

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 12, 2014**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Cape May was called to order by Mayor Kaithern at 7:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by Mayor Kaithern who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Pamela Kaithern, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke, and Commissioner Carol Sabo answered roll call. Also in attendance: Borough Clerk Elaine Wallace, Deputy Clerk Dianne Rutherford, Engineer Ray Roberts, and Solicitor Frank Corrado.

Jersey Cape Dance Presentation to VIM

Stina Smith of Jersey Cape Dance and several of her dance students attended the meeting to present a check to Jacqueline Meiluta of Volunteers In Medicine (VIM). The students collected money from merchants in Cape May and West Cape May as well as from the public after a special performance during the West Cape May Christmas Parade. The students (Augustina Mallous, Maxine Marshall, Kaylee Clayburn, Veronica Holmes, Taylor Mortisen, Angelina Alliano, and Gracie Moore) collected over \$550. Jacqueline Meiluta thanked the students for their support and commended them on their initiative and support. VIM provides free medical care to residents of Cape May County.

Property Tax Reward Program Presentation

Carmine DeFalco, president and CEO of Fincredit Inc., gave a presentation on the property tax reward program. He began formulating the idea in 2010 and spent more than a year working it out and meeting with representatives of NJDCA and Division of Taxation. Marlborough was the first municipality to offer the program beginning in 2012. In the first seven months of the program participating sales were \$360,000 with \$20,000 in tax credits generated. He reviewed the mechanics of the program and how the money is collected and tracked. Once a year the funds would be transferred to the Borough and would be automatically credited by Edmunds software to the designated tax accounts. Businesses determine for themselves what percentage of purchases to offer as a reward. The only expenses for the municipality are \$1 for each card, but most towns have them sponsored by their local bank, and advertising. Mr. DeFalco has 7 towns active at this time and is in discussion with 20 others. There has also been talk of combining towns into one program, but none have done so at this time. Renters can also participate in the program and would receive a rebate check at the time the tax credits are made. State Senator Dancer has introduced legislation to give state approval in an effort to make the program eligible for grant funding. Mr. DeFalco couldn't provide an average tax reward, but stated they varied between \$20 and \$520. The Board thanked Mr. DeFalco for his time and wished local businesses and residents had come to learn about the positive program.

WORK SESSION

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Ray Roberts reviewed his report for March.

OLD BUSINESS:

NFIP Community Rating System: Representatives of FEMA, NJDEP and the Borough are scheduled to meet April 2nd.

Local Equipment Sharing: Solicitor Corrado prepared a draft agreement for the Board's review. He provided one to Cape May Point as well. He asked the commissioners to provide any questions or comments to him via email and further discussion can be had at the next meeting.

Recycling of Electronic Equipment: Commissioner Sabo reported Senator Van Drew has appointed an aide to work on this matter. She is also waiting for a response from the State League of Municipalities on whether there is draft legislation available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Requiring As-built Plans for New Construction, Variance or Planning Board Approvals: Mayor Kaithern has spoken to the Zoning Officer about his concerns that the Construction Office isn't inspecting buildings based on all the special conditions that may have been imposed by the Planning/Zoning Board or the Historic Preservation Commission. After some discussion the process used by the different boards and commissions, Solicitor Corrado suggested the Zoning Officer and Construction Official meet to create a West Cape May checklist the office in Lower Township can follow to be sure no conditions are missed.

Review of Consent Agenda: Solicitor Corrado explained the purposes of two ordinances up for introduction, which are contingent on certain actions being completed by the property owners. The ordinances have been scheduled for second reading and public hearing on March 26th, but if the Board is concerned about the conditions not being met, they can table them.

The work session concluded at 8:05 PM and regular portion convened at 8:05 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA: On motion of Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke, the following Consent Agenda was unanimously approved on roll call.

Minutes: February 26, 2014 Work Session and Regular Meeting

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication:

485-14 An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition by the Borough of Block 49, Lot 7.03 in the Borough of West Cape May

486-14 An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition by the Borough of Block 40, Lot 3 in the Borough of West Cape May

Scheduled for second reading and public hearing March 26, 2014

Resolutions:

51-14 Water Adjustment for Catastrophic Leak – Block 5, Lot 4

- 52-14 Authorizing an Emergency Temporary Appropriation for Local Budget
- 53-14 Authorizing an Emergency Temporary Appropriation for Water/Sewer Budget
- 54-14 Bill Payment

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING: None

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Commissioner Sabo reported the work shop on battling invasive plants has been rescheduled for March 22nd from 1 to 3 PM. Ms. Sabo has received communication from Triad that the USDA will be reviewing our fire truck grant application and they anticipate having a response sometime in early April.

Deputy Mayor Burke reported the most recent Environmental Committee Free Movie night was well attended. He also advised Public Works has identified potholes that need repair and has begun work. Anyone who knows of a pothole that needs attention should report it to the Borough.

Mayor Kaithern announced the Freeholders have approved Public Works Superintendent Greg Basile as the Borough's alternate to the Solid Waste Advisory Council. She asked the commissioners to review "event house" ordinances provided by the clerk's office. Nearby towns have proposed the ordinances and the Mayor would like the board to consider whether such regulations would be necessary in West Cape May.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Lenny Wilmore, 217 Second Avenue, asked if what he read in the newspaper about FEMA coming to West Cape May about flood insurance was true. Mayor Kaithern informed him the Borough sent a request to FEMA to begin the process of joining evaluating the Borough for participation in the Community Rating System which could get residents a discount on their National Flood Insurance Program premiums. A meeting has been scheduled for April 2nd for the initial site visit by FEMA and NJDEP.

When no one else wished to speak the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM on motion of Deputy Mayor Burke, seconded by Commissioner Sabo.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC
Borough Clerk