

The Regular Meeting of the Alloway Township Committee met in the Auditorium of the Municipal Building on July 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor P. Ed McKelvey presided. Mayor McKelvey called the meeting to order and stated that the meeting was transmitted to the Township designated newspapers in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reverend Ellen Cusack, United Methodist Church of Alloway, opened the meeting in prayer.

Roll Call - Present: Angelus, Leady, McKelvey  
Acting Municipal Clerk, Brittany Vanaman was also in attendance.

MINUTES

Minutes of the following meetings were reviewed by the Committee. Motion was made by Leady, seconded by Angelus, to approve the minutes.

June 24, 2024 – Finance

June 24, 2024 – Regular

Roll call vote: Angelus-yes, Leady- yes, McKelvey-yes Motion carried

BILLS

On motion by Leady, seconded by Angelus, the attached bill list was approved by the Finance Committee on July 15, 2024 and was ordered paid.

Roll call vote: Angelus-yes, Leady- yes, McKelvey-yes Motion carried

PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor McKelvey asked for a motion to open public session and anyone wishing to speak, state their name and where they reside, and briefly in three (3) minutes or less state your comments to the Township Committee.

On motion by Leady seconded by Angelus, public session was opened.

Vote: All in favor

Resident (did not give name or address) came forward and asked why there was such a significant increase in her tax bill. She was not made aware of any revaluation done on her property.

Leon Hile, Quaker Neck Rd – Asked the Committee what is he getting for the extra taxes he is now paying? He mentioned not receiving water, sewer, or trash collection.

Mayor McKelvey announced that the committee was reserving their comment until all the residents were given the chance to speak.

Ed McGee, Canal St – Mr. McGee asked similar questions regarding the tax increase, he acknowledged that his grievance is with the County Commissioners. He also asked what the tax payers are receiving for paying the increase, i.e. trash collection, water/sewer etc.

Diana Eichfeld, Remsterville Rd – Ms. Eichfeld echoed what other residents mentioned. She asked the Committee what they suggest as a remedy for the tax payers.

Mayor McKelvey then addressed the public. The Committee has agreed that they will respond to the County with a letter requesting they attend a Township Meeting to explain the increases. Mayor also noted that it was the County Taxes and School Taxes that increased, that it was not the Local Tax.

Ed McGee, Canal St – Stated he wished to address the public in attendance. He said he attended many county Commissioners meetings, and that there was at least one Commissioner who consistently voted

against issues the residents would present leaving the issues unresolved. He urged the public to be more involved and attend more meetings at the county.

Renee Waters, Heard Ave – Stated she was trying to understand exactly what it is the County is paying for with the tax increase. She also stated that when the public has questioned the County Commissioner's they are frequently met with vague answers if they receive an answer at all.

Committeeman Chuck Angelus responded that the Commissioners have not given them a direct answer either, and that the only answer given was the increase in home sales based on the values.

Sharon Coleman, Aldine – Sharon stated that she has attended almost every School Board meeting over the last several years, and that this year the school lost \$770k in state aid. They had to cut positions and programs. She also gave details regarding the new State Aid Formula that is used for the School Budget. She stated that the school tax increase will likely happen again over the next few years, and that there does not seem to be much interest from the Board or public in being more proactive. She has requested that the School Board form an ad hoc Committee and the requests have been ignored.

Diana Eichfeld, Remsterville Rd – Mentioned that there was a report that the school threw away books and paper products and that she would like a refund on her taxes. She also suggested that the Committee form an ad hoc committee to meet more often to discuss the issues and brainstorm solutions.

Gail Nazarene, Canal St – Stated she was willing to go door to door that to get more community involvement and attendance at the meetings. She asked if there was an ordinance against doing such a thing? Mayor McKelvey responded that the Ordinance pertains to solicitations of sales or services, which wouldn't apply in this situation.

Ed McGee, Canal St – asked if the Township had an Auditor for the people, not the Township, but one for the people? Mayor McKelvey explained that the tax payers would have to hire their own independent auditor.

Sharon Coleman asked if the Township could do a formal resolution to send to both the County and the School regarding the issues.

At this time several people spoke from their seats reiterating the same concerns regarding the increase in taxes. Additionally, the residents voiced their concerns about the times the County holds their meetings, i.e. at 4pm during normal business hours when most people are still working. They stated that these times are not conducive to the public attending, and they believe this is done intentionally by the Commissioners to avoid having to address public criticism.

Mayor McKelvey thanked the public for attending and expressing their concerns and offering their ideas. He stated that the Committee will be drafting a letter, along with a Resolution to formalize their concerns and requests.

Ms. McGee, Canal – Asked if the Resolution should be a joint one, and include the other municipalities that have had their taxes go up? Mayor McKelvey agreed that was a good idea, and the Committee would look into it.

Mayor McKelvey seeing no one wishing to speak asked for a motion to close the public session. On motion by Angelus, seconded by Leady, public session was closed.

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Leady and seconded by Angelus to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions No. 24-80 to 24-85.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- 24-80:** Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit Group Affidavit.
- 24-81:** Approving Fishing Tournament Permit Application from Mill Creek Gun Club Tournament Date: 08/10/2024
- 24-82:** Authorizing the Renewal of a Professional Services contract Without Competitive Bidding to Stuart B. Klepesch, Esq. to Provide Legal Services for the Township of Alloway (Tax Foreclosure List)
- 24-83:** Amending Resolution 24-09 Farmland Preservation Administrator
- 24-84:** Authorizing Executive Session
- 24-85:** Supporting the Submission of Correspondence to County Commissioners Regarding Tax Increases

A motion was made by Leady and seconded by Angelus to adopt by Consent Agenda on Resolutions No. 24-80 to 24-85

Roll Call: Angelus-yes, Leady-yes, McKelvey-yes Motion carried

**FY 2024-2025 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (Term: -7/01/2024 – 06/30/2025)**

On motion by Leady, seconded by Angelus, the 2024 Municipal Alliance Contract was authorized with Mayor McKelvey signing the contract.

Vote: All in favor

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Application for Permit Renewal for Vegetation Maintenance was received from Atlantic City Electric and is available for review in the Clerks Office
2. Freshwater Wetlands Permit was received from South Jersey Gas and is available for public review in the Clerks Office.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committeeman Angelus reported as follows:

- Environmental Commission – was unable to attend
- Planning Board Meeting – was unable to attend, but was made aware of an application that was denied. Said applicant wanted to bring the application before the Committee for reconsideration however the were advised due to the type of application they would need to proceed through Superior Court for reconsideration.

At this time, Planning Board Biff Crossley addressed the Committee regarding the application. He stated it was the Watts application, which was seeking an appeal of the stop work order issued by Andy Hoglen, Construction Code Official.

Deputy Mayor Leady reported as follows:

- Steering Committee Meeting: No meeting held in July
- Agriculture Board Meeting: Received an application for Williams Farm to be considered for preservation.
- Public Works: Still working on oil and stone road maintenance, along with regular mowing and sewer maintenance.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor McKelvey had a meeting with SJTPO which meets to look at roadway, sidewalks, bike path improvements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor McKelvey made the following announcements:

- August Meeting Notice: August Township Committee Meeting has been rescheduled from its original date and time of August 15th, 2024 7pm to August 12th, 2024 at 6pm.
- Reminder: Municipal Clerk's Office will be closed August 15th -16th, 2024 and reopen August 19th, 2024.

At this time the Mayor announced that the Committee would be going into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to personnel and potential litigation and will return to adjourn the meeting.

On motion by Leady, seconded by Angelus, the regular meeting was recessed at 8:45pm

Vote: All in favor

On Motion by Angelus, seconded by Leady the regular meeting was resumed at 9:19pm

Vote: All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion by Leady, seconded by Angelus, meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Vote: All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

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Brittany Vanaman, Acting Municipal Clerk