

Florence, New Jersey  
December 15, 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. The Florence Township Police Department 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 A. 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 Baldorossi to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

CDBG Hearing	December 1, 2010
Regular Sessions	November 3, 2010; November 10, 2010
Closed Sessions	December 1, 2010; December 8, 2010

### **FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Sandusky 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**

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, asked why Tahoes are being purchased for the police department? He believes there are more efficient vehicles for the police department than Tahoes. Administrator Brook explained that the mileage for the Tahoe is actually better than the Crown Victoria and some

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of the other vehicles out there. Also, when purchasing a police vehicle through State Contract, the only vehicle that the State will let a municipality bond and payoff gradually is a Tahoe. He stated that Tahoes have held up very well from the standpoint of equipment repairs, use, overall operation and maintenance. When purchasing a Tahoe it is done through a Bond Ordinance, which can be paid back gradually. Any other vehicle would either have to be purchased in full through the budget or leased over a set time period, normally three (3) years. Council Member Ryan stated that there was a report prepared by Administrator Brook and Chief Fazekas. He will be meeting with Administrator Brook and Chief Fazekas tomorrow to go over the report and review the condition of the existing vehicle. The report goes over leasing versus purchasing, study of the mileage of the Dodge Charger and comparison to the Tahoe; it is a very thorough report. A copy of the report will be given to Mr. Lotter.

Discussion followed regarding the municipal purpose tax, which is the only tax the township controls, and that it has not gone up that much in the past 11 – 13 years. Mr. Lotter thought the local purpose tax used be reduced. Administrator Brook stated that to reduce the local purpose tax any further would be financial suicide.

Mr. Lotter stated that he has seen township employees in township vehicles on Saturdays and thinks that the township is spending a considerable amount of money on overtime. Administrator Brook stated that the township has not spent a considerable amount on overtime and offered for Mr. Lotter to meet with him, at his convenience, to review the books.

Council Member Sandusky stated that the township has a very limited workforce. There are fewer employees now then when he first joined Township Council.

Discussion followed regarding ways the township does save money. Assistant Administrator Sahol was praised for applying and receiving grant funds for the township.

Michael Sawka, 75 Riverbank Drive, stated that he moved here less then a year ago and praised the township for the leaf and trash collection services.

Mr. Sawka did some research when he saw that the township was going to purchase a police vehicle. He found that the resale value on a Tahoe is a lot higher then on a cruiser.

Mr. Sawka stated that he is happy to be a resident of Florence Township. Council President O'Hara thanked Mr. Sawka. He stated that Council tries to face challenges and does not take anything lightly.

Administrator Brook stated that Mr. Lotter is a very nice, passionate individual and those passions push Mayor, Council and Administration to look at other areas and continue to improve. He discussed the budget meetings earlier this year that Mr. Lotter had the opportunity to attend. Mr. Lotter was aware of the pain the governing body went through when they had to lay off the Police Dispatchers. He discussed other cuts that were made that the public does not see.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-255**

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF ONE 2011 CHEVROLET TAHOE  
POLICE VEHICLE, STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE  
A73849  
REPLACEMENT VEHICLE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-256**

**A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAX OVERPAYMENTS LESS THAN \$10.00**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-257**

**AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-258**

**DENY REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF CASH MAINTENANCE BOND  
GREGG MAKKAY, 11 WEST SECOND STREET**

**RESOLUTION 2010-259**

**AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN OVERPAYMENTS**

**RESOLUTION 2010-260**

**TRANSFERRING CERTAIN 2010 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

**RESOLUTION 2010-261**

**RESOLUTION TO CANCEL CURRENT (2010)  
UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATION BALANCES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-262**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AND THE BURLINGTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE  
MUNICIPAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-263**

**ACCEPTING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY'S  
OFFER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-264**

**A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAXES ON PROPERTY  
OWNED BY A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

Administrator Brook asked that Council consider approving Resolution No. 2010-255 for the purchase of one (1) Tahoe at this time from Day Chevrolet in an amount that would not exceed \$35,000. A second Tahoe will not be purchased at this time; they will go through the examination process and report back during budget time in 2011.

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, asked Council to consider an additional Resolution this evening, Resolution No. 2010-264, canceling the taxes on a property owned by a totally disabled veteran.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Resolutions No. 2010-255 through 2010-264.

**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. 2010-18**

**(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF TAHOES  
FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF  
FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY,  
APPROPRIATING \$90,000 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE  
ISSUANCE OF \$85,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO  
FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

Administrator Brook explained that the Bond Ordinance will be kept at two (2) Tahoes, but only one (1) will be purchased. He noted that the municipality cannot purchase a vehicle without authorization from the governing body.

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It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2010-18 on second reading for adoption.

**Public Comment**

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

Joe Csik, 45 E. Fifth Street, asked for the total cost for the Tahoe including the light package. Administrator Brook stated that it does include the upgraded light package: \$34,526.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi 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. 2010-19  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING SECTION 140-40  
AND 140-46 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
ESTABLISHING WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CONNECTION FEES WITHIN THE  
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

Administrator Brook explained that this Ordinance does not impact anyone that is an existing resident that is already connected to the water and sewer system. This is for new construction homes or commercial properties.

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2010-19 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 Baldorossi to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

**On the Question**

Nothing at this time.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ryan (Note: Council Member Ryan was not in Council Chambers at the time of the vote.)

Motion carried.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Committees, Boards and Officers**

- Council Member Baldorossi wished everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

#### **Mayor**

- Mayor Berry stated that this has been a very trying year financially for the township and there have been a lot of challenges. He thanked each and every Council Member. He believes that Council really came together over the past year at a time when the community needed them to stand up and make hard decisions even when it cut into their hearts. Council has worked tirelessly and put in a great deal of effort into developing the former Roebing Steel Mill site to try to bring it back onto the tax rolls. He stated that everyone on the governing body works well together for the betterment of the community. Mayor Berry stated that he is proud to serve with each and every member of Council and looked forward to another productive year. Mayor Berry thanked the residents that come to the Council Meetings every week and show an interest in what is going on in the community.

#### **Administrator**

- Administrator Brook noted that he provided a copy in the packet of the certificate of determination and award for the short-term sale or renewal of Bond Anticipation Notes. The township is looking to go out to permanent bonding around the middle of 2011. The sale was for 1.25% on the interest rate.

#### **Assistant Municipal Administrator**

- Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that Dave Lebak, Water and Sewer Superintendent, and he have been invited to attend the preconstruction meeting with the developer and PSE&G engineers for the electrical upgrade in the Tall Pines development.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol met with another vendor in regards to a new phone system, who showed him another option to the system. He went back to the original vendor who stated that they have a like item, which will be compared against each other and one other vendor. Assistant Administrator Sahol thanked Council Member Ryan for putting him in touch with the new vendor. Assistant Administrator Sahol will report back at the January Worksession.

#### **Township Solicitor**

- Nothing at this time.

#### **Township Engineer**

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Nothing at this time.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Council Member Ryan thanked everyone for another productive year. A lot of difficult decisions were made but they were made together. He has a deep appreciation that the Council Members do challenge each other and they do it in a diplomatic matter.

Council President O'Hara thanked Council Members, Mayor Berry and Administration, who are all a pleasure to work with.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

8:50PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk

/mab