Letter from New Jersey General Assembly encouraging homeowners to plant native plants that support bee populations

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

Before there was any public comment Mayor Porto asked for a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the tragedy in Las Vegas and also for those suffering in Puerto Rico and other places from hurricanes.

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

Catherine McNelis, 407 Bischoff Avenue – asked if the committee could give the public a list of the plants that would support the bee populations. She also said she wanted to remind Mr. Fitzpatrick that he should give up medical benefits from Hainesport. She thinks they should end in December.

Anna Evans, 63 Parry Drive – thanked the committee and Mayor Porto for proceeding with the MHMUA recommendations she made in August. She thinks it is the first step in taking them to task for the way that they have been policing the people in Hainesport. Secondly, on a lighter note, in her campaigning she has come nose to claws with the feral cat population and she wanted to say that she is on board with the TNR program. This may be the first time that she and Mayor Porto publicly agree with each other. Hopefully, this will begin a new era for a positive bi-partisan co-operation in Hainesport.

Louis Lopez, 98 Levis Drive, Mount Holly – asked Mayor Porto if he would read the correspondence about the MHMUA and was told that the township would give him a copy of the letter because it is rather long. Mr. Lopez thanked Lee Schneider and Ted Costa for their support and believes they will be great leaders for the community. Mr. Lopez asked Mayor Porto to clarify the ordinance that

was passed tonight. Mayor Porto said this is to amend the current ordinances to include additional language to for flood damage prevention. Ms. Kosko said it is being passed in all the municipalities in Burlington County. Basically, our flood plains are updated and that needs to be reflected in Chapter 89 of our code for the flood plain ordinance itself. This is an ongoing process that needs to be updated. Mr. Lopez thanked Lee Schneider and Ted Costa for their support for the taping of the meetings; the views are up and growing.

Florence Stackhouse, 108 N. Cumberland Avenue – said she has had an ongoing problem with the house next door to her; it is in foreclosure and there is always trash and debris on the property. Also, there is an abundance of overgrowth on the fence and she can't seem to get anything done about it. The township has done some things but there is still more to be done. She just wanted to know what can be done about this situation. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if it is abandoned and was told that it is in foreclosure. Mayor Porto said we just passed an abandoned property ordinance and it is taking affect soon so that should be one of the tools that will be available to the township. Ms. Kosko said we have gone out on two or three occasions to maintain the property. Our code enforcement and zoning officers have been doing their due diligence in communicating constantly with the bank as well as the property maintenance company. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked Mr. Gillespie if this new ordinance would be able to play into Mrs. Stackhouse's situation and was answered in the affirmative. Mr. Gillespie said it would probably enhance the efforts of what we have taken. Now we have other people on the hook. As is always the case, if they don't do it, we still do it and impose a lien on the property. Mrs. Stackhouse said she paid her maintenance man \$700 to remove the ivy from the fence and it has all grown back onto her property. Mr. Dickinson asked how long the property has been abandoned and she said two or three years. She went on to say that the house on the other side of her, whose owner just passed away, has a fence all along her driveway. Mrs. Stackhouse never said anything to her but it is a real hazard and she would like something to be done about that also. Mayor Porto said we would have a township employee go out and check it out. She said maybe someone could just take one section of the fence down and it would help. Ms. Kosko said none of our employees would be able to do that. She said that the zoning officer and the code enforcement officer will respond as soon as they can just like they did with the other situation. Mr. Masciocchi asked if there was anyone living there now and was told no. He said with no one living there getting notice to the appropriate party may be difficult. Ms. Kosko asked Mrs. Stackhouse if she would be opposed to speaking to the people that are cleaning out the house. If they are there removing property maybe they have the authority to remove a section of the fence. Maybe she should try and have a conversation with them and see what can be done. If not we will look into it.

Ted Costa, 81 Parry Drive – wanted to commend the committee for sending out the letter to the MUA about the objectionable \$1.50 charge per homeowner. He recommended that the committee address the fact that Hainesport residents are paying hundreds of dollars more than the residents in Mount Holly. He knows

that they all agree that we are being discriminated against by contract. Never the less, that contract is old and goes back to, he thinks, 1989. He recommends that committee at least contact the surrounding towns of Rancocas Valley to co-ordinate any type of legal attack on the policy of Mount Holly MUA, to trade ideas and to see if it's worth pushing forward. He thinks we have as much to gain as any of the other towns surrounding Mount Holly.

Lee Schneider, 611 Broad Street – said she was on Bancroft Lane and at least two of the residents asked about the speed bumps that had been proposed were going to come to fruition. They wanted to know because they had a petition going before and wondered what has come of it. She wanted to know where the committee is at with that. Mr. Dickinson said the speed device was out there last week and they looked at it. They looked at stop signs and speed bumps at the top and bottom of the hill and are going to try to determine what they will be doing. There was a discussion about the road and it was stated that once all the information from the speed device comes back to us they should be able to determine what is going to be done.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Kosko said she is happy to report that the Best Practices spreadsheet has been completed and sent off to the CFO and will be filed by the October 20th deadline. We will receive our full energy tax receipts for state aid allocation as a result of scoring in the highest range. The township, last year, received a little over \$250,000 in state aid. The Municipal Aid Grant was submitted this past Friday for reconstruction overlay of Phillips Road in the amount of \$253,000. Ms. Kosko said the township still has not heard anything about the 2016 county grant awards. She said there are some exposure concerns over here at the older playground. Jay Jones, our Public Works foreman, received some prices for replacing the deck and the stairs and the prices are exorbitant. She is recommending that we just replace that playground. Our Fall Clean-up Day is coming up on Saturday, October 21st from 7 A.M. until noon at the Street Center as well as at the Municipal Center for shredding.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR

Mr. Gillespie said he didn't have anything for this evening.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gilmore said she went to the Robert Shinn Recycling Center on September 18th for a discussion about the problems they are having with the recycling and the way that people have become a little lax in doing it properly. This is causing a problem to sell the recyclables to the buyers. China is proposing a ban on several of the recycling plants now. Mrs. Gilmore said Donna Kilburn is doing an excellent job in promoting recycling in the township. The bins will be tagged if you have the wrong items in them and they won't be picked up until they are removed. She said you should be recycling the items 5, 2 and 1. All others should be thrown out with the

regular trash. She gave various suggestions for recycling. Hainesport Day was very successful and she gave a big shout out to Paula Tiver and Donna Casey along with Public Works and anyone else who participated in the event. September 28th she attended a Senior Citizen luncheon and it was very lovely affair; they are having another meeting on October 26th and all senior citizens should come out for a great time. Mrs. Gilmore also attended a meeting for the Environmental Committee that is working on different aspects of looking for places to preserve Hainesport. She went to a retirement party for Steve Sereduk who is retiring from the Emergency Squad and it was a very nice affair. On October 4th she went to a meeting with CGP&H which is the new Affordable Housing Administration group. There is no more TRIAD and hopefully things will start to move a little bit smoother. They have already been updating their records and trying to handle some of the problems that are now existing. Tomorrow night, October 11th is a TNVR meeting at the Street Center which will be run by Donna Kilburn. This is a trap, neuter, vaccinate and release program for feral cats. If anyone can help in any way by trapping, fostering, adopting or anything they can do please help.

Mr. Masciocchi reminded the audience that Sgt. Colleton was here last month and did a presentation with regard to the State Police presence in Hainesport Township and the efforts that they go through in policing our town. He expressed his dismay regarding an article which was published by Citizens Media on social media. He made reference to the three logos, being Hainesport Township, the State Police and the Democratic Party. The title of the article is 'Citizens Media TV Altered Our Footage Because the New Jersey State Police Told Us To. We Shouldn't Have.' The logos imply that we agree with the article and we certainly do not. The second thing in the article indicates that they were told to remove footage and they were not. They were requested. Citizens Media complied with the request and then regretted it. They decided to accuse the Hainesport Township Committee, after interviewing someone from the Hainesport Democratic Party, of somehow setting this up to embarrass the Democratic Candidate. Why wasn't anyone from the committee questioned about that? No Republican was interviewed for the purposes of that article. No one was asked if there was any attempt to sabotage anyone else's complaint. We all want to see a full and fair election with the election coming up. Mr. Masciocchi asked Jeff Epstein if he had any information regarding this situation. Jeff Epstein of Maple Shade stated that Mr. Masciocchi had a couple good points but he did not accuse, the Citizens Media did not accuse. They reported someone else accusing and they do not, in anywhere else suggest that that is the truth. The discussion continued between Mr. Masciocchi and Mr. Epstein. Mr. Masciocchi said that Sgt. Colleton was the one that made the request to remove the footage of his presentation but Citizens Media did not identify him by name, yet they identified everyone else by name. They should have focused their inquiry on Sgt. Colleton. Mr. Epstein said a reasonable point is that he (Mr. Epstein) should have approached one of the committee members directly. He also said it is reasonable that he was in constant contact with the committee's representative. Mr. Masciocchi stated that the Administrator's position is a hands off operation. No one stands over their shoulder and tells them how to do it or what to say or not. They are trusted to use their good judgement. No one told Ms. Kosko what to say with regard to a request that came

from a third party. In fairness to Citizens Media, Sgt. Colleton should have contacted them directly and made the request. It shouldn't have gone through the administrator. Mr. Masciocchi said that Citizens Media should have pressed the person for the information that they seek before making the conclusion that the Republican Party conspired to hurt the Democratic Party. The discussion continued between Mr. Masciocchi and Mr. Epstein and they discussed that Mr. Epstein was being sponsored by a political party so he could be biased in his presentation. Mr. Epstein said he is as open as he can be with the sponsorship and with his sources. He said the readers will judge whether that influences his coverage or not. Mr. Masciocchi said he gives Mr. Epstein credit to come up and take his gruff but he hopes Mr. Epstein takes it in the spirit that it is being given. Mr. Epstein accepted that and said that the logos were just a coincidence; there was no design with them, they were just the organizations involved with the story. He apologized to the five committee members for not directly approaching them. The only interaction he had was with the officer. However, it feel like 'something' was off and that is all that he can say. He did report an accusation did make that section particularly clear it was speculation and there was no evidence. Ms. Debra Plaia of 50 Bancroft Lane stood up and objected to Mr. Masciocchi about everything he had been saying to Mr. Epstein. She said she may be out of order but she intended to say what she has to say. She said Mr. Masciocchi is using his position as a committee member to blind side this young man. Mayor Porto attempted to gain order throughout Ms. Plaia's statements as she was out of order as public comments were already heard. A heated interaction went on for a minute or two and finally she sat down after Mr. Gillespie told her she may be charged with mis-conduct for interfering with a public meeting. Mr. Masciocchi said he had nothing else to say.

Mr. Dickinson said that Hainesport Community Day was a great success. The State Police put on a great show with the CSI machines, he thinks the kids were amazed when the machines were working. Also, the helicopter was a big hit with the kids. He thanked the Hainesport Fire Department for coming out and putting on a great show. He said he had spoken with Mr. Epstein and they had a conversation; there were a couple there he disagreed with too. He actually went back and changed a few things in the way they were worded. He stated that he had no idea that Citizen's Media TV was sponsored by the Democrats especially because he knows that they have covered the Mt. Holly MUA and Lumberton meetings. Mr. Dickinson completely agrees with Mr. Masciocchi with his points.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said he had a list of things he wanted to talk about but Mrs. Gilmore covered them all.

Mayor Porto said last month he had the privilege of honoring Steve Sereduk for the residents of Hainesport. Steve has given decades of service to our community by responding to over 5,000 calls as an EMT. That number is since they have kept records for responders. He was also in Lumberton for a while. Mayor Porto just wanted to mention that Steve Sereduk has devoted most of his life helping save lives and he commends his actions. He went on to remind everyone that Wednesday night there will be a TNVR meeting at the Street Center at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Porto thanked

the Fire House for having Open House recently; we appreciate all their involvement in the community and all those who participated in Hainesport Community Day. He wanted to say that he too, was disappointed by the article and he doesn't think anyone on the committee or anyone else was trying to do anything nefarious. From his understanding the township employee was asked by the State Police to contact Citizens Media and, as a courtesy, they did so. There was no direction or nefarious orders from above to sabotage anything. Simply a courtesy trying to work with the State Police. Mayor Porto thinks the State Police are aware they should directly make those requests to the people who have made the recording. He appreciates all the candidates putting their names on the ballots and going through all the rigors of a campaign. It is an exhausting experience. A lot of people don't get to see that part of politics. It's good to see the people are wanting to put their names out there to do good for the community. He encourages them all to work together to bring forth new ideas. Mayor Porto reminded the audience that Clean-up Day is coming up next month.

15. BILL LIST

Motion: Committeeman Dickinson. Second: Committeeman Masciocchi. All yes.

Bills that Committeeman Fitzpatrick abstained from: 17-00786, 17-00804, 17-00827 and 17-00852.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. RESOLUTION 2017-144-10 – Resolution to Enter into Executive Session

Mr. Gillespie stated that there will also be discussion on potential litigation and there may be formal action taken.

Motion: Committeeman Dickinson. Second: Committeeman Masciocchi. All yes.

1. Attorney/Client Privilege

17. ADJOURNMENT @8:40P. M.

Motion: Committeeman. Second: Committeeman. All yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula L. Kosko

Acting Municipal Clerk