

## **FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2003**

**7:00 PM**

### Call to Order

### Sunshine Statement

The Township Clerk read the following: Notice has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board; given to the Register News for information; published in the Burlington County Times on January 24, 2003.

### Roll Call

Present: Frank Baldorossi (7:10 PM); Bruce Garganio; Jerry Sandusky;  
John Hofflinger

Mayor Michael Muchowski; Richard Brook, Township Administrator;  
Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; William John  
Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer;  
Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

### Grantsman's Discussion and Report

Assistant Municipal Administrator, Thomas Sahol, reviewed why Randall Gottesman and Dave Gerken of Community Grants & Planning, P.A. were present.

Dave Gerken explained that the first grant applied for Florence with NJ DOT was the Centers of Place Program. If funding received would use for parking lot in downtown area; sidewalks and street enhancements along Front Street. Still waiting for results from application.

Discussion of various other grants available: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and Transportation and Community Development Initiative Program. This grant would provide up to \$150,000 for planning activities to help market existing redevelopment areas.

The Office of Emergency Management Grant was discussed. Along with the 2003 Open Space Grant through Burlington County.

A list of proposed 2003 scope of grant applications handed out to the Mayor and Council Members.

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NOTE: Council Member Frank Baldorossi present at 7:10 PM.

Council Member Garganio asked the Township Engineer what grants his office applied for last year?

Mr. Guzzi explained that the Transportation Trust Fund Grant, and other NJDOT grants were applied for through his office. On the average the Township is granted one per year.

Mayor Muchowski asked about the Buc's property and perhaps purchasing the property for municipal parking lot. The property is in the town's "redevelopment" area.

Mayor, Council and grantsmen, Randall Gottesman and Dave Gerken, discussed the need to attract businesses to the town; to increase economic development.

Mr. Gottesman discussed Florence Township becoming a "receiving" municipality for COAH funds. Florence has met and implemented its COAH goals. As a receiving town Florence could receive \$25,000 each for approximately 40 units in order to rehab existing homes and neighborhoods. The administrative costs would be covered and no matching funds from the Township are required.

The program would be a first come, first served program. Requirements are income: family of ( 4 ) \$50,640 and other items of criteria to qualify; one major system needs rehab; \$8,000 at least needs to be rehabilitated. Must be owner occupied and stay in home for six years. If owner sells home during the six years, pay prorated back.

The grantsmen would handle administrative duties for the program and receive 20% from COAH. The 40 units at \$25,000 would mean \$1,000,000 to the town.

The Township Solicitor stated that the COAH numbers and methodology will change later this year. He noted that RCA money will go into a statewide pool.

Mayor and Council Members expressed interest in this program.

Discussion of how the program would work and areas that could use rehab funds.

The Mayor and Council Members requested additional information and will review.

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The Mayor asked that Carl Hintz, COAH Planner, be asked to review and report to Council on this issue. The report would show the impact on obligation for COAH and the entire process.

John Hofflinger, Council President asked about funding for a community senior center? Discussion of the \$270,000 was to be given to the township; the funds were to be received in September and now a problem getting the funds from HUD. The Township would need approximately \$700,000 to \$800,000.

Township Solicitor Kearns asked if private foundations have been considered for funding? He noted that so far the grantsmen are looking at government funds.

Mr. Gottesman will look into private funding, but that work's differently than government funding.

Council Member Garganio asked to have grants researched for recreation areas. The Marter Park needs additional development; road; fields, etc.

Also, there is a park off Bustleton Road; Green Acres property; approximately 27 acres; heavily wooded area that needs work.

The dam on Hornnberger Avenue needs refurbishing. Mr. Garganio asked about anything they could do with that project and permitting? Grantsmen will look to see if they could do anything to help in that area.

Mr. Gottesman stated that if Mayor and Council have any thoughts for projects to please advise his office through Tom Sahol.

Council thanked the grantsmen for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

7:55 PM Motion made by Bruce Garganio to adjourn; seconded by Jerry Sandusky. Roll call vote – all ayes; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joy M. Weiler, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk