

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

June 10, 2009

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 11, 2009; given to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bruce Garganio (8:20 pm), Dennis O'Hara, Sean Ryan, Jerry Sandusky, Frank Baldorossi

Also Present: Mayor William Berry; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. 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 Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

BURLINGTON COUNTY BRIDGE COMMISSION: PRESENTATION BY GARY LAVENIA

Gary LaVenia, Director of the Burlington County Improvement Authority, explained that he is visiting every community in Burlington County to inform municipalities what the Improvement Authority can do to help them out. He stated that the Improvement Authority was formed in 2002 and their primary mission was doing pooled lending for communities to help reduce bonding costs. They also did pooled leasing at the time. They are able to reduce costs by pooling together communities to do loans together, using a single set of professionals. The Improvement Authority is backed up by the County and the Authority takes advantage of the County's AA rating. Mr. LaVenia explained that with the condition of the market, it has been very difficult for communities to find bond insurance. When a municipality goes through the Improvement Authority, they do not need bond insurance. At the present time, they are closing on a \$23M deal, involving five (5) communities.

Mr. LaVenia stated that the Improvement Authority has a grant writer, which they allow municipalities and other public entities to utilize. If the township is interested in utilizing the grant writer, they ask that a letter come from the Mayor or Council President with Council's consent. He stated that the grant writer is normally used for items that require special expertise that the township does not have in-house expertise to write. The Improvement Authority considers doing grant applications at no cost to the municipality.

Mr. LaVenia noted that on July 16, 2009 the Improvement Authority is having a meeting to introduce the beginnings of a comprehensive Energy Conservation Plan, which includes energy audits and the new block grant that will be available through the BPU.

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Mr. LaVania stated that he is also the Shared Services Coordinator and holds informational meetings every other month. He is willing to help facilitate a shared service with another community or school district. They write feasibility study grants.

Mr. LaVenia stated that at times they make their professionals available if the municipality is asking the Improvement Authority to do something. Council Vice President O'Hara asked if the municipalities are asked to repay for the services? Mr. LaVenia stated that municipalities are never asked to repay for services.

Council Member Ryan asked for more information on the new block grant through BPU? Mr. LaVenia explained that there will be a \$18.5M fund made available to municipal governments throughout the State of New Jersey. The funds are specifically for energy conservation programs. The municipality will have to pay for an audit in order to make the application. As of today the application has not been generated by the BPU so he believes the filing deadline of June 25th will be extended. He has also heard that they may divide the funds equally and forgo the application process. He is not quite sure how it is going to work yet. His consultant is working on it and will make it known. Council Member Ryan asked if the audit has to be professionally done? Mr. LaVenia stated that the audit must be done by five (5) firms that have been identified by the BPU, which are listed on their website. The township would request RFP's from the five (5) firms and award to one (1) of those five (5) firms. He stated for a 10,000 square foot building it will cost approximately \$12,000 to do an energy audit. The cost is based on the number of square feet in the building the audit is being performed on.

Mayor and Council thanked Mr. LaVenia for coming to the meeting this evening. Mr. LaVenia thanked Mayor and Council.

ABC LICENSE RENEWALS: DISCUSSION

PUNAM

Mr. Patel attended the meeting to follow up on the discussion at last month's Worksession Meeting. He stated that he will be demolishing the building (Bradley Fence) but is waiting for the permit from PSE&G. He is otherwise ready to have the building demolished. Administrator Brook understands that it does take time to receive the permit from PSE&G. He noted that it is on record with Council that Mr. Patel will come in for the township's permit to have the building demolished as soon as he has the permit from PSE&G. Administrator Brook stated that the township is not legally permitted to issue a permit without the disconnect language. It is all about safety. Mr. Patel was informed that it takes up to eight weeks for the permit from PSE&G. A Resolution will be prepared for next week formally accepting Mr. Patel's application and fees.

NOTE: 8:20PM Council Member Garganio present.

Murphy's Sports Tavern: Conditions

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, stated that the Chief of Police and the detective met with Mrs. Murphy and her daughter, owners of Murphy's Sports Tavern, and discussed the recommendations of the Chief of Police and the detective. They did come to an understanding, from which Clerk Weiler prepared a Draft Resolution. The conditions will be part of the Resolution. Council Members are in agreement to move forward with the Resolution next week.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Road Program: Review Bids Received

Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, provided a report of the bid results. He stated that the bids came in low, which provided a better opportunity for the alternates. He also explained that there is an impact with respect to the grants. The base bid only included one block of Fifth Avenue (from Hornberger Avenue to Main Street) and of the low bid of \$284,000 approximately \$116,000 to \$120,000 is attributed to Fifth Avenue. If they only do the one block of Fifth Avenue, out of the \$150,000 grant that was received, they would lose approximately \$20,000. Similarly, with the \$115,000 sidewalk grant, if they only did the base bid of Hornberger Avenue sidewalk it will cost approximately \$85,000 and they would lose the balance of the grant money. Mr. Guzzi recommends doing the Hornberger Avenue alternate and the second block of Fifth Avenue so they can use the balance of the grant monies. If they do the Fifth Avenue alternate along with the base bid, it will cost approximately \$245,000 of which \$150,000 will be grant money.

Council Members are in agreement to pave the parking area on Buc's property opposed to laying stone. Council Member Garganio asked to see the plans for the entire site again. Mr. Guzzi will bring next week. Mr. Guzzi should have a remediation report for the governing body next week.

After further review and discussion, Council Members are in agreement to award contract to Asphalt Paving for the following:

- Base Bid: \$ 284,950
- Alternate A (Fifth Ave. – Main to Riverside) \$ 127,710
- Alternate B (Alley Recon. - Main to Riverside, between 6th & 7th) \$ 9,960
- Alternate C (Hornberger Ave. Sidewalk) \$ 13,600
- Alternate D (Bucs Property Parking Lot – Paved) \$ 22,655

Coastal Billboards

Mr. Guzzi stated that Phil Haines, Esq. contacted him in regards to the governing body's concerns of the location of the billboards, which were discussed a few months ago. Mr. Haines provided Mr. Guzzi with documentation from his client, Coastal, showing that he did apply for signs closer to Route 130 but both applications were denied by NJDOT. The reason for the denial according to NJDOT is because they were within 1,000 feet of another billboard. Mr. Guzzi has not had the opportunity to see which billboards they are and match up the denials. He will write up a report for further discussion at the July Worksession.

American Asphalt: Paving Costs

Mr. Guzzi stated that American Asphalt, contractor for the 2008 Road Program, contacted Council last year regarding consideration in an increase in paving costs. They prepared a document demonstrating that a bulk of the paving was done when the price was at its peak. American Asphalt says that they are out approximately \$50,000. Before Mr. Guzzi prepares a report, he asked if the governing body will consider hearing their plea. Council Member Garganio feels it is part of the bid process; they should have factored in an escalation in costs. When the prices go down the township does not get money back. Council Members are in agreement that American Asphalt be notified that the township will be abiding by the contract as American Asphalt agreed to. Mr. Guzzi will draft a letter for Administrator Brook and Solicitor Kearns to review.

ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Nyikita Field – Fence

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the contractor for Mr. Sassman's property is doing the drainage work along Nyikita Field. The fence had to be taken out in spots due to previous damage but there was also some damage by the contractor. Council Member Garganio asked if the fence could be dropped to four feet? Discussion followed regarding making the field more park like. Rich Pendel, Public Works Superintendent, will be pricing fences.

Roebling Park: Parking Area End of Second Avenue

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the contractor is close to restoration at the end of Second Avenue. He asked if Council would like to create a parking area, which would support the park. The area is grass and has been parked on in the past but when it gets driven on it gets rutted and worn. This would be much more durable and would be a suitable base if Council ever decided to topcoat it. The lot would be 110 feet. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he is recommending a different contractor, who is reputable and whose quote came in lower. They will be getting credit from the paving company. Council Members are in agreement to proceed with stoning the parking area leaving a large space for handicapped parking.

APPLICATION FOR BLOCK PARTY: BENNETT STREET

Clerk Weiler stated that the Chief of Police reviewed the application for the block party on Bennett Street and approved the request.

It was on the MOTION of O'Hara, seconded by Sandusky to approve the Block Party Application on Bennett Street to be held on July 4, 2009. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

REVIEW SIGN ORDINANCE

This will be discussed at a future meeting. Solicitor Kearns will provide copy of a sample Ordinance. The placement and removal of political signs is covered under the current Ordinance.

ACTION

APPLICATION

A. BINGO: Parish of Sts. Francis and Clare, Monday Evenings, July – December 2009, 7:15PM – 10:30PM, McGrath Hall

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

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

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APPOINTMENT

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to reappoint **Ritchard Woolston** to the **Housing Authority** for a five (5) Year Term: Term expiration: 7-31-14.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG): APPLICATION

Administrator Brook stated that Assistant Administrator Sahol and Mr. Guzzi are working on the CDBG Grant Application, which includes handicapped doors for the library and various other handicapped accessibility improvements.

LIBRARY

Administrator Brook noted that they need to start thinking about capital improvements to the library building. The roof is the first thing that needs to be done. The lights and the ceiling inside also need attention. Mr. Guzzi will be putting together an estimate for the roof and report back.

COAH PLAN

Administrator Brook explained that the township is in need of a COAH Administrator for the Market to Affordable Program and recommends the one-year appointment of Frank Piazza of Piazza & Associates, Inc. A Resolution will be prepared for next week's meeting.

FRONT STREET PROPERTY

Council Member O'Hara discussed the letter from the Front Street resident that has to park on Oak Street. The resident has applied for a driveway but the County has denied them for safety reasons. Administrator Brook stated that the County has been firm in their position because they feel it is dangerous. Administrator Brook will prepare a response to the resident.

INTERSECTIONS

Council Vice President O'Hara has noticed several intersections throughout town where there are things such as plantings and fences in the right-of-way that obstruct the view for drivers and they have to inch out to see what is coming. One specific location is Olive Street approaching Cedar Lane. He feels it is a concern in several areas of the community. Solicitor Kearns suggested having the Chief of Police look at and the resident would be notified of the obstruction, which they must correct. Assistant Administrator Sahol will speak with Chief Fazekas tomorrow.

9:25 PM MOTION by O'Hara, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

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ADJOURNMENT

9:25 PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab