

Florence, New Jersey
March 17, 2010

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President O'Hara at 8:00PM. President O'Hara led the Salute to the Flag.

The following statement was read by the Township Clerk: "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 10, 2010; given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank Baldorossi
Sean Ryan
Jerry Sandusky
David Woolston
Dennis O'Hara

Also present:

Mayor William Berry; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

PRESENTATION: GIRL SCOUTS

Council President O'Hara welcomed Girl Scout Troop 25136. The troop attended the meeting this evening to present an idea to the governing body for a project they would like to do in the community.

Carrington Muhs, representing Girl Scout Troop 25136, began the presentation to Mayor Berry and Township Council. She stated that they are a troop of twelve (12) girls strong and were present this evening to request the approval of an Earth Day project to be held at Wilkie Park, in Florence, on April 17, 2010. She explained that their troop is working on earning their Bronze Award, which is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can achieve. In order to earn the Bronze Award the troop must complete the requirements for four (4) badges. On April 10th the troop will be participating in the "Pull the Plug" challenge by unplugging household electronic devices that use vampire power. This is the 100th day of the year and they are unplugging for 100 minutes. The troop will also be taking a tour of the Westampton Recycle Center. These two (2) activities will earn the troop the last two (2) badges they need. Since part of scouting is giving back to the community, the troop chose an Earth Day based project.

Ashley Goyette, also of Girl Scout Troop 25136, stated that the troop came up with some ideas of how to accomplish the task. With the approval from the Mayor and Council, they would like to spend the day cleaning up any garbage, leaves and branches that have fallen and make sure all of the walking/bike paths are clear. This is not a project the troop would complete on their own. The troop would create a flier inviting the Girl Scouts from other Florence Township troops to come out and lend a hand as well as encourage their parents and siblings to join them. Each troop that participates would bring their own rakes and brooms. The only thing the troop asks is for trash and leaf bags to be donated and a designated location to leave the bags for the township to pick up at a

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later date. This is the first time the troop has planned a task of this size and is very eager to move forward with the planning process. Miss Goyette thanked Mayor and Council for their time and consideration.

Council President O'Hara thanked Miss Muhs and Miss Goyette for their excellent presentation and commented that he believes it is an excellent idea.

Mayor Berry thanked the troop for coming in this evening. He considers it is a great idea and offered any help the troop needs that the township can provide. He stated that he looked forward to seeing the results of their hard work.

Council Member Sandusky suggested that refreshments be provided to the troop in honor of their hard work. Administrator Brook will be sure that refreshments are provided or the girls can go for ice cream afterwards.

Council Member Baldorossi wished the troop good luck and complimented the girls on their presentation.

Council Member Ryan stated that it is nice to see the young ladies getting involved and giving back to the community. He greatly appreciates it.

Council Member Woolston thanked the troop.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve the Girl Scout Troop 25136 project.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

MINUTES

Baldorossi made a MOTION; seconded by Ryan to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Closed Session

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FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Court Administrator's report and the Chief of Police's report for February. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Ryan made a MOTION; seconded by Sandusky to approve the Treasurer's Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

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APPLICATIONS

- A. Night at the Races: Florence Township Civic Association, Inc., April 9, 2010, 6:00PM – 12:00AM, St. Stephen’s Church
- B. Off Premise 50/50 Raffle: Florence Township Civic Association, Inc. May 31, 2010, 6:00PM, Coates Field, Broad Street
- C. Easter Egg Hunt: Florence Township Fire District, Wilkie Park, April 3, 2010, 10:00AM

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve the above applications.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O’Hara
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, asked if the money that was borrowed last year for the parks around the municipal building has been paid back? Administrator Brook explained that it is a long-term debt service that is paid off in stages every year. Mr. Lotter asked what the balance of the debt service is? Administrator Brook left meeting to pull the file from his office to better answer Mr. Lotter’s question.

Mr. Lotter questioned the cost to run the lights on the ball fields? Assistant Administrator Sahol offered for Mr. Lotter to come in and review the printout that shows the costs. Mr. Lotter asked why the residents pay for the lights on the fields? In his opinion, the games should be played during daylight hours or the ball teams should pay for the lights. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that there are no private organizations using the lighted facilities in the community; they are children and they are residents of the township.

Mr. Lotter stated that he has not heard a discussion at the Council Meetings regarding reduction of the budget, unless it is being discussed in Closed Session. He asked if there are talks of reduction to the budget? Council Member Sandusky explained that cutting trash pick up from two (2) days a week to one (1) day a week during the winter months is a savings to the township. Council President O’Hara noted that Council cannot discuss the budget in Closed Session. Mayor Berry stated that the budget is still being developed.

Mr. Lotter expressed concern regarding the expense for the construction of the bike trail on Old York Road. Council Member Ryan explained that the township received grant money for that project, which cannot be used for anything else, and Council is assessing the project to make sure it does not go too much over the grant amount before making a final decision.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, asked if a volunteer committee to clean up around the township could be established? He suggested posting on the township’s website that the town is looking for volunteers to assist in cleaning up. Council Member Sandusky agreed that it is a good idea but it can be difficult getting volunteers. The committee would need someone to spearhead it and asked

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Mr. Kamienski if he would be willing to take it on? Mr. Kamienski accepted the challenge, as long as the need for volunteers to do periodic cleanup work is posted on the township's website. Mayor Berry appreciated Mr. Kamienski's offer and believed it was a great idea. He suggested that Mr. Kamienski contact the various groups in town such as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and garden clubs.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

**HELD
RESOLUTION NO. 2010-63**

**AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH THIRD PARTY FOR
COAH (AFFORDABLE HOUSING) TO
NEW JERSEY HOUSING AND MORTGAGE
FINANCE AGENCY (HMFA)**

**HELD
RESOLUTION NO. 2010-67**

**APPROVE REQUEST TO RELEASE PERFORMANCE BOND
GREENBRIAR HORIZON, SECTION 1
SW0155
CONDITIONAL APPROVAL**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-75

AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-76

**AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF 2009-2010 RENEWAL OF
PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE
#0315-44-005-004
*Punam Corporation***

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-77

**AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER TO PREPARE
PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND SOLICIT
BIDS FOR THE OLD YORK ROAD BIKEWAY
APPROVED NJDOT BIKEWAY GRANT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-78

**AWARD CONTRACT FOR SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE SOLUTION - BULK
TO MIRACLE CHEMICAL COMPANY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-79

RESOLUTION CONSTITUTING 2010 TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET

Administrator Brook explained that **Resolution No. 2010-67** (Lennar Performance Bond Section I) is being **HELD** this evening. He reached out to Greenbriar's Homeowners Association (HOA) and the Community Manager, but he has not heard back from them. The township is under a legal deadline, under the land use law, to take action on the bond. The deadline is April 7, 2010. This bond is ready to be released based upon the numbers that Lennar has provided that will go into an escrow account. Administrator Brook stated that aside from speaking with the HOA President and the Community Manager, the bond can be released; he is trying to be accommodating to the HOA. Administrator Brook will advise both the HOA President and the Community Manager that Council will be taking action on the bond on April 7, 2010. When he spoke with the Community Manager about the bond release, she raised some issues that are not related to the bond. It is in the township's best interest to move forward on April 7, 2010. Lennar has been notified that action will not be taken this evening.

Administrator Brook noted that the roads in Greenbriar Horizon are ready to be released and an Ordinance to begin the process of dedication will be on the Agenda on April 7, 2010.

Council Member Ryan asked if a shorter contract term could be agreed on for **Resolution No. 2010-63** (Contract with Third Party for COAH)? Administrator Brook did call New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) to inquire about a shorter contract, but has not heard back from them. This Resolution will be **HELD** until April. There is time because the current contract does not expire until May 2010.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2010-75 through 2010-79.

