

**FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
ACTION MEETING MINUTES**

July 16, 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.

PRESENTATIONS

Trooper Ed Robinson - Trooper Robinson went over calls in the Township. He said the State Police is utilizing Facebook. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes asked about enforcing the speed limit on East Avenue. Trooper Robinson also said he there can be patrols of 3 on roads once a week to help keep crime and speeding down. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes also said she has Trooper Robinson's email and will be inviting him to the next Crime Watch Meeting.

Michael Garcia, Auditor - Mr. Garcia when over the Audit findings for this year. There were only 5 findings. He also said the CFO is preparing a Corrective Action Plan for the findings. Committeeman Sharp asked about a vendor being hired in 2013 but using money from 2012 to pay the bill. The Auditor said it would be a problem if it happened repeatedly. He also said normally the budget stays open in the beginning of the year to charge back any outstanding bills from the prior year. He also said that he thinks the occurrence was a one-time incident and if it wasn't fixed that it would be an audit finding next year. Committeeman Taylor said that the cleaning up the findings from the prior years showed the hard work of the different departments.

OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS

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

Wendell Lloyd – Gouldtown Fire Company

Mr. Lloyd talked about the letter given to the Committee about road signs pointing to Gouldtown. He stated there should be signs on Route 553 especially. He said it's an oversight that has been going on for the last 300 years and is seeking help to making County and State aware.

A Member of Trinity AME Church also said he will be writing a letter to the Board of Freeholders and hopefully they will be addressing the issue also at their next meeting.

Moved to Close Public portion by Committeeman Don Taylor, Seconded by Committeeman Michael Morton, Voted unanimously

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance #5-2013 Introduction and First Reading by Title Only An Ordinance Allowing for the Rental of the Township of Fairfield's Senior Center and Setting Rental Fees

Motion to Introduce by Committeeman Don Taylor, Seconded by Committeeman Michael Morton

Discussion:

Committeeman Sharp asked about the issue with the ramp. The Administrator said the contractor followed the plans. He said the contractor said he informed the Mayor at the time there was a problem with the width but he was told to build according to the plans. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said it was just an introduction to the ordinance and that the problem can be fixed. The Solicitor said that if it becomes a problem the Administrator could decline to rent the building until the repair is made.

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp N
Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Ordinance #6-2013 Introduction and First Reading by Title Only An Ordinance To Modify Sections Of The Township's Excavation of Streets Ordinance

Motion to Introduce by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

No discussion

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y
Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Ordinance #7-2013 Introduction and First Reading by Title Only An Ordinance To Modify Sections Of The Township's LOSAP Ordinance

Motion to Introduce by Committeeman Don Taylor, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes

Committeeman Morton left the room prior to discussion

Committeeman Sharp wanted the public to be aware it was raised to \$800.

Committeeman Michael Morton A Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y

Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Ordinance #8-2013 Introduction and First Reading by Title Only An Ordinance Modifying Non-Life Hazard Uses Fees

Motion to Introduce by Committeeman Michael K. Sharp, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Committeeman Morton returned. The Administrator explained the reason for the ordinance was tot first step to have our fees in line with Bridgeton to go into the Shared Service agreement for Fire Official.

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y

Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 98-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Authorizing Payment on Payment Certificate No. 2 (FINAL) on the 2012 NJDOT Trust Fund Project Regarding the Reconstruction of Hartz Drive, Gruber Drive, and Coombs Drive

Moved To Adopt by Committeeman Michael K. Sharp, Seconded by Committeeman Michael Morton

The Administrator said the residents are satisfied now.

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y

Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 99-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Authorizing William Ridgeway To Serve As Township Courier and Nathan Dunn as Alternate

Moved To Adopt by Committeeman Don Taylor, Seconded by Committeeman Michael Morton

The Administrator said they would be covered under JIF and that he is working on a procedure to be followed.

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y

Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 101-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Authorizing Shared Services Agreement Between Township Of Fairfield And City Of Bridgeton

Moved To Adopt by Committeeman Michael K. Sharp, Seconded by Committeeman Michael Morton

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y

Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 102-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Establishing the Crime Watch Committee

Moved To Adopt by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Deputy Mayor Thomas- Hughes called Mr. Willie White up to display a T-shirt that was made up to say "Start Snitching" (Standing Near In Trouble Calling Help)

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y

Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 103-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Approving Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Highway Coin Drops For September 1, 2013 Route 553, Main Street And The County Highways, Routes 553, 670, 675 (5 Points Area).

Moved To Adopt by Committeeman Don Taylor, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes

Committeeman Michael Morton A Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y

Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 104-2013 A Resolution Approving Fairfield Township Volunteer Fire Company #2 Alcohol Beverage Permit for Annual Chicken BBQ on July 27, 2013 on the Condition of the Approval of the State of NJ Alcohol Beverage Control

Moved To Adopt by Committeeman Michael K. Sharp, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes

Committeeman Michael Morton A Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y
Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 105-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Approving A Corrective Action Plan For 2012 Audit

Moved To Adopt by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor
Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y
Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

The Administrator asked the Committee for a resolution for emergency appropriation for the landfill disruption. A discussion about the Engineer and the Administrator going out to the landfill which Committeeman Sharp also attended. The Committee decided to review the Resolution during the meeting and vote later in the meeting.

REPORTS

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – George Saponaro, Esq.

The Solicitor submitted a written report to the Committee to be reviewed during executive session.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - Fralinger Engineering

The Committee received a written report from the Engineer

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said that the banks are not making money and were charging the Township fees that shouldn't have been charged

Resolution 106-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee to Transfer all Township funds from Sun Bank to TD Bank

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Taylor
Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y
Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Motion to approve the Payment of Bills as Reflected on the Bill List as Certified as to the Availability of Funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes abstained on chk# 1165

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y
Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

OLD BUSINESS

The Administrator reported a tree on Duck Cove that is making the road crack. He said it is in the Township's right of way. Committeeman Morton asked if the tree could be cut down and the roots taken care of later. Mayor Servais said it needs to be looked into for safety. The Administrator said he would get quotes for removal of the tree and also removal of the roots.

Mayor Servais talked about the Township Community Day and getting bags with the Township Emblem on them so they could be filled with schools supplies. She said the Township may have money in public relations or clean communities to help with the cost. The event will be August 24, 2013 form 3pm - 7pm if anyone is interest in helping out.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Administrator talked about the Township received a map of the future school sports complex and is posted on the bulletin board. He also reported the sewer pump station had been burglarized. He talked about installing an alarm system through the alarm company that services the Township building. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said she still would like to see surveillance also. Committeeman Morton motioned to secure the sewer system. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes seconded.

Committeeman Michael Morton Y Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y
Committeeman Don Taylor Y Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

The Administrator also discussed the Construction office may need an Acting Construction Official. He said Mr. Morano who is currently the Plumbing Inspector serve because he has all the same licenses as the current official. He also said Mr. Morano has volunteered on an emergency basis. Committeeman Morton motioned to appoint Mr. Morano as Acting Construction Official. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes seconded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes Work Session, Regular Action, and Executive Session Meetings for June 11, 2013 and June 18, 2013.

Deputy Thomas-Hughes said she had questions on the June 11 meeting

Committeeman Sharp wanted to read a letter in to the record regarding citizens' complaints. The Solicitor asked the Committee to read his report which he handed out before in executive session.

The Administrator said the Small Cities Grant had cost associated with it. The Solicitor said he also wanted to go over that in executive session as well.

The Solicitor said he recommended the Committee go into executive session to discuss having a investigation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 107-2013 A Resolution to Move adjourn into Executive Session from which the public be excluded to discuss issues involving matters as permitted by the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 relating to: Litigation, CBA Negotiations - Union Contract, Personnel

Minutes will be kept and once the matter(s) no longer require confidentially, the minutes will be made public and upon completion, the Committee will return to the Public Session and action may be taken.

Moved To Adopt by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

Out of Executive Session 9:42 pm.

Moved to close Executive Session and Return to Public Session by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes; Voted unanimously.

Committeeman Morton motioned to appoint an investigator into certain allegations.

Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes seconded the motion.

Committeeman Michael Morton __Y__ Committeeman Michael K. Sharp __Y__

Committeeman Don Taylor __Y__ Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes __Y__ Mayor JoAnne Servais __Y__

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.

George Harris – 409 East Ave

Mr. Harris asked why the Clean Community wasn't advertised and why the Fire Companies were not notified. He said the Administrator said he would personally mail them out and he felt it was personal that the Fire Company #2 was left out. The Committee said they felt no one was left out intentionally. He also had a question about a bill for the ambulance and Fairton Fire Company. The Committee said one bill was to repair an Ambulance that the insurance didn't cover and one was for training that was covered under the union contract.

Pat Conahey – PO Box 61, Fairton

Mr. Conahey said the Clean Community Day should be advertised. He said we might have more groups respond and get more cleaned up.

Joel Webster – 79 Cedarville Rd

Mr. Webster talked about a Fire Truck that was sold to The Township 30+ years ago. He said when the Township sold the truck a new title was never done. He said the Township would just need to send a notarized letter when the truck was bought and sold. The Solicitor said he would handle it.

Troy Pitts – 381 Reeves Rd

Mr. Pitts state he got a memo from Mr. Selb date 6/10/13 in which he stated Mr. Russell Pierce called he and Mr. Byrd monkeys. He asked has the Committee taken action or will they take action. He said if Mr. Pierce cannot conduct himself appropriately then he should be removed as a volunteer. He also read the Township Resolution in 2012 regarding civil rights. He asked the Committee to enforce the Resolution. He said he would like to be interviewed when there is an investigation.

Russell Pierce – 376 Fairton-Gouldtown Rd

Mr. Pierce said he didn't call him monkeys and that this is all hearsay. He also said people are putting things on the internet and he wants it stopped.

Moved to Close Public portion by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

REMARKS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committeeman Sharp hopes the Committee does what it needs to, to truly move forward.

Committeeman Taylor said there was a correction in a statement made in the last meeting about Mr.

Byrd's brother receiving money and that the decision was not made by a court. Committeeman Sharp said the decision was made by the insurance carrier.

Committeeman Morton said the Committee is getting thrown off track by a lot of distractions and needs to get back to handling Township business.

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said the Township should move forward and volunteers are needed for Crime Watch.

REMARKS BY MAYOR

Mayor Servais said in the fall it will be made sure people are informed about Clean Community Day. She said it helps the town a lot. She also said she hopes everyone that can help with the Township Community Day.

Resolution 108-2013 A Resolution Emergency Appropriation for Convenience Center

Committeeman Morton questions the \$90,000 in anticipation of increasing fees and suggested \$45,000. The Administrator explained further on why the amount is \$90,000.

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Taylor

Committeeman Michael Morton __N__ Committeeman Michael K. Sharp __Y__

Committeeman Don Taylor __Y__ Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes __Y__ Mayor JoAnne Servais __Y__

ADJOURNMENT

Moved to Adjourn by Committeeman Morton, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously.

ADJOURNED 10:30 pm.

Approved by the Township Committee at a Public Meeting held on _____.

Vote: MM ____, MS ____, DT ____, VTH ____, JS ____; ____ - ____ - ____

Carla Smith, Acting Municipal Clerk