

Florence, New Jersey  
May 19, 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 8:10PM. 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

### **MINUTES**

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

Closed Session

May 5, 2010

### **FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Ryan 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**

A. RAFFLE: Roebing Museum, July 17, 2010, 11:00AM – 4:00PM, Chinese Auction & On Premise 50/50

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

### **On the Question**

Nothing at this time.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

Motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robert Adams, 3 Webber Court, stated that he received a letter from Mayor Berry that inspired him to come to the meeting tonight and thank Mayor, Council and Administration for their support of the Legacy development. The residents of the development continually say what a great reception they receive when they come to the township with concerns; the township is very welcoming and patient.

Mayor Berry stated that the Legacy development has been on his mind for the last few weeks. He has sensed the frustration of the development and he, along with Administrator Brook, met with the developer several months ago and they promised, verbally and in writing, that the pool at the clubhouse was going to be open by 4:00PM the Friday before Memorial Day weekend. It does not look like it's going to happen. Mayor Berry is going to instruct the Construction Department not to issue any more permits until he sees some level of cooperation from the developer. Mayor Berry wants to defend the residents and make sure they receive the level of satisfaction that they have coming to them. Mr. Adams expressed his appreciation; he knows that the township is doing everything they can.

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, discussed Resolution No. 2010-118 (Library Door Replacement) and 2010-119 (Sidewalk Ramp Project). He went to the library and does not believe they are in need of handicapped accessible ramps (there is already one (1) ramp) or a new door. Mr. Lotter asked may people throughout the township if they utilized the Florence Township Library and could hardly find three (3) people that use the library. He believes that if the library is only used by 1% of the township residents, it is not worth it. He noted that there is a tremendous library, which is funded by Burlington County, and most of the people that Mr. Lotter spoke to go there. Mr. Lotter also stated that he received the email regarding the bus trip

Assistant Administrator Sahol clarified Resolution No. 2010-118 and 2010-119. He explained that Resolution No. 2010-118 is for the library doors only. The current doors are not compliant for handicapped accessibility and with the weight and the condition of the door it is difficult to open. He also explained that Resolution 2010-119 is not solely for the library's front entrance. Only a very minor amount of work is being done at the library to correct a small lip. The rest of the ramps being done are throughout the community where there are sidewalks that meet curbs that are full height. That is a completely separate project under the same grant. Mr. Lotter stated that he was at the library for a length of time during the Free Yard Sale Day and did not see one (1) person struggle with the doors.

Solicitor Kearns explained that it is a federal law that the library doors be made handicapped accessible; it is not an option. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that these projects are being done by a grant, not taxpayer's dollars, for barrier free access for many areas throughout the community. He feels it is a very good project, and HUD also believes it is a good project because it is on top of their priority list.

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Mr. Lotter believes the township should do a review of the library to see if it is worthwhile keeping it. He believes the real issue is if the library is used enough by the residents that it is worth keeping open.

Council Member Ryan addressed potential composting facility and the bus tour. He stated that Council is aware of the bus tour to the other facility. Council Member Ryan was very involved with the opposition of that facility when it first came about. He recalls, at that time, Burlington County Freeholder Board approval was required for that facility to be implemented in the County's Solid Waste plan. He would like to revisit that matter to make sure that still is a requirement. If Council is in agreement, Council Member Ryan would like to request that the Freeholder's notify Florence Township if any action is to be taken on that particular topic in the near future. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he, along with Administrator Brook and Mayor Berry are members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and it does still require amendment through the SWAC.

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. 2010-115**

**APPROVE ANNUAL AUDIT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-116**

**SUPPORTING THE CLICK IT OR TICKET MOBILIZATION  
OF MAY 24 – JUNE 6, 2010**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-117**

**AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-118**

**AWARD CONTRACT TO LEVY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.  
134 CUTHBERT BOULEVARD, AUDUBON, NJ, 08106  
FOR LIBRARY DOOR REPLACEMENT  
2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-119**

**AWARD CONTRACT TO EARLE ASPHALT COMPANY  
PO DRAWER 556, FARMINGDALE, NJ 07727  
FOR SIDEWALK RAMP PROJECT  
2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-121**

**AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SALE OF TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTY**

(Motor Vehicles which came into possession of the Florence Township Police Department through abandonment or failure of the owners to claim)

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Resolution No. 2010-115 through 2010-119 and 2010-121.

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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-120**

**APPROVING 2010-2011 FLORENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BUDGET**

Council Member Ryan explained that there was a subcommittee of Council (Mayor Berry, Council Member Ryan and Council Member Woolston) that met with a subcommittee of the Florence Township School Board and their professionals. He stated that there is an agreement to cut \$258,770, which the School Board will not appeal. He recommends that Council approve Resolution No. 2010-120.

Bruce Benedetti, Florence Township School Business Administrator, stated that in all his years, this has been the smoothest discussion regarding a defeated School Board Budget. He thanked Mayor Berry and Council. He noted that when the budget was presented to the voters it was down over \$400,000 from the previous year. The School Board did their best in trying to keep spending down, knowing that there would be significant loss in State Aid (their resources from year to year are down over \$2 million). They went through the process and proposed significant cuts. Fortunately, the teachers union voted on and agreed to a comprehensive freeze and contribute 1.5% of their salary to their benefits. The School Board made a decision, if possible, to try to protect jobs.

Mr. Benedetti thanked Mayor and Council.

Council Member Ryan noted that there was a suggestion during the first meeting that the municipality and the school board could work together in the future for additional cost saving measures. He would like to follow through with that suggestion. He thanked everyone for working well together.

The Mayor commended the Board of Education for bringing the union in to work with and to support the budget with wage freezes and concessions. He appreciated the cooperation that Business Administrator, Bruce Benedetti offered. He stated that his nine years on the School Board of Education gave him the ability to use his experience with the budget.

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Council Member Woolston thanked all that participated; he stated that it was a learning experience.

Council President O'Hara thanked all of the subcommittee members and the Board of Education.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution No. 2010-120.

**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. 2010-10  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING SECTION 140-43  
AND 140-48 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE ESTABLISHING  
WATER AND SEWER RATES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2010-10 on second reading for adoption.

**Public Comment**

Council President O'Hara opened the meeting to the public for comments 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: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-11  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, NEW JERSEY ENTITLED "FEES" AND  
LISTING CERTAIN FEES WITHIN  
THE NEW CODE**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance 2010-11 on first reading and set adoption for June 2, 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**

- Council Member Ryan thanked Assistant Administrator Sahol for his letter regarding the issue with the **Turnpike Access Road**.
- Council Member Woolston thanked Administrator Brook, Assistant Administrator Sahol, Mayor, Council and the municipal employees for all of the work and concessions on the **budget**. It was a long process but he believes the township weathered it well.

**Mayor**

- Mayor Berry stated that he will be away the third week of June and will not be at the Council Meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Administrator**

- Administrator Brook explained that re-appropriating **old Bond Ordinances** that were cancelled and using those funds as revenue would affect the cap levy in a negative way. He advises reallocating some of those funds for items that are of a capital purpose, for example: road repairs and engineering costs related to grant work. The township is legally allowed to do that and there is no impact on the cap levy; it lessens the pressure on the current fund budget. Administrator Brook will be working with Bond Counsel on preparing the Ordinance.

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**Assistant Municipal Administrator**

- Nothing at this time.

**Township Solicitor**

- Nothing at this time.

**Township Engineer**

- Nothing at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council President O'Hara stated that he was invited to an installation ceremony this past Sunday for the Junior American Legion Auxiliary, which is for young ladies up to the age of 18 that perform certain duties for the American Legion and assist the post and the women's auxiliary with many things. He stated that a young lady from our community, **Brittany Logan**, has been selected as **President of the New Jersey State Junior Auxiliary**. She is the fourth generation in her family to be part of the Junior Auxiliary. Council President O'Hara was very moved. He noted that Brittany will be the first from Burlington County to hold the office of president. Brittany is a junior at Florence Township Memorial High School, a member of the National Honor Society involved in peer coaching, Student Council, a member of the track team and the varsity field hockey team. Brittany has been a junior member of the Willits, Hogan, Tonne American Legion Auxiliary Unit #39 for the 10 years. She has held the state office of secretary and vice president of the juniors. Council President O'Hara would like Mayor and Council to recognize Brittany and present her with a Proclamation. Mayor and Council are in agreement to honor Brittany with a Proclamation.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Nothing at this time.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Nothing at this time.

8:50PM MOTION by Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky 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