On the Question

Due to the concerns regarding back taxes and the demolition of Punam Corporation's building, Council Member Woolston questioned **Resolution No. 2010-76**, renew ABC license for Punam Corporation. Administrator Brook explained that the owner has been issued a demolition permit, which gives the township greater strength in moving forward with demolition and placing a lien on the property if the contractor does not move forward with demolition. Solicitor Kearns explained, according to state statute, the ABC license renewal cannot be used to collect back taxes. In response to questions from Council, Solicitor Kearns stated that Council could deny the renewal but the license holder would appeal to the State Division of ABC; ABC has been approving continuation of these licenses for two – three years into the future due to the economic conditions. He explained that renewing a pocket license causes no harm to the township; the township gets the renewal fee. Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, noted that the renewal fee was paid to the township.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

Council President O'Hara announced that **Ordinance No. 2010-06** is being **HELD**.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-02
(2nd Reading)

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2010-02 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President O'Hara opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

Nothing at this time.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-03
(1st Reading)

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATION OF \$400,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO
THE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY IN AND BY THE
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF
BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE
ISSUANCE OF \$400,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE
APPROPRIATION**

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**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-04
(1st Reading)**

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW BIKEWAY PATH ON OLD YORK ROAD IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$550,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$250,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-05
(1st Reading)**

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE 2010 ROAD PROGRAM IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$900,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$684,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-07
(1st Reading)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING CHAPTER 91 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE AND SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 91-74. TO REQUIRE SIDEWALKS AS A CONDITION OF LAND USE APPROVAL AND OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance 2010-03 through 2010-05 and Ordinance No. 2010-07 on first reading and set adoption as follows:

2010-03 – 2010-05 April 7, 2010
2010-07 April 21, 2010

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

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Mayor

- Nothing at this time.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook stated that there is a need for Florence Township to amend the **Fair Share Housing Plan**. Mary Beth Lonergan will come in to discuss with the governing body in April.
- Administrator Brook stated that **Guardian** (the company that does the municipality's shredding) contacted him regarding holding another **free shredding day for the residents**. Administrator Brook expressed concern with holding it in the rear parking lot of the municipal complex because it may interfere with recreation. Council Members are in agreement to hold the event at the Nyikita Parking Lot on Hornberger Avenue. Administrator Brook will report back when a date is set.
- Administrator Brook reported that **construction** is beginning on **Interstate 295**. He provided a copy of an informational piece with the date of the public meeting.
- Administrator Brook noted that what he provided to Mr. Lotter was a copy of the **debt service schedule** that is in the budget each year. It indicates what the permanent debt service that the township is paying off is. There will be a significant decrease in the year 2016. The only change is that the township is looking into sending some short-term notes out for permanent bonding. In addition, he is working with a professional to see if any of the debt service can be reworked to take advantage of lower interest rates or spread payments out over a longer period of time. Administrator Brook explained that Florence Township is facing the same issues that most municipalities are facing. There will be difficulties, which Council is aware of, over the next couple years and very few debt service ordinances will be introduced. Administrator Brook understands Mr. Lotter's concern regarding the bikeway and stated that if it were not for the \$300,000 grant, the bikeway path would not be done. Administrator Brook explained some of the ways the township has been trying to save money. He explained that the purchase of a leaf vacuum machine has saved on manpower and overtime over previous years. With the new machine, the leaf collection was done with less manpower and complete three or four weeks before it has been in previous years. There also was no need for leaf collection on Saturdays. Mayor Berry noted that, unfortunately, the money saved on leaf collection was utilized on snow removal from the heavy snowstorms this year.

Administrator Brook stated now that the township has the governor's aid numbers, there are a lot of serious hurdles to face. He stated that an employee of the Public Works Department is leaving at the end of the month and will not be replaced, the Water & Sewer Department is down two (2) employees and Court Office is down one (1) employee; the township will not be hiring under any circumstance. The township is fighting to maintain staffing at the same levels as much as possible.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Nothing at this time.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Sandusky suggested a **Proclamation** for the **Florence Township High School Girls Basketball Team** for winning the South Jersey Championship and playing in the State Championship. He also suggested a Proclamation for **Sarah Muchowski**, a player on the girl's basketball team, for scoring 1,000 points. Mayor Berry stated that the Proclamations are being prepared.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Council Member Ryan asked the status of the **signs at Crafts Creek?** Administrator Brook stated that the signs will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

8:50PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:50PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab