

**FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

July 9, 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. Doug Burry, Esq. sat in for the Solicitor, George Saponaro, Esq.

PRESENTATIONS

Shameka Watson and Nicole Adamson presented to the Committee the idea of holding a Township Community Day. The event would be one day and would be something for the children in the Township to do. Ms. Watson and Ms. Adamson said they would like to have the event August 24, 2013 from 3pm – 7pm and would like the Township to assist in any way they could. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor said they could meet with Ms. Watson and Ms. Adamson next week to further discuss the details.

Mr. Eugene Bryant also commented that they could look into using the school for such an event also.

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

Nancy Ridgeway –Irving Ave

Ms. Ridgeway said the Senior Center could also be used as a Community Center.

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

Committeeman Taylor said he thought \$500 fee may be too high. Committeeman Sharp asked about the status of the handicapped ramp being brought up to code. Mayor Servais said it was still being researched will be repaired before end of year and she also thought \$500 was too. Committeeman Sharp also wanted to know if original contractor can't fix the problem where would the money come from to fix it. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said she also thought \$500 was too high. Committeeman Sharp said he still thinks this would be taking away from the businesses already located in the Township. Committeeman Taylor talked about how Deptford Township and other towns use their facilities in the same way.

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

Committeeman Taylor asked what brought about the need to modify this Ordinance. Mayor Servais said that it was because the fees for Road Openings the Township charges were too low. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes asked if the fees go to the Township or the Engineer.

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

Committeeman Taylor asked if all the complaints from the residents had been satisfied. Mayor Servais said to her knowledge there was one person left. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said she was not an Engineer but that the work did not look complete.

Resolution 99-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Authorizing William Ridgway To Serve As Township Courier

Mayor Servais said that the current service cost \$20 per day. She also asked about getting Mr. Ridgway insured. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said she spoke to Mr. Ridgway and thinks Mr. Ridgway is capable of doing the job and that it will save money in the long run.. Committeeman Sharp said he thinks there should be a backup. The Administrator said he spoke to Nate Dunn and that he was available to do the jobs also. The Mayor asked the Clerk to add Mr. Dunn to the Resolution as an alternate. Committeeman Sharp said would it be an added duty to his title because it may cause a problem with the union.

Resolution 100-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Authorizing Fralinger Engineering To Apply For Discretionary Aid For The Reconstruction of Thomas Drive

Committeeman Sharp said that it was still not clear on the ownership of the road. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said it was already approved at the last action meeting. Committeeman Taylor said the Engineer said no resident on Thomas Drive owned the road so the Township should maintain it.

REPORTS

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Doug Burry

Mr. Burry stated his office would be sending the Committee a written report for the next meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - Fralinger Engineering

The Mayor said the Engineer would be providing the Committee with a report next week.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leo Selb

The Administrator answered questions the public had about various items concerning the Township. He mentioned the Engineers comments about Thomas Drive. He also mentioned the money for Fire Truck would come from the Township financing it from itself. He mentioned how much land was State owned in the Township. He mentioned the amounts in the formerly in the dog account and dog canvassing. He talked about Boat Ramps during low tide. He also spoke about increasing the LOSAP fees to \$800 and suggested spreading the LOSAP increase over several years. He also said if the Township were to increase the amounts that an ordinance must be adopted by August in order to be placed on the ballot for the General Election. He also talked about possibly getting millings to use on Husted Landing Road. He also talked about possibly getting a better rate on the electricity through Emex. He also talked about a decision for Triad Associates to do the Small Cities Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

The Administrator reported that the TD Bank would take the Township's business and that a meeting would be set up Wednesday morning with a representative from TD Bank and the CFO to plan out the process. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said that she was available to attend that meeting. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes also said there was an issue with a property not having a proper Certificate of Occupancy. The Administrator said the Code Enforcement officer was investigating the issue. Committeeman Sharp talked about complaints about materials being left on Mark Drive by a contractor for South Jersey Gas.

REVIEW OF BILL LIST

The Committee reviewed the bill list submitted by the Chief Financial Officer. Committeeman Sharp commented about the Solicitor's bill for last meeting. He also said he was waiting a response from the CFO about using 2012 money for a 2013 bill.

OLD BUSINESS

The Mayor said the Auditor will be at the next meeting to explain 2012 Audit Findings. The Mayor also reported that the CFO researched and found that the Bach Bill regarding Master Plan has to be paid even though it was from 2010. The Administrator explained why it took so long.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the Minutes for Work Session, Regular Action, and Executive Session Meetings for June 11, 2013 and June 18, 2013. There was no discussion

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the demolition of the property on 725 Buckshutem Road. The Committee set the time and date for all quotes to be in by July 31, 2013 at 4pm. Also issues with business licenses being issued and the properties not having appropriate variances.

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes motioned to withdraw those business licenses and allow them to go before the Planning Board. Committeeman Taylor seconded the motion.

It was also added that their \$75 fees be refunded to them. Committeeman Sharp commented that he disagreed with what was being done and that he wanted to see all business with variances.

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

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes also requested a resolution for Crime Watch for the next meeting and send notices to those who expressed interest to be on the Committee. She also added that quotes for surveillance were still being gathered. The Administrator added that he currently had a quote for \$15,000 and that there were two systems that they were looking at.

Committeeman Sharp said that he wanted to put some complaints on record because litigation could follow. He also said he had given the complaints to the Solicitor and Committee. Committeeman Morton asked to excuse himself because did not want to be a part of something that would sicken him.

Committeeman Morton excused himself.

The Administrator asked if it was appropriate to discuss in public if it could be potential litigation. Committeeman Sharp said the acts that took place regarding the complaints happened in the Township Hall and those who committed them should not be in the Township hall. The Solicitor said that it should be discussed in closed session because in involves some personnel issues.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Committeeman Morton returned.

Pat Conahey – PO Box 61, Fairton

Mr. Conahey suggested making sure the Community Day is covered by JIF. He also asked when the audit findings will be posted to the website. He also said that he is also tired of hearing that Fairfield Township has a dirty house.

George Harris – 409 East Ave

Mr. Harris stated the Committee should reconsider pulling those business licenses and they should have 30 day notices.

Benjamin Byrd – 368 Fairton-Gouldtown Rd

Mr. Byrd asked Committeeman Morton what it takes to offend him. He said that he feels it's inappropriate to call anybody names and that the Township has a civil rights policy and it should be taken seriously. He also asked if the code enforcement and construction officer don't know their jobs they should be here. Committeeman Taylor asked if Mr. Byrd had

Eugene Bryant –East Ave

Mr. Bryant said it was a shame what was going on it in the Township. He also said East Avenue needs work. He said it needs lines and speed limit signs. He also suggested bring Township cops back.

Russell Pierce – 376 Fairton-Gouldtown Rd

Mr. Pierce said the accusations against him are not true. He said he did not call Mr. Byrd and Mr. Pitts names. He also said that he has a Court order for his fence.

Nancy Ridgeway – Irving Ave

Ms. Ridgeway asked what the capacity was for the Senior Center. She also asked if other people from outside the Township allowed coming to the Senior Center. She also asked do the Township get billed if the engineer has to go out and do several inspections.

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

REMARKS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes amended here previous motion to give the businesses 60 days to go before the Planning Board. Committeeman Taylor 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 A

REMARKS BY MAYOR

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 97-2013 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 Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes; Voted unanimously.

Out of Executive Session 10:53 pm.

Moved to close Executive Session and Return to Public Session by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ADJOURNED 10:53 pm.

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

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

Carla Smith, Acting Municipal Clerk