

MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held December 29, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. at Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters, 355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ.

President Caliguire stated that this is a Special Meeting of the Somerset County Park Commission, and adequate advance notice of this meeting has been provided by publication in The Courier News on December 5, 2020 and The Star Ledger on December 8, 2020. Notice was also posted on the bulletin board at the entrance in the Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters and filed with the Somerset County Clerk, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

Pursuant to recently issued emergency regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (codified as N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 through 1.7) the Somerset County Park Commission is now advising that its specifically aforementioned meetings shall be held remotely and virtually via the Zoom video conferencing platform for Park Commissioners in conjunction with in-person meeting for members of the public. Adequate advance notice of a remote public meeting in conjunction with in-person meeting was advertised in The Courier News on October 9, 2020 and the Star Ledger on October 12, 2020. Notice was also posted on the main public entrance at Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters.

Park Commission Counsel, Eric Bernstein added that considering COVID-19 mandates, this meeting was made open to the public and social distancing measures were in place. Park Commission Headquarters were unlocked, and "Building Closed" signs were removed from the entryway.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Caliguire.

Roll President Caliguire called the meeting to order.

Call:

PRESENT

Mark Caliguire
Paul Drake
Helen Haines
DJ Hunsinger
Jim Leonard
Kevin McCallen
Dot Paluck
Melonie Marano
Freeholder Liaison

ABSENT

Doug Ludwig
Scott Ross

Other staff members present were:
Geoffrey Soriano, Secretary-Director
Janine Erickson, Executive Assistant

Bob Ransone, Dep. Dir., Golf Ops.
Cindie Sullivan, Asst. Director
Donna Umgelter, Adm, HR

Also in attendance: Eric Bernstein, Legal Counsel.

Members from the public in attendance:
Terry Heide, Gillette, NJ
Jeane Stamey Whitmore, Merryville, NJ

Robin Gehringer, Basking Ridge, NJ

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Heide thanked the Park Commission and Freeholder Marano for their commitment to seek input from a knowledgeable consultant to address the future of the Lord Stirling Stable in a slow and careful manner.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

The following resolutions were moved by Commissioner Hunsinger; seconded by Commissioner McCallen. YEAS: Commissioners Drake, Haines, Hunsinger, Leonard, McCallen, Paluck, and President Caliguire. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Ludwig and Ross.

Resolution R20-295 –Transfer of Appropriations

Resolution transfers appropriations from the Administration budget to the Horticulture budget to cover expenses.

Resolution R20-296 – Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of claims in the amount of \$1,044,900.15 comprised of Claims in the amount of \$651,872.13 Other Expenses in the amount of \$31,149.13 and Salaries and Wages in the amount of \$361,878.69 for the period of December 10, 2020 through December 16, 2020.

Resolution R20-297 – Confirming Orders

Resolution authorizes the payment of confirming orders totaling \$800.00.

Resolution R20-298 – Amending and Canceling Certification of Funds for Previously Awarded Contracts

Resolution cancels and amends certification of funds for previously awarded contracts.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were moved by Commissioner Haines; seconded by Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Drake, Haines, Hunsinger, Leonard, McCallen, Paluck, and President Caliguire. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Ludwig and Ross.

Resolution R20-299 – Authorizing use of County Contract for Purchase of Lumber and Supplies

Resolution authorizes purchases from Continental Hardware, Inc; Landscape Materials Inc.; and Madison Township Lumber & Supply Co. Inc.

Resolution R20-300 – Authorizing use of County Contract for the Purchase of Split Rail Fence and Gates, Option A: With Installation, Option B: Without Installation

Resolution authorizes purchases from Fox Fence Enterprises Inc. and WBE Fence Company Inc.

Resolution R20-301 – Authorizing use of County Contract for the Purchase of Commercial Toro Parts & Equipment Repairs

Resolution authorizes purchases from Storr Tractor Co. and Cherry Valley Tractor Sales Inc.

Resolution R20-302 – Designating Custodians of Petty Cash

Resolution designates the various custodians of petty cash for the Park Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

President Caliguire appointed Commissioners Hunsinger, Paluck and McCallen to the Nominating Committee to recommend the President, Vice President and Secretary appointments for 2021.

President Caliguire praised Park Commission staff for doing a great job navigating the ever-changing environment this year. President Caliguire opined that he never envisioned being in the beneficial financial position that the Park Commission was able to achieve given the constraints of the pandemic and he is grateful for where we are today. President Caliguire offered kudos and best wishes to Commissioner Drake on his new position as County Commissioner in 2021. President Caliguire offered thanks and appreciation for the years of service given by Commissioner Leonard whose term as Park Commissioner expires at the end of the month. Commissioner Leonard stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Park Commission. He was always impressed with the ability of Park Commission staff to step up when needed and to adapt to ever-changing conditions. President Caliguire wished Cindie Sullivan all the best in her future endeavors as she retires at the end of the month. President Caliguire added that many residents' lives are better for the service Cindie has given to the Park Commission. Cindie echoed the comments made by Commissioner Leonard regarding the amazing staff that makes things happen and gave thanks to the leadership from the County and the Commissioners.

Director Soriano stated that the Somerset County Park Foundation has graciously purchased face masks with the Park Commission logo for Park Commission staff, the Commissioners, and our Freeholder Liaison.

Freeholder Marano thanked the Park Commission staff and Commissioners for welcoming her as liaison and having patience with her as she oriented herself to the workings of the Park Commission. Freeholder Marano appreciated all the support given to her. Freeholder Marano stated that the public does not understand that the County is separate from the Park Commission and therefore we need to march together in unison and continue a partnership of proven success moving forward. Freeholder Marano thanked the member of the public, who spoke regarding the future of the Stable, for her patience. Freeholder Marano explained the difficulty of a public agency offering commentary regarding a situation prior to having backup to support same.

Seeing no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 A.M was moved by: Commissioner Hunsinger; seconded by: Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Drake, Haines, Hunsinger, Leonard, McCallen, Paluck, and President Caliguire. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Ludwig and Ross.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey D. Soriano
Secretary-Director



Janine Erickson
Executive Assistant