

OCTOBER 4, 2010

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 2010. 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 5, 2010."

Mayor Chell called on Township Clerk Shawn Menzies to perform a roll call of present officials. Present were Committeeman Robert Zimmerman, Committeewoman Sharon Lawrence, Deputy Mayor Peter Scirrotto, Mayor Chell, Shawn G. Menzies, Township Clerk, Jon Bryson, Federici & Akin, Township Engineer, Maria DeTitto, Esquire, Township Solicitor, and Glen Demers, Assistant Public Works Superintendent. Committeewoman Lorraine Beckett and Township Administrator Mike Datz were absent.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Township Committee's September 20, 2010 Regular Meeting, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Township Committee's Closed Session meeting held on September 20, 2010, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence read aloud a proclamation honoring the 2010 13 Year Old Babe Ruth Baseball Team on its 2010 New Jersey State Championship.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to recess, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor. The time was 7:38 p.m.

Committeeman Zimmerman made a motion to return to the open meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence. All were in favor. The time was 7:45 p.m.

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

James Slemp, 536 Mount Royal Road, asked if there is a signed agreement for the Haussman Bus building on Main Street to build units? Mayor Chell explained that there is a selected redeveloper and a signed agreement. He further explained that the agreement comes with many demands including the redeveloper to receive state funding for the project.

Mayor Chell said earlier this year the Township of Mantua and the redeveloper submitted a planned proposal for State funding, but it was not selected by the State. He added that the plan will be resubmitted early next year and the second submission is the last opportunity for the redeveloper. If the proposal is not selected the agreement will expire, he said.

Mr. Slemp asked about the budget line item for Struthers and Dunn to demolish the building, which he stated lists \$450,000.00. Mayor Chell said the Township of Mantua budgeted for the funds but that the town is seeking a grant. He further explained the amount budgeted was arrived at from quotes the Township of Mantua received for the project. Mayor Chell said the funds are in the budget in case a grant is approved and the Township of Mantua must front the money before it is reimbursed.

Committeewoman Lawrence said the Township of Mantua has just submitted an application for a grant for the project to demolish the building for \$200,000.00, to which the Township of Mantua previously received \$250,000.00 in grant funds for this project for cleanup under Brownsfield federal funding. She further explained that the latest grant application if awarded would go to fund the razing of a portion of the building so the state Department of Environmental Protection could conduct further testing on the site, adding no taxes from the budget have gone into this project.

Mr. Slemp asked if the Economic Development Committee has met monthly, to which Committeewoman Lawrence, the Committee Liaison to the EDC, said the Committee has not met monthly, but the last meeting was specifically advertised to get the community involved in Struthers Dunn. She said the site is unique as when the company closed its doors locally other companies bought the name and continue to use it, but do not claim its debts like the taxes owed to Mantua or the old building.

Committeewoman Lawrence added the former company known as Struthers Dunn promised the State DEP that money would be available for cleanup as they knew what they did at the site, but they left and Struthers Dunn was acquired by another company for its name only and have no claims to past debts.

Committeewoman Lawrence said after many years and nothing being done at the site the Township of Mantua felt it was best to act to have the site cleaned up and put back on the tax rolls and this is being done with the use of federal and state grants, but before moving forward the Township of Mantua applied and received Brownsfield funding and now the town had to foreclose on the property so it can secure future funding.

Committeewoman Lawrence said the Township of Mantua now has an opportunity to have it cleaned up and a redeveloper brought in and get it sold for all of the back taxes owed and have the site back on the tax rolls adding it is a win, win situation for the tax payers of the Township of Mantua.

Mr. Slempp asked what if no funding comes over the next five years, would the State DEP tell the town it will have to provide the funds to clean it up, Mayor Chell said the State will not tell the town to use tax dollars. Mr. Slempp said, for the record, tax dollars will not be used to clean up the site, to which Mayor Chell said he is correct local tax dollars will not be used, but grant tax dollars would.

Mr. Slempp asked if the Township of Mantua could help the fire district as he spoke with several people who had no idea about a special election to be held on Thursday, October 7. He suggested having the information posted on the sign in front of the Chestnut Branch Park to list the special election and if something can be placed on the sign for limited hours during the day it might be good to place it during the morning and afternoon rush hour.

Mayor Chell asked if putting something like Remember to Vote would be helpful, to which Mr. Slempp said that would not be good enough. Mayor Chell said it is not sure what Mr. Slempp means as the Township of Mantua can not endorse someone or in favor of an issue, to which Mr. Slempp said that is not what he meant and he suggested the voting information be placed and possibly a telephone number where someone can call to get more information. He added regardless of whether or not it is a separate government, it is still tax dollars.

Mr. Slempp then thanked for the review of Breakneck Road from the last meeting and he was not criticizing the county for the recent safety improvements project work but rather bringing up the safety concerns he and others have and nothing more, to which Mayor Chell said he simply disagreed with his prior comments about Breakneck Road.

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

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-169-2010, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-169-2010
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE AWARDED OF
A BID TO CIRCUS TIME FOR AMUSEMENT RIDES FOR
COMMUNITY DAY IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$6,765.00

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-170-2010, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

RESOLUTION R-170-2010
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2009 MUNICIPAL AUDIT REPORT
AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF THE GROUP AFFIDAVIT FORM

All were in favor.

Committeewoman Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution R-171-2010, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

RESOLUTION R-171-2010
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION FOR ENFORCING A HALLOWEEN CURFEW
OF 8:00 P.M. IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA COMMENCING
OCTOBER 29, 2010 UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 2010 WITH THE OFFICIAL
START OF TRICK-OR-TREATING ON HALLOWEEN TO
COMMENCE AT 5:00 P.M. ON OCTOBER 31, 2010

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-172-2010, seconded by Committeeman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-172-2010
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION REFUNDING \$2,300.00 TO FNA
JERSEY TAX LIEN SERVICES, LLC. FOR A TAX
PREMIUM FOR 188 NORWOOD AVENUE, BLOCK 62, LOT 2

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-173-2010, seconded by Committeewoman Lawrence.

RESOLUTION R-173-2010
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION REFUNDING \$1,100.00 TO
EDISON TAX SERVICES, LLC. FOR A TAX
PREMIUM FOR 11 FAWN DRIVE, BLOCK 277, LOT 11

All were in favor.

Under Committee Reports, Committeeman Zimmerman reminded everyone about the Community Day event to be held from 3:00 p.m. until dark on Saturday, October 9, 2010 and then the fireworks show, which is being funded by donations and not tax dollars. A rain date of October 10 is scheduled.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto asked if a proclamation could be presented at the October 18 meeting for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto 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 Deputy Mayor Scirrotto. All were in favor. The time was 8:09 p.m.