

**TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON
ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING**

JANUARY 7, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Township Clerk Amy P. Cosnoski welcomed everyone to Council's Reorganization Meeting and announced that notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mrs. Cosnoski announced the Presentation of Colors.

Colors were presented by the Pemberton Township JROTC and then lead in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Invocation by Reverend Dr. Trueblood.

Mrs. Cosnoski called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Cosnoski called forward Councilwoman Jackson to receive her Oath of Office.

Mrs. Cosnoski took roll call attendance of the Township Council.

PRESENT

Letha Jackson
Sherry Scull
Diane Stinney
Norma Trueblood
Jason Allen

ABSENT

Also Present: Township Clerk Amy P. Cosnoski, Mayor David Patriarca, Business Administrator Dennis Gonzalez and Solicitor Andrew Bayer.

Nominations for President of the Pemberton Township Council

Mrs. Cosnoski opened nominations for Council President.

Councilwoman Scull and Councilwoman Stinney nominated Councilman Jason Allen for Council President.

There being no other nominations submitted, Council closed nominations.

Motion by Scull and Trueblood to close nominations for Council President. Scull, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to appoint Councilman Jason Allen as President of Township Council for 2015. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Administration of Oath of Office to the President of Council

Councilman Jason Allen was sworn in as President of the Pemberton Township Council for 2015 by Solicitor Andrew Bayer

Council President Allen thanked Council for giving him the opportunity.

Council President Allen proceeded with the official business agenda.

Council President Allen read the Consent Agenda Statement.

***Consent Agenda: All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine by the Township Council and will be enacted by one motion. Should a Council member wish to discuss a consent agenda item separately, that item can be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.**

Council President Allen opened the meeting to the public for comments on the Consent Agenda. There being no members of the public indicating a desire to be heard, the meeting was closed to the public for comments on the Consent Agenda.

Councilwoman Stinney asked to pull Resolution 8-2015. Councilwoman Scull asked to pull Resolutions 14-2015 and 20-2015.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

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| 1-2015 | Adopts Temporary Municipal Budget for 2015. |
| 2-2015 | Adopts Temporary Municipal Budget - Water Utility Fund for 2015 |
| 3-2015 | Appoints Municipal Improvement Search Officer. |
| 4-2015 | Appoints Deputy Township Clerk. |
| 5-2015 | Appoints Tax Search Officer. |
| 6-2015 | Appoints Public Agency Compliance Officer per Affirmative Action Regulations. |
| 7-2015 | Establishes Pemberton Township's Cash Management Plan. |
| 8-2015 | <i>Pulled from Consent Agenda to be considered later in the meeting.</i> |
| 9-2015 | Designates Township Holiday schedule. |
| 10-2015 | Designates Burlington County Times and Trenton Times Official Newspapers for Township. |
| 11-2015 | Establishes rate of interest for delinquent tax payments. |
| 12-2015 | Establishes disposition of tax overpayments. |
| 13-2015 | Authorizes Tax Assessor to execute Stipulations of Settlement, file Rollback Assessments on behalf of the Township and further authorizes Tax Assessor or Township Solicitor to file appeals as may be necessary. |
| 14-2015 | <i>Pulled from Consent Agenda to be considered later in the meeting.</i> |
| 15-2015 | Appoints Alternate Commissioner to the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund. |
| 16-2015 | Appoints Risk Management Consultant in connection with Township's membership in the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund. |
| 17-2015 | Appoints Insurance Broker of Record. |
| 18-2015 | Appoint Safety Delegate Representatives to the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund. |
| 19-2015 | Appoints Claims Administrator for the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund. |
| 20-2015 | <i>Pulled from Consent Agenda to be considered later in the meeting.</i> |

Motion by Scull and Stinney to adopt Consent Agenda as amended. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS

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| 8-2015 | Establishes Council Regular Meeting Dates. <i>Pulled from Consent Agenda.</i> |
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Councilwoman Stinney asked for discussion on a possible change in day of the week Council Meetings are held and gave an explanation as to residents that have voiced why they cannot attend meetings on Wednesday nights. Councilwoman Scull agreed that she has heard many complaints as well since many churches have meetings on Wednesday nights which limits attendance and advised she was not opposed to a Monday or Tuesday. Council President Allen asked how this has historically been determined. Township Clerk Amy Cosnoski advised that the meetings have been held for quite a few years on Wednesday nights and that 8 to 10 years ago they were held on Thursday nights. Council President Allen advised he did not have an issue with Wednesday but was open to other suggestions from Council. Councilwoman Trueblood advised she was fine with Wednesday but was also open to Tuesday if it meant more residents being able to attend. Councilwoman Jackson agreed that she was fine with Wednesday but was okay with Tuesday if it meant more residents attending. Solicitor Bayer advised that Council should consider conflicts with other meetings that are held. A discussion ensued amongst Council and it was determined that meetings should stay on Wednesdays.

Motion by Stinney and Scull to Approve Resolution 8-2015. Stinney, yes; Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

14-2015 Appoints Commissioner to the Burlington County
Joint Insurance Fund. *Pulled from Consent Agenda.*

20-2015 Appoints Contact Person for Employment Practices
Attorney Consultation Services for the Burlington County Joint
Insurance Fund. *Pulled from Consent Agenda.*

Councilwoman Scull requested Resolutions 14-2015 and 20-2015 be tabled until the next meeting and advised that the appointing of the person that holds this position does not occur until the regular meeting and she feels approving these Resolutions now is premature. Solicitor Bayer advised that even if the Business Administrator was not confirmed there would be a hold over until there was a replacement.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to table Resolutions 14-2015 and 20-2015. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, no; Jackson, no; Allen, no. Motion does not carry.

Motion by Jackson and Trueblood to Approve Resolution 14-2015. Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, no; Scull, no; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jackson and Trueblood to Approve Resolution 20-2015. Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, no; Scull, no; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

21-2015 Affirms consent of Council to Attorney's appointment.

Councilwoman Stinney asked for a discussion on Resolution 21-2015. Councilwoman Stinney thanked Solicitor Bayer for his loyalty over the years and explaining things to her and for his advice over the past year.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to approve Resolution 21-2015. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Solicitor Bayer thanked everyone for their continued support and advised that he looks forward to working a ninth year with the Council, the Mayor and Administration and for the interest of the Township of Pemberton.

22-2015 Affirms consent of Council to appointment of Special Counsel Pool of
Attorneys to provide various special legal services.

Mayor Patriarca asked for Salvatore Siciliano to be added to this Resolution as he is working on current litigation for the Township and he would like him to continue with the case. Councilwoman Scull asked if a motion was needed. Solicitor Bayer advised no motion was necessary as this is just a draft resolution and could be added as an amendment.

Motion by Scull and Trueblood to approve Resolution 22-2015 as amended. Scull, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

23-2015 Affirms consent of Council to Engineer's appointment.

Motion by Trueblood and Stinney to approve Resolution 23-2015. Trueblood, yes; Stinney, yes; Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Stinney advised that she has worked with Mr. Rehmann many years and wanted to thank him for the respectable representation that his firm gives to the residents of Pemberton Township. Advised on when they came together to do Imagination Kingdom and how his employees came forward and did many beautiful things without cost. Stated that many residents are not familiar with the form of government that they have and they are not at the meetings to see that he represents the firm in such a fine way. Councilwoman Stinney thanked Mr. Rehmann again for the people he has brought forward and the way he presents his firm to Pemberton Township.

Mr. Rehmann congratulated Council President Allen and advised that his stepping up to the leadership role will add a lot to the municipality. Stated Council President Allen has Council Members with him that have years of experience, and bring an awful lot to the table and to the residents of Pemberton Township more importantly. Advised he appreciates all of the opportunities that the Township has given to him and the representatives of his firm to be a part of Pemberton Township. Noted that even when someone comes to him to tell him he doesn't know what he's doing, it is always done very nicely. Stated he appreciates the honesty and straightforwardness of the residents. Thanked the Mayor for the chance to be a part of the team.

24-2015 Appoints Auditor.

Motion by Stinney and Scull to appoint John J. Maley as the Auditor. Stinney, yes; Scull, yes; Jackson, no; Trueblood, no; Allen, no. Motion does not carry.

Motion by Jackson and Trueblood to appoint Bowman & Company as the Auditor.

Councilwoman Stinney asked for Council to look into the suggestion of new Councilwoman Jackson's selection of Bowman & Company as the Auditor. Asked for this to be tabled until Councilwoman Jackson and Councilwoman Trueblood can do more research to see if what they are doing is right based off of the information of the past. Councilwoman Jackson advised that her decision was based on the information received from the Clerk and she was not comfortable with approving Mr. Lee for the second term. Stated she understands the Township has had Bowman in the past and he did a fine job. Councilwoman Stinney asked Councilwoman Jackson who advised her that Bowman did a good job. Councilwoman Jackson advised she had not looked into it completely but had looked into and read the comments from the past year. Councilwoman Stinney advised that she also had read this information but is just saying that she would like to hold this until the next meeting so some homework could be done. Stated she does not appreciate being told in the middle of the year that a firm did something wrong.

Councilwoman Scull added that she agrees that she was offended that she received emails now from earlier in the year and Council was not shared this information. Stated she feels this was an effort to make one firm look bad at this time of the year because of personality issues. Commented that we do not hire someone based on their personality issues and feels that both firms have represented Pemberton in the past and have done well, but she believes this firm deserves a second year before moving on again. Advised she is not sure what all of the issues were but she resents having been given the information last minute. Noted that it is well known that Administration wanted Bowman instead. Stated she feels that Mr. Lee has represented the Township well and has done a fine job and if there were issues she wishes they had come forward sooner and all were given the same opportunity instead of emails after the fact.

Councilwoman Jackson asked for clarification on what is meant by personality issues and if it felt that just because they got the emails later that means they don't want Mr. Lee. Stated she would hope and think that the decision is not just being based off of personality issues. Advised that based off of what she read it did not seem like it was a personality issue between one party and the next. Councilwoman Scull commented that this is Councilwoman Jackson's opinion, but she knows that there were issues from the start where one person was accused of being rude and obnoxious and that person in her 10 or 12 years of knowing them has never been rude or obnoxious to anyone. Councilwoman Jackson advised all are entitled to their opinions but she hopes that the decision is based off of what they see not whether one person does or doesn't like someone. Councilwoman Scull advised

that her decision is based off of knowing the work ethic of Mr. Lee for a long time and felt that he deserved another opportunity since he was never able to explain his side of the story.

Councilwoman Stinney used the analogy of students and teachers and that she would be upset if her child was in school from September to June and the teacher came to her and said the student is going to fail at the end of the year and she was not informed in the beginning to help rectify the issue, and looks at this in the same manner. Advised had they been informed of the situation in the beginning perhaps they could have stepped in as a Council and made some suggestions back then. Advised on the many roles she has had throughout her years and that her best interest is in the residents of the Township of Pemberton. Suggested that just the Council and the Solicitor go into Closed Session to continue the conversation.

No vote taken on the previous motion and put aside in consideration of the following motion.

Motion by Stinney and Scull to table Resolution 24-2015 to Closed Session at the Regular Meeting of January 7, 2015. Stinney, yes; Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

25-2015 Affirms consent of Council to **Dean J. Buono** to Prosecutor's appointment.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to approve Resolution 25-2015. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

26-2015 Affirms consent of Council of **Timothy S. Farrow** to Public Defender's appointment.

Motion by Trueblood and Scull to approve Resolution 26-2015. Trueblood, yes; Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Stinney, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

27-2015 Affirms consent of Council to appointment of **Krisden M. McKrink** as Conflicts Judge.

Motion by Jackson and Scull to approve Resolution 27-2015. Jackson, yes; Scull, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

28-2015 Affirms consent of Council to Zoning Board appointments **Tom Besselman, Russell McLaughlin Jr., and Peter Gordon.**

Motion by Scull and Jackson to approve Resolution 28-2015. Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

29-2015 Appoints members to the Senior Citizens Council Fred **Ligouri and Mary Saffo.**

Motion by Scull and Stinney to approve Resolution 29-2015. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

30-2015 Appoints **Curtis D. Ross** to the Veterans' Advisory Committee

Motion by Trueblood and Scull to approve Resolution 30-2015. Trueblood, yes; Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Stinney, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

31-2015 Appoints Members to Township Alliance Group **Jason Allen, Tamara Kurth and Letha Jackson.**

Motion by Stinney and Scull to approve Resolution 31-2015. Stinney, yes; Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

32-2015 Appoints Class III Member to Planning Board.

Motion by Scull and Jackson to appoint Councilwoman Norma Trueblood to Class III Member of the Planning Board. Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Patriarca expressed he was looking forward to another good year and he had no appointments to make at this time. Wanted to thank the residents for believing in him one more time and giving him another shot at the position. Stated it is an honor and he doesn't want anyone to think that by him not being sworn in at the meeting that it doesn't mean anything to him, it is so important to him that he felt the town needed a Mayor as of January 1st, so he came out to be sworn in with Councilman Allen. Congratulated Councilwoman Jackson on her success in obtaining her position and for stepping up to the plate when asked. He knows it is a challenge but knows she will do fine. Stated going forward as the Township there are many thing underway, and projects that have started and need to be finished. Advised on services provided that they are working hard to improve including Department of Public Works and the Police Department. Commented on swearing in two Police Officers just before this meeting and he hopes to bring in two more officers this year. Advised there is an officer in the academy now and should be out in February. They are doing the best they can to bring the numbers up in the Police Department and provide safety to the residents. Commented on the Department of Public Works and the great job they have been doing all year long and advised on just some of the many tasks they have done throughout the year including, paving roads and plowing during snow storms. Advised that the Township will continue to provide these services and commented on the strong Recreation services the Township has along with the Senior services that are second to none. Advised that Administration will be providing Council with a budget as it is due on February 12th and they are just finishing it up and hopes Council will see this as another success. Stated he is very proud of and stands behind what they have been able to do with the taxpayer's money here. Commented that we are all taxpayers and want something for the taxes we're paying and he is proud of how they have been able to maintain the taxes. Looks forward to working with Council over the next four years. Commented on an earlier comment made about Mr. Bayer being the Mayor's attorney and advised that this is incorrect and that Mr. Bayer is actually the Township's attorney who is appointed by the Mayor with the consent of Council, and agreed that he has done a fine job for the Township. Stated he is looking forward to moving forward here over the next 4 years.

Councilwoman Scull asked Mayor Patriarca if he had made an appointment for the position needed at Senior Council since they are meeting this weekend. Mayor Patriarca advised he does have an individual for that position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The meeting was opened to the public for general public comments.

Ann Quinn, Country Lakes - 1. Welcomed Councilwoman Jackson to the Council and congratulated Councilman Allen for his appointment as Council President. Stated she will hold her comments until the second meeting.

There being no other members of the public indicating a desire to be heard, Council President Allen closed the meeting to the public for comment.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Diane Stinney: Wanted to recognize the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Gorman and thanked him for coming out to the meeting. Stated that she asked for some statistics on the JROTC because they always come forward when Council has something going on. Advised on the statistics she asked for to including over the last ten years how many have graduated from the program and that number was 231. Also asked for the amount of students that have gone into the military from this program and that number was 46%. Asked for the scholarships that have been given to these students as well and this number was \$582,200.00 and stated that this is something that they should be applauded for. Asked for everyone to applaud the young people. Congratulated Councilwoman Jackson for coming on as a Council Member and paraphrased quotes made by resident Norma Waters from her appeal which she read at the last Council Meeting in December. Thanked all of the fine Police Officers, men and women on the force and the best in the County, Fire and EMS volunteers, and wished them a safe and healthy New Year.

Letha Jackson: Councilwoman Jackson stated that she wanted to take the time to thank her husband, children and family as well as resident who took the time to vote

for her and supported her through the election. Stated she is very excited and honored and promises to do her best. Stated she is looking forward to a great four years and working with the Council as well as looking forward to agreeing to disagree and do what's best for the town. Thanked everyone for the support and for being patient with her and to have a great New Year.

Sherry Scull: Councilwoman Scull thanked everyone for coming out. Stated she is very excited about Councilwoman Jackson and noted that she has known her for many years and knows that she really cares about Pemberton Township and is looking forward to her participation on Council. Agreed that there are times that you have to agree to disagree but you don't have to be disagreeable about it, but she has been around long enough to know that is not always the case. Advised that for those that know her, they know that Pemberton is her heart and soul and she will vote for what's best for Pemberton always and will not let personalities dictate her vote. Commented that over the years she may have been the one no vote, but she votes for what she believes is best for the community and she will continue to do the same as she will not change. Stated if she agrees she will wholeheartedly stand up and back that person 100%, if she disagrees she lets them know and she doesn't have to tell everybody else, just them. Commented that she appreciates the nice attendance at this meeting and wished Council President Allen good luck in his role as the President. Welcomed Councilwoman Jackson and congratulated Mayor Patriarca and commented for all to work together to do what's best for Pemberton and not themselves.

Norma Trueblood: Councilwoman Trueblood thanked everyone for coming out and stated that the attendance shows how many residents really love this Township that on a bitter cold night, they are here. Congratulated all including Council President Allen, Mayor Patriarca and Councilwoman Jackson. Wanted everyone to know that they are all here to stand together and work for the Township of Pemberton.

Jason Allen: Council President Allen thanked the residents of the Township for thinking highly enough of him and allow him to represent the Township again for another four years. Thanked Councilwoman Stinney, Chris Rehmann and Solicitor Bayer, as well as anyone else that made comments about him moving forward as the Council President. Stated he knows it will be a challenge, but he likes challenges and is looking forward to it and God will see him through it as well as those that give him guidance from the meetings and out in the community. Thanked Reverend Trueblood and Reverend Smith for taking part in the Reorganization meeting and the blessing it is to have such outstanding leadership in the community. Thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and stated how nice it was to see so many people out and encouraged them to stay for the second meeting. Lastly, thanked his beautiful wife for coming out and her support.

Benediction was given by Pastor Reverend Smith.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy P. Cosnoski

Amy P. Cosnoski, RMC, Township Clerk