

**MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2009**

A Work Session Meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Council was held on Monday, August 10, 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, Deputy Mayor McCaffrey, Councilwomen Bobo and Riley and Councilman Smith. Also present were Acting Township Manager, Jennifer Blumenthal, Patricia Halbe, Municipal Clerk and Christopher Norman, Esq.

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

Proposal for Open Space Use

Ms. Blumenthal stated that she had been contacted by Doggy Adventures and they would like to work with the Township to use some of our open space for recreation for dogs. She would like to know if Council is interested in pursuing. They do use our dog runs but are looking for a larger area.

Mayor Keenan stated that he would be interested in hearing their proposal. He felt Ms. Blumenthal should meet with the company to discuss maintenance, upkeep and liability insurance. It would need to be open to the public. They would not have exclusive use. There also may be parking issues.

Councilwoman Bobo questioned where they are located. Ms. Blumenthal was not sure as she only has their web address.

Councilwoman Riley questioned the June 4th date of the correspondence. Ms. Blumenthal stated that she has been communicating with them regularly since that time.

Deputy Mayor McCaffrey felt that we would need to found out engineering and other costs involved.

Ms. Blumenthal will meet with the company and get further information.

Rancocas Woods Water/Sewer Update

Ms. Blumenthal reported that she is getting a lot of inquiries about the Rancocas Woods water/sewer project. She would like to send out another letter.

Mayor Keenan stated that there is a question about who received the previous correspondence.

Councilwoman Riley stated that there was no way to verify who received the letters since they were not sent certified.

Mayor Keenan indicated that it was put in for the stimulus package. He felt we need to give the residents answers since some residents need to replace their septic systems. He is comfortable with sending a letter out to the residents and that the response comes back to the township. He felt that we should use the same format as was used at Laurel Knoll.

Councilwoman Riley stated that properties with more than one lot get to vote for each lot.

Council was in favor of sending a letter giving a "reply by" date and that 75% affirmative vote is needed to move forward. It should also be indicated that no response is a no vote.

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Deputy Mayor McCaffrey felt that we need to be careful of the language regarding any stimulus funding.

Mayor Keenan felt that the letter should go out in September.

Developers Escrow

Ms. Blumenthal asked that this matter be tabled. She has a revised spreadsheet but it is not as detailed as we would like. There are flat fees proposed but she would like to discuss them further with the professionals before presenting to Council.

Spring Valley Estates – Maintenance in prior years

Ms. Blumenthal indicated that the township has spent an estimated \$29,562 for maintenance of the common property for the period from 2002 to 2008.

Mayor Keenan asked that the formula for pond maintenance escrow costs be determined using the state calculations.

Mr. Norman indicated that it may be on the DEP website.

Deputy Mayor McCaffrey stated that is why associations were formed as a condition of approval when the developments were built.

Turnpike Letter and Noise

Ms. Blumenthal reported that a letter had been sent from the Mayor to Governor Corzine on August 6th. Also Mr. Norman has written a noise ordinance.

Mr. Norman stated that it is a common law noise ordinance with language which he took from one upheld at the appellate division. He has made it broader due to the circumstances.

Deputy Mayor McCaffrey questioned who would enforce the ordinance. Mr. Norman responded that it would be whoever is charged with enforcement and that they should take detailed notes to support their case.

Councilwoman Riley questioned if there is any more recent case law. Mr. Norman responded that there is not but the noise control act of 1971 and alternative common law noise ordinance has been upheld four times.

Mayor Keenan stated that it has never been challenged for governmental agencies and he does not think it is detailed enough. Mr. Norman responded that more specific statutes may be problematic.

Mayor Keenan thought that as written fire stations sounding sirens could be a problem. Mr. Norman indicated that he could exempt emergency responders.

Councilwoman Riley reported that she has heard from Senator Adler's office and that he is trying to schedule a meeting for the week of August 24th.

Paper Recycling Bins

Ms. Blumenthal stated that the cost for 2000 additional recycling carts would be \$26,000 for 2009 and both recycling funds and clean communities funds are available to pay for the carts.

Recycle Bank

Ms. Blumenthal stated that if we join RecycleBank we must guarantee participation for five years. Mrs. Husted, Recycling Coordinator, is not recommending joining now but we should look into it for the future.

08-10-09

Councilman Smith questioned if it is a flat fee or a graduated one. Ms. Blumenthal replied that she was not sure but it currently is \$7.20 per home.

Mayor Keenan felt that without the County being single stream, it is not profitable. He asked that Ms. Blumenthal find out when the County is projecting to go single stream.

Target

Ms. Halbe reported that she had received a request from the Zoning Board for approval of a temporary use permit for Target at the Centerton Square Shopping Center to have twenty 8'x40' storage containers, fencing porta-johns and three 8'x20' dumpsters in a temporary staging area in the parking lot. They are adding a produce/market area in the Target Store, which will be the first in this area.

Council approved subject to any conditions of the Zoning Board.

Public Comment

Barbara O'Mallane –Knotty Oak Drive- Stated that she liked the letter sent to the Governor. She questioned whether we are telling the Turnpike that there is an area for trees or are we still looking for sound barriers. Mayor Keenan replied that the Township has asked for the Governor to find a solution.

Margaret Iannuzzi – Fostertown Road – Stated that she had called the Manager about speed on her street and she would like the police to enforce the speed limits as she recently was run off the road. The problem is on weekends from 4:30 to 10:00 p.m. when the Igloo is open. Deputy Mayor McCaffrey responded that if the police are working on it, they will not let you know and they shouldn't.

Ms. Iannuzzi commented that the road connects to Hainesport and they have no police. She felt our police need to be more visible. Mayor Keenan replied that the Township is working on it. Ms. Iannuzzi also indicated that she was glad that the township-owned property next to her was now being farmed. She would like to see them buy the property behind her home.

Closed Session

The Clerk read resolution 09-R-219, authorizing Mount Laurel Township Council to go into closed session for discussion of Personnel Matters and Litigation Matters. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bobo and seconded by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey to adopt the resolution. All were in favor and Council went into closed session at 8:25 p.m.

Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey and seconded by Councilwoman Bobo to return to Open Session. All were in favor and Council returned to open session at 9:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bobo and seconded by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 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 of this meeting will be available in the office of the Municipal Clerk for four years.

