

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

October 10, 2007

8:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Baldorossi called the meeting to order.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Opening Statement was read: 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 7, 2007; given to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board.

ROLL CALL

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

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 M. Weiler, Township Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing at this time.

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

FLORENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST: HELP WITH COST OF STORAGE & SPACE TO CONDUCT MEETINGS AND DISPLAY ARTIFACTS

Mayor Muchowski verified that the Florence Historical Society does have a place to conduct meetings and is looking more for a museum type place to display artifacts. Judy King, representative from the Florence Historical Society, stated that was correct. The Mayor has given the request thought, but has not had a chance to discuss with Administrator Brook to formalize his thoughts.

Mayor Muchowski stated that there is a large storage area in the basement of the Roebling Firehouse; the Roebling Museum Committee will be storing items there free of charge. He suggested that the Florence Historical Society also store items at the Roebling Firehouse. Council Member Fratinardo asked if there is storage space available in the old public works facility? Mayor Muchowski explained that there is an inventory of buildings, but because of other business at hand, there has not been a discussion of what to do with them. The Florence Historical Society does not have the fortunate situation as the Roebling Historical Society has with the EPA creating a museum for them.

Mayor Muchowski asked Ms. King if a space were made available, if the Florence Historical Society had the financial wherewithal for utilities and upkeep? Ms. King stated that at the present time they are paying over \$1,000 a year to store items. The items should be in a climate-controlled environment. Mayor Muchowski stated that the Florence Historical Society needs to be able to demonstrate some financial ability to offset their costs.

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Council Member Sandusky believes that the Roebing Historical Society is much larger than the Florence Historical Society and that since they have a small membership they will have a hard time raising money. He also thinks that Florence Historical Society's items should stay in Florence and would like to find a facility in Florence. He does not believe they have as many artifacts as the Roebing Historical Society. Mayor Muchowski stated that the question is: Is Florence Township going to fund their utilities such as heat and electric and the operation?

Mayor Muchowski asked what type of room they are looking for?

Mary Tapper, 8 Church Street, a member of the Florence Historical Society and lifetime resident of Florence, stated that the Florence Historical Society stated that they have a lot of items in storage but it is not doing the residents of Florence any good because they cannot see them. She explained that what the Florence Historical Society is looking for is space where they can display the items for people to come in, browse and reminisce. Mayor Muchowski understands that, but asked who is going to pay for it once it is up and running? Ms. Tapper believes once they have a building to display the items people will come in with donations. Most people are not aware that there is a Florence Historical Society. Mayor Muchowski stated that the Florence Historical Society is a great organization, no question, but when the township starts making accommodations for one organization, it has an affect on how all organizations throughout the community are dealt with. He stated that there needs to be a plan showing what the Florence Historical Society can afford and what they can do to run and function. It would be a significant investment on the township's part, but also an ongoing investment on the part of the organization.

Mayor Muchowski asked if thought has ever been given to sharing space with the Florence Yacht Club? He is not sure how active that building is used by the Yacht Club but there seems to be some crossover membership. Ms. King stated that it would not work with the Yacht Club because they rent out the building. There would be people in and out of there and when the building was being utilized the items would have to be removed.

Mayor Muchowski stated that storage is the easy part, but it appears the Florence Historical Society is looking for a building to function as a museum and meeting place, which is the more difficult part of the equation. He asked for a more clearly defined plan of what would function for the organization, which may help the township to make it a reality.

Mayor Muchowski asked if all of the items had to be stored in a climate-controlled area? Ms. King stated that they are historical items and should be stored in a climate-controlled area. There are a lot of paper items.

Mayor Muchowski asked what the Florence Historical Society's operating budget was a year? Ms. King stated that they have 30 members that pay dues; that's it.

Council Member Garganio suggested that a subcommittee be set up to meet with the Florence Historical Society. As Mayor Muchowski pointed out earlier, there are buildings available that the township doesn't know what they are doing with. Council Member Garganio is willing to serve on a subcommittee. Mayor Muchowski stated that this request has been out there and would like finality one way or another. His concern is there are other organizations with needs. He wants to treat each organization as fairly and consistently as possible. He will make sure the request is addressed. Mayor Muchowski stated that the Florence Historical Society will have to look into how they will

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take care of ongoing expenses. The township cannot commit to providing space and also continue with the ongoing expense of running the day-to-day operation of the organization. Ms. King will report back.

TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER

Well No. 6: Current Estimate No. 3

Russell Trice, Township Water & Sewer Engineer, reviewed and recommends payment of Current Estimate No. 3. The contractor is on schedule. A Resolution will be prepared for next week's meeting.

Greenbriar: W&S Performance Bond Release Request (Lennar)

Mr. Trice stated that there was only one item left that has been moved to the Township Engineer's punch list, which was removing asphalt from the manhole cover. The Site Bonds and Water & Sewer Bonds are separate and also a separate bond release request. Administrator Brook requested a letter concerning the bonds.

Council Member Sandusky noticed a water truck at the Greenbriar Development opening a hydrant. Council Member Fratinardo also witnessed and called the Police. The contractor stated he was not aware that a permit was needed. Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, stated that is one of the first things he goes over with contractors at the preconstruction meeting. Council Member Sandusky asked if hydrants could be posted that it is unlawful to hook up to township water without a permit and that there is a penalty? Administrator Brook will have the Water & Sewer Superintendent look into and report back.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

2006 Park Improvement Project: Current Estimate No. 7 & 8 and Change Order No. 2

Administrator Brook requested that this be discussed in Closed Session due to the possibility of litigation with the contractor. Council in agreement to discuss in Closed Session.

ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Renew FAAD Lease (expires 12/31/07)

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the FAAD Lease is coming due. A Resolution and Ordinance will be prepared for approval.

Delaware Avenue Parking

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that there is nothing new to report. The County is working on scheduling a survey crew. Mayor Muchowski asked for updates in memo form.

Eagle Scout Request

Assistant Administrator Sahol was approached by an Eagle Scout applicant who is interested in doing the mile marker delineations in Veterans Park. Each route would be color-coded and his interest is to paint on the paths versus installing posts. Mayor Muchowski expressed concern that paint would only last a certain amount of time and would become long-term maintenance that the township would have to care for. Mayor Muchowski does like the idea of mile marker delineation

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but he feels it needs to be thought out further. He would like to hear more detail. Assistant Administrator Sahol will report back with a map showing detail.

8:25 PM MOTION by Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:25 PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab