

**WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**July 8, 2014
DELRAN, NEW JERSEY**

SUNSHINE STATEMENT: Be advised that proper notice has been given by the Township Council in accordance with the Sunshine Law in the following manner. Notice advertised in the Burlington County Times and Camden Courier Post on December 26, 2013 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Pangia, Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Catrambone were present. Mrs. Kolodi was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Tim O'Donnell, Attorney, Mr. Hatcher, Administrator and Ms. Eggers, Township Clerk.

SHARED SERVICES WITH THE COUNTY FOR 911 SERVICES

Mr. Hatcher stated that every few years we need to renew this agreement with the County. They have been providing this service for over twenty years. Council agreed.

PHASE II DELRAN COMMUNITY PARK AND ROAD PROGRAM

Mr. Hatcher stated that he provided the information needed for introduction of the bond ordinance for these projects including the engineering costs. If Council agrees with the information we will introduce the ordinance at the next meeting.

BURLINGTON COUNTY CDBG GRANT PROGRAM ADDENDUM

Mr. Hatcher stated that we approve this program every few years and this is an addendum to the agreement that needs to be executed. We would like this on the next agenda for approval. Council agreed.

PROPOSED BUS STOP ON ROUTE 130

Mr. Hatcher stated that we received a letter from NJ Transit indicating that they received a request for bus stops along Route 130, north and southbound at Creek Road. They would need the Township's approval.

Mr. Morrow stated that everyone knows how he feels about the bus stops along Route 130. They are very dangerous.

Mr. Paris asked where the closest stop is to Creek Road.

Mr. Morrow stated that Fairview Street is the closest bus stop coming southbound.

Ms. Pangia stated that is a lot more room in front of Home Depot for a bus stop but not so much on the northbound side.

Mr. Morrow stated that then people will be crossing the highway to get to the bus stops. He wants them off of the highway all together. We should be trying to get them into parking lots like they do in Willingboro.

Mr. Hatcher asked if Council would like him to inquire where this request came from and gather more information. He understands the Council has expressed concerns over the bus stops in the past.

Mr. Paris stated that he would hate to add another dangerous bus stop.

Council indicated that they would like Mr. Hatcher to inquire about the request.

LAKE LONNIE CLEAN-UP

Mr. Schwartz stated that we discussed the tree clean-up and the emergency access clean-up and he asked if there is any update.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we have not done anything with this yet because we have not had any free employees to start the clean-up.

Mr. DeSanto stated that they have never maintained the emergency access. We have to access that road about two years ago and we brought in a front loader to clear the road. Mr. DeSanto stated that he just does not have the manpower right now.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he is not looking for ascetics, he just wants emergency vehicles to be able to access the area.

Mr. Catrambone asked if Mr. DeSanto could drive the front loader through the area for the time being.

Mr. DeSanto stated that yes that is not a problem.

REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL FENCE ORDINANCE

Mr. Catrambone stated he had a discussion with Mr. Schwartz regarding this ordinance. In reviewing the fence ordinance, residents are required to have a six foot if they have a pool but you can't have any higher than a five foot solid fence if you are not enclosing a pool. He checked at Lowes this past weekend and you cannot even purchase a five foot fence. He stated that he feels his may have been a typo. He asked Mr. Hatcher if there is a reason for the five foot fence.

Mr. Hatcher stated that years ago, probably over twenty, there was a perception that residents did not want high fences between properties and that may have been the reason. When this was brought to his attention, he looked at ordinances for surrounding towns and the standard seems to be six foot for all fences.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he would like to see this amended to allow six foot fences. Council agreed. He asked Mr. O'Donnell to make a note to have this ordinance drafted for first reading at the next meeting.

Ms. Pangia asked what happens if someone comes in before the ordinance is adopted.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we can let the residents know that we are in the process of changing the ordinance and also notify the Construction Code.

SEWER ADJUSTMENTS – NEW OWNERS

Mr. Hatcher stated that sewer regulation state that if there is a new owner, they receive the minimum billing. Instead of bringing these to Council each time there is a new owner, he will bring them on a quarterly basis, so the properties are recorded. We provided Council with a printout of all the addresses with new owners since January 1st. He asked that Council make a motion to acknowledge the list.

Ms. Pangia made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morrow to acknowledge the addresses for the new owners being billed at the minimum sewer rate. All were in favor, motion approved.

HEALTH FAIR

Mr. Hatcher stated that this came out of the Joint Insurance Fund Safety Program. Last year they hired a Wellness Coordinator, Debbie Schiffer, to help improve the health of employees and hopefully reduce workers compensation claims. One of the things that various municipalities are doing, with the help of Debbie Schiffer, is putting on a Health Fair for their employees. We would like to do this on October 2, 2014 from 11:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M. Mr. Hatcher stated that he will take this to our Local Safety Committee to determine how much they want to participate. If anyone has objections, they can let him know, if not he will continue to move forward. Council has no objections.

REPORTS

Ms. Eggers – No report.

Mr. Hatcher – No report.

Mr. O'Donnell – No report.

Mr. DeSanto – No report.

Ms. Pangia – No report.

Mr. Morrow – Mr. Morrow asked if we have any update on the Fairview Street Sidewalk project regarding the PSE&G issues.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he has not heard anything back from the Engineer.

Mr. Morrow stated that he does not understand how we got this far and we are ready to start this project and now we have another issue. This project is two years in the making.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he believes that the Engineer's recommendation will be that we continue to move forward with the project and we will need to pay the cost to relocate the two poles. It does not appear that there is a way around this issue. He was going to try and come up with a plan to go around the poles.

Ms. Pangia asked if they attended any pre-construction meetings.

Mr. Hatcher stated that they have and PSE&G stated that they notified the Engineer of this issue. He feels that the Engineer felt that they may be willing to work with us but they have not. They are basically stating that the regulations require the poles to be moved. Mr. Hatcher will reach out to the Engineer tomorrow.

Mr. Paris stated that he will reach out to PSE&G.

Mr. Schwartz – Mr. Schwartz stated that we has received a tremendous response from residents wanting to volunteer their time for park clean-ups.

Mr. Schwartz stated that one issue that has been brought up is the amount of time it takes Public Works to go through the entire Township for branch collection. Putting that together with the park clean-up he is wondering if there is anything that we can do staffing wise to help with these issues.

Mr. Paris stated that this year our roads do not look nearly as bad as they did last year. He feels that the department is doing a wonderful job.

Mr. Schwartz stated that this has nothing to do with the job they are doing. If they have done everything to maximize what they can do, we need to look at ways in the future to help.

Mr. Paris stated that we can look at hiring additional employees but that will raise the budget and it becomes a balancing act.

Mr. Catrambone stated that when he was visiting his brother in Williamstown, he notices a flyer at the entrance to the development that notified the residents that they would be doing branch collection during a certain period. Maybe we need to make it clear to the residents that we will be doing collection during certain times and then after that timeframe, they can either bring it to the Township or hire someone to remove the branches.

Ms. Pangia stated that the reason we cannot give a schedule to the residents is because the department is not just picking up branches, they are picking up full trees. She watched them make three trips to a neighbor's house to remove the branches from the street.

Mr. Morrow stated that this issue is something that we talk about every year. We can say that these are the dates for pickup but we know some people will not follow that and then what do we do. Do we bring these residents into court for not removing their branches or leaves. We need to decide if we are going to enforce this.

Mr. Catrambone that if we decide on the timeframe for collections, we need a do a big communications campaign.

Mr. Paris stated that we offer a great service to the residents.

Mr. Morrow stated that going forward, Council is going to have to decide if they are going to be tough on this or not or every year we will sit here having this discussion.

Mr. DeSanto stated that the new trucks will help. They will be three times the size of what we have now. A lot of our time is spent running back and forth.

Mr. Catrambone asked if that is for leaves or also branches.

Mr. DeSanto stated that this will be for branches. There are also town that charge their residents.

Mr. Parento stated that he does a lot in Moorestown with tree removal. In Moorestown, you can go to the Township and receive a permit for the day to be able to take the branches to the dump yourself. If the resident is taking it themselves, there is no charge. If a contractor is doing the work, there is a charge based on the type of material.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he feels we need to look into this issue.

Mr. Hatcher stated that our compost site has limitations on how much can be put there.

Mr. DeSanto stated that Moorestown has an outside contractor that handle their site. We could not handle contactors bringing trees and branches to our compost site. The residents can bring it in for free now and they just don't do it because they would rather put it to the curb.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we need discuss this further at a future work session. Whatever is decided it needs to be followed up with a serious communications campaign.

Mr. DeSanto stated that this past winter was the first winter he did not have a chipper on the road. This was a very bad winter and he held his ground on this issue because of the weather. Hopefully that will make this winter a little easier.

Mr. Catrambone – Mr. Catrambone stated that he agrees with Mr. Morrow on the PSE&G issue. He feels we need to do whatever we can to get the sidewalk project moving.

Mr. Paris – No report.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Morrow made a motion to open the meeting to the public for comments, seconded by Ms. Pangia. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Parento, RAC Chairman, stated that the summer camp is starting the first week in August and he asked Mr. DeSanto if he can have a pole installed at Conrow Park for them to connect the port a pot to.

Mr. DeSanto asked him to put a cone at the location that he would like the pole.

Mr. Parento stated that his phone has been blowing up all day regarding the RAC and different events because of the article in the paper. Everyone is here to work together and get things done and this has got to stop. It just got out of hand today with everyone reading into the article.

Mr. Catrambone stated he does not know what people are reading into but both he and Ms. Pangia stated in the video that everyone is working together.

Mr. Parento stated that there were apparently individuals on facebook putting blame put on the RAC for events not happening and others claiming that there was not enough funding for signs.

Ms. Pangia stated that there was not a big budget for the Farmers' Market. A lot of the market collapsing this year is because we did not know who was going to handle the event. She received a phone call at one point that the Farmers' Market was bring turned over to the RAC. She stopped working on it at that point. After that, she did not have the time to put into the market with the very limited budget.

Mr. Paris stated that she is part of this Council, just because this may have been going to the RAC, doesn't mean that you don't have to be a part of it anymore and have something fail. We are a team and we work together to have something be successful.

Ms. Pangia stated that what we budgeted this year does not even touch what she spent last year out of her own pocket for the Farmers' Market.

Mr. Morrow asked if the raising of the fees had any impact on the vendors.

Ms. Pangia stated that she does not feel that it affected them in any way, we are still the lowest in the area.

Mr. Catrambone stated that the media did not like that everyone seemed to be on the same page.

Mr. Parento stated that he tries to stay out of all of this. As soon as people feed into this it spirals out of control.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Council all supported the tightening of the ordinance to allow the RAC to do what they were already doing. When he saw the video with the interview from the Burlington County Times and it said that we worked it out and everything was good. He does not understand where the negative comments came from.

Mr. Parento stated that all he is asking is that they don't feed into this. The RAC had nothing to do with destroying the market.

Ms. Pangia stated that she never said that the RAC had anything to do with that.

Mr. Morrow stated that going forward to next year that we need to put together something that will draw the vendors.

Mr. Parento stated that he had a conversation with Arlene Fox about whether they looked at changing the day of the market. We are not going to be able to compete with someone that put on a \$20,000 market. Maybe we could look at the possibility of a weekend market.

Mr. Paris asked what happened to all the volunteers from last year.

Ms. Pangia stated that none of them want to be involved.

Mr. Catrambone asked Mr. Parento to please understand that this Council supports what the RAC is doing. We are all disappointed that the Farmers' Market is not happening but he personally believes that it had nothing to do with the RAC. It was beyond everyone's control.

Mr. Paris stated that he understands where Mr. Parento's concern is coming from with the social media. He feels that Mayor and Council should not feed into any of this in any way.

Mr. Parento stated that he met with the head of recreation for Moorestown to discuss the programs that they run and to try and do some of those things together. Arlene Fox and Bob Kennedy attended the meeting to discuss the Special Needs Programs. We would also like to get the two senior organization to be able to host events together. It was a good meeting and they are working out the final details.

Bob Gilbert, 75 Stewart Avenue, asked Council to explain the revisions to the fence ordinance.

Mr. Catrambone stated that the ordinance states that the maximum height for a solid fence is five foot unless it encloses a pool and then it can be six foot. You cannot buy a five foot privacy fence so we would like to amend the ordinance to allow for a maximum of six foot.

Mr. Gilbert asked who is the RAC.

Mr. Catrambone stated that they are the Recreational Advisory Committee. Joe Parento is the Chairman. They are who the athletic organizations go to for field requests. They also run the Easter Egg Hunt, Tree Lighting and the yard sale. Any organization that wants to run an event will go to the RAC for approval.

Mr. Gilbert stated that he finds it hard to believe that it takes 6-8 weeks to go through the Township. On Stewart Avenue, they had to shut the machine down three times to unclog the machine. It took over a half an hour to do between his house and 71 Stewart.

Mr. DeSanto stated that when the blades on the chipper get dull, the machine can clog up. Normally, they would bring that chipper back in and get another one. We have three altogether, but he not sure if it was the new one out on Stewart Avenue.

Mr. Gilbert stated that because the branches sat out there for so long, all the leaves fell off and they are now in the street. If we have a big rain again the drains will get clogged.

Mr. Catrambone asked if the residents could clean up in front of their property.

Mr. Gilbert stated that the one home is an estate home. The individual taking care of the property will not do anything that they are not required to do.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he has a drain in front of his home and when it rains, if there are branches, he moves them away. If there are leaves, he cleans them up.

Mr. Gilbert stated that the issue is the property is vacant.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Mr. Gilbert be as proactive as he can.

Mr. Gilbert stated that when Council gets around to repaving Stewart Avenue, it would be nice if there were more storm sewer grates. He does not know if that would help with the flow of water.

Mr. Gilbert stated that since Stewart Avenue floods, maybe if Public Works know there is a big storm coming they could try and clear the branches off of Stewart Avenue.

Mr. DeSanto stated that as long as he has been here Stewart Avenue has not flooded because the culverts were clogged. It floods because there is no place for the water to go.

Mr. Gilbert stated that the front of his neighbor's house was like a lake because of the branches.

Mr. DeSanto stated that whenever there is a storm, all of the employees are out there making sure the culverts are clear. We would not just have to pick up branches on Stewart Avenue, we would have to pick them up on Haines Mill Road, Westover Drive and other areas that flood.

Mr. Gilbert stated that the water cannot get around the branches.

Mr. Morrow stated that it is an issue all over town. You are not supposed to put the branches in the street. They are to be put between the sidewalk and curb.

Mr. Gilbert stated that people believe that is where they should go. Everywhere you go in town they are in the street.

Mr. Catrambone stated that maybe we need a community campaign for the branches.

Ms. Pangia recommended that if we are doing a newsletter to go out with the tax bills, we make that a giant section in the front.

Mr. Hatcher stated that the residents will argue that it kills their grass. People may not agree it but it does take approximately six weeks to get through 6,000 homes and 100 miles of street. Thirty years ago we were picking up small braches, now we are picking up full trees. There are stops that take us a half a day.

Mr. Gilbert asked if it would help to have more clean-up days like we do in April.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we use the Clean Communities grant money to pay for the cost of that event. We can certainly look into expanding the event.

Mr. DeSanto stated that the Clean Communities program does not support leaves and branches.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we will stay on top of the issues along Stewart Avenue.

Ms. Pangia made a motion to end the public portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schwartz. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Morrow. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Eggers, Township Clerk