

Florence, New Jersey
April 21, 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: JOHN GROZE

Mayor Berry, on behalf of Township Council and the community of Florence Township, presented John Groze with a Proclamation in honor of 35 years (and counting) of service to Florence Township as a Police Dispatcher from 1975 – 1985, employee at the Water and Sewer Department from 1975 – 1989, Police Dispatcher, again, from 1989 – 1994 and as the present Animal Control Officer. Mayor Berry thanked Mr. Groze for his years of service.

Mr. Groze thanked Mayor, Council and the community of Florence Township.

Chief of Police, Stephen Fazekas, thanked Mr. Groze for his years of service.

RECESS: Brief recess held.

MEETING RESUMED

MINUTES

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

Regular Session	March 3, 2010; March 17, 2010
Executive Session	March 10, 2010
Closed Session	March 17, 2010; April 7, 2010

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/21/10

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

Executive Session	April 14, 2010
Closed Session	April 14, 2010

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

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

Motion carries.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi; seconded by Woolston to receive and file the Chief of Police report and the Township Clerk’s report for March and the Tax Collector’s report. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Baldorossi made a MOTION; seconded by Woolston to approve the Treasurer’s Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Berry stated that Florence Township is caught in the same fiscal crisis as is most municipalities in the State of New Jersey. He explained that two (2) weeks ago he met with Burlington County Central Communications to explore the idea of their assuming the responsibility of Florence Township’s police dispatching. Mayor Berry stated that this is the hardest, most troubling decision that he has had to make in his twelve (12) years of public service to the community. Some of the contributing factors to this financial problem is a decline in municipal revenues, a reduction in the amount of surplus that can be used to help balance the budget. Florence Township has received a reduction in state aid in each of the past three (3) years and this year (2010) the State of NJ significantly reduced the revenue to Florence Township by \$347,397. There is also the tax cap levy law that greatly restricts the township’s ability to raise taxes; at the current time the levy maximum is 4% each year, unless there are deductions applied against the formula that is regulated by the state. There is information coming out of Trenton that there is a movement to reduce the tax cap levy even more to 2.5%. Even with all of the sizeable reductions in spending, Mayor Berry and Administrator Brook are struggling to balance the 2010 budget. Mayor Berry explained that using Burlington County Central Dispatch to assume dispatching responsibilities for Florence Township will save the municipality \$385,000, which is more than the amount of the state aid reduction.

Mayor Berry stated that he, along with fellow Council Members, with heavy hearts have made a tough decision. The decision was Mayor Berry’s and ultimately he asked Council to approve a

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/21/10

Resolution. Mayor Berry stated that he is responsible for the budget of the municipality and takes full responsibility for the decision that was made. He used the support and advise of the Chief of Police and the financial advice of the Township Administrator, but ultimately the decision was his. Mayor Berry views every employee in the municipality as a person that is very important to us. Each employee has family, mortgages and bills. This is a very hard decision. Mayor Berry knows that the turnout for this evening's meeting is to express concerns about this decision. Mayor Berry requested that any questions regarding the decision be directed to him and he will do his best to answer them. If there any questions about financial concerns, Administrator Brook will answer those questions. As for technical concerns regarding transition or the actual service that will be provided to the community, Chief Fazekas will answer those questions.

Council President O'Hara welcomed everyone attending. He explained that this would be a tough evening for everyone. He requested that if anyone had a question, they please rise, state their name and address. He asked that they deal with one (1) question at a time; please do not speak on top of one another.

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, attended the Council's Budget Meeting last night and was very impressed with the professionalism that the Mayor, Council and administration showed at the meeting. They went over the budget line item by line item, which he could tell was a tough thing to do by the look in their faces. He was very proud. Every one had positive input; no one had negative input, which he truly appreciated. He thanked Mayor, Council and administration.

Council President O'Hara noted that the budget is an ongoing process. They met last night with the Public Works Department Superintendent and the Chief of Police and went over their budgets line by line. They will be meeting again this Saturday to go over the Water and Sewer budget as well as some other things. Council President O'Hara stated that they are working together as a unified group to provide the best services at the most cost effective manner for the citizens of Florence Township. He lauded administration for the hours they have put in on the budget.

Bert Quick, 5 Applegate Drive, stated that the Florence Township dispatchers do an incredible job. He moved here from Burlington Township, where they did the same thing years ago. He stated that it is not an easy transition. It is nice to call the Police Department and speak with a local person. Mr. Quick suggested looking into having people retire early to be able to keep the in house dispatch. Council President O'Hara explained that this was a very hard decision. It should take effect sometime in September, which they hope will give the dispatchers the opportunity to seek employment elsewhere. Florence Township is one (1) of three (3) or four (4) communities in Burlington County that maintain their own in house dispatchers but because of everything the Governor of New Jersey has done and how the municipality's hands are tied, the decision was made. Council President O'Hara is hoping for a smooth transition.

Administrator Brook explained to the public the reason why the township was put in the position to make this very difficult decision. He mentioned the tax cap levy that has been imposed on municipalities and noted that what the public reads in the paper and what is reality are two (2) different things. Administrator Brook stated that for years, Florence Township Mayor and Council have always taken the position of keeping the tax rate down as much as possible. Looking back at Florence Township's local purpose tax, the last time it went up significantly was 1996 when it went up \$.06. From 1996 to 2008 the local purpose tax did not go up, it either stayed the same or went down. In 2008 the local purpose tax, which is all the township deals with, increased by \$.03; it increased that year because the State of New Jersey removed and took away almost \$.0275, which

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/21/10

was \$167,000. The rate was raised that year to make up the majority of what was lost. In 2009, the State took away \$43,558. Then late in 2008 the state enacted a "tax cap levy", which means the municipality cannot increase the levy (the money used to operate) by more than 4%. It was not a major impact on Florence Township in 2009 when it first went into effect, but it was in some towns. Now in 2010, we are knee deep in a recession where revenues are down significantly and surplus (money used to keep the tax rate down) is down significantly. There is a new Governor and administration, which has decided to remove a massive amount of aid from municipalities and even much more from school districts. So for Florence Township, the state removed \$347,000 right off the top in 2010, in addition the state says that the township cannot raise its tax levy, the money raised to operate, by more than 4%. Administrator Brook explained that last year Florence Township raised \$3.9 million by taxation, the levy this year is \$3.6 million and what they need to raise is \$4.9 million. The state gives very few options. The public hears that the purpose of this levy is to keep property taxes down. There is a yes and a no to that. The State of New Jersey is requiring and forcing municipalities to deal with any type of what is perceived to be a duplication of services, which unfortunately dispatching services falls into, and eliminate them. Also, not to fill positions where people are leaving through attrition. Administrator Brook stated that there are five (5) vacant positions in Florence Township that they will not be filling: two (2) in the Water and Sewer Department; one (1) police cadet was removed from the Police Academy for a retiring police officer; one (1) from the Public Works Department and one (1) from the Court Department. That is the most humane way to go, if at all possible. Now the township has to find out what else can be done to increase the ability to raise the levy (money needed to operate). The township is stuck and boxed into a corner facing what the State of New Jersey is forcing municipalities to do, which, literally townships are being forced to lay off employees, in massive numbers. Administrator Brook stated that he has always prided himself in finding a way out of the box or finding an alternative; this is one case where he cannot do it and had to admit that to Township Council. Even with transferring dispatch service to Burlington County Central Communications, the township is still not out of the woods. The township had to approach the three (3) unions that still had contracts, and ask for their help. Even with the union employees help, he is not sure if it will be enough. The state does not permit a municipality to raise more than what is permitted through the formula on their form.

