

## August 17, 2009

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

Deputy Mayor Pete Scirrotto called the meeting to order. The time was 7:30 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto asked for everyone to rise for the flag salute and remain standing for a moment of silence. Deputy Mayor Scirrotto asked for everyone in this moment of silence to remember Marine Sgt. Bill Cahir, 40, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on Aug. 13, 2009. Sgt. Cahir was a former Washington-based journalist who wrote for the Gloucester County Times as its Washington D.C. correspondent for nearly a decade who joined the Marines after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. After covering the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks as a journalist, Bill Cahir sought and received an age waiver that would allow him to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. At age 35, he graduated from Parris Island and soon after, was deployed to Iraq, where he would go on to serve two tours of duty in Iraq where he served first in Ramadi and then in Fallujah. He leaves behind a wife who is pregnant with twin girls.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto 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."

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto 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 Scirrotto, Mayor Chell, Marie DeTitto, Esquire, Township Solicitor, Michael Datz, Township Administrator and Shawn G. Menzies, Township Clerk. Mayor Timothy W. Chell was absent.

Committeeman Zimmerman made a motion to approve the Committee's August 4, 2009 Workshop Meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

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

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

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to open for a Public Hearing the Franchise Agreement between the Township of Mantua and Comcast Cable Company, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

As no one wished to speak on the Franchise matter, Deputy Mayor Scirrotto invited James Mallon, Area Manager of Government Affairs for Comcast's South Jersey Cable Systems. In a prepared statement, Mr. Mallon stated:

"We are entering the final stages of the cable television franchise renewal process. There are formalities associated with this process that are governed by both federal and state regulations. Comcast began that process by sending written notice to the Township on February 16, 2007, indicating our intention to seek a renewal of our non-exclusive cable television franchise."

"We filed an Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent on April 15, 2009. That application is available for public examination in the Township Clerk's office."

"Tonight's hearing is a first step toward that application. No action is required tonight; this is an opportunity for both the governing body and Comcast to hear from the public. As the company learns your needs and concerns, they will be taken into consideration and addressed as we move forward. I am also available for informal discussions in the same regard."

"Your attorney may have already told you that, under federal law, the governing body must base its franchise renewal decision on the answer to four fundamental questions:

Has the cable operator substantially complied w/ the material items of the existing franchise and applicable laws?

In answer to question 1, you will find that Comcast has either met or exceeded all current ordinance requirements and is in compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations.

Has the quality of the operator's service, including signal quality, responsiveness to consumer complaints and billing practices, been reasonable in light of community needs? Mantua, along with all southern NJ communities served by Comcast, receives a wide range of channels, digital service, high definition service, video on demand, and digital video recorder, to name some of our most recent product introductions. Our facilities have been upgraded in recent years, and support the full level of contemporary services offered throughout New Jersey.

We provide 24/7/365 customer service response through our Customer Service Center in nearby Voorhees, in English and Spanish. We offer both evening and weekend installations and short service windows. Comcast is very focused on meeting the needs of our customers and we feel we exceed the requirements of this test.

Does the operator have the financial, legal and technical ability to provide the facilities and equipment it is proposing to provide?

"Comcast is a leading national provider of advanced cable telecommunications services. Cable television is our leading segment. We have the financial, technical, and managerial resources to meet all of our commitments both now and in the future.

Is the cable operator's franchise renewal proposal reasonable to meet the future cable related needs of the community, taking into account the cost of meeting such needs?"

“I think you will agree the ongoing upgrades and new products and services offered in Mantua clearly demonstrate our commitment to meeting the cable television related needs of the community. These upgrades to service establish a parity of service for the Township’s residents with the balance of communities served by Comcast throughout the state.”

“I would like to thank you for your time and attention. We look forward, at the conclusion of this process, to your favorable consideration of our application for renewal. At this time, I join your elected officials and staff in looking forward to hearing any comments by the public.”

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Committeeman Zimmerman made a motion to open for a public hearing, Ordinance O-11-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

As no one wished to speak on Ordinance O-11-2009, Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-11-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

**ORDINANCE -11-2009**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS**  
**GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF**  
**VARIOUS PIECES OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP**  
**OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING**  
**THE SUM OF \$1,030,000 THEREFORE; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF**  
**GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY IN**  
**THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$978,500; MAKING**  
**CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING**  
**CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING**  
All members voted in the affirmative to a roll call vote to adopt, 4-0.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to open for a public hearing, Ordinance O-12-2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

As no one wished to speak on Ordinance O-12-2009, Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-12-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

**ORDINANCE O-12-2009**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$15,000 FOR THE**  
**ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF A NETWORK SERVER**

All members voted in the affirmative to a roll call vote to adopt, 4-0.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-152-2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

**RESOLUTION R- 152 -2009**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE**  
**CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON BLOCK 253.01 LOT 38.01 AS THE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA IS EXEMPT FROM TAXES**

All members were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-153-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

**RESOLUTION R- 153 -2009**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE**  
**CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON BLOCK 253.01 LOT 39 AS THE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA IS EXEMPT FROM TAXES**

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-154-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

**RESOLUTION R-154-2009**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF LIGHT RAIL AND**  
**BUS RAPID TRANSIT SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-155-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

**RESOLUTION R-155-2009**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A RESOLUTION CANCELING RECEIVABLE AND**  
**EXPENDED BALANCES IN THE GRANT FUND**

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve Resolution R-156-2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

**RESOLUTION R-156-2009**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION R-150-2009,**  
**AUTHORING THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES FOR A TOTAL**  
**DISABLED VETERAN FOR BLOCK 242.03, LOT 10**

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-157-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

**RESOLUTION R-157-2009**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING FOR FULL-TIME STATUS**  
**FOR SARAH A. POWELL AS THE DEPUTY MUNICIPAL COURT**  
**ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**

All were in favor.

Committeeman Zimmerman made a motion to approve Resolution R-158-2009, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

**RESOLUTION R-158-2009**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED**  
**SESSION MEETING TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL**

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve Resolution R-159-2009, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

**RESOLUTION R-159-2009**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**  
**RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION BE MADE FOR**  
**FUNDING THE MANTUA HARRISON MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR THE**  
**TERM YEAR 2010 IN THE TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT OF \$35,955.00**

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve a raffle license for the Mantua Soccer Association, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to approve an instant raffle license for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Lawson-Cox Post 7679, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Under Committee Reports, Committeeman Zimmerman reported that Mantua Township resident and Clearview Regional sophomore Brenna Weick, who is Miss Outstanding Teen New Jersey, competed in and came in first runner-up in the National Miss Outstanding Teen competition held last week in Florida. A proclamation in her honor will be presented at the September 21, 2009 Regular Meeting.

Under the Administrator's Report, Mr. Datz asked for approval of a Family Medical Leave Act request filed by Frank Hodson, who is caring for a family member. Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

It was at this time did Committeeman Zimmerman make a motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence all were in favor. The time was 7:42 p.m.

Committeeman Zimmerman made a motion to reopen the meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. The time was 8:30 p.m.

Committeeman Zimmerman made a motion to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor. The time was 8:35 p.m.