

MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held December 28, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters, 355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Crosby.

President Crosby 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. 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.

President Crosby called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

PRESENT

Bill Crosby
Helen Haines (via phone)
D.J. Hunsinger
Jim Leonard (via phone)
Doug Ludwig (via phone)
Kevin McCallen
Dot Paluck
Scott Ross (via phone)

ABSENT

Mark Caliguire,
Freeholder Liaison

Other staff members present were:

Geoffrey Soriano, Int. Secretary-Director Robert Ransone, Dep. Dir. Golf
Janine Erickson, Executive Assistant Cindie Sullivan, Dep. Dir. Leisure Svcs.
Pierce Frauenheim, Dep. Dir. Park Ops.
Frank Masini, Manager, Park Rangers

In attendance from the County: Nick Trasente, CFO; and Chris Hart, Deputy Director of Fiscal Operations.

Also in attendance: Betsy Flanagan, Legal Counsel.

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Kirby, Hillsborough resident, Chair of the Somerset County Agriculture Board, and Park Commission farm leasee, stated that as a farmer he was experiencing difficulties with farm revenue in light of the wildlife damage and bad weather that has impacted his crops this year. Mr. Kirby said he welcomed a meeting with Geoff Soriano, Pierce

Frauenheim and Janine Erickson to discuss his concerns and find a way to move forward that is amenable to all involved.

Barry Quick, owner of Beekman Homestead Farm and Park Commission farm leasee, reiterated the sentiments made by Mr. Kirby and is also looking for some change in the process to make leasing farmland from the Commission beneficial to the farmers that are struggling with issues out of their control.

Steve Zamek and Jim Laine, both Park Commission farm leasees, also addressed the Commission regarding the significant damage wildlife is having on their crops. Mr. Zamek stated that lowering the minimum bids for farm parcels should be considered to make farming Park Commission property a profitable situation. Mr. Laine stressed the need for addressing the wildlife issue.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Crosby called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held December 13, 2018. Moved by Commissioner Hunsinger; seconded by Commissioner Paluck. YEAS: Commissioners Haines, Hunsinger, Leonard, Ludwig, McCallen, Paluck, Ross, and President Crosby. NAYES: None. ABSENT: None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

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

Resolution R18-297 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$321,140.19 comprised of check numbers 14657-14727 and 14733-14786.

Resolution R18-298 – Authorizing Additional Funds for Previously Awarded Contracts

Resolution authorizes additional funding for previously awarded contracts.

Resolution R18-299 – Cancelling and Amending of 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 McCallen; seconded by Commissioner Hunsinger. YEAS: Commissioners Haines, Hunsinger, Leonard, Ludwig, McCallen, Paluck, Ross, and President Crosby. NAYES: None. ABSENT: None.

Resolution R18- 300 – Authorizing Transfer of Appropriations

Resolution authorizes transfer of excess funds to OE accounts with insufficient funds.

Resolution R18-301 – Cancellation of Appropriations

Resolution authorizes cancellation of appropriations.

Resolution R18-302 – Award of Two Farm Licenses

Resolution awards License Agreements to Yablonsky Farm for Rezem Parcel (\$2,152.00) and Deer Run Farm for Milich North Parcel (\$650.00) as they meet the requirements of the specifications for a five-year period beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2023. There were no bids received for Hillsborough Parcel, Mettlers North Parcel, Thompson Pleasantview Parcel, and Kanach River Parcel. These parcels will be rebid.

Resolution R18-303 – Award of One Year Contract for Health Benefits Services

Resolution awards a contract to Assured Partners.

Resolution R18-304 – Appointing Park Commission Director

Resolution awards a five year contract to Geoffrey D. Soriano as Director of the Somerset County Park Commission.

Geoff thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as Director of the Park Commission.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Nick Trasente, CFO, stated that over the past two weeks efforts intensified to determine how to end the year without being in a deficit. The two resolutions, R18-300 for transfer of appropriations and R18-301 for cancellation of appropriations, that were passed at this meeting will meet the needs necessary to address shortages in operating budgets and end the year with a slight surplus.

The Park Commission finished 2018 with \$1.1million less in revenue as compared to 2017 with \$250,000.00 from the loss of anticipated revenue from sales from Golf Pro Shop items.


Nick also discussed the pitfalls of relying on yearend presales to meet current year revenue goals and that the Commission should try to anticipate less and less of those type of revenues as we have more successful revenue years going forward.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. was moved by: Commissioner Hunsinger; seconded by: Commissioner McCallen. YEAS: Commissioners Haines, Hunsinger, Leonard, Ludwig, McCallen, Paluck, Ross, and President Crosby. NAYES: None. ABSENT: None.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey D. Soriano
Interim Secretary-Director



Janine C. Erickson
Executive Assistant