Administrator Brook stated that they have gone through the budget line by line and have made a massive amount of cuts. The unions have made some offers and he anticipates more over the next couple of days. There is not enough money to bridge this massive gap. When they first started working on the budget, the gap was well over \$2.2 million; now the gap is down to \$1.2 - \$1.3 million, which they are working diligently to bring down. This means that Florence Township will use more surplus dollars. When the year started they had \$1.4 million in surplus; they began by using \$1 million and Administrator Brook anticipates that they will end up using another couple hundred thousand dollars to try to avoid more layoffs, furlough days or items that would have been unthinkable many years ago.

Administrator Brook believes that the State of NJ is looking at municipalities and saying to the public that the problem is municipal spending, not revenue or fees, which Administrator Brook stated it not true. He stated that Florence Township's overall appropriations are down \$1.3 million dollars and the gap has still not been closed. Administrator Brook explained the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes. By State law, taxpayers are required to pay all of their taxes to the Township of Florence; Florence Township then makes the payments to the School District, County and Fire District. Florence Township has to raise money for those individuals that are unable to pay their taxes in any particular year. Last year the township had set aside \$791,000 to do that. This year, under the formula, it is approximately \$867,000, which is an increase of \$76,000. The School

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/21/10

district, County and Fire District all have to get paid, even if the municipality does not raise the money. If the municipality does not raise the money, it has to go out and borrow the money. The township is faced with a monstrous challenge and is trying to avoid layoffs. Going to Burlington County Central Dispatch has been an option for many years, but was something the township never wanted to pursue. Florence Township is one of the last municipalities to do it.

Administrator Brook stated if they find a way to bridge the gap or ways to raise additional funds this year that can be used next year; what happens in 2011? He does not want to use everything in 2010 and sacrifice, compromise and hemorrhage the year 2011; he has advised Council of this. He stated that they are vested with trying to maintain the integrity of the township and using everything and anything at their disposal to find ways to survive.

Administrator Brook believes that the tax cap levy was designed to do one thing, and that is to make local governments do the unthinkable, because the state went after the one part of the operation of a local government that townships rely on, and that is the ability to raise taxes. Florence Township would have been better off raising their tax rate every year, even if they did not need to, because this levy comes along and now Florence Township is being penalized for not raising the tax rate. Administrator Brook does not believe that the public will truly understand the impact to the public until the end of this year or next year. No matter what the township wants to do, it cannot raise its levy, it cannot raise the funds to operate. The township can go for a cap waiver, but if you go for a cap waiver you have to substantiate what has been done in respect to layoffs and holding down salaries. Administrator Brook explained that the township priced out other health insurance but all were a higher price than what the township has now.

Administrator Brook stated that when Mayor and Council were faced with the issue of having to layoff employees, they immediately said there will be no Patriotic Celebration, which is a \$40,000 - \$45,000 expense. The police unions have come back and offered ways to cut costs. Administrator Brook has opened his books and showed his numbers and hand written notes; he has nothing to hide. The biggest issue facing municipalities is the fact that a massive amount of aid has been removed, which has been across the board. Couple that with the tax cap levy, municipalities are pushed into a corner with almost nowhere to go other than lay off employees. That is why Florence Township has sought every possible opportunity or avenue to avoid that, sadly even Administrator Brook could not find a way out of it and had to tell Council that.

Administrator Brook stated that there will be a big change in services over the years; they will do their best to make sure it does not change drastically for the negative. Florence Township is caught up in this bind just like everyone else.

Administrator Brook stated that there are many things that are being done behind the scenes in respect to economic development to help, but they take years to cultivate. He explained that the township has to compete with Pennsylvania, where they can give developers a ten (10) year tax break but the Florence Township cannot.

Administrator Brook stated that the township will do everything within its power to try to keep the same level of services, but with this tax cap levy, in addition to the amount of aid that has been lost over the years, it will be very difficult.

