

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

July 8, 2009

8:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Baldorossi called the meeting to order.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Opening Statement was read: Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 11, 2009; given to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bruce Garganio, Dennis O'Hara, Sean Ryan, Jerry Sandusky, Frank Baldorossi

Also Present: Mayor William Berry; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Carriger, 404 E. Fifth Street, thanked Administrator Brook for his response in regards to the I295 repaving project that Mr. Carriger asked about at a previous meeting last month.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

DAVE LEBAK, WATER & SEWER SUPERINTENDENT

Safety Program

Dave Lebak, Water & Sewer Superintendent, stated that he is here this evening in the capacity of Safety Coordinator. He explained that they function under the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) to provide a Safety Committee and perform various safety functions. One of the requirements under JIF is for the Safety Coordinator to speak to the governing body and explain the Safety Committee and the activities and functions of the committee.

Mr. Lebak stated that JIF provides strict guidelines that the Safety Committee operates under and each department of the township is represented at the meetings, which are held every other month. Each year the committee has to establish three (3) safety objectives to improve some aspect of safety within the township. Each year they have met that objective. There are various training programs the committee members are required to attend.

Mr. Lebak explained that each year they have to submit a mid-year and a year-end report to the JIF documenting their activities and accomplishments. He is proud to say that last year they achieved a goal for safety of 99% out of 100 points; they basically met every objective. When they achieve that level, it means additional money back to the township that is utilized for safety related purchases.

Mr. Lebak stated that they have performed job site observations and feels that safety has improved over the years due to the observations.

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Mr. Lebak stated that the committee has learned a lot from the Police Department, who are very thorough, which has helped the committee improve safety in other departments.

Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Lebak.

TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER

Sludge Belt Press

Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer, stated that design work for the sludge belt press will begin in the next month or so.

Wind Study

Council Member Ryan asked if there is anything back on the possibility of a wind study? Mr. Trice will research and report back.

Well No. 6

Mayor Berry asked how Well No. 6 is doing? Administrator Brook stated that it is moving along fine. He explained that it is a workhorse; the amount and quality of the water it is pumping out is excellent.

Griffin Pipe

Council Vice President O'Hara asked if Griffin Pipe is still looking to discharge into the township's sewer system since they have stopped production? Mr. Lebak believes that they only have 18 employees left and they are not doing much besides yard maintenance.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Release Performance Bond: Whitesell – 700 Richards Run

Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, reviewed and recommends releasing the Performance Bond conditioned on posting a two year Maintenance Bond. A Resolution has been prepared for the Regular Session following this evening's Executive Session.

2008 Road Program: Current Estimate No. 7 and Change Order No. 2

Mr. Guzzi reviewed and recommends payment of Current Estimate No. 7 and approval of Change Order No. 2, which is a credit to the township. A Resolution will be prepared for next week's meeting.

MUNICIPAL AUCTION ITEMS: SATURDAY IN AUGUST FOR TOWNSHIP OWNED ITEMS

Council Member Sandusky suggested advertising the auction on Channel 19 and the website advising anyone interested that a list of items to be auctioned is available at the municipal building.

VACATE ALLEY REQUEST: JOHN GILLESPIE, ESQ.

John Gillespie, Esq. was present inquiring about a 12-foot alley that runs from Delaware Avenue to Station Road. Some years ago the portion behind the Rite Aid was vacated, which leaves the balance of the alley to Station Road. He explained that Alexson Supply received site plan approval and a variance from the Zoning Board to take the old Brandow building and use it for Party Central. There are tow (2) lots on the property and the alley divides the lots. He is requesting that the alley be vacated so they can fence it in. He provided plans showing the fence and gate for the governing

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body to review. Mr. Gillespie stated that since the township's easement with utilities is in the alley, a lockbox would be installed on the gate so the township would always have access to the site. He stated that the township could by Ordinance either retain all utility easements through the site or they would grant the township an easement; however it works best for the township. The fence would match the Rite Aid fence.

Council Member Ryan asked what square footage benefit would they receive if the township were to vacate the alley? Julia McGuff, co-owner of Alexson Supply, explained that it is not so much the square footage but they would not have to run two (2) separate fences since they are two (2) separate properties. She believes enclosing two (2) separate lots leaving an open alleyway would allow for mischief at night. The alley, if vacated, would be used for traffic and they may use for temporary storage during the day or wash down rentals; nothing permanent would be in the alley area, everything would be brought inside at the end of the day.

Mr. Gillespie stated that once the alley is vacated, it becomes Brandow's property but Brandow has to give the township access to service the utilities.

Council Vice President O'Hara asked if there were any plans for cosmetic improvements to the building? Ms. McGuff stated that the building will be power washed and some painting done. Plantings will be installed.

Council Member Ryan asked if they were going to continue the sidewalk from Rite Aid across the property on Route 130? Mr. Gillespie stated that no they will not; that was an issue at the Zoning Board level. They are installing planters. There is enough room on the asphalt area, even after the planters are installed for walking.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio authorizing preparation of an Ordinance to vacate the alley. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

Mr. Gillespie will prepare an Ordinance for next week's meeting.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN

Council Member Ryan stated that he attended a seminar in April at Rutgers University called Sustainable Jersey, along with Richard Lotter, Environmental Commission member. Council approved a Resolution to participate in this program. He stated that many municipalities are joining this program.

Council Member Ryan stated that there is a vast amount of information and projects for municipalities to pursue for sustainability on the website, which he provided to the governing body. Some projects could be suggestions in the community; others could become policies within the community. He stated that over the last couple of months the Environmental Commission has reviewed and discussed the program.

Council Member Ryan asked if the governing body would give permission to create a "Green Team". He explained that a "Green Team" is a group that would meet once a month or perhaps more often, would be an extension of the Environmental Commission and their sole purpose would be to utilize the program that the township has already signed up for. The "Green Team" would have to be formally created by Resolution. Council Member Ryan offered to serve as a liaison between the

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“Green Team”, Environmental Commission and the governing body to be sure that everyone is comfortable with the initiatives the team would pursue, if there are any costs involved, he would be sure that everyone is apprised of not only the costs but also the benefits for the municipality. Part of his role as a liaison is to work with Assistant Administrator Sahol to get some of the ideas and projects before the team brought before the governing body.

Council Member Ryan noted that there are grant opportunities available through the program.

Council Member Ryan stated that the Environmental Commission has looked at the program thoroughly and their recommended structure for the “Green Team” is four (4) Environmental Commission representatives, a Council liaison, three (3) citizen representatives and perhaps a Zoning Board and Planning Board representative. The Environmental Commission had expressed an interest in getting the youth involved when appropriate. No commitments have been made but some residents of the community have expressed an interest in serving on the “Green Team”.

Council Member Ryan stated that the township already has some of the points needed through existing efforts of Assistant Administrator Sahol.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that when he initially looked into Sustainable Jersey it was because it came out of a Burlington County Recycling meeting. The benefits of certification were mentioned at the recycling meeting. The grant benefits are great plus doing good things for the environment and saving energy in the municipality is good for taxes. After looking into he realized it is a massive undertaking for one person. At that time it was going to be him and he intended to pick away at it the best he could knowing the goal was to get the certification. He would welcome a committee to help move it forward.

Council Vice President O'Hara feels Council Member Ryan's proposal is a positive one.

Council Vice President O'Hara asked if there was any way, at the Planning Board level, to encourage applicants to go green? Council Member Ryan stated that he has discussed that with legal counsel. As of now, the Planning Board can make suggestions from a sustainability standpoint, which they do.

Council Member Ryan agrees with Assistant Administrator Sahol that it is a vast undertaking but feels it can be expiated with a Green Team. Council would be fully apprised of what the team is doing.

Council Members are in agreement to proceed with a Resolution creating the “Green Team”.

After further discussion, it was decided that the structure of the “**Green Team**” will consist of three (3) citizen representatives appointed by the Environmental Commission, four (4) Environmental Commission representatives, one (1) Council representative, one (1) Zoning Board representative and one (1) Planning Board representative. The three (3) citizens that have expressed interest in serving on the Green Team are: David Carriger, Laura Scatera and Kimberly DiLaurentis.

Discussion also followed regarding getting high school students from the Environmental Club involved.

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It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by O'Hara to create a "**Green Team**" by Resolution with the above listed structure. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

Administrator Brook noted that Mr. Trice has a copy of the Green House Gas application. He will review and if he feels there is something favorable for the township to apply for, a Resolution can be prepared for next week's meeting. The pre-application is due July 31, 2009.

9:00PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to adjourn to Regular Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:00PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab