

MARCH 10, 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, Michael Datz, Township Administrator & Supervisor of Public Works, August Knestaut, Esquire, Township Solicitor, and Shawn G. Menzies, Township Clerk. Also present for this Workshop were Jon Bryson, Township Engineer and Police Chief Graham Land.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve the February 25, 2008 Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

For the Engineering Report, Jon Bryson, first discussed the Lowes and Target project, which the developers have been approved to have performance bonds filed with the Township of Mantua for both projects reduced.

Next, Mr. Bryson reported that a meeting was held with him and Mayor Chell to discuss the possibility of additional plantings along Mantua Boulevard to buffer the adjacent neighborhood from the Lowes site. Funds for such could be utilized from the Township Tree Fund, he further stated.

Mr. Bryson reported that he, Township Clerk Menzies and Township Administrator Datz have met and the 2008 Community Development Block Grant application will be filed prior to the March 17, 2008 due date. Also, he reported he met with Mr. Datz to review the preliminary costs and plans for the 2008 Road Program.

Finally, Mr. Bryson reported the work at the Lowes and Target project along Woodbury-Glassboro Road is ongoing.

For the Police Department Report, Chief Graham Land reported that there were two armed robberies in the municipality in February, which one individual has been arrested and the department has good leads on the second. He further reported that there were six residential burglaries with one arrest last month and one so far in March.

He also reported that there were 12 drug-related arrests, nine reports of identity thefts and four driving while intoxicated arrests. There was one fatal accident in February, two stolen vehicles and 255 summons issued to motorists, which included 39 on Mantua Boulevard alone.

Chief Land asked the Committee their opinion of approving once he has all information to send Officer Jeff Ferry and his K-9 to a seminar in Denver in May. The Committee said once the cost and more information are available they will make a decision.

Mayor Chell said he and Chief Land have discussed further the proposal to purchase and utilize speeding indicator signs, which would be posted around the municipality and alert motorists if they were exceeding the speed limits. Mr. Datz said he has received some preliminary costs, which show that the purchase of five of the devices would cost about \$20,750.00 and includes all extras available for the devices such as wireless downloads and larger batteries.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto asked Chief Land that with the recent incidents being reported in Centre City; wouldn't an officer's patrol warrant additional time in the area rather than patrolling Route 55? Chief Land said officer do not spend a lot of time, just a few minutes on Route 55 and prior to the start of each shift areas of patrols are discussed. Furthermore, Chief Land said local police who have made stops on Route 55 have led to arrests and the recovery of drugs and weapons.

Committeewoman Beckett said in response to recent crimes being committed in the Centre City area, local residents there have started a Town Watch, which will start meeting very soon.

For the Public Works Department Report, Mr. Datz he received three quotes for the purchase of grass seed for the park, to which the lowest quote was \$3,720.00 filed by UAP. Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve the lowest quote for UAP, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

Next, Mr. Datz said he received three quotes for a transmission for Public Works Truck No. 10, a 1994 Rear Loader and the lowest quote was filed by Trans Axle for the removal and installation at a cost of \$5,800.00. Committeeman Lenkowski made a motion to approve the lowest quote for Trans Axle, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

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

James Slemph, of Mount Royal Road, asked if there would be a cost associated with attorney and or engineers reviewing and or revising the Open Space & Recreation Plan should the Planning Board approve to incorporate it as an element of the Master Plan. Mayor Chell said there would be no additional cost as it would become an element to the plan, which was funded with a grant. Mayor Chell said if the plan is incorporated into the existing Master Plan it would not change zoning of any parcel of land in town.

Mr. Slemp then asked if any decision has been made of what to do with the land at the corner of Jackson and Heritage roads, to which Mayor Chell said no decisions have been made at this time and it would likely be several months before a decision is made from any recommendations which would come from the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Mr. Slemp then asked about the status of the 2008 Municipal Budget, to which Mayor Chell said before the introduction and subsequent adoption of the 2008 Budget, the Township Committee wants to see if the Legislature makes any changes to recently released State aid figures.

Mr. Slemp asked if the local school district has proposed their budget, to which Mayor Chell said while municipal aid has decreased, school aid has increased and that the district is planning on a penny and half decrease in its levy.

Linda Fraser, of 160 Monmouth Avenue, asked if a fence could be installed at the entrance at the ball fields to get access to the cemetery, to which Mayor Chell said a fence on the field is locked and that until Title and ownership can officially be found, it is private property. Mrs. Fraser said at her age, she does not like to walk along the railroad tracks to go to the site to assist in cleaning it up. Committee members reiterated that until the ownership and title can be found it is private property and for liability purposes cannot access the site.

Mayor Chell said the Township Clerk has reached out to the County and State historical offices asking if they would be interested in taking over or assisting in the maintenance and preservation and each are not interested at this time.

Mrs. Fraser then asked about a proposed law which would allow businesses to require deposits on recyclables, like cans and glass and how, if enacted, would effect the local recycling efforts? Mayor Chell said the Township Committee has made it clear to the State that it opposes such legislation as the Township of Mantua has a very good, effective recycling program in place now.

Mrs. Fraser asked about the status of the Maple Ridge Golf Course in regards to recent news articles. Mayor Chell said the Township of Mantua, the Township of Deptford and the County of Gloucester are talking with the owners about possible preservation of the land. He added Mantua Township is in favor of preservation of the land and the Committee will tonight have legislation for consideration which pertains to furthering the preservation of open space in the Township of Mantua.

Mrs. Fraser asked about the loss rate with the closing of the Shopping Bag in the Timberline shopping center. Mayor Chell said the spaces are rented and the actual owner of the plaza still pays taxes.

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

Under the legislative portion of the agenda, Mayor Chell said the Ordinance noted on the agenda should have been presented as a Resolution, as it was a miscommunication between the Township Clerk and the Township Solicitor. He added that the Resolution, if approved this evening, would have the Township Clerk place on the November General Election Ballot a public question asking voter approval to increase the open space levy by 2 cents.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-70-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-70-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC QUESTION TO BE
PLACED ON THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT ON
THE ISSUE OF IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL ANNUAL LEVY OF
\$0.02 FOR THE ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE
OF LAND FOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES

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

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-54, 2008, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

RESOLUTION R-54 -2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION INCREASING DEFERRED SCHOOL
TAXES, CLEARVIEW REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-55-2008, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

RESOLUTION R- 55 -2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION INCREASING THE DEFERRED
SCHOOL TAX, MANTUA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to adopt by Title Only Ordinance O-05-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

ORDINANCE O-05-2008
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2008 AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK UNDER N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.14

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

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-56-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-56-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY
TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

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

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to open for a public hearing on the defeated Mantua Township Fire District No. 1 Budget for 2008, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

As no one wished to speak on the matter, Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-57-2008, seconded by Committeeman Lenkowski.

RESOLUTION R-57 -2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION FIXING AND APPROVING
THE 2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OF THE
MANTUA TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

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

Committeeman Lenkowski made a motion to approve Resolution R-58-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-58-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REDUCTION OF A PERFORMANCE
BOND FILED WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA BY METRO
ACQUISITIONS GROUP FOR THE TARGET PROJECT BY
\$1,194,683.40 TO THE NEW BONDED AMOUNT OF \$2,504,163.00

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

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-59-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-59-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING CONSENT TO
THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
AUTHORITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AUTHORITY'S WATER SYSTEM

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

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-60-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-60-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
DESIGNATING COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGIES
("CIS") AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPER FOR BLOCK
253.01, LOTS 38.01 AND 39 WITHIN A DESIGNATED
REDEVELOPMENT AREA, AND A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, AS
AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, AND AUTHORIZING
TOWNSHIP'S ENTRY INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
AND RELATED PROJECT AGREEMENTS

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-61-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-61-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF MICHAEL
DATZ AS A MEMBER OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve Resolution R-62-2008, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

RESOLUTION R-62-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP
TO FUNCTION AS REDEVELOPMENT ENTITY AND TO
ENTER INTO A PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER AGREEMENT

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-63-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-63-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS
WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
FOR VARIOUS SERVICES INCLUDING INSURANCE,
FUEL, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND DEBT SERVICE

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-64-2008, seconded by Committeeman Lenkowski.

RESOLUTION R-64-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL TO ENFORCE FOR
MOTOR VEHICLES A “NO STOPPING OR STANDING” RULE ON ROUTE 45,
BRIDGETON PIKE, BETWEEN SANTA FE DRIVE AND JACKSON ROAD

All members voted in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-65-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-65-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION
MEETING TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE POLICE OFFICERS UNION
AND ALSO TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE OR REAL LITIGATION

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-66-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-66-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR THE
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES FOR THE
PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31,
2008 AND ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$15,477.00

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

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-67-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-67-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MANTUA
TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD TO CONDUCT A
PRELIMINARY REDEVELOPMENT INVESTIGATION

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-68-2008, seconded by Committeeman Lenkowski.

RESOLUTION R-68-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REDUCTION OF A PERFORMANCE
BOND FILED WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA BY METRO
ACQUISITIONS GROUP FOR THE LOWES PROJECT BY
\$1,772,850.00 TO THE NEW BONDED AMOUNT OF \$6,620,844.00

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

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve a Raffle License filed by The Rotary Club of Mullica Hill for an event to be held at Bogey's on April 12, 2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve a raffle license filed by Clearview Wenonah Junior Women's Club for an event to be held on April 19 and May 8, 2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence announced that the annual Pet Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2008 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the public works garage.

Committeeman Lenkowski thanked Mr. Datz's services on the planning board and that he was an asset.

Committeewoman Beckett said the AARP will also assist those needing such for the filing of all documents needed for the federal government Economic Stimulus plan on Thursday evenings.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto wished everyone a Happy Easter.

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 8:35 p.m.

At 8:36 p.m., Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adjourn the closed session and reopen the meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor. The time was 8:38 p.m.