

## **FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**August 13, 2008**

**8:00 PM**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Council Vice President O'Hara 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 6, 2008; given to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Dennis O'Hara, Sean Ryan, Jerry Sandusky

Also Present: Mayor William Berry; 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

### **PRESENTATION**

#### **James Pereda: Burlington County College Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee**

Mayor Berry presented a Proclamation to James Pereda in honor of being inducted into the Burlington County College Alumni Hall of Fame. He read the Proclamation aloud. Mr. Pereda is a former New York City police officer, a retired police sergeant from the Cinnaminson Township Police Department, and is currently employed as a student support officer by the Cherry Hill Township Schools.

Council Vice President O'Hara presented flowers to Mr. Pereda's daughter, Aimee Kuc.

Mr. Pereda expressed his appreciation to Mayor and Council and stated that this recognition is an example of why people live in Florence Township.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

David McFarland, 156 Seventh Avenue, explained that he was at work on July 23<sup>rd</sup> working a twenty-four hour shift when his street was posted for no parking at noon for the following day. Before he came home from work the following day, he had been issued a parking ticket for his motorcycle. He does not believe the township provided him with proper notification and does not feel he deserves the ticket.

Mr. McFarland came to Florence Township Court yesterday and spent 5 ½ hours there. He discussed the ticket with the police officer that wrote the ticket, who advised him that there was nothing he could do about it, but to talk to the Judge to get it dismissed. Mr. McFarland spoke to the prosecutor's office that told him that he would have to pay \$33 to have a \$20 ticket thrown out. He was then told that they do not make deals on parking tickets; he either has to pay the ticket or go to trial. He expressed his displeasure that the prosecutor's office will not listen to the facts as he can

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present them and prove that the township did not provide him with the requirements of the Ordinance for the notification for temporary emergency parking.

Mr. McFarland stated that the police officers in Florence Township are great; it is the court he is not happy with. He thanked Mayor and Council for listening.

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.

**ERIC MERBACK, QUAKER CITY AUCTIONEERS, INC.: BRANDOW – AUCTION**

Administrator Brook explained that Florence Township has a local requirement that states if there is a public auction in the municipality there must be a permit. He stated that Mr. Merback was not aware of the requirement but was very cooperative when he contacted him to advise him of the requirement; Mr. Merback offered to come right in to submit an application and submit the surety bond. Administrator Brook explained that the Ordinance was adopted in 1983 and has not been used in the 19 years he has worked here.

Mr. Merback stated that there is no requirement to be licensed in the State of New Jersey but he is licensed and bonded in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. He recently conducted three (3) auctions in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Merback gave an overview of what is to be auctioned.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to approve the Auction Permit for an auction to be held tomorrow at Brandow Chevrolet conditioned upon payment of the application fee and posting of the required bond.

**On the Question**

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, O’Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Garganio, Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

**TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER**

**Roma Bank, Phase I: Release of Performance Bonds**

Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer, reviewed and recommends release of the Performance Bond, conditioned upon posting of a two year Maintenance Bond. The punch list items have been completed. Phase II of the project has not begun, which is bonded separately. A Resolution will be prepared for the first meeting in September.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

**NJ Council/District Assembly of God: Release Performance Bond**

Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, reviewed and recommends release of the Performance Bond conditioned upon posting of the Maintenance Bond. The outstanding punch list items have been completed. A Resolution has been prepared for Regular Session following this evening's Executive Session.

**Greenbriar**

Mr. Guzzi reported that the basin work is almost complete.

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR**

Solicitor Kearns prepared an amendment to the Ordinance in response to the recommendation of the Chief of Police. The amendment is to shorten the length of time PODS that have to be placed on the streets are allowed to remain on the street. Also, to require the triangular display on the POD so people can see them. The changes are from a safety perspective. Council Members are in agreement to move forward with the Ordinance at the Regular Session following this evening's Executive Session.

**REQUEST FOR BLOCK PARTY**

Mayor and Council discussed the request for a block party and concerns raised by the Chief of Police regarding blocking the street off, alcoholic beverages and loud music. Since the gentleman that made the request was not present to answer questions, Council would like to invite him to the next meeting to address the concerns and discuss the possibility of holding the event in a park.

**SET FREE YARD SALE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2008 WITH A RAIN DATE OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2008**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve the Free Yard Sale Date. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

**PUBLIC WORKS: LEAF MACHINE REQUEST**

Administrator Brook stated that often times to improve the operation you have to make a capital expenditure, but in the long run you save money. He explained that Burlington Township has a leaf removal truck that they have found to be phenomenal. At the present time it takes three to five public works employees for leaf pick up. Burlington Township has been able to cut their manpower down to two to three. When you do that, you incur the capital expense initially upfront, which you're actually paying over time, more importantly you are providing a better service to the public and using the employees not needed for leaf pickup and using them for other duties, which means no additional hiring. Administrator Brook also noted that some of the current equipment is aging.

Council Member Sandusky thanked Rich Pendle, Public Works Superintendent, for making the community look as good as it does with a very small workforce. He commended the Public Works Department. Mr. Pendle thanked Council Member Sandusky.

Mr. Pendle explained that currently for leaf pick up he utilizes a front-end loader, tractor, trash compactor truck and a couple of employees with rakes or blowers. With the price of gas, that is a lot of equipment to run. He generally uses four to five employees to collect leaves. This piece of equipment comes equipped with a joystick in the cab to control the hose to get in between vehicles

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to collect leaves; presently a couple of employees have to go along and blow the leaves out into the street. Mr. Pendle stated that 80% of the time one man could pick up leaves. There will be times in certain areas where more manpower will be needed.

Mr. Pendle stated that the piece of equipment they are using now is 22 years old and it is difficult to get parts for it. He is not sure he could get another year out of it. The street sweeper is also getting aged.

Mr. Pendle stated that the benefits of this new piece of equipment would be a greater ease and efficiency of leaf collection, gain equipment operators and laborers for other jobs. With the extra manpower, he believes they could take on more projects to upgrade the community. He reviewed some of the other projects he would like his department to take on; he just does not have the manpower at the present time. Another plus to this piece of equipment is the safety factor. It can be rather hazardous when you have three to four pieces of equipment blocking the streets.

Administrator Brook and Mr. Pendle went to Burlington Township to look at the equipment and were quite impressed.

Mr. Pendle reviewed the current leaf collection process, which utilizes four (4) pieces of equipment. The street sweeper would still need to go behind the leaf-collecting machine.

Administrator Brook stated that Burlington Township stated that with the machine they were able to do more streets in a shorter period of time with less manpower. Burlington Township has had the machine for three (3) years and has not had any problems or breakdowns.

Mr. Pendle stated that two to three employees will be trained to use the machine.

Administrator Brook stated that Mr. Pendel looked at a few of these types of machines and believes this is the best one.

Administrator Brook stated that this would be a Bond Ordinance in the range of \$200,000 over 10-15 years.

If they were to move forward, it is highly unlikely that the machine would be available for use this year.

Council Members are in agreement to move forward. A Resolution to prepare bid specifications will be approved at the Regular Session following this evening's Executive Session.

**WATER AND SEWER DIRECTOR**

**Griffin Pipe Discharge Water Request: Report**

Mr. Trice stated that earlier in the year Griffin Pipe requested to discharge to the township's system. The request is due to a change in the process at their plant because of emissions limitations. As a result of this change, they will no longer be able to evaporate the water and recycle through the plant. Therefore, they will have an excess of water in the plant to get rid of.

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Mr. Trice stated that Griffin Pipe has done sampling and provided the results to the township. Mr. Trice and David Lebak, Water and Sewer Director, have looked at the results thoroughly and spoke with NJDEP regarding what effects the discharge could have on the treatment plant. Mr. Trice does not believe it would be a problem for Griffin Pipe to discharge to the township's system. Mr. Lebak stated that Mr. Torres of NJDEP Bureau of Pretreatment & Residuals would make it a requirement of the permit that Griffin Pipe test weekly for a year so they can continually look for any contaminants coming into the plant. Griffin Pipe would have to install a manhole outside of their fence that the Water and Sewer Department can access easily. Mr. Lebak is comfortable with allowing the discharge but stated that if he starts seeing perimeters that are elevated he can seize the flow, which will be a condition of the permit.

Administrator Brook explained that the local Ordinance would be amended to create the limits of discharge and what the fines would be if they exceeded the limit. He also explained that the State would issue a NJDEP permit that will include conditions that Griffin Pipe has to meet. Mr. Torres is prepared and willing to include the conditions that Florence Township believe are necessary and applicable in the permit, including the ability to terminate them at will if Florence Township sees an adverse impact on the plant. That will protect the township. The rate will also be set by Ordinance.

Mr. Trice explained that the township would receive a pre-draft of the permit to review and comment on before it is publicly noticed. After comments are received and changes are made, the State issues the draft permit, which the township has 30 days to publicly comment on.

In response to questions regarding where the shut off valve was located if needed, Mr. Lebak explained that if necessary, he would tell Griffin Pipe to terminate the flow, which they would do on their end by either shutting off a valve or shut off a pump. The Water and Sewer Department would be able to monitor the manhole that they are installing to be sure they have terminated the flow. If they have not terminated the flow Mr. Lebak stated that he has the ability to put in a plug to stop the flow.

Mr. Lebak stated that an effluent meter would be installed to monitor the flow. He does not want to see things happen over night.

Administrator Brook stated that the next step is to meet with Griffin Pipe and speak with Mr. Torres of NJDEP. He will report back to Mayor and Council in September.

### **Treatment Plant: Storage**

Administrator Brook explained that during the budget session there was discussion of storage at Water and Sewer for equipment that is used on a regular basis to protect it and prolong its useful life. He put money in the budget so it could be done on a cash basis but it will be over the bid threshold and will have to be put out to bid.

Mr. Lebak reviewed the equipment to be stored and the type of storage building, which is similar to an open pole barn. He stated that lighting and water would be installed in the storage building. Bringing water to the building would be done in house.

Council asked if any of the vacant township owned buildings could be utilized for storage for the water and sewer department? Administrator Brook does not believe that it is practical to store the equipment at a different location then the water and sewer facility. Mr. Lebak stated that the

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equipment to be stored does need to be easily accessible 24 hours a day. He is looking at five (5) bays to store vehicles, which he believes are better served stored inside a garage. Administrator Brook stated that the equipment could be stored in the Third Street Emergency Squad building or the Roebing Emergency Squad building but that would not be a long-term solution; it would be a short-term solution.

Council Member Ryan would like the option of using an existing building looked at to be able to compare to the option of constructing a pole barn. Council Members agree that it does make sense to have a cost comparison; they could then weigh the pros and cons of each option. Administrator Brook, along with Assistant Administrator Sahol and Mr. Lebak will prepare a report for the governing body to review.

9:35 PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:35 PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk

/mab