

MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2009

A Work Session Meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Council was held on Monday, January 26, 2009 in Conference room A of the Mount Laurel Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keenan at 6:30 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 Patricia Halbe, Municipal Clerk; Debra Fourre, Township Manager; and Christopher Norman, Esq., Township Solicitor.

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.

CLOSED SESSION

The Clerk read resolution 09-R-38, authorizing Mount Laurel Township Council to go into closed session for personnel matters. A motion was made by Councilwoman Riley and seconded by Councilwoman Bobo to adopt the resolution. All were in favor and Council went into closed session at 6:35 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Riley to return to Open Session. All were in favor and Council returned to open session at 7:27 p.m. and after a short recess began at 7:35 p.m.

WALTON AVENUE

The Manager reported that she had sent a letter to Peter Hovnanian on January 21st on this matter.

SPRING VALLEY ESTATES

Ms. Fourre reported that the hazard signs were put up last Thursday, three at the big pond and two at the small retention basin. Public Works personnel are patrolling the area.

TIMBERCREST

Ms. Fourre reported that she has spoken with Tom Fox of the County Health Department and advised him that that the Township would like a new noise test be done at the same time of year and same time of evening as previously done. He indicated that he will submit an overtime approval request to the County to get authorization to do so.

RANCOCAS WOODS SEWER

The Manager reported that she has spoken to the USDA, who are located on Midlantic Drive in Mount Laurel. Their programs are normally for populations of 10,000 or less and they are part grant, part loan. She was informed that she should write a letter to the Director explaining the situation. She will send it out this week.

She also attended a CDBG meeting at the County and was informed that the Rancocas Woods residents can come to the County and if income eligible, can apply for a grant individually.

Ms. Fourre indicated that she has not yet sent a letter to the residents but now that she is pursuing other revenue sources, she could send a letter indicating that we are trying to identify alternative funding sources.

Council instructed the Manager to draft a letter to the residents which should be given to Council first for review. The information should also be put on the website.

CONROW/MOUNT LAUREL ROAD TRAFFIC CONCERNS

The Manager reported that she has received no response to the letter sent to the County Engineer, Tom Jaggard.

1-26-09

Council requested that she follow-up with Mr. Jaggard by phone and also for the police to do a new traffic study in Pheasantmere before the sports complex opens up again in Spring.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Ms. Fourre indicated that she had been asked by Council to contact Cherry Hill and Maple Shade about the Pennsauken Creek Stream Cleaning being submitted by those towns as part of their economic stimulus package. The Cherry Hill Administrator will talk to their engineer and ask him to speak with our engineer, Bill Long.

Ms. Blumenthal stated she has spoken to Mark Remsa and Gary LaVenia about the Rancocas Woods Sewer and they will need a letter from the Mayor for them to put in an application for the Environmental Trust fund.

Council was in agreement

SCENIC BYWAY

Ms. Fourre indicated that Mr. Litwornia and Mr. Long have been working on the scenic byway application for the Route 295 corridor at no charge. Ms. Blumenthal reported that the application needs a nomination. She would like the Township to nominate but it may need to be the County. If the Township can nominate, she would like approval to send it in.

Council requested that she speak to Mr. Litwornia and let Council know.

WEBSITE UPDATING

Ms. Fourre reported that she had received three e-mails in the past week that our website needs to be updated. She has instructed the department heads to have their information updated as each department head is responsible for their department.

EMS BILLING

The Manager reported that the Medicare enrollment application has been returned. She and Chief Pagurek have given their social security numbers. It should not affect the billing from the date started, which was December 8, 2008.

BUILDING DEMOLITION AND CLEARING PROJECT – FINAL CHANGE ORDER

The Manager reported that the change order is for replacement of the pipe across the entrance to the Kowaleski property, which cost \$1600 and for the additional tonnage for the debris which resulted in an additional \$3860.

Council requested that she confirm the tonnage by the weight tickets and were in agreement with the change order if the tonnage matched.

CONROW SPORTS COMPLEX – CHANGE ORDER #2

The Manager reported that there are reductions of \$153,636.21 but it does not include the well. She indicated that we can now purchase the gator for use at the property.

2007 LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM – CHANGE ORDER #1

The Manager reported that there is a reduction of \$13,000 for the change order.

POD ORDINANCE

Mr. Norman reported that he had written a new ordinance to deal with the residential districts for pods and construction dumpsters but not for new construction. Emergencies are an exception. The current ordinances gives the Director of Community Development some authority now but this tightens it up.

Council thought that the business districts and multi-family units should also be addressed. They will review the ordinance and respond to Mr. Norman by Thursday.

1-26-09

MUNICIPAL BUILDING SIGN

The Manager reported that money was put into the capital improvement fund for a new municipal sign in front of the building. If we do not replace sign, we can put the money back into surplus.

Council requested that Public Works do what they can to fix the current sign and agreed to return the money to surplus.

SUNNYSIDE FARMS

The Manager reported that the roof is failing and the heater needs replacement at the Sunnyside Farms property.

Council will review the conditions assessment and recommendations report and look at the property to determine future use. They agreed that it should be added to the economic stimulus package.

MULTI-SPORT FIELD ACCESS AND WATER

Ms. Fourre reported that she had received a complaint from a resident who was concerned about the fields being closed and the gate locked. He believes it should be open and available since it was bought with open space funds.

Council members were concerned that the turf surface may be hazardous when the ground is frozen. They were also concerned about vehicles being able to turn around when the gate is closed and that proper signage is needed.

Ms. Fourre reported that signs have been ordered. Ms. Halbe indicated that the Township should call the State Green Acres office and advise them so that they are aware of it in case they receive any complaints.

Ms. Fourre also reported that she has received the well bid and a decision can be made at the next work session. Council indicated that they would like to see the bid specifications and the prices received.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Ms. Fourre reported that last year Lenape High School wanted to do a video on stormwater management but it had to be cancelled two times. Then would now like to proceed and proposed doing the filming on Lenape Court on either February 2nd, 4th or 6th. Currently there is no ability for the township to edit any of the video. She felt a lot of the questions could be better answered by the MUA.

CHARITABLE CLOTHING BINS

Mr. Norman reported that new legislation requires inspections of charitable clothing bins and permits are now required. Mr. Norman will review the legislation and the Township will need to adopt an ordinance to incorporate the new regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marilyn Jones – 4314 Church Road - asked for an update on the proposed demolition of 4316 Church Road.

Ms. Fourre reported that Mr. Holshue has ordered the place condemned but they cannot find the owner to serve the papers on.

Alan Kramer – 68 Southgate Drive - Stated he went on the township website and he cannot find links to the fire department.

The Manager reported that the links are on the website.

Mr. Kramer reported that there are aggressive drivers passing on Church Road from Academy Drive to Lenape High School between 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

Council asked that the Manager advise the police department.

1-26-09

Lisa Conte- 126 Calderwood Lane - reported that there is a pothole on Masonville Road near Creek Road. She advised that if there is an evacuation from Philadelphia, the Federal Government would want to bring in pods. She also recommended calling the technical schools regarding repairs to the historic properties as they may be able to bring in students.

Reverend Dennis – 166 Ramblewood Terrace - Stated that he has furnished papers to Jennifer Blumenthal regarding the Ramblewood Flood Recovery Assessment that he has prepared.

Council requested that it be put on a separate agenda to review.

Jeff Shapiro – 433 Kelham Court – Asked for an update on the traffic signal for Larchmont Blvd. and Union Mill Road. Also portions of Larchmont Blvd. have not been resurfaced. He also questioned what was being done about the flooding on Union Mill Road.

The Manager reported that the traffic signal is currently under design. The NJDOT has not been kind to the township regarding grant funding and Larchmont Blvd has been put into our economic stimulus package. We have put Union Mill Road in for a State Mitigation Plan.

Robert Golieb – 12 Lexington Court – Stated that the stimulus package includes energy grants and the township may be eligible. He feels the township should be sensitive to people with pods due to economic conditions and wants provisions for hardships. He also commented that the seniors using the meeting facility want seniors from other areas to be able to come back to use the facility but be last in line and pay an additional fee.

Council members thought that we need more advertising of the programs and if Mount Laurel seniors are not participating, it may be the wrong programs.

Gary Cogan – 112 Yorktown Drive – Wanted Council to be aware that PODS is a brand name and they should be careful of the wording of the ordinance.

CLOSED SESSION

The Clerk read resolution 09-R-39, authorizing Mount Laurel Township Council to go into Closed Session for Personnel Matters, Negotiation Matters and Litigation Matters. A motion was made by Councilwoman Riley and seconded by Councilman Smith to adopt the resolution. All were in favor and Council went into Closed Session at 9:10 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Councilwoman Riley and seconded by Councilman Smith to return to open session. All were in favor and Council returned to open session at 11:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Riley to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and Council adjourned the meeting at 11:25 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.