

Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall, 1768 Main Street, Port Norris, NJ

Those present:

Judson Moore	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Committeeman
Ronald Sutton Sr.	Committeeman
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Hannah E. Nichols	Township Clerk
Edward Dennis	Engineer
Clinton Miller	Public Works Supervisor
Heather Sparks	Deputy Township Clerk

Mayor Moore presided and called the meeting to order with the announcement that the meeting had been advertised, it was being electronically recorded and being held in full compliance of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Mayor Moore asked everyone to stand and join him in the Flag Salute and Lord's Prayer.

Mayor Moore said we have representative from the New Jersey State Police present to give his report for the month of September.

Officer said station had 661 phone calls for services, 244 moto vehicle stops, 2 accidents, 8 burglaries, 37 criminal investigations and the busiest days were Tuesday and Wednesday of September. He said 70% were calls from Laurel Lake. Offer said people need to keep their houses, cars, garages, outbuildings locked and pickup anything around the yard that you want to keep.

Mayor Moore said we have Attorney, Terry Bennett, here to discuss a request he has regarding Block 189, Lot 4, Stable Lane. He said Beacon Title Services of Vineland who is going to insure the property bought at the landsale wanted to know if everyone was served when property was foreclosed on. He said he requested the information from Mr. Seeley who responded that he would have to get clarification from the Commercial Township Committee on responding. Mr. Seeley said Mr. Bennett could come to his office and review the notices, or he could prepare an affidavit that all persons had been served, or would State Capital's Certificate of Regularity be sufficient.

Mr. Bennett said the States Capital's Certificate of Regularity would be enough.

Mayor Moore said you have a second issue and that is what.

Mr. Bennett explained that he had a client that had contacted Mr. Dean to see if there was an ordinance against bamboo and at that time the township did not have one. His client, Mr. Sellerman, decided to contact Cape May Bamboo Company and make a bamboo hedge. At this time the bamboo has never been plated because the neighbors keep taking Mr. Sellerman to court. Mr. Bennett wants to know if his client can plant the bamboo or not.

Mr. Seeley stated that if the bamboo has not been planted prior to the ordinance being adopted then he cannot plant the bamboo at this time.

Mr. Bennett thanked the committee and said he would inform Mr. Sellerman.

Mayor Moore said next item are minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes Agenda Meeting, September 14, 2015

Minutes Executive Session, September 14, 2015  
Minutes Regular Meeting, September 17, 2015

Committeeman Sutton made a motion to approve the minutes and Committeeman Jamison seconded with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore said each year the State of New Jersey sends out a Best Practice Report that the municipalities must file by October 16<sup>th</sup>. This report and the municipalities score determines the amount of state aid. He said the Chief Financial Officer prepares the report and he reviewed the report with her and this year the township came in at 84% and we are happy about that. Mayor Moore said he would like to have a motion regarding the report.

Committeeman Jamison made a motion to approve the Best Practice Report for 2015 and Committeeman Sutton seconded the motion with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore said the Chief Financial Officer prepared a bill list for the month of October 2015 and he asked for motion.

Committeeman Sutton made motion to approve bill list, Committeeman Jamison seconded with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore called upon Edward Dennis, Engineer, for his report.

Mr. Dennis said he has submitted to grant applications for the following: Laurel Lake Drainage Phase III, Raymond Drive, Phase III, and Samuel Drive Phase II. Mr. Dennis said on the Doris Drive, Maurice Street Project, that township was awarded \$170,000 and a contract had been awarded to Asphalt Paving System, that a preconstruction meeting was held on October 14, 2015 and construction should be completed in fall of 2015. He said most of the grants have been closed out which are, Laurel Lake Drainage II, Raymond Drive Phase II, Miller, Ogden and Berry, Laurel Lake Drainage Phase I, Berry Avenue Flood Control. He said the NJDEP Shore Protection Program Bivalve Station had meeting August 26, 2015 to review design and coordinating permits with NJDEP. Mr. Dennis said on the possible joint solar PPA with township and school district that a pre-bid meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2015 and bid opening scheduled for November 24, 2015. He said they had four solar contractors pickup packages from the area and one is from California. Mr. Dennis said a company has reached out to him regarding doing a solar project with the sand company by the state police barracks and that they would supply electricity to the barracks and the senior center. He said the way he structured it, it put us back a couple of weeks because I was trying to figure out what they were doing. He said they wanted to know if the township would be open to that and I said I would bring it up here but the way I approached it was in our bids that I have out right now, I have it two ways a base bid and an alternate bid, one includes the senior center and one doesn't, that way we can see what kind of rate we can get from these guys and see what kind of rate the other person wants to give us with the joint for the police and senior center.

Committeeman Sutton asked how can they do that with two different owners.

Mr. Dennis said there would have to be an agreement.

Mayor Moore said I would hope that the state would go along with it because you have to submit it to the state.

Mr. Dennis said we'll look at it both ways, we'll get prices from both people and which ever one is better for the township is the one we'll go with.

Mayor asked Mr. Dennis to keep in touch with Gary Rhodes.

Mayor Moore called upon Mr. Thomas Seeley, Solicitor, for his report.

Mr. Seeley said as you know we worked on the landsale, people are paying and we are down to about 20 outstanding and they have until the 26<sup>th</sup> of October or they loose their deposits. He said the foreclosure list that we sent in August 2015 has just been listed as filed. That does not mean finalized, it means they just marked it filed from August, September and October, so three months later and this is the reason that foreclosures can take a long time, no fault of ours just the way the system works. He said he appreciates the support the committee has given his office, he said we have reduced the properties from 300 delinquent tax sale certificates to 188 so we've made a lot of headway on that. We continue to do the regular township business, we've researched and prepared ordinance regarding a set fee for individuals that want to donate lots to the township that they no longer want. He said the cost averages \$1200 or higher depending on the amount of research, what title search discloses. He said we have prepared an ordinance for the committee's review that donor has to pay \$600. Also we're preparing a fee schedule ordinance for tax collector's office. That's all I have.

Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Seeley and said for point of information that he had a meeting with Mr. Seeley, member of Mr. Seeley's staff, and Leslie and we discussed some of the issues such as foreclosures, we were at 300 and some and we're down to 188 which we will start another foreclosure list in January, February, so we can get these items cleared up. He said we will have our first electronica tax sale this yeart, and Jim is prepareing an ordinance stating the fees that the tax collector is allowed to charge according to state statutes. I wanted this completed so that Leslie can charge the maximum fee of \$25.00 on each property listed on the tax sale list.

Mayor Moore said we received a letter from the Athletic Coach of the Port Norris Middle School requesting donations for athletic equipment for the football, soccer, basketball, cross country programs. Mayor said the committee felt this was a very worthwhile cause and township will donate \$1,000 to help the youth of Commercial Township and asked for a motion to approve.

Committeeman Jamison made motion to donate \$1,000 to Port Norris, Middle School athletic program. Committeeman Sutton seconded the motion with everyone in favor.

Mayor said we had a letter from Susan Caruso who attended our land sale on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September and we had a property for sale at \$13,000. Mrs. Caruso said she would like to buy it and offered \$1,000 and the committee told Ms. Caruso that was not a good faith offer and rejected it. Mayor said the committee discussed this at the agenda meeting and they will sell the property to Mrs. Caruso for \$8,000 and clerk was instructed to send her a letter. Mayor asked for motion.

Committeeman Sutton made motion for clerk to notify Ms. Caruso, minimum bid on Block 162, Lot 486,487,7165 Samuel Drive is \$8,000. Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion all was in favor.

Mayor Moore said discussion was held regarding trash containers and that if the township is going to borrow \$90,000 from Cumberland County Improvement Authority we will need to bond the issue and have a down payment. He suggested that committee hold off at this time and purchase small number of containers.

Committeeman Sutton and Jamison felt that all residents should receive containers and that Mayor Moore should go through with the transaction. Mayor Moore said the committee had approved the borrowing of \$90,000 before that it did not need voting on again.

Mayor Moore asked for motion to approve a 30 Year Long Term Plan with American Tower for the property that cell tower is on. Mayor said they will increase our current monthly rental figure by \$423 and an annual increase of 3% (three percent). Mayor stated at the end of 30 years township will have grossed \$1,999,010. Mayor Moore said he would make a motion to approve, Committeeman Jamison said he would second the motion and a unanimous roll call vote was taken, all in favor.

Mayor Moore said the Church on Battle Lane did not sell at the landsale and at the agenda meeting he suggested that the township tear it down and build a tot lot. Committeeman Sutton stated that he would like to see us put it up for sale at another land sale, if it did not sell then township could tear it down. Committeeman Sutton made motion to include Battle Lane church in second land sale, if it doesn't sell then it can be torn down. Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion and an unanimous roll call vote taken.

Mayor Moore said he would make a motion to approve a Susan G. Kolman walk a thon contingent that the school put up a liability insurance rider from their insurance company on the event. Committeeman Jamison seconded the motion with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore said we have received a letter from Edward Jamison offering \$15,000 for 3200 Lakeshore Drive. This property was approved for sale at the September 26, 2015 land sale by resolution and did not sell. Mayor asked committee if they were in agreement to accept a minimum bid of \$15,000 and to sell the property at the December 17<sup>th</sup>, meeting. Committeeman Jamison abstained, Committeeman Sutton; Yes, Mayor Moore; yes.

Clerk stated that sale will be advertised two times prior to the sale and all adjoining owners will be notified.

Committeeman Sutton said why don't we re-advertise the properties with houses on them, reconsider the amount and sell them that night at the meeting.

Mayor Moore said it is something that we can discuss but that he would like to talk to the people still living in the township owned properties before do anything with them.

Solicitor and Committee did not think that was a very good idea. Mr. Seeley said we should contact those that are living in township owned properties, if they have a lease, we need to get a copy of same because we have to honor it and they should be paying their rent to the township not the prior landlord. Those dwellings that are occupied by previous owners can be told to evict.

Mayor Moore said we have two ordinances for introduction.

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
Ordinance No. 2015-571

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey that there is an ever-growing list of substandard properties to be foreclosed;

WHEREAS, recently there has been an increase in the amount of property donations from either the original owners and or their heirs; and

WHEREAS, based on the cost of search fees, filing fees, document preparation fees and legal fees in order to obtain clear title it has been costly to the township to accept these donated properties and the average amount spent per donation is in the area of in or around \$1,200.00; and

WHEREAS, the properties which are donated are normally substandard lots and therefore are of a minimum value; and

WHEREAS, Commercial Township does not have a continued interest in obtaining substandard lots which were previously bought by individuals and have to bear the sole cost for the donation transaction of same to Commercial Township; and

WHEREAS, if the property owner no longer wishes to own the property they have the avenue of selling the property to a third party and/or discontinue paying the taxes, which would lead to the foreclosure of the property. A foreclosure could cause a problem for the owner's credit reporting and therefore they may wish to continue to pay the taxes or pay \$600.00 towards the donation to offset the burden of the townships' taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in all property donations that are accepted after the adoption of this Ordinance a standard fee of \$600.00 will be assessed for any party that has an interest in a property who wishes to donate said property to the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey to offset the cost of completing same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this \$600.00 payment will be received by the Township which will help offset costs and fees as described above.

THIS ORDINANCE shall take effect upon adoption and publication according to law.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading and Committeeman Sutton made motion, Committeeman Jamison seconded and a unanimous roll call vote was taken. Mayor said second reading and public hearing will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
ORDINANCE 2015-572

AN ORDINANCE OF COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP TO ADOPT CERTAIN  
FEES FOR COLLECTION BY COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP TAX OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Commercial Township tax office has to perform a certain amount of administrative work which causes fees to be incurred regarding the collection of taxes and the sale of tax sale certificates;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Commercial Township should not bear the burden of the expenses which are incurred for the late payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NJ Statute 54:5-1, et seq., the township is able to collect certain amounts for the processing of tax sales; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of the protecting individual taxpayers liability from having to absorb these extra costs the Commercial Township Committee has reviewed the amounts allowable to be billed pursuant to New Jersey statutes and discussed same;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached tax office fees are to be adopted pursuant to each line item which is allowable under NJ Statute. (See attached Tax Office Fees) Attachment "A"

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication according to New Jersey State Statute.

ATTACHMENT "A"

Tax Office Fees

Check returned due to Insufficient Funds, Returned #-Check: \$20.00 per check returned

Duplicate Tax Sale Certificates: \$25.00 Per Certificate (NJSA 54:5-52-1

Duplicate Tax Bills: \$1.00 Per Bill (NJSA 54:4-64)

Certified Tax Search: \$10.00 Per Block and Lot (line item" (NJSA 54:5-14)

In lieu mailings for Standard, Accelerated or Electronic Tax Sale: \$25.00 for each notice mailed. Said mailing fee is to be added to the cost of sale. (NJSA 54:5-26)

Cost of Sale: \$2% of the total municipal charges and interest. The fee shall not be less than \$15.00 or more than \$100.00 for each parcel listed. (NJSA 54:5-38)

Redemption Penalty: 2% on certificates more than \$200.00  
(NJSA 54:5-61) 4% on certificates more than \$5,000.00 but less than \$10,000.00  
6% on certificates exceeding \$10,000.00

Interest Rates On Delinquencies: 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of delinquency  
18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00.\*  
(18% per annum will remain on any continued delinquency until total delinquency is brought current)

Year End Penalty: 6% fixed penalty on delinquencies exceeding \$10,000.00 at the end of the fiscal year. (NJSA 54:4-67)

10 Day Grace Period: Payment must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month due in order to avoid interest charges. If the 10<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the deadline for not charging interest will be extended to the next business day (NJSA 54:4-67)

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading and Committeeman Jamison made motion, Committeeman Sutton seconded with a unanimous roll call vote and second reading and public hearing will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Moore said quotes were obtained for the leveling of the floor, removing of current handicap ramp and rebuilding of handicap ramp 4'6" wide and 36 feet long at the Laurel Lake Community Center.

J E Howard Masonry, LLC	\$14,800
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Franckle Masonry	\$14,275
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Mayor Moore said the money is being certified out of the remaining amount of bond money that we did to purchase this building and Mayor Moore said he made a motion to award a contract to Franckle Masonry in the amount of \$14,275.00.

Committeeman Sutton asked how much money is left because we've paid for the heating and everything else out of there.

Mayor Moore said the cost of the survey is coming out of building and grounds.

Committeeman Sutton said I think we need to hold off until the first of the year on this, we're doing to many things up there, we need to wait, Pam was talking today that we don't have that much in the budget.

Committeeman Jamison said once the floor is done how close are we to getting the building done.

Mr. Clint Miller said the floor has to get done and then Mike will start the construction part, the doorways, the heating, carpet.

Mayor Moore said the quotes also includes the disassembling the current handicap ramp and the building of a new ramp 4'6" wide, 36 feet long. I don't want to hold this project

up, the money has been allocated in the capital budget and without this the building can't go forward, so I don't want to hold this, we've come this far.

Committeeman Sutton said yes I know but we're paying for things like the survey out of different accounts just to make this happen and I think we're jumping the gun and I think we need to wait until after the first of the year and take our time on it.

Mr. Miller said I want to tell you this because we've been moving forward on all this stuff really fast or as fast as we could, I have the agreement already signed for the mason, so I don't know what that would do to us, whether we could get out of it or not, I just wanted you guys to know.

Mayor Moore said I'm going to make a motion that we move forward with this and award a quote to Franckle Masonry in the amount of \$14,275, can I have a second.

Committeeman Jamison said you said we are close after this Clint?

Mr. Miller said you have the floor the carpet

Committeeman Sutton asked if the fire door has been done.

Mr. Miller said that is part of the construction part of it.

Mayor Moore said air conditioners are done, eves are done, bathrooms are done, this is the last big thing, once we get this done and then do some minor construction up there.

Mr. Miller said we have to put some doors in ADA required.

Committeeman Sutton asked how much is that.

Mr. Miller said I think it is \$4600. We need to get the carpeting up and removed, fire proof some areas, the doorways and the stalls are not done, the plumbing is done in the bathrooms but the rest of the bathrooms are not done, we've been trying to match up the tile that is there, if we can the cost won't be much, if we can't and we have to start over the cost is going to be another two or three thousand dollars. Just to let you know the railings are not included in that quote, we'll have to do the railings.

Mayor Moore said with this floor being in we are close to opening up, provided that we get the door open for the bathroom.

