

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Cape May was called to order by Mayor Kaithern at 7:30 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: Clerk Elaine Wallace, Deputy Clerk Dianne Rutherford, Engineer Ray Roberts, and Solicitor Frank Corrado.

WORK SESSION

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Ray Roberts reviewed the attached monthly report for September. The USDA project has begun again on Central Avenue and Park Boulevard and the residents there have been very cooperative and understanding.

OLD BUSINESS

New Fire Truck: Commissioner Sabo will be meeting again next Monday to review the application, which will be submitted in early October. The plan is to apply for a USDA grant/loan. It's possible the borough may need to bond for a portion of the cost.

Sunset Boulevard Bike Path: The Board reviewed the suggested action plan provided as a sample by the Cape May Point Environmental Commission, but found the specifics to be too rigorous. Instead, the board agreed to pass a more general resolution of support, which was added to the consent agenda for approval. Mayor Kaithern believed the Cape May Forum is working on this as part of their goals. There are a number of active bicyclists in the Borough that may wish to participate.

NEW BUSINESS: None

The work session concluded at 7:53 PM and the regular portion convened at 7:55 PM.

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

Minutes: None

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication:

482-13 Authorizing the Borough of West Cape May to Provide for the Payment of Water and Sewer Connection Fees in Installments, with Interest, and a Waiver of Interest for Individuals Demonstrating Need
Scheduled for second reading and public hearing October 9, 2013

Resolutions:

133-13 Authorizing Refund of Peterson Little Ladies – VFW Wilbraham Park \$250.00 Deposit for Clean Up Fee

- 134-13 Authorizing Refund of West Cape May History Committee's Wilbraham Park \$250.00 Deposit for Clean-up Fee and \$50.00 Overpayment for Park Use
- 135-13 Support of Bicycle Friendly Communities
- 136-13 Authorizing Cancellation of Certain Grant Receivables and Appropriated Reserves
- 137-13 Bill Payment

Proclamation – Constitution Week – September 17-23, 2013

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING: None

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Commissioner Sabo reiterated the discussion about the fire truck during the work session. She also took the opportunity to announce that it is National Suicide Prevention week and asked everyone to talk to any neighbors, family, or friends that seem depressed because depression is the primary cause of suicide. Anyone that needs help can call the suicide hotline at 1 800 273-TALK.

Deputy Mayor Burke had no report.

Mayor Kaithern announced that over half of the 9 housing rehabilitation projects already awarded have been completed and 2 more projects are in the application phase. These are part of the Borough's court-approved COAH plan, which resulted from a very nasty court battle won by the Borough. Lastly, she announced the County has posted its schedule of flu shot clinics.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Bud McDonough 135 Third Ave, supported the borough's initiative to allow payment plans for water/sewer connections. He asked questions about the Sunset bike path and how it would connect with the remainder of town. He was advised it was only in the beginning stages so no routes have been established. He also asked the borough to put a stop sign on Pacific at Third to slow down traffic to keep the street safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and children. The borough engineer would have to first do a proper investigation, then he could write a letter stating why a stop sign was needed and recommending the board to approve it. Commissioner Sabo suggested determining if there are other areas of concern that may need to be addressed. Lastly, Mr. McDonough was glad he hadn't heard anything more on the winery, feeling it is a boon to businesses and the town.

Jim Labrusciano, 127 Myrtle Ave, asked if the borough has the revised FEMA maps. FEMA has not supplied copies of the newly revised maps yet, but Deputy Clerk Dianne Rutherford explained they are available on the FEMA website. Mr. Labrusciano spoke against the borough's ordinance about energy aggregation, feeling it should be left to individuals to choose their own energy supplier. The board

explained the ordinance will not tie the borough into entering a contract, just allow the process of getting quotes.

John Rowley, 123 Emerald, asked how the consulting firm is paid. The firm is paid by the supplier, not the borough, and is factored into the bids they submit. Mr. Rowley then asked if the borough had done an analysis of how many homes in West Cape May could be affected by the new FEMA maps. He felt the borough was not proactive enough in letting residents know about potential FEMA grants. Mayor Kaithern advised him the borough did a press release about the grants several months ago and has links on the website for more information. Mr. Rowley asked about the grants cancelled by Resolution 136-13. He also asked questions about the cost of a new fire truck, how the portion not funded by a grant would be financed, and whether it was necessary. Commissioner Sabo explained the newest fire truck is 21 years old, so there is definitely a need, and the borough is hoping to purchase in the next year.

Jim Labrusciano, 127 Myrtle Avenue, commented again on energy aggregation, then asked about a newspaper article he read about the Sixth Street Partners lawsuit and 6 new homes being built. Mayor Kaithern explained the article was about the borough's court-approved COAH plan and how it's being met. Deputy Mayor Burke clarified only 2 homes were approved by the Planning Board to be built upon one of the parcels of land that was a part of the Sixth Street Partners suit.

When no one else wished to speak the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM on motion of Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC
Borough Clerk