

## **FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**January 15, 2003**

**8:00 PM**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Council Vice President Fratinardo called the meeting to order.

### **SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

The Township Clerk read the Opening Statement: 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 5, 2003; given to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Frank Baldorossi, John Fratinardo, Bruce Garganio, Jerry Sandusky

Also Present: Mayor Michael Muchowski; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator, Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, questioned the qualifications of the developer chosen to work on the mill site. Vice President Fratinardo explained that at this time it is just an agreement for a feasibility study. Mayor Muchowski explained that before the firm was introduced to the Township after having their credentials scrutinized by Senator Diane Allen, Mark Remsa, Regional Planning Coordinator with the County and the EPA in New York. He also explained that the firm has been put under tight time constraints and financial ramifications if they do not live up to their end of the bargain.

Bill Federico, 902 Broad Street, questioned an article in the Register News regarding the Fire Commissioners raising taxes to either consolidate the fire companies into one new building or repair the existing buildings. He asked if the public has to be told exactly what they want the money for before asking? Council Member Fratinardo stated that is a question for the Fire Commissioners. He also pointed out that a raise in taxes has to be voted on by the public. He stated that the Fire Commissioners have not let Council know what they want to do.

Mayor Muchowski stated that the Fire Commissioners want to raise money to build one central location. If the referendum to raise the money is not approved by the public, the Fire Commissioners are faced with the expense of renovating the existing builds to bring them up to code and it will come back to Council to make the decision.

Mr. Federico questioned the timing of this referendum since the School Board will also have a referendum to build a high school at the end of the year. He believes that having both referendums on the ballot in one year is a burden to the community.

Council Member Garganio stated that he was also confused by the article. The article did not spell out exactly what the Fire Commissioners want to do.

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Mr. Federico believes if the fire budget is approved a new school will not be approved, which he feels is very important. He suggested committees be formed to discuss the direction of the Township in the future.

Mr. Federico asked if the Township was doing anything to bring ratables in? Mayor Muchowski stated that the Township is trying to make itself more attractive to businesses and some of the processes have been streamlined to become more business friendly. He explained that even with the efforts the Township is putting into bringing in ratables, the market is not there for big business right now. He stated that when the market does turn around the Township is prepared.

Nick DiLullo, 416 E. Fourth Street, discussed growing up during the depression and the sacrifices that people made during those times. He discussed the present and stated that there are a lot of people out of jobs right now. He does not believe that it is a good time to build new buildings and spend money.

Mr. DiLullo discussed the location of the schools and the fact that children have to be bussed to school. He believes that all of the children in Roebling should go to the Roebling School and all of the children in Florence should go to the Duffy School to eliminate the need for the children to be bussed. Council Member Garganio explained that when the schools were merged it saved money by eliminating some teaching positions.

Council Member Garganio stated that Mayor and Council does not have jurisdiction over the Fire Commissioners or the School Board and stated that the only way to let them know what the people want is to vote in the elections.

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

### **TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER**

#### **Design of New Well**

Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer, explained that he has not begun the design of the new well at the recreation site because David Lebak, Water and Sewer Director, has been taking samples for certain radiological type contaminants. Administrator Brook explained that Mr. Lebak is testing for Gross Alpha, which not a lot is known about. Mr. Lebak has been working with an expert in the field on how to analyze it. It may or may not be anything that would need to be dealt with but Mr. Lebak will not know until he receives an interpretation from the State.

#### **Water Allocation Permit**

Mr. Trice stated that DEP has informed him that an additional study is needed to go with the Water Allocation Permit that was submitted to them in December. Originally DEP said that the report was not required. Mr. Trice is in the process of working on the report.

#### **Walnut Street Water Main**

Mr. Trice stated that all of the work, except for the final paving restoration, has been completed.

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**Potts Mill Road Request for Sewer Main Extension**

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that a resident on the corner of Old York Road and Potts Mill Road is requesting the ability to install a main, at his cost, that would run from Andrews Drive and dead end in front of his property for sewage collection.

Vice President Fratinardo requested that Mayor and Council be informed if something is going to be discussed at a meeting by way of the packet.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that a DEP permit might be required due to the distance and the number of properties. He also asked if Council would be willing to allow the water and sewer engineer's office to work on the engineering with reimbursement for the costs? The line would eventually be turned over to the Township with the request that an agreement be in place stating that there be reimbursement for any future connections.

Discussion followed regarding design and maintenance of the sewer line.

