

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 29, 2021
6:00 PM

The Special Meeting of the Township Committee was held on the above date at the time of 6:00 p.m. Present in person were Committeemen Dennis, Pelura, Bomba, Mayor Brown, C. English-Administrator, K. Mitchell-CMFO, Police Chief VanNamee Sgt. Racite and J. Proffitt-Clerk. Committeeman Dowe was not present.

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order, he read the **Opening Public Meeting Act**. Mayor Brown led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** and roll call was taken.

Mayor Brown mentioned this meeting is for the hearings of Peoples Tavern and Dry Good and Stubini's South in regards to their liquor license renewals.

The meeting started with Sgt. Joseph Racite telling the audience who he is and how he became certified as an ABC Inspector. He has the ability to conduct ABC investigations and report the findings to the State ABC. With that said he went on to discuss the issues at Stubini's. This includes such items as multiple COVID violations, parking complaints, noise complaints, a shooting, a stabbing, leud behavior and disorderly persons.

Mr. Telsey said this is in respect to the annual renewal of the license. There is a posting in the paper every year by the State ABC for complaints. This hearing is required and he wants all to be heard. The Committee will make the decision. He asked if there have been any official complaints against the renewal. Sgt. Racite said no. Mr. Pelura said the alleys are for utility use only but the Township was in agreement to allow residents to park in the alleys in that area. The list of "Special Conditions" were presented by the Police. Mr. Dennis also said to add no parking in the alleys by patrons. Mayor Brown said the bar owner needs to manage not just the number of people in the bar but the outside. Mr. Pelura said in another location we required an outside company for security, not personnel from the bar.

Attorney Joe DiNicola Jr. said he is at this hearing to represent the bar owner. He said they will agree to all "Special Conditions". He said the "Special Conditions" have to relate to the ABC License. Applicant wants to be a good neighbor and will agree to all conditions but they don't have policing powers. Lloyd VanBlarcom spoke to the Committee; he is acting Manager. He said he has been closing by 1:30 to get the people to disperse earlier, he ordered cones to put out front to keep people from parking in front of the building. He said he and employees have been cleaning the surrounding area up each morning. It was discussed how many people are allowed in the building. Mr. VanBlarcom said they can house 98 people. Mr. Telsey said they don't have to take matters into their own hands, but outside security would prevent some problems. Post signs that parking is not permitted in the alleys. Mr. VanBlarcom said they currently have five working cameras inside and three outside. Sgt. Racite mentioned between January 2015 and December 2017 there were 42 calls to the bar, but from January 2019 to June 2021 there has been over 100 calls to the bar.

Mayor Brown opened the meeting up for the residents to have a say. Mary Perry of 276 Shell Road said her quality of life is horrible now. She said the noise is so loud she can hear it in her house. There is trash all around her yard and both her fence and windshield have been broken.

Henry Kahle of 262 Birch St. mentioned he is unable to sleep the noise is so loud. He said when people leave the bar they talk loudly and play music in their vehicles loud. Mayor Brown said that's when you need to contact the police. Let them handle the noise.

Mr. Pelura asked if the doors on the bar are open or closed. Mr. VanBlarcom said sometimes both the front and back doors are open. Start by making sure the doors are closed to help keep the noise in the bar. Mr. Bomba asked why plastic cups. Mr. VanBlarcom said due to COVID, the dishwasher would need to reach a certain heat level to use glass and ours does not. He said there should be no liquor outside.

Victor Bitchor of Jefferson St. explained his problems with the bar. He said his property has had a broken fence, drunk person on his front porch, trash in and around his yard and loud noise.

Debbie Blizzard of 275 Jefferson St. said she has lived in her house for 28 years and has not had this kind of problems until now. There has been people peeing outside and trash all over.

Renee Richards of 6 Florence Ave. who is affiliated with the bar said she has given out her cell number to residents so they can her directly. She will do what she can to help. The Mayor said there is a need to control the bar and patrons. Mr. Pelura said he agrees with Mr. DiNicola, the presence of security will help. Mr. Pelura said to announce through the night no to park in the alleys.

Mr. Dowe came online at 7:02 PM. Mr. Telsey suggested having the cameras installed to the Police Departments satisfaction. He said the cameras must record for 30 days and if needed the tapes need to be turned over to the Police. Mr. Telsey spoke of an outside security company to work from 6 pm to closing or when the last patrons leave the bar. He said there will be no parking on Shell Road by the intersections or in the alleys. The Township noise ordinance states 10 pm. He suggested to turn the music down so it can only be heard on the property and not beyond. Mr. Telsey said the bar needs to self-enforce. Mr. DiNicola asked for 30 days to get everything together. Everyone agreed.

RESOLUTION 2021-164

APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF NICOLINI-STUBINI'S SOUTH LIQUOR LICENSE WITH SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Motion was made by Mr. Dowe, seconded by Mr. Bomba to approve the renewal of Stubini's South liquor license for one year. A unanimous vote was taken.

Sgt. Joe Racite proceeded to discuss the complaints with Peoples Tavern and Dry Good. He started with parking issues. He said patrons are parking up and down Harding Hwy and Pennsville Auburn Road. Sgt. Racite also mentioned multiple reports of fights, noise complaints and trash around the property. He said they do have cameras at this location but when asked they need to turn the tapes over to the Police. Sgt. Racite said he would like to see the liquor license changed so they cannot drink outside. Attorney Joe DiNicola said he is here to represent the owner and has the authority to make decision on their behalf. He said there is no evidence, no third-party testimony and no evidence of complaints. He said this establishment has been upgraded from what it was. He said it is much better. He said they also have no Policing powers. Mr. DiNicola said the applicant will be taking the tent down. He feels this will resolve 70% of the problems with parking and drinking in the parking lot. Robert Doble of Pennsville is the Manager of the bar, he addressed the Committee. Mr. Doble said he has had no complaints directed to the bar or himself. He stated he has paid bouncers for the bar. Mr. DiNicola proposed eliminating the tent which will increase the parking spaces by about 15 spaces. Mr. DiNicola said his client will clean the parking lot more often, instead of only once a week. Mr.

Doble mentioned they are a biker's bar but there are signs of "No Colors" within the bar. Bouncers do not allow drinkers across the street. He said they do try to keep the drinkers in their sight. The Committee suggested a yellow strip by the front door in which they can drink. This will keep people from taking they drinks off the lot. Mr. Doble said he can place a yellow strip from about 15 feet from each side of the front door to the end of the parking lot. If there is an event being held in the parking lot, the Committee asked that he let the Township know prior in writing. This will go to the Township Clerk and get approval from the Committee before the event. Mr. Doble said he will make a better effort to clean up the property. He will also do his best effort to warn patrons no to park in the roadway. The Township allowed 30 days to remove the tent. The Committee also asked if he would follow the noise ordinance. Mayor Brown asked for any public questions or comments and with none this portion was closed.

Mr. Telsey reviewed the "Special Conditions" with Mr. DiNicola and Mr. Doble and they agreed to all. With that said:

RESOLUTION 2021-165
APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF PEOPLES TAVERN & DRY GOOD
WITH SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Motion was made to approve the liquor license for Peoples Tavern & Dry Good with Special Conditions by Mr. Bomba, seconded by Mr. Dennis and a unanimous vote was taken.

Mayor Brown moved on to address the Countywide EMS meeting. Mr. Bomba stated the County Commissioners all agreed to pursue the municipalities that are not contributing to a paid service. He said there will be another meeting in July. They are discussing footing the bill for an Administrator for American Ambulance Service for a year. Also, they are looking for funding from the State. Mr. Bomba said the County Commissioners do not want to take this on but are trying to fix the problems. He said four municipalities are not doing anything but require a lot of service. Mayor Brown said he spoke to the Commissioners about the cost of EMS services since Carneys Point just went out to bid.

Mr. Bomba suggested choosing the low bidder for the Township. They accepted the amount. Mr. Pelura asked who negotiated? Mr. Bomba said it was him, the CMFO, Administrator, Solicitor and Mr. Dennis. Mr. Telsey suggested sending a copy of the agreement to NJ American Ambulance for their review before our next meeting.

Mayor Brown opened the meeting for **Public Participation:** With no public questions or comments this portion was closed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bomba to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Dennis. Motion passed with four affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

7-21-2021
Approved:


June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk