

**MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

A Work Session Meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Council was held on Monday, September 14, 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, Councilwoman Bobo and Councilman Smith. Also present were Acting Township Manager, Jennifer Blumenthal, Patricia Halbe, Municipal Clerk and Christopher Norman, Esq. Councilwoman Riley arrived at 7:38 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.

**Traffic Light Proposal for Union Mill Road and Academy Dr.**

Ms. Blumenthal reported that she had spoken with Mr. Litwornia, Traffic Engineer, and was given a price quote of \$1200 for a traffic study of the intersection and if it meets one of the warrants it would be another \$500 to prepare documentation for NJDOT.

Council was in agreement and authorized Ms. Blumenthal to proceed with the study.

**Traffic Light Proposal for Union Mill Road and Larchmont Blvd**

Ms. Blumenthal stated that Council had asked for an explanation about the two different prices presented for this project. Mr. Litwornia has now given an amended figure which is based on NJDOT numbers. The number given is now \$296,347, which includes engineering.

Mayor Keenan questioned if the price includes the conduit that was already put in. Deputy Mayor McCaffrey felt that more information is needed and to know if the conduit is included. The estimated price was \$280,000 only several months ago and last year was \$269,000. Councilwoman Riley felt that they need to find out how long the price quote is good for. Councilman Smith felt that we need to ascertain the answers to the questions raised. Mayor Keenan indicated that he would like to see the project completed by next year.

**Change of Street Names**

Ms. Blumenthal reported that she had received a report from the Tax Assessor that a number of street names were previously changed by the 911 coordinator but they have never been changed by ordinance and we need to address this. She is asking for permission to introduce an ordinance to correct this.

Council was in agreement with moving forward with an ordinance.

**Rancocas Woods Sewer**

Ms. Blumenthal indicated that she has made some revisions to the draft letter and she wants to send out the letters by Friday. She will remove the questions that she does not have the answers to. Mayor Keenan felt that the votes should be received by the Clerk's Office and Ms. Blumenthal will indicate that in the letter.

**Turnpike Noise Abatement**

Ms. Blumenthal stated that the New Jersey Turnpike Authority indicated that they will be repaving adjacent to the homes and they are requesting the PSE&G donate trees for that area via their Alliance Action Group. Congressman Adler will also be reaching out to the residents.

Mayor Keenan stated that a meeting was held with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and they indicated that they definitely not put a wall in. They also indicated that it was

09-14-09

not them that caused the problem. The Mayor had shown photos which had been taken and NJTA agreed that PSE&G did major damage. NJTA will install new paving in that area that will reduce the decibel levels by 5 decibels. They indicated that a wall would just transfer the noise to the next street. The NJTA Director indicated that she wants PSE&G to put trees there or provide funding for trees.

Mayor Keenan stated he had asked if the BPU had ever passed the legislation concerning the height change for shrubs. If it is a federal requirement, he questions why it is not done in other places. The Turnpike Authority Director has indicated that a 1 ½ mile strip of paving is to be done in both northbound and southbound lanes, at a cost of over \$600,000. Mayor Keenan had also asked if they would do this behind other areas with homes and also asked for documentation on the walls.

Councilwoman Riley stated that the NJTA Director was very clear that it was not a turnpike problem but they were willing to help. She had contacted their engineer via blackberry for information. She was adamant that a sound barrier would not resolve the problem.

Mayor Keenan indicated that the Turnpike Director said that it would be a tough sell with the DEP to plant evergreens if it is determined to be a wetlands area. The paving will be done in October.

#### **Pennsauken Creek and Ramblewood Underdrain**

Ms. Blumenthal stated that she would like to obtain a grant consultant who can piecemeal various grants together to complete the project. She has calls in with several consultants to do pricing.

Mayor Keenan stated that the County and the Bridge Commission have been helping communities and we should ask them for assistance. He had spoken with Congressman Adler and he thought it would be a good State project. Councilwoman Riley stated that the representative from the Bridge Commission was here recently and offered assistance. Deputy Mayor McCaffrey stated that Alaimo said you can spend \$10,000,000 and still not solve the problem. You may need the governor's office to get involved. If you look at FEMA flood map, the homes would not be allowed to be built today.

Council asked that a copy of the Alaimo report of 2005 be provided again.

Councilwoman Riley asked if she should reach out to Congressman Adler to have officials from affected towns and the County at a meeting to discuss the matter. Council was in agreement and Councilwoman Riley will contact Congressman Adler.

#### **Open Space Proposals**

Ms. Blumenthal asked that this be moved to closed session at another time.

#### **Fee Ordinances**

Ms. Blumenthal stated that the emergency squad has recommended amending their fee ordinance to bill for one-way service. This would also be charged to the insurance company. She stated that the amendments to the towing ordinance were recommended by our Traffic Officer, Kurt Shepherd, after meeting with the towers. The general fee ordinance amendments are for parks & recreation fees, for license agreements and for business registration.

Mayor Keenan indicated that he was uncomfortable with the license agreement costs and had further questions regarding business registration. He would like to review these two items further.

Council was in agreement to move forward with the other fee amendments.

## **Other Matters**

### **Nixle**

Ms Blumenthal reported that both the EMS and Police Chief are in agreement to use Nixle for Public Information service. It can be set up for different levels of emergencies.

Mayor Keenan asked for confirmation that there is not cost to the residents. Ms. Blumenthal indicated that there was not.

### **Memorial for September 11**

Ms. Blumenthal reported that she has received information that we can receive portions of the buildings from September 11<sup>th</sup> from the September 11<sup>th</sup> Families Association. She felt that we could use them to create a memorial.

Mayor Keenan felt that it could be done at the Conrow property and named as Mount Laurel Memorial Park. Deputy Mayor McCaffrey stated that he sees apathy at the ceremonies he has attended elsewhere and he feels people need to be reminded.

Council was in agreement for Ms. Blumenthal to move forward with the project.

### **PSE&G Notifications**

Ms. Blumenthal reported that a letter was sent by PSE&G that indicated that we could get notification when resident's service was being turned off. She is now receiving this information.

### **Temporary Use Permit**

Ms. Halbe reported that she had received a request to extent the temporary use permit for Grande Properties LLC for the Aloft Hotel. They are requesting the re-approval for four manned trailers and four storage trailers at the site until completion of construction and then to keep one manned trailer there for use by a possible future tenant. The Zoning Board recommended approval for one year.

Council was in agreement to amend the approval only until the certificate of occupancy is issued and to approve the request for one manned trailer for one year.

### **Public Comments**

Barbara O'Mallane – 175 Knotty Oak Drive – Thanked Council for their effort. She is still concerned about the visual impact. She questioned were the trees would be put. Mayor Keenan thanked Mrs. O'Mallane for coming out.

Carol Rickerts – 170 Knotty Oak Drive – questioned how people will be notified. Mayor Keenan responded that there may be something put out already from Congressman Adler's office.

Jeff Shapiro – 433 Kelham Court – Stated that he was here regarding open space. He does not know when to submit open space proposals. Mayor Keenan responded that if he has properties to submit, he should just send them in to Council and they can always look at the properties available.

Fred Braun – 104 Haines Road – Stated that everyone wants to call the MUA about fixing the underdrain problems. A lot of the underdrains have been abandoned and you can tell when it rains due to the volume flow. The underdrains are starting to collapse and are under the sanitary sewers and it is only a matter of time until it causes them to collapse. He felt that Council may want to contact the DVRPC. He also feels that we need to change the bid specifications and not allow underdrains. The MUA system was not built to take that volume for groundwater.

He also questions why the head of the Municipal Alliance is going to make a larger salary than 80% of the Council members

09-14-09

Lisa Conte – 126 Calderwood Lane – Stated that there is a beaver dam at Pennybridge. She advised that FEMA offers mitigation grants. The County is supposed to get money for reverse 911.

Resolution 09-R-220 authorizing Closed Session was tabled.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Riley and seconded by Councilman Smith. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Halbe, RMC  
Municipal Clerk