

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

August 12, 2009

8:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Baldorossi called the meeting to order. President Baldorossi, along with those present, was joined by the Florence Township Police Department in saluting our nation's flag.

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 (8:30 pm), 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

PRESENTATION: OFFICER KENNETH C. LINK – RETIRING

On behalf of Mayor and Council, President Baldorossi presented Officer Kenneth Link with a clock/plaque in honor of his retirement from the Florence Township Police Department after 24 years of service, while his wife and daughter looked on. On behalf of Mayor and Council, Mayor Berry presented flowers to Mrs. Theresa Link.

Chief of Police, Steven Fazekas, spoke very highly of Officer Link and thanked him for his years of hard work and dedicated service.

Officer Link stated that he decided to become a police officer at a very early age and he is so glad he was able to accomplish that goal. He stated that it has been a privilege to serve in the Township of Florence and with his fellow officers on the Police Department. He thanked Mayor and Council.

RECESS: 8:08PM (A cake and coffee reception was held in the front conference room for Officer Link in celebration of his retirement.)

MEETING RESUMED: 8:25PM

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Kaminski, 10 McCay Drive, asked who pays the annual expenses for the students attending the local charter school? Mayor Berry explained that the charter school operates as a public school but outside of the Board of Education; they have a Board of Directors. Their funding comes from taxpayer dollars. The school has to budget and set aside, he believes, approximately 90% of the per pupil district cost for each Florence Township student that attends the charter school; out of district students are paid for by the sending district.

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

TOWNSHIP AUDITOR: REVIEW 2008 AUDIT

John J. Maley, Jr., Township Auditor, reviewed the 2008 Audit. He discussed the following:

- Assets of General Funds
- Liabilities of General Funds
- Fund Balance
- Revenues for the year
- Expenditures for the year
- Surplus
- Added Assessments
- Trust Fund
- General Capital Debt
- Water & Sewer Fund Balance
- Water & Sewer Revenues and Expenditures

NOTE: 8:30PM Council Member Sandusky present. (Mr. Sandusky's daughter delivered a baby boy today; Mr. Sandusky's first grandson.)

Mr. Maley discussed his findings and recommendations. Council is required to approve a Resolution to be filed with the DCA indicating that they are familiar with the findings and recommendations. There was one finding, which was in purchasing:

Criteria: Contracts awarded for amounts in excess of the bid threshold (\$21,000 for Florence Township) shall be awarded after public advertising for bids unless otherwise exempt.

Condition: The contract for sanitation removal services was awarded to Garden State Removal in August 2005 for a three (3) year term expiring August 2008. Expenditures for the remainder of 2008 exceeded the \$21,000 bid threshold but bids were not solicited.

Effect: Non-compliance with laws and regulations could have an adverse effect on the financial state.

Cause: Oversight

Recommendation: The contracts for amounts in excess of \$21,000 should be awarded in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4 (Bid Laws).

Management Response: Responsible officials are in agreement with the finding and indicated that the 2009 contract will be issued in accordance with requirements.

Mr. Maley stated that in the audit they look back at previous year's findings to be sure they were corrected in the subsequent year, which the only finding last year has been.

Mr. Maley stated that the township is in good shape; the fiscal operations are running smoothly. His only concern is the level of surplus; it is getting low and 2010 promises to be a difficult year. There are some steps that could be taken prior to the end of 2009 to possibly generate some surplus for 2010. He suggested that he meet with Administrator Brook and Sandra Blacker, Chief Financial

Florence Township Council Executive Session: 08/12/09

Officer, before the end of the year to look at the operations and come up with some additional surplus.

Administrator Brook explained to the public that Garden State Removal's contract did expire and he recommended to Council that they extend the contract by Resolution, which they did when gas was running approximately \$4.00 per gallon. The contract was extended by Resolution and the State of New Jersey was notified. Administrator Brook agrees with Mr. Maley that it would have been more prudent and appropriate to re-bid the contract. In the meantime the township has re-bid, the numbers have been received and Council will receive a full report of the bid scenarios. A contract will be awarded in September.

A Resolution has been prepared for the Regular Session meeting following this evening's Executive Session for the Corrective Action Plan, accepting the Audit and signing the affidavit that the governing body is familiar with the findings.

The governing body thanked Mr. Maley.

TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER

Water and Sewer Belt Filter Press

Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer, they have begun discussions with manufactures. They are moving slow at this point to be sure that they know what can fit and what modifications have to be made. They should be able to start designing in a month or so.

Solar and Wind Turbine Investigation Study Grant

Mr. Trice has been looking into obtaining a grant to do a solar and wind turbine investigation study. There may be some grants available; it is somewhat unclear exactly what you can get the grant money for. In one section of the document it states that the money cannot be used for a solar project but then in another section it implies that it can be used for a solar project. Mr. Trice explained that it talks about reducing the carbon footprint, a solar/wind turbine project would reduce the carbon footprint but how it can be documented, and how it will reduce the carbon footprint so the grant money can be received is not real clear. Council Member Ryan stated that the State of New Jersey has information on reducing the carbon footprint and documenting it. Mr. Trice will look into.

Mr. Trice stated that the preliminary application has to be submitted in the first week of September, which he will work on.

As far as wind turbines go, Mr. Trice has located companies that lease the equipment to measure and collect the data for one (1) year. The wind at the river is an asset.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

2009 Road Program: Current Estimate No. 1 and Change Order No. 1

Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer, reviewed and recommends Change Order No. 1 and payment of Current Estimate No. 1. He explained that the change order is related to the water main installation on Fifth Avenue. A Resolution has been prepared for consideration at the Regular Session following this evening's Executive Session.

Florence Township Council Executive Session: 08/12/09

Council President Baldorossi stated that, due to the construction, the area of Fifth Avenue is dusty during the weekend when there is no rain and asked if the contractor is watering it down? Mr. Guzzi will make sure they give it a good soaking on Fridays.

Roebing Library Roof

Mr. Guzzi stated that an infrared test was done on the roof to be sure that it is in good shape, which it is. The re-roofing estimate is \$120,000 with contingencies. He stated that if the governing body would like to move forward with the work, it could be completed before winter or started next spring. Council Member Garganio asked if they could get through the winter? Administrator Brook believes they can get through the winter. The town will wait until spring 2010.

Street Signs: Children at Play and Stop Signs

At the request of Council Member Ryan, Mr. Guzzi looked at a few areas where “Stop” signs and “Children at Play” signs may be appropriate. The “Children at Play” signs can be put up by the Public Works Department but the “Stop” signs have to go through the Chief of Police. Mr. Guzzi provided a sketch showing the locations. Mayor Berry noted that the Police Department is in the process of looking into one of the areas on the sketch. Mr. Guzzi will set up a time to meet with the Chief of Police to discuss.

Zinc Street

Council Member Ryan asked if the large pothole on Zinc Street has been addressed? Mr. Guzzi stated that he did look at the condition of Zinc Street and there is some serious deterioration. He will talk to Rich Pendle, Public Works Superintendent, to see if it could be patched.

Coastal: Billboards

Mr. Guzzi received the information from the Turnpike Authority in regards to the request for a billboard. In the stretch between Route 130 and the Burlington Township/Florence Township line along the turnpike right of way there are five (5) other permits that have been issued to the Turnpike Authority; they own the permits. The Turnpike Authority holds permits where they do not want billboards. They also hold two (2) permits across the Burlington Township line before you get to the river. Coastal’s billboard permit application was denied because it is in close proximity to the Turnpike Authority’s permits.

In talking to the Turnpike Authority, Mr. Guzzi explained that they reserve the right at any time to release the permits and make them available to someone else or to sell the permits.

Mr. Guzzi provided a sketch showing the Turnpike Authority’s permit locations, the locations in which Coastal’s permit applications were denied and approved.

At Council Member Garganio’s request, Mr. Guzzi will get a list of every billboard permit within Florence Township.

Mr. Guzzi asked if the governing body would like to invite Coastal to a Council Meeting? The governing body suggested that Coastal negotiate with the Turnpike Authority and then report back to the governing body.

FIFTH AVENUE HYDRANT LOCATION

Administrator Brook sent out an email regarding the fire hydrant locations. Since Fifth Avenue is currently under construction, David Lebak, Water and Sewer Superintendent, suggests moving the two (2) fire hydrants to the islands. He feels that it will work out extremely well, plus it will create two (2) additional parking spaces on Fifth Avenue. Council Members are in agreement to move the hydrants to the islands.

ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Summer Street Parking Regulations

Assistant Administrator Sahol provided a memo and map from Sergeant Boldizar with recommendations for parking on Summer Street. It is similar to the recommendation from the Police Chief at the time it was discussed in 2007 but was not adopted. Sergeant Boldizar took into consideration the safety of the turn around at the end. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that there was an emergency call out in the Public Works Department due to an oil spill and the employees were not able to obtain access to the garage due to the way the vehicles were parked. When they finally did get the vehicles moved, they could not leave the parking area because they could not make the turn properly because there were far too many vehicles parked close to the gates. Based on the Sergeant's recommendation, Assistant Administrator Sahol prepared a Draft Ordinance, which Solicitor Kearns reviewed.

Council Member Ryan asked why the Ordinance was not adopted in 2007? Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that some felt that the park area and situation was too new to properly gage.

Solicitor Kearns stated that the Draft Ordinance looks fine. Council Members are in agreement to move forward with Ordinance. Signs will be posted, striping will be done and notification will be sent home with the children involved with the recreation programs. Assistant Administrator Sahol believes that the Police Department will give warnings in the beginning before issuing tickets.

REQUEST – VACATE PAPER STREET; SPRING STREET & FRONT STREET TO DELAWARE RIVER (BOYD)

Assistant Administrator Sahol will have to check to see what infrastructures are present and report back.

9:20PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to adjourn to Regular Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:20PM Executive Session meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab