

MINUTES
MT. EPHRAIM LAND USE BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING

Borough Hall Court Office
121 S Black Horse Pike, Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08031
Wednesday, January 22, 2024, 7:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Robert Carter called the meeting to order and stated the meeting was advertised and notices posted in accordance with the “Open Public Records Act.”
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** All persons present, stood for the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Roll Call** – Mayor Carney, Kim Beebe, Comm. Marrone, Michael Schiavo, Thomas Maxwell, Robert Carter, Rocco Vespe, John Saban, present. Steve Eggert, Anthony Stagliano, Douglas Morgan, absent.
4. **CALENDAR OF NEW BUSINESS**
 - **Swearing in of New Appointees: Mayor Susan Carney – Class I, Commissioner Michael Marrone – Class III**
 - **Discussion regarding Member Appointments.**

Joe Nardi – that was the discussion that we had at the last meeting regarding carry over term limits and the expiration of dates and try to get consistency on the new election schedule and based upon the reorganization schedules, everything in the past with both the commission and the board have been May or June or at least the commission has been May and then the board has been May and June but now we will be moving to a calendar year basis that will require some amendments to the existing terms, so we will do that at the end.

Reorganization Meeting:

Motion to elect Robert Carter as chairman, Michael Schiavo made motion, the motion was seconded by Thomas Maxwell.

Roll Call – Mayor Carney, Kim Beebe, Comm. Marrone, Michael Schiavo, Thomas Maxwell, Robert Carter, Rocco Vespe, John Saban, all voting yes.

Motion to elect Steven Eggert as vice-chairman, Thomas Maxwell made motion, the motion was seconded by Kim Beebe.

Roll Call – Mayor Carney, Kim Beebe, Comm. Marrone, Michael Schiavo, Thomas Maxwell, Robert Carter, Rocco Vespe, John Saban, all voting yes.

Motion to appoint Tara Weiss as secretary, Kim Beebe made motion, the motion was seconded by Michael Schiavo.

Roll Call – Mayor Carney, Kim Beebe, Comm. Marrone, Michael Schiavo, Thomas Maxwell, Robert Carter, Rocco Vespe, John Saban, all voting yes.

Motion to re-adopt the rules and regulations, Commissioner Marrone, the motion was seconded by John Saban.

Roll Call – Mayor Carney, Kim Beebe, Comm. Marrone, Michael Schiavo, Thomas Maxwell, Robert Carter, Rocco Vespe, John Saban, all voting yes.

Motion to change the meeting date & time for the second Wednesday at 7:00pm, Mayor Carney, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Marrone.

Roll Call – Mayor Carney, Kim Beebe, Comm. Marrone, Michael Schiavo, Thomas Maxwell, Robert Carter, Rocco Vespe, John Saban, all voting yes.

Motion to establish legal notices in the Retrospect & Courier Post, Comm. Marrone, the motion was seconded by Mayor Carney.

Roll Call – Mayor Carney, Kim Beebe, Comm. Marrone, Michael Schiavo, Thomas Maxwell, Robert Carter, Rocco Vespe, John Saban, all voting yes.

Motion to adopt the Annual Report 2022-2023, Commissioner Marrone, the motion was seconded by Michael Schiavo.

Roll Call – Mayor Carney, Kim Beebe, Comm. Marrone, Michael Schiavo, Thomas Maxwell, Robert Carter, Rocco Vespe, John Saban, all voting yes.

Joe Nardi – so that was the last of the official business, now we have deferred the discussion regarding members and their appointments, now everyone has been appointed by the Commissioners and sworn in here and they all have different terms, for example the Mayor’s term coincides with the term served as Mayor, then there are other appointments which we have Class II, Class III, Class IV, and Alternate members and everyone has different terms. The Class II appointment is a 1-year appointment and the Class III which in many instances is served as a commissioner is also a 1-year appointment, so technically and Mike you are the Class III as we talked about earlier, you have been sworn in, so you have a 1-year term until next year. Then what we have is Kim is in the position as a Class II as a Borough employee, everyone else’s term has 4-years, what we have talked about last month was that because now with the change in the election schedule and the change in the organization meetings for both the board and the commissioners we want to have consistency in the terms some will extend, like right now we can’t change the terms but what we can do because your 4-year term runs for a period of time, you can’t be extended at this particular time but what is going to happen is that the commissioners will be amending the terms, so there will be some shortening of the terms for a 6-month period so instead of it running to June of 2026 that particular term will end in December of 2025. Everyone is still free to be reappointed but while is when the term will end, now the justification for that again is to maintain the consistency and

because of the election schedule and since the commissioners had the authority to change the commission schedule, they also have the authority to change it here. Do any of the board members have any questions about any of this. So now what we will do from this point as we do in many instances the recommendation will be made or a letter sent to the commissioners that this was discussed at this body and there was no official action that is needed but the commissioners will be told that everyone was advised.

Mayor Carney – just for clarity, so if lets say in May you were reappointed because it was the end of your term but yet the election happened in November therefore technically December 31st if we were going by election for the end of your term, I don't have authority as of the end of December 31st, but I do as of January 1st, so my thought process to bring everyone in line and bump everyone then to January for the reorganization meeting, so for example if your term was 2023 I will only give a bump to January 2024, I just want to let everyone know I am not looking to change anybody that is already on the board, I have gone through minutes I have seen all of your work and appreciate everything, so those that expired June 2023 will get the bump to January 2024 and then I would wind up reappointing those individuals and then everyone would have a line up date of January, your year would stay the same for everybody else, so if you were going to expire June of 2026 it would then just be January 2026, if you were going to expire in 2023, you will go to January 2024 and then you would get reappointed for your next 4 year term, this way moving forward as Mr. Nardi stated it will all line up.

Rocco Vespe – I have a question if I am an Alternate III can I move to a Class IV spot or do I have to apply or do you as the mayor just appoint.

Mayor Carney – if you have an interest in moving, then I would just say respond to what I will be putting out so I am aware and just so we are clear is that my understanding is that as Mayor I have the authority to appoint into those vacant positions who I want and I don't have to go through the Alternate positions, I don't have to move an Alternate up if I find that I just want to fill the spot, but it will be given due consideration.

Joe Nardi – right and that is not uncommon that people experience as an alternate be considered, so it is not uncommon that alternates can move up to a full position, but it also is not required that they move up as well.

Michael Schiavo – I have a question, who took Charles Alexander's spot.

Bob Carter – I don't know.

Michael Schiavo – would Tara have that information.

Tara Weiss – I believe when Gary Prinski came back on, he took Chuck Alexander's spot.

Joe Nardi – I thought Gary Prinski was an alternate when he came back for the second round.

Mayor Carney – I have him listed as an alternate Gary Prinski.

Tara Weiss – yes but he was a member at one point, wait hold on. I thought when Gary used to be here originally, he was a full member, then he left for a little bit, then I thought he took Chuck Alexander's spot then I thought he left again and then came back as an alternate.

Mayor Carney – so then who would have filled Prinsk's spot if he took Alexnader's spot.

Tara Weiss – that was when Mike Marrone moved up to fill that unexpired term.

Michael Schiavo – so we had someone cover, that was my point.

Mayor Carney – ok.

Tara Weiss – no arrangement was made with Chuck he turned in a resignation letter, we then gave it to the previous Governing Body and then is when Gary came back but then he left again we filled the spot with Mike. I think the issue with Gary was that he missed too many consecutive meetings.

- 5. Professional Comments – N/A**
- 6. Board Comments – N/A**
- 7. Public Comments – N/A**
- 8. Motion to Adjourn the meeting, all voting in favor.**