

**MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2014
TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MEETING**

Call to Order: Mayor Joseph W. Barton called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The Township Clerk read the Sunshine Notice Statement as follows:

Sunshine Notice: This meeting is called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of **June 9, 2014** was included in a list of notices sent to the Central Record, Burlington County Times and Courier Post. Posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public, and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Present

Roll Call:

Kimberly A. Brown, Township Committee
Richard Franzen, Township Committee
Stephen V. Lee, IV, Deputy Mayor
Joseph Yates, IV, Township Committee
Joseph Barton, Mayor

In attendance:

Douglas A. Cramer, Township Administrator
Terry W. Henry, Chief Finance Officer
Kevin P. Frenia, Township Auditor
Frank Morris, Township Engineer
La Shawn R. Barber, RMC, Township Clerk
Peter C. Lange, Jr. Township Solicitor

Public Comment on agenda items only

Fran Brooks, 78 Moores Meadow Road, questioned an item on the bill list and asked if there was anything else for discussion not listed on the Agenda. Posed question about the Appointment of Temporary/Part-Time Office Clerk Elaine Kennedy.

Approval of Bills

- On a motion made by Mr. Yates, seconded by Mr. Lee the bills were ordered paid.

Roll Call: Brown, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Barton Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Resolutions

**Resolution 2014-85
Appoint Temporary / Part-Time Office Clerk Elaine B. Kennedy**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee recognizes the need to fill this position with a responsible applicant experienced in the duties required of the administrative office to handle the daily operations in the department of Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator finds the best candidate to fill this position is Elaine B. Kennedy to the temporary position of a part-time Office Clerk based on her qualifications and experience; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for payment of her salary at \$15.00 per hour in the 2014 Tabernacle Township budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee appoints Elaine B. Kennedy as a temporary part-time Office Clerk in the Administrative Department for Tabernacle Township, effective June 23, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tabernacle Township Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual is hereby amended to reflect the position of temporary part-time Office Clerk.

- On a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Lee, Resolution 2014-85 was offered for adoption.

Roll Call: Brown, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Barton Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Mayor Barton took a moment to welcome Ms. Elaine B. Kennedy and congratulated her on her appointment. Ms. Kennedy thanked the Committee.

Resolution 2014-86
Authorize Shared Service Engineer to prepare specifications and solicit bids for Tuckerton Road 2014 Re-paving Project.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Township of Tabernacle to receive sealed proposals for the **NJDOT Tuckerton Road 2014 Re-paving Project**; and

WHEREAS, specifications and sealed proposals will be prepared and received by Dante Guzzi Engineering Associates, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Tabernacle Township, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes Shared Service Engineer to develop specifications and receive sealed bids for the NJDOT Tuckerton Road 2014 Re-paving Project.

- Mr. Cramer gave a brief description of what was to be addressed in this project.
- On a motion made by Mr. Yates, seconded by Ms. Brown, Resolution 2014-86 was offered for adoption.

Roll Call: Brown, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Barton Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
Motion carried.

Resolution 2014-87
Authorize Township Solicitor to prepare specifications and solicit bids for Demolition of Block 324, Lot 5.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Tabernacle Township to receive sealed proposals for the demolition of Block 325, Lot 5 in Tabernacle Township; and

WHEREAS, specifications will be prepared by the Township Solicitor and sealed proposals will be received by the Township Clerk's Office at 163 Carranza Road, Tabernacle, NJ 08088.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Tabernacle Township in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the Township Solicitor to prepare specifications and solicit bids for demolition of Block 324, Lot 5 in Tabernacle Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED upon advertised notice that sealed proposals is to be delivered or mailed to the Township clerk in Tabernacle Township, where **sealed bids will be opened publicly.**

- Mr. Lange provided the Committee with the bid specifications.
- On a motion made by Mr. Yates, seconded by Ms. Brown, Resolution 2014-87 was offered for adoption.

Roll Call: Brown, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Barton Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
Motion carried.

Old Business

Discussion: South Jersey Industries / Twp. Engineer – Street Opening Permits

A representative from South Jersey Gas, Ashley Greenberg gave a presentation to the Committee on work they were performing to catch up on items that had not been addressed during the winter months. She indicated that they had made great progress in getting most of these items addressed.

Mr. Morris reported that he had been working with the contractors and the problem involves the follow up communication with restoration work. Going forward there are still some things to be done in the field. But there are a lot of openings that have not been addressed because of this issue. Ms. Greenberg agreed to work with the Engineer to ensure that this issue and any others would be addressed in a timely manner. Some changes in the wording of the Resolution were recommended to address when and how restoration work was to be done. A thirty day window was recommended by the Engineer to address outstanding issues.

Discussion Emergency Services:

The purpose of discussion was to give the attorney direction so that papers could be filed with the DCA. A discussion ensued pertaining to the position of a Public Safety Director and a Public Safety Board and how the emergency services would be addressed in terms of authority. Mayor Barton felt that if there had been a Public Safety Director, they would not have a lawsuit. He was in favor of a Public Safety Director for the fire, rescue squad, Emergency Management, and State Police and in favor of a Public Safety Board. Opposition to the position of a Public Safety Director was expressed by Kim Brown and Mr. Franzen. Ms. Brown stated that volunteers are our biggest asset. Mr. Yates suggested that the Public Safety Director position be created but not filled at this time; however, he was totally against a Public Safety Board. Mr. Lange was asked about the contracting of services with the volunteer organizations such as the fire company and rescue squad. Several Committeemen agreed that input from the volunteers was vital. A Public Safety Board could be considered. Mr. Lee asked for resident input at this time. The Mayor opened the floor to the public for discussion.

Mr. Smith, Chief of Fire Company, did not feel we needed a Public Safety Director.

Chief George Jackson, Tabernacle Rescue Squad, is proud of accomplishments of his squad. They are working on lessening the burden on the taxpayers with the billing. He does not believe there is any need to have someone overseeing his squad. There is an opportunity for his squad and the fire company to work together and they have already started to do this. To have someone start to oversee them would be a disservice.

Sean Vena commended both chiefs on their responses. He is afraid that Public Safety Director would step on the toes of the State Police.

Stuart Brooks said he was expecting the committee to provide them with a report. Mayor Barton questioned Mr. Brooks about his comments and that they were only looking for comments on the Public Safety Director at this time. Mr. Brooks did not respond with any further comment.

Public Comment was closed.

The Committee discussed their opinions on the Public Safety Director position.

Motion was made by Kim Brown to not establish the position of a Public Safety Director, seconded by Rick Franzen.

- Mr. Lee spoke on his change of position on not having a Safety Director, but wants reports on a regular basis at workshop meetings from the fire and rescue squad chiefs.

Roll Call: Brown, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Barton Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Doug Cramer spoke on budget issues that would have to be addressed concerning the assumption of the Fire District's finances. The Committee discussed who would act as a liaison between the fire company, rescue squad and the Township. Some thought it should be a Committee person, with others feeling that the Administrator could handle the job. Ms. Brown, however, expressed concern that this added responsibility to Mr. Cramer would be burdensome. Mr. Cramer spoke that he would have no issue with this added responsibility. Ms. Brown was happy that the fire and rescue squad members were willing to and have been receiving joint training. Mr. Lee expressed his desire to see a liaison for the emergency services. It was recommended by Peter Lange that the chiefs of the fire and rescue squad attend the workshop meetings to make reports.

Discussion: Ordinance Establishing Rental Property Agreement.

Mr. Lange discussed the rental property ordinance, copies of which had already been distributed to the Committee. There is the issue of trespassing which was brought to the attention of the State Police. Recommendations were made to post signs of no trespassing on the property borders. There was discussion on the requirement of an inspection by Mr. Perri and the burden this would create on his workload. Ms. Brown wanted to ensure that all aspects of rental would be addressed in the ordinance. Mayor Barton expressed his desire to see in the ordinance a Certificate of Habitability. There was a concern over the absentee landlord leaving properties in poor conditions. This could lead to multiple inspections by Mr. Perri. Mr. Perri addressed the governing body with his comments on the State Statutes concerning the rental property enforcement authority. He is looking for the ability and authority to get into the properties for inspection. Mr. Perri wants the wording of the ordinance to be strong enough to give him the authority to go into these

properties. Mr. Lange said that the registration fees would cover the cost of the inspections. Mr. Perri suggested an additional fee for smoke detector inspections. The governing body decided not to pursue the ordinance at this time. They wanted more time to investigate other township ordinances that could be used in our municipality.

Report of the Township Administrator

Mr. Cramer welcomed Mr. Greg Nixon to the meeting. He is the founder of Helping Hands of NJ, a non-profit organization. Mr. Cramer spoke of the work his organization was doing at a property in Tabernacle to assist a Korean War veteran who had sustained substantial fire damage to his property. Mr. Nixon spoke to the Committee and explained the background of his organization and the work they do in the State of NJ. He had about 186 volunteers, 150 of those volunteers from the area of Tabernacle who have volunteered to help rebuild the fire damaged home on Moore Road. He provided his organization's website: www.hhofnj.org in an effort to get more volunteers involved with his organization.

Township Solicitor

No Report.

Township Committee

Strawberry Festival activities were reported on by Mr. Yates and the nice turnout they had.

Ms. Brown spoke of activities at the school in the gym due to the rain.

Mayor Barton spoke of attending the Memorial Day ceremony in Burlington Township and how nice the event was. He encouraged everyone to attend next year.

Public Comment

William Lowe spoke about an exercise being executed on the 28th of this month as an exercise in search and rescue that will be performed in the Township.

Jason Litowitz, 5 Horsehoe Court – Disappointed that they did not move forward with the rental ordinance as he feels this is a very necessary requirement.

Public Comment was closed.

Adjournment

Members of the Township Committee adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.. The motion was made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Lee.

Roll Call: Brown, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Barton Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted:

**La Shawn R. Barber, RMC/CMR
Township Clerk**

Approved: 7/28/2014