Mr. Miller said we're not close to opening yet, it will be another few weeks before that can happen, my guys have been busting their humps up there trying to get this done.

Mayor Moore said what I'm saying is that is the main thing that has to be done, if the eves aren't done that won't stop us from opening up.

Mr. Miller said right, no it won't, the only thing that has to be done is that ramp, railings, bathrooms and doors ADA and the fire marshal stuff and one more thing that is going to be an additional cost, I have to have a fire system put in there in the basement, Mike Pugley's working on that, trying to figure out we should remove the alarm system there now and go to a combination system or just put a whole new one in the basement.

Mayor Moore said so it is my opinion that we're close, because this is the biggest part of this whole project, the security alarms on, the heating is in, air conditioning is in, plumbing is done in the bathrooms, we have to fix the door in the bathroom. This quote includes the handicap ramp and railing.

Mr. Miller said so that quote does not include a railing.

Mayor Moore said I definitely feel that we need to move forward on this so I already have a motion on the floor saying let's go with it and make this happen.

Committeeman Jamison said I was for the building so I'm going to say yes. I was all for the building from the beginning.

Mayor Moore roll call vote please.

Committeeman Jamison, Yes, Committeeman Sutton, yes, Mayor Moore said it is amazing how things happen, I say yes. Mayor Moore said Ron you never let me down I'll tell you that.

Mayor Moore said we have several resolution for consideration and same were read by title only.

RESOLUTION 2015-114

LIST OF UNCOLLECTIBLE TAXES

I, Leslie A. Kraus, submit to you a list of taxes, which in my opinion are uncollectible. The reason as to why the taxes are uncollectible is listed below. I request that the same be cancelled and that I am relieved of the collection thereof as required by P.L. 115 (C. 54:4-91.91,91.2)

Block	Lot	Assessed Owner	Years	Amount	Reason
10	5244	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	875.87	Exempt In Rem
24	4562	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	65.61	Exempt In Rem
24	4589	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	65.61	Exempt In Rem
24	4594	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	19.11	Exempt In Rem
27	4129	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	19.11	Exempt In Rem
27	4161	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	65.61	Exempt In Rem
33	5344	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	610.88	Exempt in Rem
36	5529	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	435.71	Exempt In Rem
53	7218	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	267.54	Exempt In Rem
61	674	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	31.21	Exempt In Rem
61	677	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	436.34	Exempt In Rem
81	1641	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	186.00	Exempt In Rem
81	1661	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	181.54	Exempt In Rem
135	7026	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	108.29	Exempt In Rem
139	7902	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	19.11	Exempt In Rem
139	7904	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	481.57	Exempt In Rem
163	909	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	485.39	Exempt In Rem
164	2	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	150.97	Exempt In Rem
176	1	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	263.08	Exempt In Rem
189	4	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	1,037.44	Exempt In Rem
202	17	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	118.26	Exempt In Rem
206	6	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	80.72	Exempt In Rem
214	2	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	830.37	Exempt In Rem
214	43	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	175.83	Exempt In Rem
214.01	5	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	107.00	Exempt In Rem
214.01	6	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	108.25	Exempt In Rem
248	5	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	93.86	Exempt In Rem
249	2	Township of Commercial	4 <sup>th</sup> qtr 2016	630.75	Exempt In Rem



RESOLUTION 2015-115

Approving Amendment To Laurel Lake Volunteer Fire & Rescue License 2015

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bingo/Raffle Licenses for the Laurel lake Fire and Rescue Company, Inc., P.O. Box 349, 5436 Battle Lane, Millville, NJ 08332 be amended to reflect prize amounts which are determined by the number of player; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the amendment be forwarded to the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission.

RESOLUTION 2015-116

Approving Bingo and Raffle Applications For 2016 For  
Laurel Lake Volunteer Fire & Rescue company Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that the Bingo and Raffle Applications for the Laurel Lake Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company, Inc., P.O. Box 349, at 5436 Battle Lane, Millville, NJ 08332 be approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all applications will be forwarded to the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission for final approval.

RESOLUTION 2015-117

Approving Solicitor's Letter Regarding Land Donations  
And Set Fee of \$600 To Offset Cost Of Same

WHEREAS, letter has been prepared by Commercial Township Solicitor regarding the involvement of land donations to the township and the costs of title searches, correspondence, wills; and

WHEREAS, the cost regarding previous donations have resulted to \$1200 or higher;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial endorses that any property owners wanting to donate their land to the township will pay a minimum fee of \$600 to defray the costs involved or they may use one of the alternative methods as defined in the letter.

Mayor Moore asked for motion on Resolutions 2015-114 thru 2015-117.

Committeeman Sutton made motion to adopt Resolutions 2015-114 thru 2015-117 and Committeeman Jamison second the motion with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Moore asked for reports of officials and Committeeman Jamison and Committeeman Sutton said they had nothing to add. Mayor said on Tuesday Evening he attended an environmental meeting, he said there was a young lady there that works with an organization similar to Peace Corp, it is called America Corp and her project is to stencil and paint all of our catch basins, she will start in Port Norris and hopefully will be able to do the rest of the township. Mayor said she works in conjunction with the DEP, she is paid.

Mr. Clint Miller, Public Works Supervisor said he had just informed deputy clerk to order some stickers.

Mayor Moore said he gave Heather the girls cards. Mayor also said he talked with the environmental commission about getting the \$3,000 forestry grant and he would like to advertise the position and the environmental commission has agreed to interview the applicants for the shade tree commission grant, the salary would be \$3,000 because that's all that we have that was inserted into the budget. Mayor asked for a motion to interview a forester.

Committeeman Jamison said I'll make a motion on that. Committeeman Sutton second, Mayor asked for all in favor and added, that was a motion to advertise for a forester for shade tree commission.

Mayor Moore said we made a presentation to the school for a thousand dollars and they were all very appreciative for that, and there was a crime watch meeting immediately after that and I want to say that there were approximately 25 people came out to the meeting in Laurel Lake and the state police officer that was here earlier attended the crime watch meeting. He said it worked out well and there were some very good comments made at the meeting this time and they are going to continue to give positive informational information to the people of Laurel Lake.

Committeeman Sutton how many members does the Laurel Lake Crime Watch have?

Mayor Moore said I don't know, it's not like in the crime watch, right now they call it a crime watch meeting but I don't think there's an official crime watch, what they are doing is they are interviewing for Block Captains, they want people to participate and coordinate things within the lake area, right now I think it is just informational people that are coming out. Mayor said at the last meeting there were 45 to 50 people, this time it was about 20 people.

Committeeman Sutton asked if they have their meetings at different locations.

Mayor Moore said there meetings are always held at the fire house.

Mayor Moore said on Wednesday morning there was a freeholder's subcommittee meeting and the positive thing about that was the topic of Open Space and they took my recommendation of putting a ballot question on the ballot for the county residents in the year 2016 and it will be to raise the Open Space Fee by one penny and it will go for recreation and historic development. If we stayed with one cent now, that would go to farmland preservation, so there's not enough money to do everything. Nobody wants to raise taxes but for all of the taxpayers in Commercial that will equal \$25,000, so next year it will be \$425,000, so if we get on the list and I'm going to make sure that we are number one, we can put in for a project of


two or three hundred thousand dollars. I said I would announce that the school is having a spaghetti dinner tomorrow Friday from four to seven, they have take outs, it is good food and the money goes toward the play that the kids put on each year. Mayor Moore said he met with someone from Mauricetown and he is a Vietnam Veteran and he knows of several other veterans in Mauricetown, I know of a couple in Port Norris and I'm sure there are others in Laurel Lake, but I want to jump start and get a Veterans Park in Commercial Township, our feed back has been very good and I've taken several pictures of other veteran's parks, so we'll plan a meeting and see where we can go with this, he asked Ed Dennis if he could draw up a design for it.

A motion was made and second to open meeting to the public.

Mr. Lewis Rodriguez said Laurel Lake does have it's on crime watch base, we're working with the troopers, with the township, we've contacted Millville to see how they have address some issues.

Mayor asked for additional comments and being none asked for a motion to close the public portion.

Committeeman Sutton made motion, Committeeman Jamison seconded and all in favor to close public portion and to close the meeting. It was so moved.

  
Hannah E. Nichols, Township Clerk