

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

February 12, 2003

8:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Hofflinger 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, John Hofflinger

Also Present: 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

Jim Donnell, 715 Hamilton Avenue, stated that his son has to walk in the street on his way to school in front of properties that the residents do not shovel when it snows. He questioned the lack of an Ordinance requiring residents to shovel within a certain amount of time after a snowfall. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he is looking at Ordinances from other municipalities. Solicitor Kearns will provide a draft Ordinance for Mayor and Council to review.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, attended the Zoning Board meeting last week and the alternate members voted. He stated that he was a member of the Zoning Board for six years and the alternate members never voted. He believes that it was done for political reasons and does not feel that it was right.

Don Kamienski, 10 Mc Cay Drive, thanked Assistant Administrator Sahol and Mr. Guzzi for meeting with him this past Monday to discuss alternatives for the floating docks at the boat ramp.

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

TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER

Bottlinger Property

Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer, has completed his review of the water and sewer improvements for Cross Roads East and has several issues with the plans. One of the major issues is the location of the pumping station, which is on a lot between two houses. He suggested that they install an odor control system to avoid an odor problem. Council Member Garganio asked that an odor control system be a requirement on all future pump stations.

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Another issue is the water main that is running through the development. The plans show all 8” lines and we are requesting a 12” line from Florence-Columbus Road to Potts Mill Road.

The last issue is the installation of gravity sewer along the length of Potts Mill Road. The plans show gravity sewer coming out to Potts Mill Road not along the length, which Mr. Trice requested be added to the plans.

Water will be run up to the end of their property towards Route 130 and down to Tide Water Farm on Potts Mill Road. They will be connecting to the main on Potts Mill Road with a dead end line at Route 130.

Council Member Garganio asked that Mr. Trice develop a standard that developers must follow for Council to review.

Update: Potts Mill Road Request for Sewer Main Extension

Mr. Trice reviewed the design and installation of a sewer line for a Potts Mill Road resident. US Homes will run the line at the homeowner’s expense. Due to the grade, other homes on Potts Mill Road will not be able to connect to the line.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Dock Improvements

Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, reviewed the plans for the floating dock. Modifications will be made to protect the boats that tie up to the docks. The skirts will be extended down into the water and the existing bumpers will be replaced with a tough, non-marring rubber. The materials will cost approximately \$12,000 and the Public Works department could do the installation. Mr. Guzzi believes the cost would be over the bid limit if a contractor did the installation. Assistant Administrator Sahol spoke with John Purakovics, Public Works Director, and he is comfortable with doing the installation.

Mr. Guzzi discussed adding another link to the dock for the personal watercraft users. If the dock is in good shape, it would cost approximately \$1,000. This would be a launch area, not a waiting area. DEP approval will not be needed.

Council Member Garganio asked the life expectancy of the dock? Mr. Guzzi feels that with proper maintenance from time to time it will last another 10 years.

ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Roebing Library Lot: Parking Layout

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that approximately 50 parking spaces would be created if the lot were striped, which would include handicapped spaces. The cracks would need to be sealed and the striping could be completed in house. He asked, if Council would like to proceed, for a timeline for notifying the owners of the recreation vehicles that are parked there that they will have to find alternative parking. Council would like letters to go out as soon as possible. The vehicles will have to moved 20 days after publication after the 2nd reading. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the Ordinance may be ready for 1st reading next week.

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Discussion followed regarding the number of handicapped parking spaces to have. Mr. Guzzi stated that the minimum requirement is two handicapped parking spaces. Council Members in agreement to two handicapped parking spaces.

Implementing an enforceable time restriction on the parking lot was discussed. This would help deter abandoned vehicles.

Council Member Baldorossi asked if additional lighting would be installed? Assistant Administrator Sahol will look into additional lighting.

Parking Request: 35 Fourth Avenue

Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed a request for one hour parking (Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM) from a business owner on Fourth Avenue. Since many businesses may request time restricted parking, Solicitor Kearns suggested that the Chief of Police do a survey to find out the impact. After discussing businesses that may benefit from time restricted parking, the existing time restricted parking throughout the Township and the parking problems in Roebling, Council in agreement to approve one parking space.

Council Member Sandusky feels that there are a several cars parked in the Village of Roebling that do not move. Council President Hofflinger suggested that he give a list to Chief Dawson to check on.

Requests for Minutes and Agendas: E-Mails

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that there have been requests to post the agendas and minutes on the website. There are plans to post the agendas. He asked Council for a time frame prior to the meeting for posting the agendas due to revisions.

Various options of setting up electronically was discussed. Solicitor Kearns suggested using Adobe Acrobat. A meeting will be setup with the web master to discuss the best options.

Website: Business Request

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that there have also been requests from businesses to link to the Township's website. Solicitor Kearns explained that it could create problems since the Township cannot selectively allow businesses to link to the site. Council Members in agreement to deny any requests from businesses to link to the Township's website.

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the Economic Development Council has expressed interest in starting their own website and allow businesses to link to their site. They are a government entity and if they allow one business but not another, it would create problems.

Local Sponsor Request

Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed a request from a sixth grade student to sponsor him (\$50 to \$100) for Student Ambassador. Council Members in favor of donating \$50. Assistant Administrator Sahol will discuss with Waste Management to see if they would also be willing to donate.

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Snow Route Proposal

Assistant Administrator Sahol discussed having a snow route on Broad Street. The business owners are requesting this. Due to the few snowstorms that occur and the fact that the Public Works Department does accommodate as much as possible, Council Members are not in favor of having a snow route on Broad Street.

NJ Turnpike Interchange Fees

Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed a letter he prepared addressed to the NJ Turnpike Authority from the governing body regarding the interchange fees. Council Members comfortable with letter as written.

HANDICAPPED PARKING REQUEST

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, reviewed a handicapped parking application and asked if Council would like it forwarded to the doctor for his review and recommendation. Due to the applicant's line of work and ailment, Council advised Clerk Weiler to hold the application. Assistant Administrator Sahol will look into further.

Clerk Weiler stated that the Ordinance has not been amended for some time to include the newly approved handicapped parking spaces. She asked for approval to proceed with amending the Ordinance. Council in agreement to amend the Ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Roebing Steel Plant

Council Member Garganio stated that he spoke with Administrator Brook and requested that he look into what the tax ratable would be for a golf course. He also asked for a general idea of what the land is worth capped or not capped. He stated that the Township needs to know this information in order to be able to negotiate with developers.

Point Pleasant Borough: Smart Bill

Council Member Garganio discussed a Resolution that was received from Point Pleasant Borough regarding school funding and the inequitable property tax system used to fund schools. He agrees and asked that Council approve this Resolution at next week's meeting. Council in agreement to approve the Smart Bill Resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

9:40 PM Motion made by Sandusky; seconded by Fratinardo to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab