

Florence, New Jersey  
June 15, 2011

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President O'Hara at 8:00PM. President O'Hara led the Salute to the Flag.

The following statement was read by the Township Clerk: "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 2, 2011 and January 16, 2011; given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank Baldorossi  
Sean Ryan  
Jerry Sandusky  
David Woolston  
Dennis O'Hara

Also present:

Mayor William Berry; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

### **PRESENTATION: PROCLAMATION – SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS**

Mayor Berry called the Crossing Guards in attendance up to the front of the room and thanked them for attending the meeting. He read a Proclamation in honor of all of the Florence Township Crossing Guards listed below and proclaiming Saturday, June 18, 2011 as School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.

- *Harold Blakeslee*
- *Inez Blakeslee*
- *Louis Botlinger, Jr.*
- *Diane Byhkowsky*
- *Alice Earls*
- *Stephen J. Fazekas*
- *Wendy Lally*
- *Angela J. Lowery*
- *Cubie Miles*
- *Maurice P. Mullen*
- *Thomas E. Wright, Sr.*

Mayor Berry thanked the Crossing Guards for diligently looking after the safety of the children arriving to school. He also thanked Council Member Sandusky for the suggestion of honoring the crossing guards.

Present for the Crossing Guards honor were: Chief Fazekas, Captain Bunce, Captain Scully, Detective Jacoby and several officers.

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Chief of Police, Stephen Fazekas, on behalf of the Florence Township Police Department, thanked all of the Florence Township Crossing Guards for their dedication. He stated that they are out there in all types of weather and show their commitment to the children every school day.

On behalf of Council, Council President O'Hara thanked each and every one of the crossing guards for the outstanding job they do for the community and the children.

The crossing guards expressed their appreciation to Mayor and Council.

**MINUTES**

Sandusky made a MOTION; seconded by Baldorossi to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Closed Session

June 1, 2011

**FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Chief of Police report, the Township Clerk's report and the Court Administrator's report for May. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Woolston made a MOTION; seconded by Sandusky to approve the Treasurer's Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

**REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing at this time.

**APPLICATIONS**

A. BINGO: Parish of Sts. Francis & Clare, Monday Evenings, July – December 2011, 7:15PM – 10:15PM, McGrath Hall

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

**On the Question**

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Irene Pichette, 236 Fifth Avenue, stated that she spoke before Council in 2004 regarding the tree in front of her house that is uprooting the sidewalk; she is back because it has not been repaired and her neighbor tripped over the sidewalk. She stated that it has been looked at by the township, including the Mayor and members of Council. She expressed concern that the tree is uprooting the foundation of her house and that the roots are wrapped around the water pipe and that she will have to pay to replace the water pipe. She asked for the township's help.

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Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that Ms. Pichette's neighbor contacted him this past Monday and indicated that when she exited her vehicle, she stepped in the two to three inch depression where the curb stop cap would normally be sitting and went down to her knee; she has a bruise on her knee but she does not believe there is any concern with her health. Assistant Administrator Sahol asked her if it was the tree and she stated that it was the hole where the water valve normally rests and there is a cap for it. She stated that she is aware that there are sidewalk issues and spots in the street that do this in the 200 block of Fifth Avenue. Assistant Administrator Sahol looked at the location and is aware that the tree has been discussed previously by the Shade Tree Committee. The Shade Tree Committee advised that it is a healthy tree and is growing as a normal tree would. The unfortunate part is that the tree is expanding outward and pushing against concrete that someone other the municipality poured immediately up against the base of this tree, so much so that no room was left, so over the years it has been pushing out and making the sidewalk move in areas.

Assistant Administrator Sahol spoke with Public Works Superintendent, Rich Pendle, and they will be cutting out the sidewalk, which someone else poured without municipal knowledge, remove it and restore the area and turn it back to grass. The tree can then have the room it needs and receive the oxygen and water it needs at the surface opposed to reaching out and coming up in other areas. The problem will be addressed.

Assistant Administrator Sahol will speak with Dave Lebak, Water and Sewer Superintendent, regarding the roots and the water line.

Ms. Pichette thanked Mayor, Council and Assistant Administrator Sahol.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-138**

**APPOINTING TAX ASSESSOR FOR  
THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-139**

**AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-140**

**AUTHORIZE REFUND  
RECREATION FEE  
SUMMER BASKETBALL PROGRAM CANCELED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-141**

**DENY REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BONDS FOR  
CROSSROADS EAST**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-142**

**DENY REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND FOR  
PHASE I FOR THE MANOR AT CROSSROADS,  
PLATINUM DEVELOPERS, LLC**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-143**

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF ONE CHEVROLET TAHOE  
POLICE VEHICLE, STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE T-2776  
REPLACEMENT VEHICLE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-144**

**AUTHORIZING THE STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE  
OF (2) DUGOUT SHELTERS FOR THE NYIKITA BASEBALL FIELD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-145**

**APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR  
2011 PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
TO ASPHALT PAVING SYSTEMS**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Resolution No. 2011-138 through 2011-145.

**On the Question**

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCES**

None at this time.

**REPORTS**

**Committees, Boards and Officers**

- Nothing at this time.

**Mayor**

- Mayor Berry reported that the **Economic Development Committee** held a meeting this past Monday. The members are looking into a way of raising money to put some type of **Patriotic Day** on towards the end of September. If it doesn't happen this year, the wheels are in motion for next year.

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### **Administrator**

- Administrator Brook noted that he provided Mayor and Council with a packet of information regarding the **bond sale**. He explained that when the township borrows money on the short term, they eventually try to do permanent bonding when the interest rates are low to save money on the payback overall. The township was able to secure an interest rate of 2.83% (a true interest rate over 13 years), which is a very good interest rate. He thanked the CFO, Sandra Blacker and all of the other professionals for their work on this project.

Administrator Brook explained the process followed by (S&P) Standard and Poor to rate the township and stated that Florence Township received an AA Bond Rating with strong financial management, which helps the township receive a low interest rate.

### **Assistant Municipal Administrator**

- Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed **the 2010 park improvement projects** that will be done with a grant that was obtained last year. He noted that the contract was awarded earlier in the meeting.
  - Substantial extension of the walking paths in the complex surrounding the municipal building, fitness trail type of project to add on to what is there now.
  - A tree buffer that will be established along the NJ Turnpike extension where it is adjacent to the 40-acre parcel on the other end of the Veterans Park.
  - Extension to the parking at Clark Carey Memorial Park for the boat trailers.
  - Replace the surface of the tennis courts at Wilkie Park as well as new fencing. The trees that were crowding the fence have already come down. New energy efficient lighting is going to be installed.
  - Rehabilitate the baseball field at Nyikita Park with a new backstop, new open-air dugouts, bleachers and a small amount of new fencing as well as a large installation of trees, both pine and shade trees, to create a picnic grove type setting.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol reported that the township was successful in getting a **2011 grant** in the amount of \$224,000 for more park projects. The 2011 project is a complete rehabilitation and replacement of the **floating boat dock** at the Clark Carey Park.

Council President O'Hara commended Assistant Administrator Sahol and the professionals for the efforts they put out on the grant applications. In 2010 the township received \$250,000 and this year the township received \$224,000, all to rehabilitate open space and parks in the community.

### **Township Solicitor**

- Nothing at this time.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Sandusky had the opportunity to go to the **Yacht Club** and watch approximately **60 children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**, along with their parents and brothers and sisters participate in a **fishing tournament**. He was impressed with the turnout especially since last year there were only eight children. He explained that this is a grant that Mary Bauer, a Roebbling School teacher, receives where the Yacht Club members come into the school and teach the children various aspects of

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fishing. Council Member Sandusky expressed concern over the safety of the children and suggested that the entrance to the parking lot be closed during the event. The boaters could be advised earlier in the year that they would not have access to the boat ramp on that one day during that two hour time period. Assistant Administrator Sahol and Chief Fazekas will look into for next year.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Nothing at this time.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Nothing at this time.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

8:40PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. The Township Administrator advised the public that action may follow Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

**RESUME REGULAR SESSION**

10:05PM MOTION by Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to resume Regular Session. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

**ACTION**

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve the contracts for both Police Unions as outlined by the Township Administrator. The action will be memorialized in July.

**On the Question**

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O’Hara  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

10:07PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

10:07PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk

/mab