

**MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
JUNE 22, 2009**

A Work Session Meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Council was held on Monday, June 22, 2009 in the Courtroom of the Mount Laurel Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keenan at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The members of Council present were Mayor Keenan, Councilwomen Bobo and Riley and Councilman Smith. Also present were Acting Township Manager, Jennifer Blumenthal, Patricia Halbe, Municipal Clerk and Christopher Norman, Esq., Township Solicitor. Deputy Mayor McCaffrey arrived at 7:45 p.m.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Announcement, which is required by the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey and read at every meeting of the Township Council was read by the Municipal Clerk.

Clothing Bins

Ms. Blumenthal stated that they had previously discussed the need for a clothing bin ordinance and she has received a letter from Marcie Maute, zoning code enforcement officer about the matter. Mr. Norman responded that it was discussed before and he will have an ordinance ready for July 6th if there are no objections. Mayor Keenan stated that he wants to insure that the ordinance covers everything. Councilman Smith commented that the ordinance is mandated by the State.

EECBG Update

Ms. Blumenthal reported that the Burlington County Bridge Commission has offered to put the EECBG grant application together. They are also discussing putting strategies together for municipalities. Rutgers wants \$17,000 to do the application. So far our strategy is to use the EECBG money to fund the energy audit recommendations. The Bridge Commission has indicated that is on target with what has been recommended at the State level.

ERI Payment due for Construction Observation and Management – Conrow

Ms. Blumenthal reported that there is an issue of \$9500 outstanding to ERI. This issue has been outstanding for several months. ERI's position is that they worked many nights to get the field open and they gave us a 20% reduction on the bill and added other services at no charge. Ms. Blumenthal responded that there is no more wiggle room and her recommendation is that it be paid. Mayor Keenan stated that the recap shows that the original bill was reduced. Councilwoman Riley stated that the original contract price was \$16,500. Council was in Agreement with Ms. Blumenthal's recommendation that the \$9500 be paid.

Garden State Trust

Ms. Blumenthal that this is a grant we are pursuing for Sunnyside Farm. She has been contacted by the Garden State Trust and is meeting with them this Friday at the property.

Municipal Alliance Committee List

Acting Manager, Jennifer Blumenthal, stated that normally this is done at the grant period but the Municipal Alliance is ready to put together their budget and need a quorum of votes. The list is the recommendation of the Chair of the Municipal Alliance.

Councilman Smith stated that some people currently on the committee were not present at the meetings so they had no quorum. Councilwoman Bobo questioned if all those listed know they are on the list. Ms. Blumenthal responded that the Chairman has indicated that they all attend the meetings. Council had no objections to the changes.

Mount Laurel Baseball

John Doulong and Mike Beach of Mount Laurel Baseball were present. They want permission to build a batting tunnel at Laurel Acres Park near the 90-foot field, between

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the shed and the dog run. It would cost between \$25,000 to \$30,000 and Mount Laurel Baseball will pay for it and donate it to the township. It can be opened up for 4 tunnels at the same time and will have astro turf flooring.

Deputy Mayor McCaffrey suggested that they insure the perimeter has crushed stone far enough around the cage.

Mayor Keenan questioned if softball could use it. Mr. Doulong stated that they will work with the softball organization.

Councilman Smith questioned if there were any maintenance issues. Mr. Beach stated that he would draw up an engineering design plan and submit it to Alaimo for review. They would like to run power to operate the pitching machine and lighting.

Public Comment

Robert Bohinski – 41 Broadacre Drive – questioned status of walkways and the \$59,000 bill. Mr. Norman stated he had pulled out the file and it shows two access easements and one pedestrian easement with a sidewalk to connect the two sections of the development. Mayor Keenan asked for a written report from Mr. Norman. Mr. Norman will send Council an updated report.

Mr. Bohinski questioned the number of police vehicles. Councilwoman Riley stated that each vehicle was accounted for when the reorganization was done.

Fred Braun 104 Haines Road – Stated that there is a federal program to get the geese population removed since they are overwhelming the township. He would like to see the township involved. Mayor Keenan responded that Ms. Blumenthal started looking into this earlier this year. Ms. Blumenthal stated that she has already been in contact with them.

Mr. Braun asked about the status of the court proceedings for the neighbor behind him, Ramblewood Garden Center. Mr. Norman stated that it has been postponed since they are preparing an offer.

Closed Session

The Clerk read resolution 09-R-179, authorizing Mount Laurel Township Council to go into closed session for discussion of personnel matters. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Bobo. All were in favor and Council went into closed session at 8:07 p.m.

Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey to return to Open Session. All were in favor and Council returned to open session at 8:42 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey and seconded by Councilwoman Riley to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Halbe, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Transcribed by
Patricia Halbe

The minutes of this meeting are summary minutes. A copy of the tape recording will be available in the office of the Municipal Clerk for four years.

