

**TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2014**

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 **April 14, 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.

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
La Shawn R. Barber, RMC, Township Clerk
Peter C. Lange, Jr. Township Solicitor

Public Comment on agenda items only.

Stuart Brooks, 78 Moores Meadow Road, asked of any additional items that will be discussed not listed on the agenda and questioned an item on the bill regarding the Township’s portion for Tax Assessor’s payment dues.

Fran Brooks 78 Moores Meadow Road questioned items on bill list regarding Liberty Technology Solutions and Peter Lumber materials.

Approval of Bills

- On a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Lee the bills were ordered paid.
Motion carried.

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

Old Business: Discussion of 2014 Municipal Budget

Mayor Barton spoke that as Committeeman Lee and Committeeman Yates were absent for last discussion held on the municipal budget; he wanted to have the members of the Township Committee go through the 2014 Municipal Budget line by line.

In salaries, there will be a 2% raise across the board for all employees. At this point, Mr. Franzen provided a positive comment on our public sector employees and spoke about the very friendly and confident set up.

Engineering Services received added costs because of a number of grant programs this year which did not allow us to take engineering, architectural or professional costs out of them.

Members of the Committee held a discussion on Township’s contribution to Tabernacle Rescue Squad. In discussion, balanced billing was talked about with the squad it was thought that the contribution amount from the Township could be reduced over time.

Mr. Cramer spoke of previous discussions regarding allowing for a three year consideration for the rescue squad to assist their expenses to see if their actual numbers were consistent, or if it changed with the makeup of the billing. Having the uncertainty of what the Affordable Care Act will have on how insurance is dealt with, it would be premature to take money away from the squad. They have had some additional expenses this year in which they were not counting on. Although their cash flow may be on the books, when is it collected to operate? One year in the program of balanced billing will not give you a clear picture.

Mr. Franzen spoke about giving the squad a few years to see what their numbers can be for the contribution and spoke about a \$6,500 unanticipated expenses the rescue squad received.

Mr. Barton spoke about the squad budgeting for the third stretcher and being in favor of reducing its contribution amount.

There was discussion to look at the needs for the five year road program and building improvements to take money from buildings and grounds / roads for modification to the community center and Township buildings.

Mr. Lee spoke that he would like to see \$400,000 put in the budget with the intention of making improvements to our buildings. First and foremost, the Community Center is not an appropriate place for our residents. Mr. Lee further spoke about the need to make substantial investments in our infrastructure to get us moving forward. Adding the Township made investments on New Road, for our parks and recreation and emergency services building. It is time to get some decisions made about our own Township buildings.

It is the intention to adopt the 2014 budget at the next meeting on April 28, 2014.

New Business

Update Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual – Mr. Cramer reported that every two years the JIF requires updates of our personnel policy and procedures manual to reduce exposures to workman comp claims and EPL Claims. A Resolution will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Yates spoke about wanting to receive a commitment from an employee who receives education paid by the Township.

Mr. Lange will explore and suggest some language regarding the education for the employee policy for the next meeting.

CDBG – Tabernacle Township has an option to participate in Burlington County's Community Development Block Grant Program for federal fiscal year 2015-2017.

On a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Franzen, a decision was made to participate. A Resolution will be prepared the next meeting.

Roll call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Report of the Township Administrator

Mr. Cramer spoke about a number of properties on Summit and Lee Drive. A report was provided by Mr. Perri on what he has done concerning the entire area for a number of issues at 68 Summit Drive, 30 Lee Drive, 72 Summit Drive, 35 Hawkins Road, and 22 Lee Drive.

Mr. Cramer spoke about resident concern regarding number of trees in the possible right-of-way that were dead. This concern was addressed.

Report of the Township Solicitor

Mr. Lange spoke about doing mortgage searches on abandoned properties and sending certified mail notices to all foreclosing banks and their attorney offices, advising of their obligation to register the property according to our vacant abandoned property ordinance. A deadline of May 21st was given. At this point, Mr. Perri will be able to violate each of the banks under the ordinance. Mr. Lange recommended that Mr. Perri not get involved with dealing with management companies. It is the bank's obligation.

Mr. Lange spoke about Mr. Perri's correspondence from Sue Grogan of The Pinelands Commission regarding current zoning restrictions for Medford Park (not Medford Farms) which is also in the RD1 Zone. Mr. Perri wants Mr. Lange to render an opinion as to the creation of the lots. It is understood that the creation predates The Pinelands Commission and zoning which is recorded on the tax map.

Report of the Township Committee

Mr. Lee reported on attending the opening day at Patty Bowker on Saturday and attended the LEPC meeting.

Public Comment

Betsy Piner, Bozarthtown Road made comments about power stretchers and handling of the third stretcher manually by our volunteers puts them at great personal risk.

Stuart Brooks, 78 Moores Meadow Road, thanked the Township Committee for discussion regarding the budget and questioned charges on the bill list regarding research regards to CDL

and firefighters. Mr. Brooks also questioned the status report of the position of the sub-committee for the fire district.

Fran Books, 78 Moores Meadow Road, questions if there is money in a budget for the power stretcher or an ambulance. Also, questioned the Township's solicitor's bill regarding discussion regarding firefighter's CDL

Jason Litowitz, 5 Horeshoe Court, spoke about it being brought to his attention of the Fire Commissioners had talked about sending out a letter to the Township requesting the Township censor what the public can ask about the Fire Commission at their meetings.

Mayor Barton spoke of a letter received from the Chairman of the Fire Commission, Fire District 1, John Burger dated April 9th that basically states:

Dear Mayor Barton, at a meeting held on March 31, 2014, Tabernacle Township Board of Fire Commissioners discussed concerns about fire district business being discussed at the Township Committee meetings. Tabernacle Township Board of Fire Commission respectfully request that should there be any discussion regarding any fire district business that the Township Committee direct that person to Fire Commissioners meeting.

No further comments. Close to the public.

Executive Session Resolution

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 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; and

Whereas, the Governing Body wishes to discuss potential litigation matters concerning (a) an underground storage tank under Carranza Road, (b) unsafe structures within the boundaries of Tabernacle Township and (c) ongoing tax appeal matter of Crown Castle v. Tabernacle Township. Pursuant to NJSA10:4-12(B) (7) these matters will be discussed in a closed session from which the public shall be excluded.

Closed to the public.

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the public be excluded from this meeting.

- On a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded Mr. Lee. **Closed to the public.**

Roll Call: Those in favor: 5 Opposed: 0

Rreopen. On a motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Ms. Brown, members of the Township Committee returned from executive session to pursue adjournment.

Roll Call: Those in favor: 5 Opposed: 0

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Franzen.

Respectfully submitted,

La Shawn R. Barber,
Township Clerk

- Approved: 06/23/2014