

Florence, New Jersey
April 7, 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 7:00PM. 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 March 28, 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:

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; Mary Beth Lonergan, COAH Planner

NOTE: Council Vice President Baldorossi not in attendance this evening due to a work emergency.

DISCUSS AMENDED COAH PLAN: MARY BETH LONERGAN

Mary Beth Lonergan, Affordable Housing Planner for Clarke, Caton, Hintz, attended the meeting to discuss the plan amendment. Ms. Lonergan stated that COAH certified the township's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan through the end of the third round up to 2018. She stated that Administrator Brook and others in the township have been working with Salt & Light. They have produced a number of new affordable housing opportunities that will help the township address their affordable housing obligations and address it in such a way that the township is able to include relatively, reasonably priced affordable housing credits. Some towns are paying \$100,000 to \$150,000 per credit. Florence Township, through agreements with Salt & Light, is able to provide twelve (12) affordable housing units for \$35,000 on average; some were even \$28,000, which is a great cost savings to the township. Florence Township is fortunate to have a non-profit provider and an experienced affordable housing provider to help this come to fruition. Ms. Lonergan explained the township had an expensive compliance mechanism in this part of the approved plan, called Market to Affordable, now they are able to reduce some of the units that would have been over \$100,000 per credit because of this plan amendment.

Ms. Lonergan showed an aerial photograph on page 17 of the amendment that shows there are a total of twelve (12) affordable housing units: one (1) family for sale unit at 301 Norman Avenue, four (4) family rental units at 111 Norman Avenue, two (2) family rental units at 300-320 Alden Avenue (which are all in existence) and five (5) special needs housing units for a total of twelve (12) actual housing units. Those twelve (12) will be eligible for five (5) third round rental bonuses, which helps the township in the future. Ms. Lonergan stated that, as shown on page 17 of the amendment, Florence Township has a healthy fourteen (14) unit surplus that will help the township address any unforeseen growth share.

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Ms. Lonergan stated that there is a lot going on in the world of affordable housing, there is a lot of uncertainty. All three (3) branches of the government are involved, the Executive Branch wants to gut and reform COAH; the Legislative Branch is entertaining legislative proposals to completely revamp COAH; and there is an outstanding Appellate Court decision on a series of challenges to COAH. Solicitor Kearns explained that Governor Christie signed an Executive Order that established a commission to look at COAH and make recommendations. He has made it clear that he wants to end COAH, that does not mean ending the obligation. It means transferring their authority from COAH as an entity to the State Planning Commission, which would have a different approach on COAH. Ms. Lonergan explained that there will still be an affordable housing obligation; it makes sense for the township to stockpile credits at a very reasonable cost.

NOTE: 7:15PM Council Member Ryan present.

Ms. Lonergan explained that the reason to go ahead with the amendment is to allow Salt & Light to pursue State and County affordable housing subsidies as well as allow the township to contribute \$28,000 - \$35,000 a unit from their affordable housing trust account. Florence Township is able to satisfy its obligation with developer fees from the township's affordable housing trust account; it is not coming from general revenue.

Administrator Brook stated that a single family home is being built at 301 Norman Avenue and Kent Pipes of Salt & Light is letting the township make the decision of whether the home is sold to an affordable family or rented. Administrator Brook asked if one was better for the township? Ms. Lonergan stated that rental is better because it allows the township access to additional two for one credits and bonuses. She would always encourage a municipality to go for the family rental. Administrator Brook will note, for the record, that the agreement will be adjusted before Council takes action on the Resolution later this meeting.

Council President O'Hara asked if Mr. Pipes would be the landlord and responsible for upkeep if the unit is rented? Administrator Brook stated that Mr. Pipes is very strict with the upkeep of his properties and is very accessible if there are issues. Ms. Lonergan explained that the state provides loans to Salt & Light and they also check to be sure the properties are being well maintained. Mr. Pipes could jeopardize his funding if his properties are not well maintained.

