

FEBRUARY 11, 2008

On the above date, the Township Committee of the Township of Mantua held its monthly Workshop Meeting in the Mantua Township Municipal Building, 401 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051.

Mayor Timothy W. Chell called the meeting to order. The time was 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Chell asked for everyone to rise for the flag salute and remain standing for a moment of silence.

Mayor Chell then read aloud the Statement of the Presiding Officer: "As required by the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by adopting a schedule of regular meetings for the year 2008. The schedule was posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building and mailed to the Gloucester County Times and Courier-Post newspapers on January 2, 2008."

Mayor Chell called on Township Clerk Shawn Menzies to perform a roll call of present officials. Present were Committeewoman Lorraine Beckett, Committeewoman Sharon Lawrence, Committeeman Walter F. Lenkowski, Deputy Mayor Peter Scirrotto, Mayor Chell, Richard H. Subers, Township Administrator, August Knestaut, Esquire, Township Solicitor and Shawn G. Menzies, Township Clerk.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve the January 28, 2008 Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto. All were in favor.

For the Engineering Report, Jon Bryson reported that initial work has begun reviewing projects to be possibly applied for the Safe Routes to School program, the Community Block Development Grant program and also the 2008 Local Road Improvement program.

Mr. Bryson reported that a preconstruction meeting has been held for the Royal Oaks Phase IIA project and work thus far has been clearing and rough grading at the site.

Next, he discussed the Main Street self Storage project, to which installation of on-site utilities is progressing and site grading is also occurring.

Mayor Chell announced that for the Safe Routes to School program, Mr. Bryson has aerial photographs of a possible project to link Bellmead to the Chestnut Branch Park.

Finally, Mr. Bryson reported that the Lowes project has had backfill material being installed and the retaining wall is being installed. For the neighboring Target project the stormwater management stabilization measures are being installed.

For the Police Department Report, Chief Graham Land reported Rowan University has requested the approval of Title 39 to have police jurisdiction in Mantua Township of Mantua, specifically at the South Jersey Tech Park site.

To be approved, the Township Committee would have to endorse the proposal and he would have to send a letter to authorize such.

Chief Land reported Officers Doug Herner and Jason Davis could be receiving military orders soon. Officer Herner could be called to duty from March to May and Officer Davis could be called up in June.

Chief Land since the start of the year until February 1, 2008, there has been 10 burglary reports and 30 vehicle break-ins and thefts in the Township of Mantua. Chief Land said vehicle owners should always lock their doors and never leave valuable items inside and or in plain view. He further reported that there has been one sexual assault report, 11 drunken driving arrests, 14 drug investigations and arrests and two overdoses, which were not fatal. Chief Land also reported that a pedestrian was struck and killed by a motor vehicle on January 1, 2008 during inclement weather conditions, to which the motorist stopped and was not charged.

Chief Land reported that on January 26, 2008 a strong armed robbery occurred and is being investigated and on January 29, the Heritage store was robbed.

Chief Land informed the Township Committee of a report of a theft which occurred over the weekend in which a man purchased liquor for an event to be held at a local fire hall on Friday, and when he arrived back on Saturday the liquor was gone.

From January 1, 2008 until today, 68 summonses were issued to motorists on Mantua Boulevard for speeding and other violations, Chief Land reported. He further stated that the department has put in significant time in cracking down on speeders on the boulevard and that 15 additional violations were issued on nearby Center Street.

Chief Land said patrols in the Bellmead development resulted with no summons being issued. Next, he reported he has been approached by James Bell, who is president of Mantua basketball, about having an officer or explorers at all basketball-related events when they are held in any of the three elementary schools. Chief Land said it could prove to be difficult for an officer to be placed in the schools as basketball is held five nights a week and he has concerns with the use of explorers as there could be peer issues.

Chief Land said a hit-and-run occurred in the Centre City section of the Township of Mantua, and that it is being investigated. He added that residents in the section of town have expressed feeling of being unsafe and that he feels it is a problem with some residents who are known to police who causing problems.

Committeewoman Beckett asked about the forming of a Town Watch, to which Chief Land said it is being handled by Lieutenant Ed Powell.

For the Department of Public Works' Report, Supervisor Michael Datz reported that a comparison from this time in 2006 to the present, trash under the new collection system is 1,200 tons less, a 14 percent difference, while recycling is up 515 tons, or 39 percent.

Mr. Datz then reported that four public works employees will be undergoing classes and an examination to be certified for herbicide and pesticides on public property.

Mr. Datz reported that he has received three quotes for the purchase of a stainless steel oven hood and electric oven range for the Mantua Township Community Center, \$6,330.00 by EVI, INC, 9-G Chris Court, Dayton, NJ 08810, 732-274-0040, and \$4,095 from ACE Mart, www.acement.com, respectively. Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve the lowest bid, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All members voted in the affirmative to a roll call vote, 5-0.

Mr. Datz reported that the Mantua Township Senior Bus Driver, Debbie Pollag has requested approval for an overnight trip to Ocean City, New Jersey this year. There are concerns pertaining to insurance and liability and how someone would be transported back home if they had to leave for some reason. That matter is still being reviewed. The Committee said the trip was fine, once the insurance and other matters are worked out.

Mr. Datz reported that Don Ledden sent in a letter requesting the Township of Mantua to vacate a portion of Grandview between Center Street and Essex, but he feels the Township of Mantua should not do so and rather finish the road to connect two dead-end roads, adding there are sewer and power lines in that area.

Mayor Chell said he has discussed with Chief Land about purchasing a hybrid vehicle for the police department and that Mr. Datz should start looking into having public works mechanics certified in repairing hybrid vehicles.

Mayor Chell said he has received a complaint about the scavenging of trash at the curbside and wanted to hear some thoughts about it and its relation to the ordinance banning such.

Mr. Subers said the removing of large bulk items assists the Township of Mantua saving time and fuel on having public works going out to pick it up. Chief Land said most items being scavenged are non-metal, and are usually couches and television sets.

Mayor Chell said he recently placed a couch out the curb and it was gone just a few hours later. Mr. Datz said if a proposed state law requiring deposits to be made for cans and aluminum scavaging could get worse.

Chief Land said he is getting more complaints about the portable basketball systems in streets, to which some are being left in the middle of cul-de-sacs and some are even being cemented in the ground.

At this time Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

Kathy (last name inaudible) and Linda Fraser, 160 Monmouth each thanked the Township Committee and the Public Works Department for clearing away vegetation from the old cemetery on the Electric Mobility property, especially two unnamed

employees who volunteered to do so. Mrs. Fraser distributed photographs of the cleared site. She also asked if the Township is planning to re-mount the headstones and possibly install a plaque with the full listing of those buried at the site. The Township Committee said it will review the request.

Mrs. Fraser asked if it would be possible to install devices to make the cemetery not accessible to all-terrain vehicles, to which the Township Committee said they will take under advisement.

Mrs. Fraser inquired about bulk trash, as she stated some local children removed bulk items she placed at the curb and were found not far away near a gully and drain using the bulk items to hang out with.

Don Verhoorn, 186 Cheyenne Avenue, said in response to the matter about savaging, that such an ordinance is in place and it should be adhered to like ordinance pertaining to snow removal of sidewalks. He added kids are removing bulk items.

As no one else wished to address the Township Committee, Committeeman Lenkowski made a motion to close the public portion, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

Under legislation, Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-36-2008, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

RESOLUTION R-36-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2008 GLOUCESTER,
SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL JOINT
INSURANCE FUND LOSS CONTROL POLICY FOR THE YEAR 2008

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-37-2008, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

RESOLUTION R- 37-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SABRINA SABATELLI TO THE
POSITIONS OF RECYCLING COORDINATOR AND
CLEAN COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-38-2008, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

RESOLUTION R- 38 -2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR
THE OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROGRAM OF THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR BLOCK 160, LOT 9 OF THE
OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-39-2008

RESOLUTION R-39 -2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MELVIN/KERNAN AS THE TOWNSHIP
OF MANTUA ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO
THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-40-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-40-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW JERSEY GENERAL
ASSEMBLY BILL A1511, REVISIONS TO THE WRONGFUL
DEATH STATUE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-41-2008, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

RESOLUTION R-41-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING A
MAINTENANCE BOND FOR LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,234.80 FILED BY BRICK REALITY
COMPANY FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN HERITAGE FOREST

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-42-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-42-2007
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO QC LABORATORIES
FOR THE 2008 SAMPLING, TESTING AND REPORTING OF THE MANTUA
LANDFILL MONITORING WELL AND CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK
POTABLE WELL SAMPLING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 5,760.00

All members voted in the affirmative to a roll call vote, 5-0.

Committeeman Lenkowski made a motion to approve Resolution R-43-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-43-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION
MEETING TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AS IT PERTAINS TO
THE POSITION OF TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

All were in favor.

Under Correspondence, Mayor Chell asked Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, liaison to the Historical Commission, if the Commission would be interested in being donated a piano. Deputy Mayor Scirrotto will bring it to the attention of the membership.

Committeewoman Lawrence said she is still working with the Board of Health in regards to obtaining lead testing kits to be offered free of charge through the Clerk's Office to anyone wishing to get one.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Committeewoman Beckett announced the AARP is holding on Thursday nights now through April from 6 to 8 p.m. free tax form preparation and that appointments are to be made through the Clerk's Office.

May Chell announced that the Annual Debt Statement is on file with the Office of the Township Clerk.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor. The time was 8:15 p.m.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to reopen the meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto. All were in favor. The time was 9 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor. The time was 9:05 p.m.