

**TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINTUES**  
**JANUARY 2, 2015**

The Workshop Meeting of the Tabernacle Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Kimberly A. Brown at the Town Hall Municipal Complex, 163 Carranza Road, Tabernacle at 5:35 P.M.. The meeting commenced with the flag salute.

Township Clerk Barber read the Open Public Meetings Act statement in full.

**SUNSHINE NOTICE STATEMENT:** THIS MEETING IS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT THIS MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2015 WAS 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 REQUIRED UNDER THE STATUTE ON DECEMBER 18, 2014

Attendance was as follows:

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Barton, Township Committeeman  
Richard J. Franzen, Deputy Mayor  
**Stephen V. Lee, IV, Township Committeeman (Absent)**  
Joseph Yates, IV, Township Committeeman  
Kimberly A. Brown, Mayor

Present  
Present

**Also In attendance:**

Douglas A. Cramer, Township Administrator  
Peter C. Lange, Jr., Township Solicitor  
La Shawn R. Barber, RMC/CMR, Township Clerk

**Mayor Brown offered public comment on agenda items only; except (first reading) ordinances, discussion will be held during public hearings only.**

William Lowe, 24 Hidden Acres Drive (The Emergency Management Coordinator), supports Resolution 2015-26 (LOSAP). He would like the Committee to consider expanding LOSAP to include the emergency services, CERT, and Emergency Management. Col. Lowe would not be included as he is salaried.

Stuart Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, questioned items on the bill list specifically for the hard copy edition of the Lawyer's diary publication and questioned the frequency use. Mr. Brooks opinioned the growth of information online would eliminate the diary. Mr. Brooks questioned the entry for Tabernacle Fire Company #1 supplemental fire services grant. Mr. Brooks questioned the bill that supplies the 1099 blank forms used by the finance department. Mr. Brooks questioned the amount paid for LOSAP 2014 versus the amount for 2015 and any reports filed or to be filed.

Fran Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, asked if the amount paid into LOASP would be the same as what the fire district paid. Ms. Brooks spoke about the Municipal Court using the manual Lawyers Diary and questioned the budget line item charged. Ms. Brooks questions the purpose of the fire service grant.

Solicitor Lange spoke that often times the Lawyers diary is provided for the benefit of the Judge and the Municipal Court staff to have access to the entire County and Township Prosecutors' numbers, as well as, an updated listing of all licensed attorneys in the State.

Mr. Cramer advised that the fire service grant is received every year as part of the total package of state aid which is earmarked for a fire districts or fire company.

There were no further public comments.

**Approval of Bills**

- On a motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Yates, the bills were ordered paid. *Carried.*  
**Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Yates, Brown                      Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1**

**New Business**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 2015-1: AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMTS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK. (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

- Public Hearing Date: January 26, 2015 at 8:00 P.M.
- On a motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Barton, Ordinance 2015-1, on first reading was offered for adoption. *Carried.*  
**Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Yates, Brown                      Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1**

**FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 2015-2: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XVII, ZONING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO IDENTIFY THE AREA OF MEDFORD FARMS AND MEDFORD PARK.**

- Public Hearing Date: January 26, 2015 at 8:00 P.M.
- On a motion made by Mr. Yates, seconded by Mr. Franzen, Ordinance 2015-2, on first reading was offered for adoption. *Carried.*  
**Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Yates, Brown                      Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1**

**FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 2015-3: A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A PUMPER TRUCK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF TABERANCLE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$700,000 THEREFORE; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$592,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.**

- Public Hearing Date: January 26, 2015 at 8:00 P.M.
- On a motion made by Mr. Barton, seconded by Mr. Yates, Ordinance 2015-3, on first reading was offered for adoption. *Carried.*  
**Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Yates, Brown                      Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1**

**RESOLUTION 2015-25: EXTENDING TAX QUARTER PAYMENT GRACE PERIOD**

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of Tabernacle Township shall establish a fixed rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes or assessment on or before the date on which they would become delinquent; and

**WHEREAS**, delinquency as defined as the sum of all taxes and municipal charges due on a given parcel of property; and

**WHEREAS**, the grace period for payment of property taxes is established by NJSA 54 ET.seq. as 10 days after the due date, i.e., February 10<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup>, and November 10<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, that final day of the grace period may fall on a holiday, weekend or when the municipal building is closed due to an emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of Tabernacle, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, hereby extend the grace period to tax payers to the next business working day when the final day of the grace period falls on a holiday, weekend or Town Hall is closed due to an emergency;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution be forward to the Tax Collector, Auditor and Treasurer.

- On a motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Barton, Resolution 2015-25 was offered for adoption. *Carried.*  
**Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Yates, Brown                      Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1**

**RESOLUTION 2015-26: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF LOSAP**

**WHEREAS**, the Tabernacle Township Committee deems it appropriate and necessary to act to ensure retention of existing members and to provide incentives for recruiting new volunteer firefighters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township’s application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for dissolution of the Tabernacle Fire District No. 1 was approved and Tabernacle Township Ordinance 2014- 8 providing for the dissolution has been passed resulting in the dissolution of the Tabernacle Fire District No.1; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Tabernacle, thereby, has assumed all responsibilities and legal obligations of the former district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tabernacle Township Committee has determined that the continuation of a Length of Service Award Program will enhance the ability of the volunteer firefighting company to recruit volunteer firefighters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tabernacle Township Committee that:

A Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) is hereby established and continued in accordance with Chapter 388 of the Laws of 1997, to reward members of the Tabernacle Fire Company No.1 for their loyal, diligent, and devoted services to the residents of Tabernacle Township.

The LOSAP shall provide for the continued fixed annual contributions to a deferred income account for each volunteer member that meets the criteria as established by the former district; that such contributions shall be made in accordance with the plan as established by the former district pursuant to P.L.1997, c. 388; and that such plan shall be administered in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and this resolution.

Vesting and funding of the program shall remain unchanged. The vesting points and/or years of vested service earned by the volunteer members from the Medford Farms Volunteer Fire Company shall continue to be honored as members of Tabernacle Fire Company No.1.

- On a motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Yates, Resolution 2015-26 was offered for adoption. *Carried.*
- Committeeman Yates spoke that Mr. Lowe brought up a good point and he would like to bring them into this because they are also emergency volunteers.
- Mayor Brown spoke of her understanding that in order to include anyone else into this we would need a public referendum.
- Mr. Cramer spoke of that being the direction from DCA and that if this is something we want to consider, the County will need place it on the November ballot.
- Solicitor Lange advised that we could also explore the potential for expanding it without a referendum for LOSAP.

**Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Yates, Brown                      Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1**

### **Public Comment**

Stuart Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, spoke that other than LOSAP, is the fire chief providing any standardized reports to the Township Administrator.

Mayor Brown explained the new process to be held during public comments of providing all questions at once to be answered in the report section of the meeting. This will allow our meeting to be more efficient time wise. Last year, it was pointed out that it was very disruptive to the audience by us turning the clock on and off when it comes to questions and answers. We will be happy to answer any questions that we can during the reports, unless it is something that requires looking into. I may require us getting back to you at a later date, at the next meeting, or you can stop into Town Hall during the week to see if there is an answer.

Mr. Brooks asked what types of reports will be prepared by the Fire Chief and given to the Township Administrator in his role as the LOSAP Administrator. Also, he questioned when the reports will be delivered, what is the plan for fire service, how is it going to be provided and how will it be monitored.

Sandy Leichner, 59 Summit Drive, stated that she has resided in Tabernacle for 22 years and it's a really great place to live. She has known most of the governing body members for a long time and knows that their hearts are in serving and that there are some things to make it even better. She feels that the best the residents can help is to give positive support and not finger point or insinuate that something is sneaky. The negativity at some of the meetings is a real problem and hopes that we, as residents, can support and give positive reinforcement. She thanked the Governing Body for their service and appreciates them working hard for us. Most of the residence feels the same way.

Ralph Shrom, 12 Hidden Acres Drive, stated that he agrees with everything Ms. Leichner just said, and thanked everyone for their service, as he also knows that it is not an easy job. The position of Mayor is a two way sword sometimes, but we know it will be handled very well. Mr. Shrom gave complements to the Town Hall staff as he spoke of two thirds or three quarters of the towns in this County are populations of 10,000 or less usually operate with a staff of 4-5 people. It says volumes of what we do here. Thank you.

Committeeman Franzen stated that Mr. Shrom was right on target with the staff and we (Governing Body) appreciate them, too. They really do work hard and we are all very appreciative. It is a great town.

Fran Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, hoped 2015 will be a positive year for this town. She questioned if the truck ordinance is the same as recommended by Chief Smith to the fire district and if any consideration is given to lease or bond for the purchase of the truck. Ms. Brooks opinioned that lease agreements are generally more financially favorable than bonding for the truck.

Solicitor Lange stated this is still ongoing negotiation and probably it is in our interest publicly to keep the options open.

Chief Finance Officer Henry explained that this ordinance is just giving the authority to purchase a truck, whether it is bonded or leased.

Ms. Brooks did not understand the new process of “public comment” as it is to discuss any item of interest to the public. Mayor Brown explained the need to focus on questions and comments that are coming from the residents.

**Reports**

Finance – Mr. Henry reported about the bond ordinance as he pointed out that the \$108, 000 is actually more than the 5% as required we received from fire company as a down payment.

Administrator – Mr. Cramer answered Mr. Brooks question regarding LOSAP reports which may be received monthly or by-monthly as this point. As far as any other reports, he will work with the Fire Chief to see what they have provided to the district before and what the Committee wants developed. Hopefully we will have that by the end of January or beginning of February.

Township Committeeman Barton – congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor wishing them the best in 2015. Happy New Year!

Township Committeeman Yates – congratulated Mayor Brown and Deputy Mayor Franzen on their new appointments. Mr. Yates also reported that he and Mr. Cramer will be reviewing what is needed for the snack stand in the next few weeks.

Deputy Mayor Franzen – acknowledged Committeeman Barton and thanked him for serving as Mayor last year as he did a fine job and appreciates him. Mr. Franzen reported that the space committee will meet within the next month or so and review our space plan. Mr. Franzen will meet with the people who set up our Christmas tree lighting to do some planning for next year.

Mayor Brown – thanked Committeeman Barton for his leadership last year and appreciates everything he has done as she recognizes that every year is a new challenge. This year a review of our general ordinances will be headed by Committeeman Barton and Deputy Mayor Franzen. Mayor Brown wished everyone a Happy New Year!

**Adjournment**

Members of the Township Committee adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m. The motion was made by Mr. Barton, seconded by Mr. Yates.

**Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Yates, Brown                      Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1**

Respectfully submitted:

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC/CMR  
Township Clerk

Approved: 02/23/2015