Council President O'Hara asked if the money the township has in the COAH Trust is in jeopardy with the governor taking money and diverting it to other accounts? Administrator Brook believes the only way to be in jeopardy of losing COAH money is when the municipality is not actively participating in implementing an Affordable Housing Plan and spending the funds. Florence Township is in good shape in that regard.

Ms. Lonergan stated that it is important that the township start to focus on the affordable units open to the general public. At a certain point the township cannot keep doing special needs units, outside of what is already included in the plan.

Ms. Lonergan stated that the Planning Board will review the Amended COAH Plan at their April 19, 2010 meeting. If the Planning Board adopts the plan amendment at that meeting, Council will be asked to endorse the adopted plan by Resolution on April 21, 2010.

Council Member Ryan asked the total contribution out of the township's COAH Trust fund? Ms. Lonergan stated that it is \$343,000 total, which averages out to \$28,500 per credit. It is twelve (12) actual units of housing and five (5) rental bonuses.

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Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Lonergan.

RECESS

7:30PM MOTION by Woolston, seconded by Ryan to recess to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

MEETING RESUMED

8:05PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to resume the Regular Session. Roll call vote – all ayes.

MINUTES

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

Regular Session	February 17, 2010
Executive Session	February 17, 2010

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Court Administrator's report for March. 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.

APPLICATIONS

A. Off Premise Raffle: Parish of Sts. Francis and Clare, September 18, 2010, 3:00PM,
McGrath Hall

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve the above application.

On the Question

Council Member Woolston asked the status of the Holy Assumption Church parking lot? Administrator Brook believes that the church was looking to post a bond. He will contact Deacon Neil Pirozzi, Diocese of Trenton, to check the progress. Council President O'Hara stated that there had been discussion in the parish regarding taking up the stone and planting grass because finances are too tight at the present time to move forward with the entire project. Council President O'Hara will work closely with Administrator Brook and the Church Council.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

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

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, thanked the township for following through until the building that was in deplorable condition on Route 130 was demolished.

Mr. Lotter asked about the belt filter press that the township is borrowing \$800,000 to \$900,000 to purchase? Mr. Lotter read an article in the Register News that states, according to Administrator Brook, that the belt filter press is not a necessity unless the township expands with more ratables and more sewage going into the plant. Mr. Lotter stated that these are difficult times with people losing their homes and having financial problems. The township is no different. The other issue that Mr. Lotter is concerned about is the bike path. Even though the township received a grant, he believes the cost will go above the grant amount. Administrator Brook stated that he does not know what the reporter said in the article in the Register News, but even though Administrator Brook did mention future development, the reason for the belt filter press is not specifically for future development. Mr. Lotter referenced Administrator Brook's statement about the new belt filter press reducing overtime. Mr. Lotter believes that the sewer plant should be managed without overtime and asked why the township is paying overtime? Administrator Brook explained that if the sewer plant is not meeting its permit requirements, there has to be overtime. If the township does not meet its permit requirement, you go back to 22 years ago when Florence Township was on a moratorium and there could be no more connections to the sewer plant. The plant could not expand; the town could do nothing. At this point the plant is overwhelmed. The township is purchasing the belt filter press to deal with the problems and operate the plant now and also to deal with what may come in the future. The township is having a difficult problem meeting its permit from month to month and the belt filter press is a critical item. It will help now and in the future. Administrator Brook offered to take Mr. Lotter on a tour of the sewer plant to show him how it operates and why overtime is needed. If the State of New Jersey puts the township on a moratorium, they will also issue fines to the township. Mr. Lotter asked, if the belt press was an urgent need, why the money from Whitesell was used on the recreation fields? Administrator Brook explained that Florence Township is a government, not a private entity. It has to be cautious and careful how it deals with developers. Years ago the township used to be able to put money aside from developers for a recreation contribution, it would be in the agreement that the developer had to pay so much per lot. The courts disallowed that, even though it was in the agreement.

