

**MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

A Work Session Meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Council was held on Monday, September 21, 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.

**Municipal Alliance Grant Application**

Ms. Blumenthal indicated that she has received the grant application for the Municipal Alliance and they are requesting \$15,350 in grant funds which would require \$6337.50 in matching funds.

Mayor Keenan questioned if a salary for the Municipal Alliance Chair was removed from the application. Ms. Blumenthal responded that it has been removed. It was initially in the application submitted to her last week. The original submission to her was just a rough draft.

Councilwoman Riley questioned if the salary was initially included and was removed at the Manager's request. Ms. Blumenthal indicated that it was and also that the initial request was for \$40,000 in grant funds.

Deputy Mayor McCaffrey stated that the Municipal Alliance Committee list needs to be updated. Mayor Keenan indicated that the list needs to be amended to reflect Mayor or designee and Police Chief or designee. They should also check on the age requirements since two of those listed are Lenape students. Councilman Smith also stated that the Unity Church should also have a listing for a designee.

Ms. Blumenthal stated that they had discussed the existing programs such as Project Graduation and the At-Risk Mentoring Program and new programs to develop self-esteem such as artwork and photography. Also Project Blackwater which develops self-esteem and self-development in teens. Lenape High School is very much interested in having a Challenge Day, which is listed. Also various prevention outreach programs for elementary school children and at-risk children are included. It includes participation in the Fall Festival and the Ethel Lawrence Fall Festival. A number of prevention assemblies and prevention speaker and Red Ribbon Week are included in the grant. Also, a Healthy Bodies program for seniors for which they will be purchasing a Wii machine for use by the seniors at the Meeting Center. He also has a senior citizen seasonal outreach program which was geared to teaching seniors different meditation techniques to reduce stress. Also there is a Teen Bank program which teaches teens how to transition to college.

Councilwoman Riley stated that sheet 5 totals \$22,500 but there were no forms for the Safe Homes, Team Alliance and Hello Days Orientation programs. Each sheet gives a timeline for when the activities will take place so her question is since we only spent \$9300 of the 2009 monies, what activities plans have not been on task based on our contract with the County? Mayor Keenan responded one of the problems was that we did not hear back from the County on our grant until April for 2009. How could we have spent the money when we did not hear back from the County. We still have not received the contract back for the \$22,500 for this year. Ms. Blumenthal stated that the County has still not approved our agreement for 2009 and it is not just ours. Mayor Keenan stated

that the County was audited and that may have held it up. Ms. Blumenthal stated that it may be taken over by the State under the Department of Health and Human Services. Councilwoman Riley questioned if only Mount Laurel had received an extension for filing and if we are in jeopardy of losing funds. Mayor Keenan responded that it was extended county-wide to the end of August. Ms. Blumenthal stated that she called the County and was told to get it in as soon as possible.

Councilwoman Bobo stated that it was nice to see programs targeted for seniors and other cross-generational programs as it is a group that is often overlooked. Mayor Keenan stated that the Alliance had held a special program for the seniors on holiday depression last year.

#### RFQ for Appraisers

Mayor Keenan stated that we have received recommendations for the appraisers. Mr. Norman stated that he has received recommendations for the tax appeal appraisers from Mr. Moubert and Ms. Paglione, the Tax Assessor, and reviewed the recommendations. Council had no objection to the recommendations and Mr. Norman will have a resolution prepared for the next meeting. Deputy Mayor McCaffrey abstained from the discussion.

#### Target Store

Councilwoman Riley reported to the Manager that she had been at the Target store on Saturday and the gates to the trailer area were open. She is concerned about their safety procedures. Mayor Keenan stated that he had checked into the hours for activity with the zoning board and had found that there were none. He felt that Mr. Holshue should go over and talk to them about the safety issues.

#### Public Comment

None

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey and seconded by Councilwoman Riley. All were in favor and Council adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Halbe, RMC  
Municipal Clerk