

**TOWNSHIP OF DENNIS
DENNISVILLE, NJ
APRIL 28, 2020**

6:30 P.M. (PREVAILING TIME) TWP. COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY TELE-CONFERENCE WITH THE MUNICIPAL CLERK PRESIDING TO LESSEN POSSIBLE CONFUSION.

The Clerk opened the meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act requirements.

The Clerk conducted the roll call with VanArtsdalen, Germanio, Cox, Turner and Matalucci present.

The Clerk requested that everyone please rise for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

Due to the meeting being held by electronic means the Clerk read by title the items covered under the consent agenda and asked if there were any comments on the consent agenda.

There being none, the Clerk asked for a motion adopting the consent agenda, motion was made by Turner, seconded by VanArtsdalen, with 5 ayes and no nays, that the consent agenda be adopted.

The following minutes were approved as part of the Consent Agenda: 04/14/2020 Work Session & Regular Meeting.

The following resolution numbers 2020-76 thru 2020-79 were a part of the Consent Agenda:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-76

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR CY 2020 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF DENNIS

WHEREAS, a condition has arisen with respect to the appropriation of funds when budget dates have been extended until final adoption of the budget pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:4-19.1; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$30,000 is required to be included in the temporary budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Dennis, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, that in accordance with N.J.S. 40A:4-19.1:

1. Temporary appropriation is hereby made in the total amount of \$30,000.
2. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

ATTEST _____
Jacqueline B. Justice, RMC/Clerk

ATTEST _____
Zeth A. Matalucci, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-77

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX BILLS

WHEREAS, due to the Covid-19 health crisis facing the State of New Jersey, Governor Murphy issued a State of Emergency in Executive Order 103. As a result, the State’s fiscal year will be extended to September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, due to the State of Emergency, the Cape May County Board of Taxation will be unable to certify the tax rate and therefore, the Municipal Tax Collector will also be unable to mail tax bills on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Tax Collector in consultation with the Municipal Chief Financial Officer has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3, and they have signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range of permitted tax levies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Dennis as follows:

1. The Municipal Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the municipality for the third installment of 2020 taxes. The Tax collector shall proceed and take such actions as permitted by N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and 54:4-66.3.
2. The estimated tax levy for 2020 is hereby set at \$15,543,372.54, this results in an estimated tax rate of \$1.757.
3. The Municipal Tax Collector must mail the estimated tax bills to property owners no later than June 30, 2020.
4. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3, the third installment of 2020 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of; the grace period or the 25th, (twenty fifth) calendar day after the estimated tax bills are mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date which interest may begin to accrue.

ATTEST _____
Jacqueline B. Justice, RMC/Clerk

ATTEST _____
Zeth A. Matalucci, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-78

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY MAKE A REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ISSUE A MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

WHEREAS, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 5721, *et seq.* (“Stafford Act”) authorizes the President of the United States to issue “major disaster” declarations after catastrophes occur which constitutes broader authority for federal agencies to supplement the efforts and resources of States, local governments, families, and individuals in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby;

WHEREAS, pursuant to 42 U.S.C.A. § 5170, all requests for a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists shall be made by the Governor of the affected State;

WHEREAS, as part of such a request, and as a prerequisite to major disaster assistance under the Stafford Act, the Governor shall take appropriate response action under state law and direct execution of the state's emergency plan;

WHEREAS, the Governor also has the authority to conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) to determine whether a request for supplemental assistance is warranted;

WHEREAS, based upon the request of a Governor, the President may declare under the Stafford Act that a major disaster exists;

WHEREAS, on or about April 12, 2020, the Township of Dennis, along with adjoining municipalities, suffered an unexpected weather event that caused significant damage to Township property as well as the property of local citizens and businesses;

WHEREAS, the economic and environmental impact of the above referenced disaster may be severe and may require a significant amount of time to rebuild and recover;

WHEREAS, the Township of Dennis needs the Governor to make this request of the President to allow supplemental assistance to become available to aid in the recovery process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Dennis hereby requests the Governor of the State of New Jersey to make a request of the President of the United States to issue a "major disaster" declaration to allow supplemental assistance to help state and local governments, families, and individuals recover from the damage caused by the event;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Dennis hereby requests the Governor of the State of New Jersey to take any and all necessary steps within his authority that are prerequisites to requesting major disaster assistance;

ATTEST _____ **ATTEST** _____
Jacqueline B. Justice, RMC/Clerk Zeth A. Matalucci, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-79

RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD ON DELINQUENT TAXES

WHEREAS, property taxpayers throughout the Township of Dennis may be suffering from one or more financial hardships caused by or related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak has caused substantial economic disruption for many property taxpayers throughout the Township, making it difficult for many residents to meet the May 1, 2020 due date for timely payment of real property taxes; and

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), local governments may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges, on or before the date when they would become delinquent, and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became delinquent, thereby establishing a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for second-quarter property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Dennis adopted Resolution No. 2020-13 setting the Rate of Interest for Delinquent Taxes rate of 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of such delinquency and at the rate of 18% per annum on any amount in excess of the said first \$1,500.00; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to take action to minimize and mitigate additional hardships, losses, or suffering by individuals and local government units as the State and its political subdivisions respond to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, among others, the strict enforcement of certain statutory provisions relating to property tax grace periods is detrimental to the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-47, the Governor is authorized to, among other things, suspend any regulatory provision of law when its enforcement is detrimental to the public welfare during an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 130 permits the governing body by resolution to institute a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Dennis in the County of Cape May that the grace period for second-quarter property taxes shall be extended to June 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the rate of interest for taxes unpaid shall be calculated from date of the quarterly payment until the date of actual payment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective June 2, 2020 the rate of interest for taxes unpaid after May 1, 2020 is fixed at 8% on the first \$1,500.00 of delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount of taxes in excess of \$1,500.00 effective June 10, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution shall be published in its entirety once in the official newspaper of the Township of Dennis and a copy of this adopted Resolution forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

ATTEST _____ **ATTEST** _____
Jacqueline B. Justice, RMC/Clerk Zeth A. Matalucci, Mayor

The Clerk indicated that we were moving on to the regular portion of the agenda.

The Clerk asked for a motion to adopt the following resolution, motion was made by Germanio, seconded by Matalucci, with 4 ayes and 1 abstaining (VanArtsdalen), the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-80

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE BALANCE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND FOR BLOCK 31, LOT 1.04 – THOMAS VANARTSDALEN & JAMIE L. AYARS

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2010-95 authorize a reduction in the Performance Bond for Block 31, Lot 1.04; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer has performed an inspection and has recommended that the balance of the Performance Bond be released.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Dennis that the Chief Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to refund the balance of the Performance Bond for Block 31, Lot 1.04 in the amount of \$2,500.00 to Thomas VanArtsdalen & Jamie L. Ayars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Administrator to the Consolidated Land Use Board and the Chief Finance Officer.

ATTEST
Jacqueline B. Justice, RMC/Clerk

ATTEST
Zeth A. Matalucci, Mayor

The Clerk asked for a motion authorizing the payment of the bills, providing that proper vouchers have been filed and that funds are available.

Motion was made by Cox, seconded by Matalucci, with 3 ayes and 2 abstaining (VanArtsdalen & Turner), that the payment of the following bills was approved:

GENERAL ACCOUNT:

044707-571 Petersburg Road LLC	\$ 105.20
044708-Advanced Pavement Group Corp.	11,400.00
044709-Atlantic City Electric	2,732.97
044710-AT&T	59.16
044711-Block Line Systems, LLC	1,248.41
044712-Brinks, Inc.	165.88
044713-Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District	555.00
044714-Cape May County M.U.A.	18,865.31
044715-Cody's Power Equipment	160.85
044716-Constellation New Energy, Inc.	72.98
044717-Crystal Springs	22.72
044718-BRT Technologies, LLC	650.00
044719-Central Jersey Equipment	3,000.00
044720-Delta Dental of NJ	2,275.57
044721-Fralinger Engineering, PA	1,119.00
044722-Garden State Highway	656.70
044723-Green Technology Services	85.43
044724-Home Depot Credit Services	119.88
044725-Roy J. Hope	53.76
044726-NAPA Auto Parts	385.78
044727-Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC	127.50
044728-MGL Printing Solutions	554.00
044729-Debra Gillham Promotions LLC	1,645.00
044730-Recdesk, LLC	3,900.00
044731-Ricky Slade Construction, Inc.	158,915.04
044732-Suburban Propane – 2115	425.95
044733-Total Turf Solutions	3,000.00
044734-Upper Township	2,099.94
044735-Verizon Wireless	38.01
044736-Verizon	41.81
044659-Cintas Corporation #100	884.27

CONSTRUCTION CODE:

1019-Treasurer, State of New Jersey	644.00
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ESCROW TURNER PARTNERS:

11-Fralinger Engineering, PA	52.00
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ESCROW HRD HOLDINGS:

55-Fralinger Engineering, PA	1,404.00
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ESCROW JAMIE LYNN AYARS:

93-Jamie VanArtsdalen	2,500.00
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ESCROW PINELAND CONSTRUCTION:

51-Pineland Construction, LLC 5,006.25

PLANNING ESCROW:

None

RECREATION TRUST:

1134-Epic Sports	407.14
1135-Cooltronics, Inc.	215.00
1136-BSN Sports, Inc.	1,652.07
1137-Barbara J. Saad	222.00

The Clerk asked the Administrator and Engineer had anything to their reports.

The Municipal Engineer, Jack Gibson, announced that in the New Jersey Highway Authority's Capitol Plan has the project to reconstruct the Sea Isle Blvd./Exit #17 exchange in Dennis Township.

The Clerk asked for a motion to approve the Administrative Reports. Motion was made by VanArtsdalen, seconded by Germanio, with 5 ayes and no nays, that the following Administrative Reports were approved:

Engineer's Report 04/28/2020

The Clerk asked if there were any comments from the public this evening.

Let the record reflect that there were no comments from the public.

The Clerk asked for comments from the Township Committee.

Committeeman VanArtsdalen commented on the Cape May County Family Fun Facebook Page that have different activities such as a lego competition, scavenger hunt, work-out Wednesdays and other family orientated activities. He thanked Jamie Burrows, Jamie VanArtsdalen and Allison Curran for spearheading this and his fellow Township Committee Members for their monetary donations. He indicated that instead of hitting the businesses up for donations, they are asking for monetary donations so that they can purchase gift certificates from the businesses to help them out. Committeeman VanArtsdalen asked that everyone to continue to stay the course and indicated that it is going to get better.

Committeeman Germanio asked everyone to keep the family of Arletta Anderson, who passed away recently, in your thoughts and prayers. He indicated that she was active at our Senior Center. Committeeman Germanio stated that the V.F.W. was seeking donations for their food pantry and that monetary donations can be mailed to the V.F.W. and non-perishable items can be dropped-off at Gleeson's Liquors. He thank the Senior Center Director, Rosemarie Essig, for the great job she is doing checking up on our seniors during this difficult time. He indicated that the Pinelands Application for the Chestnut Street Park Project has been deemed complete and will now advance to the upcoming Pinelands Meeting in early May. He stated that it is a step in the right direction for the Chestnut Street Park Project.

Committeeman Cox indicated that he did not have anything for this evening except for asking everyone to stay safe.

Deputy Mayor indicated that Bulk Pick-Up will be resuming in May with the same schedule and that Brush Pick-Up is approximately 1 week behind the posted schedule on the Township's website, www.dennistwp.org under Public Works.

Mayor Matalucci apologized for the earlier "hacking incident". He asked that everyone keep the families of the Autumn Lakes residents and staff in your prayers and that they have had an outbreak of the COVID-19 there. Mayor Matalucci thanked the employees and the Committee for their efforts as we try to navigate thru these difficult times.

Motion was made by Turner, seconded by Germanio, that the meeting be adjourned. All in favor and the motion carried.

ATTEST _____ ATTEST _____
Jacqueline B. Justice, RMC/Clerk Zeth A. Matalucci, Mayor