

***MINUTES BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020***

Mayor Cope called the regular meeting of the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at meeting were: Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope, Deputy Mayor Louis Bourguignon and Commissioner Nicholas Capriglione. Also present Township Clerk Amanda Somes and Solicitor Joanne O'Connor. Members of the public were present at this meeting. Please note: Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, this month's Township Meeting is being conducted telephonically and live.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Cope led the flag salute and read the sunshine statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2020 were presented to the Board for review. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, seconded by Commissioner Capriglione. Votes: Cope-Yes, Capriglione-Yes, Bourguignon-Yes. Minutes of the October 5, 2020 regular meeting were hereby approved.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

The motion was made by Mayor Cope to approve payment of the bills in the amount of **\$629,330.42**. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon to approve bills for payment. Votes: Cope –Yes, Capriglione-Yes, Bourguignon-Yes. All in favor and bills were ordered paid.

		\$
ACE OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT 3	SUPPLIES	1,058.52
		\$
AMANDA SOMES	REIMBURSE FOR ZOOM MEETING PROGRAM	15.98
		\$
ANIMAL CAPTURE & CONTROL	3RD QTR 2020 ANIMAL CONTROL	960.00
		\$
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC	ELECTRICITY PARTIAL 9/2020	2,271.98
		\$
A T & T	ALL IN ONE AUG. 2020	64.08
		\$
BAGEL GOURMET	FOOD FOR FLU CLINIC	198.00
		\$
BASS RIVER BD OF ED	LOCAL SCHOOL TAX 10/5/20	96,407.08
		\$
BASS RIVER DISBURSEMENT ACCT	CLOSING ESCROWS	23,508.28
	TECH SUPPORT AUG.	\$
BELLIA TECH, LLC	2020	373.49
		\$
BURL CO TREAS, LANDFILL	TIPPING FEES SEPT. 2020	5,626.53
	TAX SALE CERTIFICATE	\$
BURLINGTON COUNTY CLERK	FILE	39.00
		\$
CASA PAYROLL SERVICES	#20 PAYROLL SERVICES	135.00
		\$
CINTAS	SUPPLIES	105.00
		\$
COMCAST	SERVICE 9/19/20 - 10/18/20	109.00
		\$
DANTE GUZZI ENGINEERING ASSOC.	REX ESCROW INV. #2009101	216.00
		\$
DANTE GUZZI ENGINEERING ASSOC.	ENGINEERING SERVICES	5,825.35

DAVE'S SEPTIC	PUMP OUT 320 ASH & LEACH FIELD	\$ 680.00
HOME DEPOT	SUPPLIES	\$ 256.02
KEVIN S. QUINLAN	SEPTEMBER 2020 PROSECUTIONS	\$ 1,600.00
MGL PRINTING SOLUTIONS	COMMISSIONERS MIN. BOOKS	\$ 332.00
MR. BOB'S	PORT A POTS 9/16/20 - 10/7/20	\$ 461.80
NAPA AUTO PARTS	PARTS	\$ 41.01
NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS	NATURAL GAS 8/10 - 9/11	\$ 102.00
NFPA	NFPA MEMBER RENEWAL	\$ 175.00
OFFICE BASICS, INC.	OFFICE & HOUSEKEEPING SUPPLIES	\$ 46.14
PEGGY BECK	BANK MILEAGE & SUPPLIES	\$ 55.18
RUMPF REID & DOLCY	PUBLIC DEFENDER 9/14/20	\$ 750.00
RUTGERS CTR FOR GOVT. SERVICES	REGISTRATION L. GODFREY	\$ 877.00
SALLY BOURGUIGNON	SUPPLIES FOR FLU CLINIC	\$ 35.72
VECTOR SECURITY	CAMER SERVICE 9/1 - 8/31	\$ 127.95
VERIZON	PHONES AUG/SEPT 2020	\$ 534.32
WALMART COMMUNITY/SYNCB	SUPPLIES	\$ 245.33
WEX BANK	FUEL SEPTEMBER 2020	\$ 854.99
BASS RIVER PAYROLL ACCT	PAYROLL 9/24/20	\$ 15,729.84
HASLER, INC.	POSTAGE SEPTEMBER 2020	\$ 683.30
	TOTAL	\$ 160,500.89

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 2020-65

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY FUND (CRF) GRANT

The motion was made by Mayor Cope, seconded by Commissioner Capriglione to approve Resolution 2020-65. Votes: Cope–Yes, Capriglione-Yes, Bourguignon-Yes. All in favor and Resolution 2020-65 was hereby approved.

RESOLUTION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY FUND (CRF) GRANT

WHEREAS, as the public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the most significant negative financial impacts faced by county and municipal governments throughout New Jersey result from extreme economic contraction, deficits in tax and fee revenues, and extraordinary increases in public safety and health and human services expenditures; and

WHEREAS, severe fiscal stress limits the ability of counties and municipalities to maintain essential services and take the steps necessary to fight COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, without substantial federal assistance, residential taxpayers would absorb the primary impact of meeting these extraordinary needs and closing any associated operating deficits; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”), through the Division of Local Government Services (“DLGS” or “Division”), has been deemed the lead agency for the distribution of the Local Government Emergency Fund (the “LGEF” or “Program”), provided through an allocation of the State of New Jersey’s CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF Funds); and

WHEREAS, counties and municipalities excluded from the federal government’s direct CRF allocation plan, as well as those counties and municipalities that are currently the most impacted by COVID-19 in comparison to their available resources, are eligible for LGEF funds pursuant to a maximum distribution determined by formula; and

WHEREAS, a total of \$60 million is currently being made available under the Program, with a potential \$60 million more to be allocated; and

WHEREAS, LGEF Grants exist to support costs incurred as part of a local unit’s response to COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Bass River, that the Township of Bass River will apply for a LGEF Grant in the amount of \$18,459.00.

RESOLUTION 2020-66

OPPOSING STATE OF NEW JERSEY CUT OF PILOT PAYMENTS UNDER THE GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST ACT AFTER MUNICIPAL TAX RATES HAVE BEEN SET

The motion was made by Mayor Cope, seconded by Commissioner Capriglione to approve Resolution 2020-66. Votes: Cope–Yes, Capriglione-Yes, Bourguignon-Yes. All in favor and Resolution 2020-66 was hereby approved.

RESOLUTION 2020-66

**OPPOSING STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CUT OF PILOT PAYMENTS UNDER THE
GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST ACT
AFTER MUNICIPAL TAX RATES HAVE BEEN SET**

WHEREAS, the Garden State Preservation Trust Act was signed into law on June 30th, 1999 and extended payments in lieu of taxes to municipalities in which lands are purchased or held by the State or conservancies for recreational or conservational purposes by constitutionally-dedicated money, so that municipalities do not suffer a loss of taxes due to state acquisition of lands; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pinelands is a unique ecological and cultural area with extensive wetlands, vast oak-pine forest and diverse species of plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, the natural resources within the Pinelands are a treasure to be enjoyed by all citizens of New Jersey and the cost to protect and preserve this region are for the greater good of the entire state and should not be borne upon the local residents solely; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey, in 2010, reduced this constitutionally-dedicated funding by one-third in order to meet budgetary constraints, which reductions have remained in place for a decade; and

WHEREAS, Municipalities have unfairly borne the additional costs of preservation for the entire state, and as additional State acquisitions have added 10 these costs by depleting the tax base of these municipalities, the impact of these costs have escalated; and

WHEREAS, in this year's budget, The State of New Jersey restored the funding to the municipalities and municipal budgets and tax rates were certified based on this funding; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2020, a Local Finance Notice, for the first time, alerted municipalities that the restored funding would not be funded and the municipalities now have no way to recoup the cuts since their budgets and tax rates are already certified; and

WHEREAS, the funding cuts will result in immediate deficits in anticipated revenue that municipalities are no longer in a position to fill, and will also result in a loss of municipal services and a reduction in public safety in the midst of a pandemic; and

1.

WHEREAS, the reduction of any funding is contrary to the terms of the Garden State Preservation Trust Act, and the reduction of funding this year after advising funding would be fully restored and the municipal tax rates have been set is contrary to the law and unprecedented.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Township of Bass River urges the State of New Jersey to restore the entirety of the funding promised to the municipalities through the constitutionally-dedicated money in order to adequately provide services and public safety to the residents of our municipalities and to prevent an unfair and irreparable negative impact on these municipalities.

RESOLUTION 2020-67

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT WITH THE EDUCATION SERVICES COMMISSION OF NJ

(By Title Only)

The motion was made by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, seconded by Mayor Cope to approve Resolution 2020-67. Votes: Cope–Yes, Capriglione-Yes, Bourguignon-Yes. All in favor and Resolution 2020-67 was hereby approved.

RESOLUTION 2020-68

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AUTHORIZING GRANITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LLC
TO PROVIDE TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR THE
TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER**

The motion was made by Mayor Cope, seconded by Commissioner Capriglione to approve Resolution 2020-68. Votes: Cope–Yes, Capriglione-Yes, Bourguignon-Yes. All in favor and Resolution 2020-68 was hereby approved.

RESOLUTION 2020-68

***A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF
BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING GRANITE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS LLC TO PROVIDE TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR
THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER***

WHEREAS, the Township of Bass River has phone and communication requirements for public access and;

WHEREAS, needs a provider to service and maintain this service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Bass River gives authorization to the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with Granite Telecommunications LLC to provide phone service for Township of Bass River Township.

RESOLUTION 2020-69

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF TAX SALE
CERTIFICATE 20-00007 TO THOMAS WILLIAMS**

The motion was made by Mayor Cope, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon to approve Resolution 2020-69. Votes: Cope–Yes, Capriglione-Yes, Bourguignon-Yes. All in favor and Resolution 2020-69 was hereby approved.

RESOLUTION NO. of 2020-69

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF
BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE
ASSIGNMENT OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 20-00007 TO THOMAS
WILLIAMS**

WHEREAS, the Township of Bass River advertised and sold past due taxes at 2020 Tax Sale and;

WHEREAS, past due taxes on Block 73 Lot 12 were absorbed by the Township of Bass River and not sold;

WHEREAS, Thomas Williams wishes to have the Certificate 20-00007 assigned by making payment in the amount of \$4,032.50.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Bass River gives authorization to the Tax Collector to execute an assignment of Tax Sale Certificate 20-00007 to Thomas Williams.

REPORTS:

The following reports were noted and provided:

1. Solicitors Report
2. Municipal Court Report

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The meeting was open for public comment at 7:20 p.m. upon a motion by Deputy Mayor, Bourguignon seconded by Commissioner Capriglione. All present in favor.

C. Bitzberger asked for clarification on the PILOT Funding Resolution. Mayor provided further information.

C. Bitzberger asked for status of possible zoning changes with regard to the Pinelands Preservation Zone. Mayor would like to set up meeting with Engineer to go through the entire map.

C. Bitzberger asked for update on the school building. Mayor is waiting for answers to her questions from meeting on the 24th of September. Commissioner Capriglione added that it is his understanding there has not been a structural inspection of the facility.

K. Swanseen asked a zoning question with regard to change of zones from Route 9 to Stage Road. He also requested update from the Census with regard to the different zip codes in the Township and how it would affect our funding from the State. Mayor is still waiting to hear back from the representative.

Be no further comments, the motion to close the public portion was made by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, seconded by Commissioner Capriglione. All in favor and public portion was closed at 8:50 p.m.

Being no further business to come before the Board the motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, seconded by Commissioner Capriglione. All in favor and meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Amanda S. Somes, RMC, Township Clerk