

**FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES  
October 8, 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. was in for George Saponaro.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Dave Schooch, Fire Marshall, was absent and would be at the next week's meeting.

Michelle Kennedy, Fairfield Township BOE President gave a presentation of the progress on the Township Athletic Field Complex. She said that they are 2-3 weeks from the completion of Phase I. She said the walking track will be available to the students but the fields will need time for the grass to grow. She said Phase II should begin July 1<sup>st</sup> and an opening ceremony will be most likely held in the fall of 2014. She also talked about Safe Routes to School, a grant program with the state that would provide the school with non-infrastructure programs as well as sidewalks for the school. She hopes the municipality would assist the school and form a partnership in obtaining these grants. She said the school has a grant writing committee that could assist the Township if needed. She also said that there would be matching funds needed but she did not know the amount needed. She said the grant opens November 1<sup>st</sup> and closes in December. She asks the Committee for their support in obtaining the grant because it is needed for the School Board to pass their resolution for the grant.

**OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Moved to Open to the Public by Committeeman Michael Morton, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

Larry Robinson - 463 Val Lane, Millville

Mr. Robinson wanted to speak on the Senior Center ramp. The Mayor said since it was not on the Agenda that it would have to wait for public portion.

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

**ORDINANCES:**

**Ordinance 9-2013 An Ordinance Of The Township Of Fairfield, County Of Cumberland, State Of New Jersey Fixing The Salaries and/or Wages Of Certain Officers And Employees**

The Committee decided to move the discussion about Ordinance 9-2013 into executive session.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 126-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee For Approval To Submit A Grant Application And Execute A Grant Contract With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For The Reconstruction Of Thomas Drive**

Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes said the Clerk said the State needed the specific numbers put into the resolution and that the Engineer requested these resolutions. Committeeman Sharp said it still hadn't been determined the ownership of Thomas Drive and that he thinks there are more pressing matters to be considered.

Committeeman Taylor said he remembers that Thomas Drive used to go all the way to Buckshutem Road.

**Resolution 127-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee For Approval To Submit A Grant Application And Execute A Grant Contract With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For The Reconstruction Of Holly Way**

There was no discussion.

**Resolution 128-2013 A Resolution For Refund Of Tax Overpayment Of \$1872.23 To Industry Consulting Group/ Celinek**

Committeeman Morton asked about the amount. The Clerk said this was because the mortgage company had overpaid on the account in error.

**Resolution 129-2013 A Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Fairfield Setting Hours for Trick or Treat**

The Mayor said that the surrounding towns were having theirs Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4pm-7pm

**REPORTS**

Mayor mentioned all reports were received in written form and asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes mentioned that the Solicitor's bill from last month was missing.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Committeeman Sharp asked about when the decision to change remote access come before the Committee. Committeeman Taylor asked for Committeeman Sharp to show him the resolution where it was authorized to have remote access in the first place. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said that recently at a JIF meeting that there are cyber hacking issues going on. She said she informed the computer company that remote access should be removed. Committeeman Sharp said that Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes violated the Open Public Meetings Act by not bring the issue before the Committee. Committeeman Morton said he applauded the action because he would not want his personal information compromised. Mayor Servais said Committeeman Sharp sends texts from his phone and Ipad during the meetings and during executive session and that is also a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Committeeman Sharp stated that anything that he does is not Township Business. He also said locks were changed in the Township Hall and it was not brought before the Committee. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes said that there were statutory offices in the building and that some employees were saying that someone had been in their offices when they were not present.

Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes motioned to approve NJ Firemen's Association Application for Dvine Crossell. Committeeman Don Taylor seconded the motion.  
Committeeman Michael Morton   A   Committeeman Michael K. Sharp   Y    
Committeeman Don Taylor   Y   Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes   Y   Mayor JoAnne Servais   Y  

Committeeman Sharp said he was informed that a criminal complaint was filed against him for harassment of the Mayor. He said when the complaint is served he will come to the Committee for legal representation

**REVIEW OF BILL LIST**

The Committee reviewed Bill List submitted by the Chief Financial Officer. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes wanted to make sure the Solicitor's bill was not forgotten.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Committeeman Morton asked about if any response was received from the Vo-Tech about repairing the OEM vehicle.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

The Committee reviewed the Minutes for Work Session, Regular Action, and Executive Session Meetings for June 11, 2013, June 18, 2013 and September 10, 2013. The minutes for September 17, 2013 will be provided for next meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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

Pat Conahey PO Box 61

Mr. Conahey asked the Committee to look in their packets at their Safety Committee reports. He also said that he was Deputy Mayor at the time of the theft in the Tax Collector's office and that it was found she was using remote access to make changes in the system and that locks were changed many times.