Administrator Brook stated that a report with a map will be prepared for Mayor and Council to review for discussion at February's Worksession.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

**Front Street/ Delaware Avenue Sidewalk Project: Current Estimate No. 5 (Final)**

Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, reviewed and recommended the current estimate. The work has been completed and a maintenance bond will be posted. A resolution will be approved at next week's meeting.

**Main Street Reconstruction Project**

Mr. Guzzi stated that he has applied to the State for DOT to approve the awarding of the bid and the initial payment. Construction should begin in a couple of months when the weather breaks.

**Boat Ramp**

Mayor Muchowski questioned the status of the docks. Mr. Guzzi stated that the docks have been measured and plans have been completed. He needs to go over the plans with the Assistant Administrator and Public Works Director.

Mr. Guzzi explained that a new, lower row of bumpers will be installed and the upper bumpers will be replaced. Bumpers that will not mar the boats will be used. Discussion followed regarding a separate area for personal watercraft to tie up.

Council Member Garganio asked for a plan for Council to review at the next meeting. This needs to be completed by springtime. Mr. Guzzi will work on a design that is safe and effective for the boats and personal watercraft to launch from.

Setting regulations for use of the dock was discussed.

**ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR**

**Library Parking Lot**

Assistant Administrator Sahol reported that if this lot was striped it would create 40 to 50 parking spaces. A decision will need to be made whether or not to allow recreational vehicles to park in this lot.

Council Member Sandusky suggested that the recreational vehicles be parked at the lot on Railroad Avenue.

Since residential parking is a problem in Roebing, Council feels that this lot should be used for the residents to park. Discussion of alternatives for the recreational vehicles followed. The owners of these vehicles will have to make private arrangements to park their vehicles. The lot will be striped and the Ordinance will be amended. Mr. Guzzi will provide a layout of the striping to Mayor and Council. Assistant Administrator Sahol will notify the owners of the recreational vehicles that are parked in that lot that they will need to move them.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that South Street has an area that permits recreational vehicle parking and asked if Council would like to allow that type of parking to continue there. There are eleven vehicles parked there now. Mayor Muchowski asked Assistant Administrator Sahol to find out if there are any municipalities that provide municipal parking lots for recreational vehicles.

**Broad Street Parking**

Council Member Sandusky questioned the "30 Minute Parking" sign in front of Debbie's Snack Shop. This is a seasonal business, which is closed for the winter. He believed that when this sign was approved it was on a seasonal basis, but the sign is still up. This was excluded from the Ordinance. The Ordinance will be amended and the sign removed.

**Flashing School Sign**

Council Member Sandusky stated that he had brought to the attention of Administrator Brook that the flashing school sign on Hornberger Avenue was on at 6:30 AM and was timed wrong. He stated that it has been fixed and thanked Administrator Brook.

**Sports Participation – Out of Town**

Mayor Muchowski stated there are three out of town girls participating in the recreation basketball program. These girls attend Fountain of Life School. There are participants in other recreation sports that live out of town. These families do not pay taxes in Florence Township. A policy will need to be discussed at a future meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the expense to pay the umpires. This is one of the largest expenses for the leagues. Mayor Muchowski suggested creating a recreational pool of officials that would consist of high school students and local residents. They would be required to attend a training class. They would be paid a nominal fee. It was also suggested that the Recreation Director handle the umpiring.

Mayor Muchowski also recommended that a code of conduct for the parents and spectators be established.

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**Boat Ramp Permit Ordinance**

Assistant Administrator Sahol reported that the migratory bird-hunting season runs from 10/1 to 3/1. Council would like to change the hours that the park is closed during those months from 2:00 AM – 6:00 AM to 2:00 AM – 4:00 AM.

**Eagle Scout Badge**

Assistant Administrator Sahol presented an idea to Mayor and Council on the behalf of an Eagle Scout to obtain permission to carry out a project he would like to do. He would like to install small historical house markers in Roebing. Currently he has identified six properties as being historical. The signs would be installed on the resident's private property. Information will be included in next week's packet. Past projects completed by the Eagle Scouts was discussed.

**Eagle Monument**

Assistant Administrator Sahol updated Mayor and Council on the status of the repair to the Eagle Monument. He explained that there is a plaque that was not recovered after the accident and will have to be re-fabricated. Administrator Brook explained the insurance process. The Township will be reimbursed from the boy's insurance company.

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR**

**Sharing Services with the County Bridge Commission**

Administrator Brook stated that it is a very good program. He explained that money will need to be borrowed through bond anticipation notes. Documentation will be provided to Mayor and Council within the next thirty days.

**Signatures on Various Accounts**

Administrator Brook stated that a Resolution adding signatures on accounts that only required one signature has been prepared for approval this evening.

**MAYOR MUCHOWSKI**

Mayor Muchowski discussed joint meetings between Council and the School Board that have been held in the past. He asked if a meeting would be productive? Council Member Garganio does not feel that there is an advantage to a meeting. Council Member Fratinardo agrees and stated that Council cannot make any determinations for the School Board; it is up to the public through a referendum. Council Member Garganio stated that when and if the School Board has a presentation to bring to Council, then the two entities would meet.

**STREET NAMES**

Administrator Brook asked to hold discussion until the next meeting when Council President Hofflinger is present.

Mayor Muchowski had asked Assistant Administrator Sahol to research each name to make sure no mistake could be made and asked the status of the name Barbee. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the family moved to Florence Township shortly before the Vietnam War; Leon Barbee was killed during the war and the family moved away shortly after. His name appears on three monuments in the community.

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**ABC LICENSE: SPECIAL RULING FOR WEDNET (FOUNDRY ST. BAR)**

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, explained that the State has granted a Special Ruling for this license, which has been inactive for over two years. A resolution needs to be approved renewing the license for 2002-2003 term. She explained that the widow of the license owner needed this Special Ruling and renewal in order to sell the license. The renewal fee has been paid to the Township.

Council Member Sandusky questioned the legality of a person owning two liquor licenses and pocketing them? Solicitor Kearns explained that no one person can own more than two licenses and they cannot be inactive for more than two years without a Special Ruling from the State.

A resolution will be approved at next week's meeting approving the renewal of the license.

**HANDICAPPED PARKING REQUEST**

Clerk Weiler stated that she has received two handicapped parking applications. Council Members in agreement to send the applications to the doctor for his review and recommendation.

**BURLINGTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Administrator Brook stated that a Resolution will be on next week's Agenda to renew the contract with the County.

Discussion followed regarding other options for recycling pick up and if possible to save the Township money. Administrator Brook will investigate possible alternatives and report back to Mayor and Council for discussion. The Resolution will be held until February.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Council Member Garganio asked if there is a plan to complete the three items in the report that are incomplete? Administrator Brook explained that Barry Luckenbill, Emergency Management Coordinator, would like to set up a meeting with Mayor and Council. One of the things he would like to discuss is this report and the exercise that was not completed.

**GRANT WRITER**

Council Member Garganio asked if the grant writer has provided the Township with any grants yet? He asked for a report from the grant writer on what he is working on. Mayor Muchowski stated that the governing body needs to identify the priorities and advise the grant writer. Different areas in the Township where Council would like to see a grant utilized were discussed. The grant writer will be asked to attend a meeting to report to Mayor and Council.

**ROEBLING SITE ARTIFACTS**

Council Member Garganio discussed the report of the artifacts from Roebling mill site. He asked that the report be made more detailed. Mayor Muchowski would like to discuss in Closed Session.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Council Member Garganio discussed the authority of the Recreation Committee. He stated that at this time the Recreation Committee does not have any authority and feels that Council should discuss what authority they would like the Committee to have. Assistant Administrator Sahol

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will pull the current Ordinance showing how the Recreation Committee is set up for discussion next week.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS ON COACHES**

Council Member Garganio believes that all coaches should have a police background check. He asked if the springtime coaches should be sent to the State Police for a background check? Council Member Fratinardo agrees that coaches should have a background check. Assistant Administrator Sahol will provide Council with a copy of the legislation for further discussion.

**ACTION**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2003-37**

**AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2003-04 AND NO. 2003-05  
ADDING ADDITIONAL SIGNATORY FOR SPECIFIC ACCOUNTS**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2003-37.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Sandusky, Fratinardo  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Hofflinger

Unanimous approval.

**APPLICATIONS**

- A. Off Premise Draw Raffle: Holy Assumption Church Altar Rosary Society,  
May 6, 2003, 9:00 PM

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the raffle application for Holy Assumption Church Altar Rosary Society.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Sandusky, Fratinardo  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Hofflinger

Unanimous approval.

Administrator Brook stated that he will see if the grant writer is available to meet with the governing body at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vice President Fratinardo reminded the public that the Public Comment section of the Executive Meeting is limited to 15 minutes. Mr. Fratinardo explained that he allowed over 30 minutes of comments, but had to set a limit in order to move on with the meeting.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

10:12 PM Motion made by Sandusky; seconded by Garganio to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER  
Township Clerk

/mab