

APRIL 6, 2009

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 2009. 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, 2009."

Mayor Chell called on Township Clerk Shawn Menzies to perform a roll call of present officials. Present were Committeeman Robert Zimmerman, Committeewoman Sharon Lawrence, Committeewoman Lorraine Beckett, Deputy Mayor Pete Scirrotto, Mayor Chell, Maria Detitto, Esquire, Township Solicitor, and Shawn G. Menzies, Township Clerk, Police Chief Rodney Sawyer, Drew Brzycki, of Federici & Akin, the Township Engineer, and Michael Datz, Township Administrator.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Committee's March 16, 2009 Regular Meeting, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor. Committeewoman Lawrence abstained.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve the Closed Session minutes from March 16, 2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor. Committeewoman Lawrence abstained.

It was at this time did Mayor Chell welcome representatives from Clearview Regional High School, John Horchak III, Superintendent, and Esther Pennell, Business Administrator. They were joined by Regional District Board of Education members John Hughes and Michael Riggs. Mr. Horchak and Mrs. Pennell each presented information to the Township Committee about a question which is to appear on the April 21 School Elections which voters will be asked to decide on a \$1,303,000.00 bond to raise funds to install solar panels on top of the middle school roof. The overview showed how incentives, both private and public, will help offset the costs of the project and expect to save \$833,000 over the next 15 years and also a tax decrease over that time for residents in both Harrison and Mantua townships.

Drew Brzycki, from the Township's Engineer's Office, reported that the Evergreen Avenue project is expected to go out to bid at the middle of this month as well as the Jessup Mill Road project also to go out to bid this month.

Mayor Chell asked him to follow up with Jon Bryon on the Safe Routes to school project grant application to extend the bike trail to Bellmead.

Mr. Datz reported that under new rules by the State, the local and county engineers have the ability to lower or increase the speed limits on local and county roads without State Department of Transportation approval or oversight. He added there are issues with the low speed now on Heilig Road, which can be addressed.

For the Police Department Report, Chief Sawyer said the biggest issue remains is motor vehicles speeding in town. The K-9 now in training was injured but is expected back to school. The accreditation for the department continues. He added the department is to receive a \$13,466.00 grant.

Next, he reported the damage speed alert sign can be fixed at a cost of \$175.00 and he is working with public works to have installed the permanent poles for the signs.

Chief Sawyer asked if he could have officers use a police vehicle to attend the funeral of three officers killed in the line of duty in Pittsburgh recently, the Committee approved it. Finally, Chief Sawyer said he received a letter of intent to retire from Sergeant Paul Coleman and a replacement for his position as the School Resource Officer/ DARE Officer will need to be chosen.

For the Public Works report, Glen Demers reported a spring leaf pick up the week of April 13 and a spring bulk pick up the week of April 20. He added that even though municipal offices will be closed on April 10, 2009, public works will be out to pick up trash, recycling and bulk items. The street sweeper will start its season on April 13 and run until October 31. Deputy Mayor Scirrotto suggested placing a sign in a development a day or two before the sweeper is to arrive to residents can get their vehicles off the street.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to open the meeting up to the public, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Don Verhoorn, 186 Cheyenne Avenue, asked if parking is allowed on Route 45, especially near Rita's Water Ice. Mayor Chell and Chief Sawyer each said parking is not allowed and they are aware of the problems on April 1, 2009 when the business gave away free water ice and it attracted many people. Chief Sawyer said signs were put up to remind of the no parking rule.

Joe Heitman, vice chairman of the Mantua Township Veterans' Commission, and Michael Andreas, chairman, discussed with the Committee the idea to alter the parade route for the annual Memorial Day event. Instead of going to the Wenonah Cemetery and then the Mantua Cemetery and then meeting over at the municipal building, they would like to continue the parade down either Evergreen Avenue or Elm Avenue to Main Street to the municipal building. Mayor Chell asked for them to work with the police department soon on this matter.

James Slempp, 536 Mount Royal Road, asked if it would be possible to have the agendas, minutes and meeting material set up in the rear of the room so if people coming in late could get what they need there and no feel like they are disrupting the meeting by coming to the front of the meeting room.

Next, Mr. Slempp asked if legislation, when it pertains to Block and Lots, could have the physical address or better description of where the site is located.

Next, Mr. Slempp asked if the state aid figures were what the Committee expected. Mayor Chell said it is a lot less with the cut in state aid. Mr. Slempp said the town was looking at 6 cent increase and the governor's cuts came to about a penny more.

Mr. Slempp asked if the Council on Affordable Housing's proposal to halt a town's collection of fees, to which Mayor Chell said it has not gone through yet.

Mr. Slempp asked what is the assessment and taxes to come from the Lowe's project, to which he instructed Mr. Slempp to speak with the Tax Assessor's Office as the figures were not readily available to him this evening.

As no one else wished to speak, Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to close the public session, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to adopt by Title Only Ordinance O-03-2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

ORDINANCE O-03-2009
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 338 OF THE CODE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, "SOLID WASTE"

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

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-66-2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

RESOLUTION R-66 - 2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL
GOVERNMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
GLOUCESTER COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY
AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA FOR THE MUNICIPALITY'S
RENTAL FROM THE AUTHORITY OF AN ORGANIC RESOURCE
PROCESSOR AND A FRONT-END LOADER AND AUTHORIZING THE
MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve Resolution R-67-2009, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

RESOLUTION R-67-2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION FURTHER EXTENDING TIME FOR THE
TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGIES (“CIS”),
AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPER FOR BLOCK 253.01, LOTS
38.01 AND 39 TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
AND RELATED PROJECT AGREEMENTS

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve Resolution R-68-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-68-2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION HONORING OUR TROOPS
AND “SUPPORT OUR TROOPS DAY”

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve Resolution R-69-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-69-2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A
SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP
OF MANTUA AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR THE JOINT
PRESENTATION OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-70-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-70-2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
TO ENTER INTO AND OBTAIN A GRANT FROM THE COUNTY OF
GLOUCESTER DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR
THE PROGRAM YEAR 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT MUNICIPAL PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF
AN APPLICATION SEEKING GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$26,000.00 FOR THE SHAUB ROAD CULVERT REPAIR PROJECT

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve Resolution R-71-2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

RESOLUTION R-71-2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING FOR THE CANCELLATION
OF TAXES ON BLOCK 160, LOT 9 501 MAIN STREET AS THE
PROPERTY HAS BEEN ACQUIRED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-72-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-72-2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION INCREASING DEFERRED SCHOOL
TAXES, MANTUA 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-73-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-73-2009
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 Beckett made a motion to approve Resolution R-74-2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

RESOLUTION R-74-2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A
CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-75-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-75-2009
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF
TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$696.83 TO ROUTE 553 RETAIL LLC.
FOR BLOCK 201 LOT 3, 950 MANTUA BOULEVARD

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve a raffle license filed by the Clearview Wenonah Junior Women's Club for a drawing to be held on October 10, 2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Under Discussion was the proposed legislation to amend the current Code pertaining to Abandoned Cars. Committeeman Zimmerman explained that under the current law for a vehicle to be deemed "abandoned" it would have to meet three pieces of criteria-unregistered, uninsured and broken down. He stated that under the draft legislation a vehicle could be deemed abandoned when it would meet one of those criteria.

Committeewoman Beckett asked if someone could not afford to fix a vehicle, would they be issued a ticket. Committeeman Zimmerman said the idea is to have enforcement of vehicles long known to be abandoned and it is not the intent to punish residents.

Mayor Chell said the enforcement would then be with the Code Enforcement Officer, but police would still have powers under the amendment.

Mayor Chell asked for members of the Committee to review the draft legislation and send Mrs. DeTitto any concerns or questions.

Under Remarks, Committeewoman Beckett thanked the Recreation Commission for its work on the Easter event, which occurred Sunday, April 5 at the Park. She added it was well attended and a good time for all.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto expressed his condolences for the three officers who died in the line of duty in Pittsburgh and thanked Chief Sawyer for having representatives from the department attend the funeral proceedings.

Committeewoman Lawrence reported that Total Turf is moving along on Lambs Road and an October grand opening is still the target date.

Committeeman Zimmerman said municipal offices will be closed April 10 for Good Friday, trash and recycling will still be picked up.

Mr. Datz said Harrison Township has requested use of the portable lights for the Harrison Township Day. The Committee consented.

Mr. Datz said he has a request from Michelle Bruner and Colleen O'Brien to attend a Brownsfield conference. All expenses are paid by a federal grant. The Committee consented.

Finally, Mr. Datz said the senior bus driver, Debbie Pollag, would once again like to take a three-day trip for the seniors to Ocean City. The Committee consented.

Mrs. Beckett said she would like to assist the Marine Corps for its annual Toys for Tots drive. They are asking for a tractor-trailer truck to be stationed in the parking lot. The Committee asked for more information and for her to work it out with Chief Sawyer.

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

It was at this time did Committeewoman Lawrence make a motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor. The time was 8:50 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m., Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to reopen the meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to appoint Committeeman Zimmerman liaison of the Office of Code Enforcement & Planning and Zoning, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor. The time was 9:26 p.m.