

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

January 19, 2011

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

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Roll Call

Present	Absent
Mr. Dunham	
Mrs. Merz	
Mr. Sanchelli	
Vice President Birmingham	
President Yocum	
Larry Cohen, Township Attorney	
Lori Harvin, Township Clerk	

Mrs. Harvin said, "Let the record show that Mayor Felter and Administrator James Leach are present."

Salute to the Flag

Yocum asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice of Presiding Officer

President Yocum said, "This Regular Council meeting for January 19, 2011, commencing at 7:00 p.m. has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by notice to the official newspapers of the Township on January 13, 2011."

Appointment of Firefighter for Fire Department No. 2: Keith E. Waldron

Yocum asked Chief Tom Jardines and Firefighter Keith E. Waldron to come forward. Yocum presented Waldron with a Certificate of Appreciation along with a Township pen and pin. He then thanked Waldron for providing his services to the Township as a firefighter.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Closed Session Minutes for Approval Only, Not for Release

January 5, 2011 Reorganization/Regular Meeting

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Council Reports

- Budget Meeting Dates

Yocum asked Harvin to forward 5 or 6 Budget Meeting dates with a 6 o'clock start time to the Council so everyone can check their availability.

Birmingham thanked the Administration for posting the e-waste information on the Township website. Birmingham said perhaps the Township can coordinate with surrounding municipalities on the collection of hazardous waste, such as, batteries or tires. Leach said he will have the Recycling Coordinator bring this idea up at the next County Recycling meeting. Felter said he will be meeting with the Mayors of Hopatcong, Roxbury and Mt. Arlington next week and he will mention this idea. Birmingham commented on the way the DPW has handled the weather conditions on the roads enabling the school district to be open with delays and students not missing entire days like surrounding communities.

Sanchelli said he would also like to compliment the DPW on the condition of the roads.

Merz asked the Administration about the new part time animal attendant and if that person is replacing an employee. Leach said this position has always existed and there is a need for a new employee to fill in. The new employee is also a Certified Animal Control Officer. Merz commented that the Council has been inundated with COAH information lately and she asked if the Township ever had a Municipal Housing

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Liaison. Cohen said he remembers that someone was designated in the original plan and at the time it was the Clerk. Cohen commented that the plan that was adopted under Round 2 would now be invalid. Merz said she was asked a question about transfers. Merz commented that the transfer for this evening states 2010 budget and 2010 projects. Leach said that last year's budget does not close out entirely until March. Money is also formally transferred between accounts at the end of the calendar year and the beginning of the new year. Merz said she would also like to inquire about the United Methodist Church. Felter said he would like to speak about this in Executive Session. Cohen said that this matter can be discussed in Executive Session if there is a potential for a lawsuit.

Dunham reported that he has received numerous compliments about the roads and he would like to pass that along to the Administration and the DPW. Dunham asked about the information the Council received about Disaster Management reimbursement for December 2010 Snow Emergency and funds from FEMA. Felter said this is handled through OEM. Mangold said that he has submitted documentation for reimbursement.

Yocum asked the Administration about the improvements that are scheduled for the Township Shelter and the isolation room. Leach said that the improvements will begin as soon as the weather breaks, however, the roof has been completed. Yocum asked Felter about the potential for the location of a dog park in Jefferson. Felter said a couple locations have been investigated. Felter said he has spoken with some towns and all the feedback is not positive. There are questions such as; where to place the park, who will maintain it and if a volunteer group will take charge. Yocum said that Wantage has a very successful park maintained by a group of volunteers. Mt. Olive has a small caged in area. Yocum said that if it is possible to locate a park near the shelter, it causes adoption rates and interest in the shelter to go up dramatically. Felter said that if anyone has an idea, please contact him. Yocum commented that Mahlon Dickerson is a large dog walking area and it would be an ideal location. Felter commented that a master plan is being worked on and it includes Snow Bowl.

Administrative Reports of Mayor and Administrator

- Presentation 2011 Municipal Budget

Felter said the 2011 Municipal Budget has been forwarded to the Council and as always it is a work in progress. The Capital should be looked at early in the process. The proposed Salary and Wage Budget is the same as last year and has been maintained through attrition and the filing of positions with part time employees. The Operating Budget is up due to pensions and health benefits. Capital is currently at \$1.5 million with approximately \$1 million being DPW. Felter commented that their approach is to go back to basics; roads, utilities, infrastructure. A street sweeper and a vacuum truck are the large pieces of equipment this year with 55% grants received. These trucks will be utilized for sweeping roads and cleaning catch basins. Yocum asked about sharing with a neighboring community. Felter said there were talks with Hopatcong and another town and there is an issue with sharing the purchase because of the Grant. Felter said the equipment can be shared at an hourly rate, however, it will be loaned out with an operator.

Felter stated that the Budget includes \$144,000 in Communication and Technology upgrades. The proposed Recreation improvements include \$122,000 and the remainder will come from the Recreation Trust Fund. Felter said the equipment includes two mowers, new bleachers to meet safety requirements, and fencing.

Felter said he has some volunteers for the Trails Committee and there will be a meeting in February if anyone else is interested in volunteering. Felter reported that he met with Matt Barone today, the Student Class President for the Class of 2011. Barone is working on a Community Service Project and he spoke to him about the Wroblewski Recreation Center. Barone is going to get some student volunteers to form a committee. Felter said he has asked Rhinesmith to put together a committee and an event will be held there in March. Felter asked anyone interested in volunteering to

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contact his office. Yocum commented that John Wroblewski would be a valuable asset to the committee and Felter said he plans to invite the Wroblewskis to be involved. A plaque and dedication will be included in the building. Merz said the Junior Woman's Club made so many donations and it would be nice to reach out to them also. Birmingham concurred and said that the Club raised over \$30, 000 in donations over the past couple years and it is nice that the project is moving forward.

Felter concluded his report by saying that progress is being made in the Recreation Department with the inclusion of John Burns as Director of Parks and Grounds. The focus is to go back to basics and everyone is onboard including volunteers.

- Appointment of Recreation Advisory Board Secretary, Stephanie McCormack for 1 year term ending 12/31/11; rescinding appointment of Carol Punturieri

Motion: Merz, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Leach commented on the Recycling Agreement with Sims Recycling Solutions on the Consent Agenda this evening. Leach said that Romano did a good job arranging the agreement for a collection bin to be placed at the Recycling Center at no cost to the Township.

Leach reported that Fr. John Quinlan, the long time Police Chaplin, is seriously ill and Leach asked for everyone to keep him in their thoughts and prayers.

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

New Business

- Arts Committee/Jefferson Day Celebration Budget Item

John Focacci and Carol Punturieri came forward. Focacci explained that the Arts Committee's receipt of the \$18,000 donation from the Township toward Jefferson Day and their payment toward inspection fees. Yocum said that he met with the Arts Committee regarding Jefferson Day and he supports an increase in the town's donation so the group can fund improvements to the event. Yocum suggested another committee meeting after the Arts Committee has a chance to discuss a suggested donation amount. Yocum said Focacci and Punturieri will be notified as to what Budget meeting the funding will be discussed.

Focacci said he would like to make it clear that the donation from the Township helps divert the cost for the entire day, it does not pay for the fireworks. Collection of funds from fireworks spectators outside gates was discussed. Focacci explained that the Arts Committee has offered various groups the opportunity to collect in that area and split the funds, however, no organization would like to take advantage of this fundraiser.

Yocum asked Focacci to discuss the budget amount at the next Arts Committee meeting and communicate back to him and this will be addressed early in the budget process.

- Morris County Director's Tax Ratio Appeal Update

Cohen reported that he appeared in State Tax Court today with Hopkins for the Trial of this matter. Cohen explained that the Township together with 3 other townships has challenged the Director of the Division of Taxation's ratio. Cohen said they believe the Township real estate property has been valued higher than its actual value. This results in the town paying a higher percentage of the County Taxes and negatively affects the school aid received. An opinion must be rendered by January 30. Cohen

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said if the Township loses, they will contemplate moving on to the Appellate Division and if the State loses, it will undoubtedly file an appeal. Cohen remarked that Hopkins did an excellent job as the expert witness. Felter said that Cohen did an excellent job with the case and summation.

- Plans for "Green" Electrical Energy Supplier

Sanchelli reported that he and Dunham met with a representative from Veridian. Sanchelli distributed information to the Council from Veridian outlining the benefits of using 20% renewable energy. Sanchelli said that residents are able to switch and the only thing that will change is the energy supplier on their bill. Leach said he spoke to the Veridian representative today and sent him copies of the Energy Audit information that was completed on the Municipal Building. The representative is going to come up with the kilowatt cost and this will be compared to the co-op costs. Leach said that all six authorized engineering firms have been sent the energy audit grant applications. One response has been received along with one denial, the other four have not responded. Leach said he will send this to the State for approval and then a resolution can be passed.

Yocum asked the Administration if contact has been made with JCP&L about the issue with the Cozy Lake substation. Mangold reported that he met with the area supervisor, John Anderson at the Cozy Lake substation last week and he was not aware of any unusual outages in the Robin Drive area. Mangold said that he will be looking into the situation. There is concern because Jefferson Chase is on the same line so this matter is being prioritized. Yocum asked about a generator for Jefferson Chase. Leach said that HUD would not finance generators at the time that Jefferson Chase was built. Leach said that the Township can provide assistance with a grant, however, there is an issue with the way the building is designed. It would probably cost around \$250,000 to retrofit the building for generator power and the maximum for Community Development Grants are \$40,000 to \$80,000. Mangold said he worked with them last week regarding solar panels on the roof.

- Discussion: Amendment of Noise Ordinance, Ch. 321-6

Leach reported that when the State changed some regulations, the town adopted their model ordinance. At that time, some things from the old ordinance were not included. Leach detailed the items that should be included in the Noise Ordinance including; the Ordinance should be placed under the control of the Police Department and prohibited hours for amplification of music may be altered for licensed or outdoor gatherings. Leach said he will forward the information to Cohen for the next meeting.

Resolutions

Resolution #11-7: Resolution to Approval 2009 Corrective Action Plan (11-A)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Yocum

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-8: Certify Council's Review of 2009 Annual Report of Audit (11-B)

Motion: Merz, second Dunham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-9: Authorize Professional Services Contract with Courter, Kobert & Cohen (Certification of Availability of Funds) (11-C)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
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Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Not Voting
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-10: Approving Morris County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan **(12-A)**

Motion: Birmingham, second Yocum

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-11: Appropriation Transfer for 2010 **(12-B)**

Motion: Merz, second Yocum

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-12: Approval of Bills **(12-C)**

Motion: Dunham, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-13: Authorize Passage of Consent Agenda Item #2 removed. **(12-D)**

Motion: Birmingham, second Yocum

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Consent Agenda Item #2 Resolution Authorizing Mayor to Execute 2011 Agreement For Employee Assistance Program with Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Cranford, NJ (Certificate of Availability of Funds) **(12-E)**

Motion: Yocum, second Birmingham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Not Voting
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Resolution #11-14: Executive Session: Personnel, Clerk's Office Potential Litigation, Tax Exemption of United Methodist Church **(12-F)**

Motion: Sanchelli, second Merz

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

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Recess

The Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 8:44 p.m.

Adjournment at 8:45 p.m.

Motion: Yocum, second Merz

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mrs. Merz	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Vice President Birmingham	Aye
President Yocum	Aye

Dated: January 19, 2011

Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Richard W. Yocum, Council President