Mr. Lotter referenced a time when the residents were overcharged on their water bills and when it was discovered, it was not given back to the residents. Mr. Lotter stated that a new water tower was installed without asking the residents if they wanted a new water tank put in. Mr. Lotter stated that there was a \$2 million dollar settlement from Waste Management that was not given back to the residents. Administrator Brook advised that the settlement from Waste Management did go back to the residents because it was used to keep the tax rate low. Administrator Brook explained that the second water tower was not built because the township wanted to do it. Florence Township has one (1) water tower serving the entire community. The township tried to construct a water tower on the other side of the turnpike but that was turned down because there was opposition. That would have been the best location to put it because it would have moved water to the other side of the highway. Instead a second water tower was constructed. Once that second water tower was constructed, the other one was taken out of service. If you take the one and only water tower out of service for maintenance, the pumps have to run 24 hours a day and will not be able to keep up. By having a second water tower, the township is able to have the water towers inspected every five (5) years and have repairs made. If the township lets the towers go too long, they cannot be used. Administrator Brook stated that the water towers were done for adequate capacity to be able to have enough water for the community. One water tower cannot service a community of the size of Florence Township.

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Administrator Brook noted that the water and sewer lines that went down the highway were done by an assessment. There would never be any development on that part of the highway if the water and sewer lines were not done with an assessment.

Administrator Brook explained that the \$2.5 million dollars from the county went to the budget. If you look at the Florence Township local purpose tax rate, which is the only rate the township can control, over the past 10 years it has been reduced or kept at zero. Mr. Lotter questioned how the new Public Works building was funded? Administrator Brook explained that the Public Works building was paid for when the township negotiated a settlement with Waste Management. The township borrowed the money, but Waste Management pays the township back every single year for the amount of that debt service.

Looking at the local purpose tax rate over the years, Administrator Brook believes it would have been better to raise the rate instead of leaving it low. The State of New Jersey is penalizing municipalities that purposely tried to keep their tax rate low.

Mr. Lotter stated that borrowed money has to be paid back. Administrator Brook agreed.

Administrator Brook believes that this year and next year are going to be as bad financially as we have ever seen in our lifetime.

Administrator Brook explained that, without the belt press filter, the option is that the township will not be able to continue to meet its permit through the State of NJ, which is all the state cares about. Mr. Lotter asked how much larger the press they are putting in is then the current press? Administrator Brook stated that it is double.

Mr. Lotter stated that a lot of residents read the article about the belt filter press that stated that the belt filter press was a “nice to have” not a “need to have”. Administrator Brook tries to educate and answer reporters questions the best he can. He cannot control what a reporter puts in an article. Administrator Brook reiterated that that the new belt filter press gives the township the opportunity to operate the sewer plant more efficiently; it reduces overtime and enables the township to move forward to attract larger commercial ratables. Administrator Brook explained with running a water and sewer plant you always have to look ahead at maintenance. Wells have to be re-drilled every so many years and water towers have to be taken out of service for maintenance. The Cedar Lane water tower was at the end of its useful life by the time the new water tower was built. Mr. Lotter stated that if money is being well spent, it is okay in his opinion.

Mr. Lotter asked why it takes two employees to read the remote radio read water meters; one (1) driving the truck and one (1) holding the wand? Administrator Brook explained that is the safe way to do it; the driver cannot hold the wand out to read the meters while he is driving. It is also a cost effective way to read the meters over how meters were read in the past.

Council Member Sandusky appreciates the residents that attend the Council Meetings and speak at the meetings. He explained that whenever the township buys equipment, vehicles or anything else, it is because it is needed, not because they want it. Council Member Sandusky also explained that the township is down on manpower in both the Water and Sewer Department and Public Works. Administrator Brook noted that those positions will not be filled. Mr. Lotter noted that he just wants the money to be spent properly.

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Administrator Brook understands that there are residents that disagree with work being done on the recreation fields but with the work that Whitesell did, it encourages people to bring their families to the fields. What bothers Mr. Lotter is when the lights are on and no one is on the fields. Council agrees that is bothersome.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, explained that after last month's meeting where he agreed to volunteer to head up a volunteer committee to clean up the parks and Green Acres areas, with the help of Assistant Administrator Sahol advertising for volunteers on the township's website he currently has nine (9) people willing to clean up the parks. The committee had their first meeting yesterday at the gazebo by the boat ramp. The committee will meet this coming Saturday at the Roebing Park. Each volunteer will have two (2) bags: one (1) for trash and one (1) for recycling. The committee will meet the first Saturday of each month at different sites throughout the community to clean up. Mr. Kamienski has received bags from the township and a commitment that they will pick the full bags up on Mondays. Mr. Kamienski requested a list of different organizations that may be willing to help. Assistant Administrator Sahol will provide the list.

Mayor Berry appreciated and complimented Mr. Kamienski for taking this on and following through so quickly.

Council Member Ryan asked Mr. Kamienski if anyone from the Environmental Green Team has contacted him? Mr. Kamienski stated that no one from the Environmental Green Team has contacted him. Council Member Ryan stated that there are members of the Green Team that are interested in participating. Council Member Sandusky will also help out.

Council President O'Hara asked if there were any liability issues the township needs to be concerned with? Mr. Kamienski advised the volunteers to wear work shoes and gloves and to have a pick up stick. Assistant Administrator Sahol will contact Burlington County's Clean Communities Coordinator to see if they can offer safety vests, pick up sticks, grabbing devices and maybe some clear bags for the recyclables. Mr. Kamienski will store the equipment.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, stated that he has been coming to the Council Meetings for many years and has heard Administrator Brook advise Council many times that the water and sewer rates were low and should be raised.

Mr. Bott stated that this evening's earlier discussion regarding township funds was very respectful. Council President O'Hara assured that everyone will be treated with respect.

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.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-63

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-67

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

HELD

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-81

**CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR GAS SERVICE
BETWEEN THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD
OF EDUCATION AND THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-82

**REFUND AMUSEMENT/VENDING MACHINE LICENSE FEE
DR. LOU'S PLACE, LLC**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-83

**AWARD CONTRACT FOR SLI-K200 OR
EQUIVALENT LIQUID CORROSION INHIBITOR**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-84

**RESOLUTION TO WITHHOLD FUTURE INSTALLMENTS FOR SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT FROM THE 2010 TAX SALE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-85

**RESOLUTION TO WITHHOLD FUTURE INSTALLMENTS FOR SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT FROM THE 2010 TAX SALE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-86

**APPROVE COAH AGREEMENT WITH
THE SALT AND LIGHT CO, INC.
340 ALDEN AVENUE
(Block 116, Lot 5)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-87

**ADDENDUM TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AND THE SALT AND LIGHT CO., INC.
FOR 301 NORMAN AVENUE
(BLOCK 116, LOT 7)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-88

**ADDENDUM TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP
OF FLORENCE AND THE SALT AND LIGHT CO., INC.
FOR 111 NORMAN AVENUE
(BLOCK 118, LOT 20)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-89

**AWARD CONTRACT TO
CLYDE N. LATTIMER & SON CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.
FOR A NEW BELT FILTER PRESS FOR THE WATER AND SEWER PLANT**

Council Member Ryan asked if school vehicles, not school busses, with MG license plates are required by law to be lettered? Solicitor Kearns and Chief Fazekas will look into and report back. **Resolution No. 2010-81 (Renew Gas Agreement with School Board)** will be **HELD** this evening.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to approve Resolution No. 2010-63, Resolution No. 2010-67 and Resolution No. 2010-82 through 2010-89.

On the Question

Administrator Brook noted that he provided a memo regarding **Resolution No. 2010-63 (Contract with Third Party for COAH)** stating that the township can move to cancel the contract as long as they provide the appropriate written notice.