Larry Robinson - 463 Val Lane, Millville - Larry's Remodeling and Painting

Mr. Robinson said he was awarded repair of the press box. He said the Administrator also told him he was awarded the work on the Senior Center ramp. He said he asked the Administrator about the blueprints for the ramp. He said originally Mr. Selb said blueprints were not needed. Mr. Robinson also said that Mr. Selb said he would take care of the permits for him. Mr. Robinson said since the job has been shut down because there was no blueprints or permits. Mr. Robinson said he would have the blue prints as soon as he gets them. He said the only reason why he started the job because he was told too. He also said that there were rumors going around and that he is not related to the Deputy Mayor. The Administrator said that he had several discussion with Mr. Robinson and he had filled out the permits because he was asked to by the Construction Official. He also said that everything was for the press box not the ramp. The Administrator said he recorded the phone call with Mr. Robinson because he knew it would be an issue. Committeeman Sharp said it could be looked at as guaranteeing a job.

Ed Kimley - 84 Seabreeze Rd

Mr. Kimley said the Administrator never said for Mr. Robinson not to do the ramp. He also said recording a telephone conversation is against the law. The Solicitor said as long as one of the parties knows its being recorded that it is not against the law.

George Harris - 409 East Ave

Mr. Harris asked about how the Tax Assessor was assessing homes in the Township. He said the Tax Assessor never talked to his daughter about the house only to the builder.

Geneva Griffin - 195 Shoemaker Lane

Ms. Griffin gave the Committee a copy of the decision for the B&M Auto Salvage. She also said it may help in the debate that the Committee is having with the business licenses.

Dennis Pierce - 203 Clarks Pond Rd

Mr. Pierce asked about when they would be starting work on Clarks Pond Rd. He asked about if the bridge would be fixed. He also said there is a lot of trash in waterfall and if the Township could get a team of people to clean it out the pond would flow properly.

Nancy Ridgeway - 582 Irving Ave

Ms. Ridgeway wanted to know if the Committee would be considering something being done about the damage to Township property.

Russell Pierce - 376 Fairton-Gouldtown Rd

Mr. Pierce said he would like the Committee to do a resolution on the uses of electronics during the meeting and he would also like Committeeman Sharp's texts be subpoenaed.

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

REMARKS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committeeman Sharp said the Committee needs to figure out the authority of the Committee because it is a Committee of five.

Committeeman Taylor asked Committeeman Sharp for the resolution granting remote access of the computer system. Committeeman Sharp said he had access to the records and the he could look for it himself.

Committeeman Morton talked about looking a competitive rates for the staff.

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes reiterated some of the things that she had wanted to be addressed in the last few meetings. She also asked about the progress on four way stop at Burlington Rd and Fairton -Gouldtown Rd. She also asked about if someone had paperwork about getting more than one fire truck for \$500,000. She also talked about being careful with responding to emails that may violate the Sunshine Law.

REMARKS BY MAYOR

The Mayor said she wants a resolution or policy on using electronics on the deist and during executive session. She said its frowned upon but because the Township has nothing in place nothing can be done about it. She also talked about having a ordinance for parking and speed signs so the signage can be enforced.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Resolution 127-2013 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 10:09pm.

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

*Committeeman Morton motioned to deny leave of absence requested by Deputy Tax Collector. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes seconded the motion.*

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

The Deputy Mayor asked for the League of Municipalities conference and the senior center ramp be put on the agenda for next week.

Committeeman Morton said in order to correct the issue with the senior center ramp since it was not authorized by the Committee, the Committee should vote to spend the amount so the job could be completed. Committeeman Sharp said the Committee had no choice to award the job to the contractor because the contractor had already started the work.

*Committeeman Morton motioned to authorize expenditure of \$6637.45 for the Senior Center ramp. Committeeman Taylor seconded the motion.*

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

The Mayor talked about giving the Acting Clerk help immediately. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes suggested Ms. Griffin be hired temporarily because she had held that position previously. Committeeman Taylor agreed. The Mayor asked if it could be done without being advertised. It was said as long as it was temporary.

*Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes made motion to consider Ms. Geneva Griffin for a temporary position. Committeeman Taylor seconded the motion.*

*Committeeman Sharp left at 10:37pm.*

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

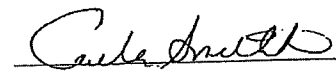
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

ADJOURNED 10:34pm.

Approved by the Township Committee at a Public Meeting held on November 12, 2013.

Vote: MM Y, MS N, DT Y, VTH Y, JS Y; 4-1-0



Carla Smith, Acting Municipal Clerk