George Yurcho, 921 Olive Street, stated that he is one of the police dispatchers involved. He has been a dispatcher with Florence Township for 17 years. Another dispatcher has been here 22 years;

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/21/10

another for 20 years and a part timer that has been here for 17 years. Mr. Yurcho stated that what has him upset is that the dispatchers were not offered any kind of cut backs to try to save their jobs. Last week the dispatchers were told by the Mayor that the decision was made that their jobs will be terminated. The dispatchers were not given the opportunity to do anything to save their jobs. He is not happy about the way it was initially done. He wishes there was something that could be done to keep their jobs. Administrator Brook stated that he understands that this is an extremely difficult time and explained that the dollar gap that is being discussed is so large; there is not \$1.3 million to get among the CWA contract, all three (3) unions contracts combined or all three (3) union contracts and all non union employees. Administrator Brook stated that has been a struggle because everyone is a human being and not just a number. There just isn't enough money to find \$1.3 million in three (3) contracts. Administrator Brook has an idea of what the numbers may be after the unions make concessions and it will not even come close. He believes that the year 2011 will be just as bad if not worse. Administrator Brook stated that they may have to use the whole surplus. He expressed how sorry he is to Mr. Yurcho.

James Chambers, 262 Leffler Circle, stated that Administrator Brook has done a very good job in preparation of tonight's meeting and that the Administrator, Mayor and Council are doing the best they can.

Mr. Chambers noted that there was an article in yesterday's Burlington County Times about the new Governor of New Jersey who has double the number of employees in his department that make over \$100,000. The increase equals \$2 million more then last year, with the previous Governor. Mr. Chambers asked if Mayor and Council could hold the State of NJ somewhat accountable and put some pressure on the State. Mayor Berry wishes he could. He explained that he reads correspondence everyday from the New Jersey Counsel of Mayors and, also, the New Jersey League of Municipalities. They are municipalities' voices at the state level and they have tried to hold the state accountable for these actions. Mayor Berry also read the article in the Burlington County Times and has the same concerns as Mr. Chambers. Mayor Berry stated that he is willing to write a letter to the Governor on behalf of himself, Council and the residents of Florence Township.

Council President O'Hara has also seen this financial situation personally. He works for a company that had two (2) tremendous years and then the bottom fell out; two months ago they had to lay off 85 of their 300 employees. The business motto throughout the country is, "do more with less." People have to be more diversified because you do not do just the job you were trained for. It is a tough time. As Administrator Brook stated, it is a bleak environment and the township is going to try to continue to do the best they can to offer the residents the best services with limited personnel.

The Chief of Police, Stephen Fazekas, explained that at the present time all calls to 911 go to Burlington County Central Communications; they do not come to police dispatch. When central receives a 911 call they determine if it is fire/EMS or police; if it is fire or EMS they dispatch from there (Florence Township's local fire and ambulance has not been dispatched through here locally for years). If it is determined to be a police call, they transfer the call to Florence Township police dispatch.

Chief Fazekas stated that the concern is for some of the non-emergency calls. He noted that the public will be educated on the transition. There will be a non-emergency phone number that goes to central for the animal control officer; the animal control officer is in once or twice a day or if it is an emergency, central will contact the animal control officer. Chief Fazekas stated that the dispatch

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/21/10

window will be manned during the day and into the evening hours for walk ups, which is the busiest times for walk up traffic. The Operation Reassurance will have a dedicated line to call in each day.

Chief Fazekas explained that one thing that Central Communications can offer, that is not offered in Florence Township, is a tracking device. For example, if someone were to get hurt in a wooded area, Central Communications has a tracking system where they can find out where the cell phone call is coming from.

Chief Fazekas has been questioned about prisoners. He stated that the Department of Corrections says that dispatchers are not allowed to monitor prisoners, even though there is a camera system where the dispatchers can see them; it must be a police officer monitoring prisoners. He explained that the County Jail will take prisoners, which will help with keeping the police officers on the road.

Chief Fazekas stated that picking up keys and so forth for the fields will be worked out with the Recreation Committee.

Chief Fazekas is very confident with the transition; he has spoken to many police chiefs that have gone to Central Communication from years ago (Central has been doing police dispatch for at least 20 years), and to chiefs that have recently transferred over. The biggest change will be the change in phone number for non-emergency situations. He is confident in transferring to Central Communications and that they can handle the services for Florence Township.

Gordon Dawson, 2 Acorn Court, retired Florence Township Police Chief, stated that the police dispatchers have given the community a great service over the years. He explained that the last time this came up was about 25 years ago, but the financial times are much different now. He noted that Administrator Brook is very credible and very knowledgeable. Mr. Dawson believes everything Administrator Brook says and believes that if there were a way to keep police dispatch, Administrator Brook would have found it. Mr. Dawson stated that Chief Fazekas would not recommend anything that would jeopardize the safety of the community. Mr. Dawson stated that Mayor and Council are compassionate men and he is sure this decision has brought them some sleepless nights. Mr. Dawson wished the dispatchers well and hopes there will be a silver lining for them. He wished everyone well and good with the budget.

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

Council President O'Hara thanked everyone for their courtesy this evening. He wished the dispatchers the best.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-81

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-96

**WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 16, Lot 7
726 WEST FRONT STREET**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-97

**TAX PAYMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 166, LOT 2
2144 US Route 130 N**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-98

**A RESOLUTION CANCELING 2010 PRELIMINARY
TAXES ON A 2009 ADDED ASSESSMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-99

**MEMORIALIZE TRANSFERRING DISPATCHER SERVICES TO THE
BURLINGTON COUNTY CENTRAL COMMUNICATION
DISPATCHER SERVICES**

RESOLUTION 2010-100

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-101

**TAX PAYMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 167.06, LOT 32
11 CHALLANDER WAY**

Solicitor Kearns stated that **Resolution No. 2010-81 (Gas Agreement)** was HELD from April 7, 2010 due to questions regarding markings on school vehicles. He stated that there is nothing that requires school vehicles to be specifically marked; they have MG license plates. The only vehicles that get the S license plates are school busses. This Resolution can be acted on this evening.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to approve Resolution No. 2010-81, Resolution No. 2010-96 through 2010-101.

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.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-07
(2nd 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**

Council President O'Hara noted that a letter regarding this Ordinance was received from the Planning Board's Solicitor, David Frank. Council Member Ryan (Council Representative to the Planning Board) stated that this was brought up by the Planning Board last month; it is the Planning Board's responsibility to look at the Ordinance to determine whether or not it is consistent with the Master Plan. Ultimately, the board did deem it was consistent with the Master Plan; however, the board, along with the Planning Board Solicitor, raised some concerns. Solicitor Kearns received Solicitor Frank's letter and has to respectfully disagree with Solicitor Frank's interpretation. Solicitor Kearns reviewed a 1997 case that countered Solicitor Frank's letter. Solicitor Kearns stated that it is the governing body's function to set policy; it is the Planning Board's function to carry out that policy. Ordinance No. 2010-07 is designed to make it firm what that policy is. Solicitor Kearns understands Solicitor Frank's concerns and will contact him tomorrow.

Council Member Ryan stated that there were numerous concerns in the letter and asked Solicitor Kearns if he had a chance to review the other concerns? Solicitor Kearns stated that one concern is for those that already have approvals and stated that if someone has an existing approval, they are protected against changes in the Ordinance. He also explained that the Construction Code Provision only deals with the properties on Route 130.

Council Member Ryan requested that Solicitor Kearns send a letter to Solicitor Frank, the chairperson and members of the Planning Board responding to the concerns. Solicitor Kearns will send a response tomorrow.

Council President O'Hara asked Council Member Ryan if this Ordinance should be held? Council Member Ryan stated it should not be held unless there are any concerns from Solicitor Kearns. Solicitor Kearns did not have any concerns with moving forward.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2010-07 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Solicitor Kearns explained that this Ordinance establishes that sidewalks should be part of any new development; it indicates that no construction permits shall be issued for any property on Route 130 that does not provide for sidewalks.

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, was under the impression that the matter had been settled. Council Member Ryan explained that there was a requirement for Council to send the Ordinance to the

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/21/10

Planning Board for their review and to decide if it was consistent or inconsistent with the township's Master Plan. He stated that other concerns came up that were unrelated to that part of the review and he had requested that Solicitor Kearns review those concerns.

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 2010-08
(2nd 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 Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2010-08 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 Woolston to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Solicitor Kearns pointed out two (2) non-substantive changes in the Ordinance to make it perfectly clear in the Ordinance that the stop sign at Ridgeway Drive and Yockus Lane is the intersection nearest to Old York Road, and the stop sign at the intersection of Yockus Lane and Ridgeway Drive is the intersection farthest from Old York Road.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-09
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 91, SECTION 124 AND CHAPTER 122
ARTICLE IV OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE.**

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the changes in this Ordinance are statutory changes based on NJDEP regulations. In order for the township to stay in compliance with their solid waste management plan at the County level, as well the NJDEP approvals, the township must adopt this Ordinance or the potential of receiving the recycling grant in the fall could be jeopardized.

Council President O'Hara commended Assistant Administrator Sahol on the fine job he does with recycling in the community; it is very much appreciated.

Solicitor Kearns noted that section numbers need to be assigned to the Ordinance but it does not change any of the substance.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Ordinance 2010-09 on first reading and set adoption for May 5, 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.

Mayor

- Mayor Berry presented a **Proclamation** proclaiming May 6, 2010 as a **Day of Prayer in the Township of Florence**.
- Mayor Berry presented a **Proclamation** proclaiming the month of April 2010 as **Fair Housing Month**.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook stated that earlier in the month Mary Beth Lonergan, of Clark, Caton, Hintz, Special COAH Planner, spoke to the governing body regarding **amending the COAH Plan**. She appeared before the Planning Board this past Monday and the Planning Board granted their approval and recommendation for Council's approval. The next step in the process is for Council to adopt Resolution No. 2010-102 amending the COAH Plan to formally incorporate the four (4) properties into the plan that had already been approved. It then has to be submitted to COAH.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-102

**RESOLUTION PETITIONING COAH WITH AN AMENDMENT TO
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP'S COAH-CERTIFIED HOUSING ELEMENT
AND FAIR SHARE PLAN**

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2010-102.

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.

- Administrator Brook stated that there was a **breach in one of the drainage basins in Mallard Creek**, which the Township Engineer will discuss with Council. He wanted Council to be aware that the developer posted money per basin that was put into a separate account that was never touched or used unless it was for maintenance of that particular basin. Funds are set aside for repair of this basin; taxpayer's dollars do not have to be used to repair the basin. Administrator Brook stated that it could be authorized by MOTION this evening and memorialized through a Resolution the first meeting in May, so work can begin for the residents in that area.

Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, stated that he received quotations from seven (7) or eight (8) contractors. The low quote is \$19,142; the low four (4) quotes are fairly close. He explained that this work will replace the headwall and the swale adjacent to 37 Creekwood Drive, which will prevent the water from backing up as it has been doing. He recommends awarding to Mt. Laurel Concrete, Inc. He stated that the work should be done in the next couple of weeks.

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to award the contract to Mt. Laurel Concrete, a Resolution will be prepared for May 5, 2010 meeting, memorializing this action. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 04/21/10

Township Engineer

- Mr. Guzzi stated that he will have **bids** for the **Community Development Block Grant** (CDBG) project for the first meeting in May; shortly after he will have bids for the **bike path**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Brook stated that the **Florence Township School Board Budget** was **defeated**. A copy was delivered today, which will be copied and distributed to the governing body. The governing body is required to file a decision by May 19, 2010.

NEW BUSINESS

Housing Authority Appointment

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to appoint **Kimberly Mattson** to the Housing Authority, 5 Year Term – Expires 07/31/2015.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Woolston

Motion carries.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

9:25PM MOTION by Ryan, seconded by Woolston to adjourn meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:25PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab