

**FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**May 14, 2013  
7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor JoAnne Servais called the meeting to order and read the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT statement at 7:00pm.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor JoAnne Servais led the Flag Salute.

**ROLL CALL**

All Committee Members present with the exception of Committeeman Don Taylor who was excused.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Trooper Jimmy Myers - Bridgeton State Police Barracks reported on calls answered for the Township. He stated there were 233 calls and spoke about the general nature of those calls. He encouraged the residents not to hesitate to call the state police. The Mayor thanked Trooper Myers and also spoke about a break in on Main Street that was resolved in a few hours.

**OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

The Mayor opened the meeting to the members of the public for agenda items only.

**Benjamin Byrd - 368 Fairton-Gouldtown Rd**

Mr. Byrd asked about the Dog Ordinance. He also asked who would be demolishing the property on Buckshutem Road. He also asked if anyone on the Committee did their personal research on purchasing the Fire Truck.

**Wayne Carter - 408 Gould Avenue**

Mr. Carter gave some information about the costs of the Fire Truck and how it would average out in taxes for the residents.

**Elmer Gould - PO Box 369**

Mr. Gould asked could he get a copy of businesses to be approved. He also said he was the Safety Coordinator and he was not notified of the damage to the Convenience Center. He also said it should be discussed in the upcoming Safety Meeting. He also said when the Township has volunteers it should be made sure the job is being done correctly.

**Dennis Pierce - 203 Clarks Pond Rd**

Mr. Pierce asked about surveillance in the Township. He said it's a great idea. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor also talked about the illegal dumping and tire dumping in the Township. She also talked about Crime Watch.

Moved to Close Public portion by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes; Voted unanimously.

**ORDINANCES:**

**Ordinance #2-2013 Introduction and First Reading by Title Only A Bond Ordinance for the Purchase of Fire Truck**

The Solicitor commented about the events of the last introduction vote, in that Committeeman

Morton should of abstained. He recommended the Committee voted against the Ordinance at the advertised public hearing at the next meeting and then re-introduce the Ordinance. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes apologized to Committeeman Morton for not saying anything about voting though it crossed her mind he may have had to abstain. She also said that as a Committee if we see something being done wrong we should say something. Mayor Servais also apologized to Committeeman Morton and she said Committeeman Sharp knew that Committeeman Morton couldn't vote and should have said something before the vote had taken place. Committeeman Sharp said he shouldn't have to quote the law because we have a Solicitor. He also said Committeeman Morton should not be involved in the discussion. The Solicitor agreed. Mr. Sharp also said the Committee needs 3.3 votes for it to pass. Committeeman Morton said he is a member of the Fire Company #2. He also said he has no problem recusing himself from any discussions that would be a conflict. He said Committeeman Sharp should have provided to him and he would not have made Committeeman Sharp look bad. Committeeman Sharp said Committeeman Morton just had spoken about what he had quoted the law said he couldn't. The Solicitor gave an opinion that Committeeman Morton was speaking in general and not on the specific ordinance.

**Ordinance #3-2013 Introduction and First Reading by Title Only An Ordinance To Modify Sections Of The General Licensing Ordinance Of The Township Of Fairfield**

The Solicitor explained the ordinance and the changes that would be made.

**Ordinance #4-2013 Introduction and First Reading by Title Only An Ordinance To Modify Licensing And Regulation Of Dogs**

The Solicitor explained the ordinance and also stated that this was done as a recommendation by the Prosecutor. Deputy Mayor Thomas Hughes expressed concerns about the kennel section and vicious dog section. The Administrator commented that the Animal Control Officer also recommended this ordinance and that state statues were considered when developing the ordinance.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 81-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Authorizing The Issuance Of Certain Business Licenses**

The Mayor stated there were 8 that were in compliance and there were also some still pending. Committeeman Sharp asked what business was located at 37 Fairton-Gouldtown Road, the Mayor's address. The Mayor stated the business was dissolved. Committeeman Sharp said he reading his information from the DCA. Mayor Servais also said the business has been turned over to her son and she is not the owner. Committeeman Sharp also said he researched and the license in her son's name is pending. The Mayor stated this information was false.

Committeeman Sharp asked the Solicitor for an opinion on this matter. The Solicitor said if the Committee wishes him to he would go forward.

**REPORTS**

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – George Saponaro, Esq.

The Solicitor asked the Committee to review his written report and the memo of the litigation that was included. He also stated some Tax Appeals were completed. He also noted there was a separate letter on the Wildlife Preserves litigation that the Committee needed to review also.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT** - Fralinger Engineering

The Mayor addressed the landfill drainage issues. She said the Engineer gave a letter and that he would be sending a letter to the State to address those issues. Committeeman Sharp stated he was advised a volunteer told the employee where to dig for the drainage and the Mayor told the volunteer to do it and also the Mayor said the engineer was not needed. He said a volunteer should not be doing a professional's job. The Mayor also spoke about the Township will be receiving a grant for \$188,000 for Clark's Pond Road.



**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leo Selb**

The Administrator went over his written report. He stated Thomas Lane and Husted Landing Road were being looked at to fill large pot holes. Committeeman Sharp asked if it had been determined if Thomas Drive was a private road or not. The Administrator said the Engineer would be researching he it. He also said the baseball dugout is near complete. He also said the Public Works department was cutting grass and overgrown brush in various areas of the Township. He also said the trash on Reeves Road is being cleaned up by Kintock workers and they also helped pick up the tires that were dumped. He talked about the Weatherization Grant and that some residents were putting in applications. He talked about a line on Seabreeze Road that may need to be replaced. He also said the Clean Communities Grant had been received. He also spoke about painting and flower planting to be done around the building.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Deputy Mayor said she had asked Lee's Alarms and Fire Company #2 for additional information on their Surveillance Cameras. The Administrator also spoke about the Gate Damage at Convenience Center and how it occurred. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes discussed having Crime Watch Committee meeting. The Administrator spoke about Demolition of 727 Buckshutem Road. The Mayor said she was not sure if she wanted to support the Littoral Society Resolution in Support of Open Space Funding. The Administrator also stated he provided a packet on Surveillance Cameras for the Committee to review.

**REVIEW OF BILL LIST**

The Committee reviewed the Bill List submitted by the Chief Financial Officer for this month.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Solicitor stated he would prepare an ordinance for the Senior Center Rental Agreement. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes and the Mayor talked about what the DCA said about renting the Center. They said the money would not be for profit but to go back to the Senior Center. The Administrator said they were waiting for the City of Bridgeton on the Shared Services Proposal for City of Bridgeton Fire Official. The Solicitor stated the RFP for Banking was actually not needed. The Administrator talked about the Road Opening Permits process and the fees needed to be updated. The Administrator also talked about Methane Gas Testing at Convenience Center that would be needed from DEP.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

The Committee was provided with copies of the minutes for the meeting for April 09, 2013 and not April 16, 2013. There was not discussion.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Sangeeta Scott, of R&S Construction, talked about giving the baseball dugout job to volunteers. The Solicitor advised the Committee not to comment because of the potential litigation. Ms. Scott stated she had given several proposals to the Administrator for various jobs at the Township including on for the baseball dugout. She said the Administrator had informed her she was given the job to the dugout. She received a purchase order to sign and when she brought the signed paper worked in the Administrator said the Committee had decided to go with volunteers instead. Ms. Scott said she felt this was unfair. Committeeman Sharp said she doesn't accept the Solicitor's recommendation not to comment. The Solicitor said his recommendation was it be discussed in executive session next week when he had the chance to review the facts. He said he was only informed of this matter before the meeting began. Committeeman Sharp said volunteers were not approved and the application said JR Servais Construction which was the business he indicated earlier that didn't have a business license. The Mayor at the last meeting it was said the volunteer applications would be voided. She also said the Administrator said once the material was donated the whole process changed. She also said the permit was filled out as a favor and has since been voided and there was no money exchanged. The Mayor also said all this was done so the kids could have the opening day for baseball. Committeeman Sharp stated a racial remark was made in the audience. He also said the business in our community has been affected. There was an argument about the volunteer application process for the project. Committeeman Morton said that he was he did not want to be here to midnight and it seemed that everyone was doing something wrong except for Committeeman Sharp.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Moved to Open to the Public by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by; Voted unanimously.



Pat Conahey – PO Box 61

Mr. Conahey said the Flag looks great and is glad to see its back up. He also stated he sent out an email to the Committee and the LEPC meeting would be on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May at 6:30pm. He stated it was mandatory for everyone 6:30pm. He also asked if the ordinances are going to be put up online. He also suggested the Committee check out Fire Company #1 surveillance system also.

Sangeeta Scott - R&S Construction

Ms. Scott said the Mayor told her the Volunteers were the parents of the children and that she will not walk away.

Dennis Pierce - 203 Clarks Pond Road

Mr. Piece he did get material donated and he said there's a problem when solicitor doesn't know laws when go into effect.

Benjamin Byrd - 368 Fairton-Gouldtown Road

Mr. Byrd asked about the money for Clarks Pond Road. He also asked the Solicitor if he advised the Committee to give the Brooks money regarding their tax appeal.

Willie Brooks - 1350 Bridgeton-Millville Pike

*A disruption occurred between Mr. Byrd and Mr. Brooks.*

The Solicitor stated he would be glad to by the parliamentarian for the meetings because disruptions should not continue and also recommended the State Police be called.

Elmer Gould - PO Box 369

Mr. Gould wanted to know how the progress so he can get to his office. He also said the police should be called if the disruptions continue. He said to stop the foolishness.

Russell Pierce - 376 Fairton- Gouldtown Rd

Mr. Pierce talked about campaigning.

Cynthia Zirkle - 24 Back Neck Rd

Mrs. Zirkle asked for a response to the letter she sent about the dump ordinance being followed. She also asked if the new Business License Ordinance take Zoning into effect. She also asked about the engineering report on Thomas Drive. She also said there is a problem with OPRA requests being filled. She also said she believes Committeeman Morton knew he should recuse himself and to check back to executive minutes.

Nancy Ridgeway - 522 Irving Ave

Ms. Ridgeway said the Committee should look to the Solicitor for their advice and suggested to move the Committee remarks up before the public portion.

Herb Pierce - 344 Clarks Pond Rd

Mr. Pierce said he's only did this for the kids and politics shouldn't be involved.

Moved to Close Public portion by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Michael Morton; Voted unanimously.

REMARKS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committeeman Sharp read the state statues on the powers of the Committee and powers of the Mayor.

Committeeman Morton thanked the public for coming out.

Deputy Mayor Thomas Hughes stated she was not quitting and she will continue to do what's right for the community. She also asked that when people come into the building to be respectful. She said people need to leave their personal agendas home and that Thomas Drive was opened before

REMARKS BY MAYOR

The Mayor asked why there is such an issue when no money is spent by the Township. She asked the public who benefited from the Seabreeze project, front door ramp, and the new roof.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*No executive session was held.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved to Adjourn by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes; Voted unanimously.

ADJOURNED 9:47pm.

Approved by the Township Committee at a Public Meeting held on June 18, 2013.

Vote: MM Y, MS Y, DT Y, VTH Y JS (E); 4-0-0

Carla Smith

Carla Smith, Acting Municipal Clerk

