

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING – JANUARY 18, 2012

Mayor Bishop called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and requested the Clerk to call the roll. The following members were present: Eric J. Houghtaling, Mary Beth Jahn, Kevin B. McMillan and Mayor J. Randy Bishop. (Dr. Michael Brantley arrived one minute after the start of the meeting.)

Also present at the dais were Richard J. Cuttrel, Municipal Clerk; Philip D. Huhn, Township Administrator; and Michael J. Bascom, Chief Financial Officer.

Mayor Bishop announced that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in the Asbury Park Press and The Coaster on January 12, 2012, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Bishop stated that the purpose of this special workshop meeting was to discuss 2012 goals and objectives of the Township Committee.

Ms. Jahn stated that she has been reviewing the housing situation and the Township lacks any good apartment buildings. Without apartment units, the Township is pushing young families and hospital interns to other towns. She will be working with the Economic Development Corporation to attract developers for this purpose. Mr. Huhn stated that he has been informed that Jersey Shore University Medical Center has a large residential component in their Phase II expansion plans.

Ms. Jahn stated that she will continue to look at transportation issues and is hopeful that there will be state funding for a local bus shuttle through the Township.

Dr. Brantley stated that the Wesley Lake Commission is exploring fundraising opportunities and grants for repair of the wall. They are looking at a Save Wesley Lake reception at one of the schools where discussion will take place regarding improving numerous aspects of the lake. In addition, the Convention Hall may be available for a future event. Dr. Brantley also suggested that the addition of Wifi in the Municipal Building be explored to possibility eliminate the need for paper agendas and documents for Township and Board meetings.

The Mayor stated that a Governor Christie signed a bill regarding moving the annual Board of Education election to the General Election in November. The change can be done by adoption of a resolution by either the Board of Education or the Municipal Governing Body, or by 15% of the voters signing a petition to request a ballot question. The Mayor asked Dr. Brantley to set up a meeting with Township and Board officials to discuss the matter.

Mr. McMillan stated that he wants to continue to look at the Recreation Master Plan and look at different programming possibilities in Recreation. He also wants to support job opportunities for kids and the Safe Fields legislation. The Mayor asked Mr. McMillan to look at the use of the schools by our Recreation Department through the Township's Interlocal Agreement and see if he has worked or if anything needs to be changed.

Mr. Houghtaling stated that the Township needs to pass the Master Plan. He seeks a policy of more co-mingling of recyclables, continued progress with MURC and West Lake Avenue, completing the Schoolhouse Square project, improving lighting on West Lake Avenue near Loffredo Fields, correcting the drainage issues at Loffredo Fields, improving the walking trail at Sunshine Village fields and looking at anything to beautify the Township through Public Works resources.

Dr. Brantley stated that the issue of standing water on roadways is becoming an epidemic. Mr. Huhn stated that there are many of these instances in the Township and it always comes down to the cost of designing a system to remove the water. The problem has existed for many years. The Mayor mentioned that the Township is doing more with grading plans in new developments. Dr. Brantley stated that the Township needs to better communicate that we are aware of these issues.

Mr. McMillan asked that the idea of a Recycling Bank be revisited. Mr. Bascom will request the Mark Balzarano look into the matter.

The Mayor stated that he would like to initiate a policy where code and construction inspectors call residents when they are in route for an inspection. He added that he will be periodically contacting residents who appeared before land use boards or went through the construction permitting process to get their feedback on how the process went.

Mr. Huhn reiterated that everyone needs to do a better job on getting positive news out to the residents. There are a lot of good things happening in Neptune; however, the message does not always get out to the residents.

Mr. Bascom stated that the park at the Welsh Farms property is progressing. The Committee will need to decide whether to rehabilitate or demolish the house on the property. He added that we are due for a negotiation meeting with the North End Developer, the dredging of lakes needs to occur either through the County or interlocals with other towns. Departmental budget meetings are upcoming, additional interlocal agreements are in the works, the Public Safety Officers continue to evolve and will be looking to take on more Township work. Finally, Public Works is utilizing cameras more frequently in the sanitary sewer and storm drain lines to be proactive in finding potential infrastructure problems.

AUTHORIZE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mr. McMillan offered the following resolution, moved and seconded by Ms. Jahn, that it be adopted:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and,

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune, County of Monmouth, as follows:

1. The Public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
Personnel – Township staffing
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matters will be made public when matters are resolved.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The resolution was adopted on the following vote: Brantley, aye; Houghtaling, aye; Jahn, aye; McMillan, aye; and Bishop, aye.

The Committee entered executive session for discussion on a closed session matter.

The Committee returned to open session and Mr. McMillan offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Jahn, to adjourn. All were in favor.

Richard J. Cuttrell,
Municipal Clerk