Administrator Brook stated on **Resolution No. 2010-87 (Addendum to Affordable Housing Agreement for 301 Norman Avenue)**, the agreement will be amended to indicate, although it is a single family dwelling, that it may become privately owned and sold or it may remain in the hands of Salt & Light. If it remains in the hands of Salt & Light, and it is rented, a pilot agreement with Salt & Light will be created. If it is sold to a private entity and someone with an affordable income, it will be taxed as a normal home would be.

Regarding **Resolution No. 2010-67 (Release Lennar's Performance Bond)**, Administrator Brook has been in touch with Lennar and they are prepared to post a significant amount of escrow and to cover the balance of their snow plowing costs for this year. Lennar is also prepared to provide \$9,936 to cover the cost of the trellis or build the trellis themselves. Greenbriar's Home Owners Association is undecided on the trellis. Administrator Brook stated that in accordance with the land use law, Council has to take action on the request.

Council Member Ryan asked Administrator Brook if the **belt filter press** purchase was an absolute necessity for Florence Township this year? Administrator Brook explained that if they do not put the belt filter press in, the plant would get to the point where the township will not be able to meet the permit requirements from the State of New Jersey. They would not be able to run the plant.

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Administrator Brook stated that the belt filter press is a critical necessity. Council President O'Hara agrees that the positives of the purchase outweigh the negatives. Administrator Brook reviewed the process that was followed to come to the decision to purchase a new belt filter press.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

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

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

Solicitor Kearns explained that an issue was raised with **Ordinance No. 2010-08 (Accept Streets in the Greenbriar Horizon Development)**, but the Ordinance can be introduced this evening. He explained that the issue is whether there are some other intersections that need stop signs. Solicitor Kearns will meet chief Fazekas at the development tomorrow afternoon. If any additional stop signs are needed, the language will be inserted into the Ordinance before it is sent out for advertising. Solicitor Kearns noted that the Ordinance indicates that the enforcement of the parking regulation will not take place until after June 1, 2010.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-03
(2nd 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**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2010-03 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 Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-04
(2nd 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

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2010-04 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Council President O'Hara asked if the final dollar figure has come in for this project? Administrator Brook stated not until the bids come in. Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, stated that he will advertise for bids next week. He did receive final NJDOT approval, which is needed before going out to bid because of the grant. He also received approval from Burlington County. This project will coincide with the County's road project.

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

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-05
(2nd 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

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2010-05 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

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Nothing at this time.

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

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE 2010-08
(1st Reading)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE TO ACCEPT CERTAIN STREETS IN THE GREENBRIAR HORIZON DEVELOPMENT AND TO ESTABLISH PARKING REGULATIONS ON THOSE STREETS

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance 2010-08 on first reading and set adoption for April 21, 2010.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Council President O'Hara stated that the **Economic Development Committee** had a good meeting last night. There are plans for a Meet & Greet for the business in the community. It will be on June 17, 2010 at the Roebing Museum. There will be various stations highlighting business enhancement opportunities set up throughout the museum. They discussed having the township's Construction Code Official present. The Burlington County Chamber of Commerce will be asked for their assistance. Representatives of the Burlington County Economic Development will be invited. The committee wants to reach out to the existing businesses to show them that the Economic Development Committee and Florence Township support them and are available to offer any assistance. There is also ongoing discussion regarding a newsletter. Council President O'Hara stated that there are good people on the committee and it was a good meeting.

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Mayor

- Mayor Berry stated that he, along with Administrator Brook, are still developing the **budget**. He wants it to be known throughout the community that there will be **no Patriotic Celebration** this year; it has been removed from the budget. Council Member Sandusky stated that years ago when the Patriotic Celebration had to be cut from the budget an organization took it upon themselves and had a small parade from the high school on Front Street to the Florence Legion on Broad Street. If any organization would be interested in organizing a small parade, he believes the cost would be nominal. A small parade would keep the tradition alive. Council Member Sandusky suggested, since the township has worked so hard over the years on the 5k run, perhaps someone could organize the run especially since the proceeds this year were going to go to a needy family. Maybe the fee to enter the 5k run could be lowered and the run could be held on the municipal complex property. Mayor Berry stated that there have been suggestions of doing something like that on the high school's property because it would be contained and the police department would not be needed. Council Member Sandusky offered to meet and help organize a small parade if any organizations are interested. Council President O'Hara put out a challenge to the community for people to step up and organize a scaled down version to continue the tradition. Mayor Berry offered to work with Council Member Sandusky.
- Council Member Ryan asked when Council will have the **budget** to review and how much time will they have between receiving the budget and having to make an informed decision? Administrator Brook anticipates being able to provide a budget document by the end of next week. They can discuss dates to meet tonight or next week, after a couple of meetings they can introduce either the end of April or first week in May. Administrator Brook explained that the State of New Jersey sets the date, which this year was March 31. In early or mid March the governor came down with his edicts and it is not easy to do what he is saying unless you are cold, heartless and lay people off left and right. One of the reasons it is taking them so long is that Administrator Brook is looking at every single feasible option because laying off is a last resort. Council Member Ryan wants to be sure that Council has an appropriate amount of time to review the budget and to be able to make an informed decision. Administrator Brook stated that Council can meet as many times as is needed. He also offered to meet with a Council Member privately if they would like. Administrator Brook stated that this is going to be the most challenging budget he has ever dealt with primarily because of the tax cap levy that was imposed last year and the changes that have come about as a result of this governor. It is something that has never been faced before.

Council Member Ryan asked if the League of Municipalities Conference has been cut out of the budget? Administrator Brook stated that all, but the registration fee, has been cut out of the budget. There are employees that are required to be certified by the State to maintain their education credits. If an employee goes and stays all night or purchases food, it will be their responsibility to pay for their expenses.

Administrator Brook stated that they will work through it together, which will make them stronger, and hopefully it will be better next year.

Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

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Assistant Municipal Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol would like to go back out to bid to re-lease an existing expiring lease on water tower No. 2. He would also like to seek bids for the **lease of space** on both **water towers** with a company that is a hybrid of a cellular service. This is revenue for the township. Resolutions will be prepared for next week's meeting.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that when the township designated a truck route years ago, it delisted Cedar Lane, from Independence Drive to Wilbur Henry Drive, which took Wilber Henry Drive and Broad Street out of the equation. Signs were installed but have not been very effective. Assistant Administrator Sahol met with Burlington County's engineer and he has agreed to install **additional signs** as part of their overlay project on **Cedar Lane**. Since the county is going to pave Cedar Lane and the township is going to pave **Broad Street** they would like to see less intense wear on those two (2) roads.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol discussed the **Recycling Ordinance**. There is a lot of information, which is all state mandated. The township has addressed all items expect for recycling fluorescent bulbs, which has to be implemented by next year. Recycling fluorescent bulbs will be a cost to the township. Years ago the township charged for white good disposal, it may come to that for fluorescent bulbs.
- Council President O'Hara questioned status of the **brick planter at First Avenue**. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that it is in very bad shape and to the point where they cannot keep it together. It is in the township's best interest to take it down to the slab and cap it. He's not sure what they will find if they remove the whole thing. Since it is a hazard, Council Members are in agreement for Assistant Administrator Sahol to move forward with removing the brick planter and capping it.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, stated that the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project** is out to bid. The bid includes some sidewalk ramps as well as replacement of the doors at the library.
- Mr. Guzzi stated that the **Road Program** and the **bike path** will be out in the next couple of weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Economic Development Committee Appointment

Council Member Sandusky presented his appointment for the Economic Development Committee:

Stephen Griffey 1 Year Term Term Expires 12/31/2010

Turkey Buzzards

Council Member Sandusky stated that a couple residents of Church Street contacted him to advise him that the turkey buzzards are back. He also saw three (3) of them in the woods by the Recycling Center. He did advise Assistant Administrator Sahol by phone but wanted Council to be aware.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/07/10

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Ryan noted that he has a work obligation and will be out of town for next week's meeting.

9:35PM MOTION by Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:35PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab