

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

June 24, 2015

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

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Roll Call

Present

Mr. Dunham
Mr. Sanchelli
Mr. Birmingham
Vice President Merz
Township Attorney, Lawrence Cohen
Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Absent

President Yocum

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

Salute to the Flag

Notice of Presiding Officer

Vice President Merz said, "This Regular Council meeting for June 24, 2015, 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 June 18, 2015."

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

June 10, 2015 Regular All Members Present

Motion: Birmingham, second Dunham

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

Public Hearing:

- 2015 Open Space Trust Fund Application
79 Acre Portion of Block 271, Lot 2
101 Taylor Road, \$350,000 Grant Application

Leach presented a map detailing the property. Leach said that the property is surrounded by other preserved open space properties. The purchase price is \$570,000 and this request is for \$350,000 from Morris County Open Space. The Open Space Application shows \$270,000 with the balance from Green Acres and \$100,000 from the Town's Open Space Trust. Leach said that there is a beautiful brook located on the property that goes into the Rockaway River. Felter said that there are only about 9 or 10 applications this year. The town's application contains the most acreage. Merz asked if any other Council members have questions. Merz asked if the property will have accessibility for the public. Felter said that there will be plans for a parking lot off Taylor Road and possibly off Compton Goble Road.

Merz opened the meeting up to the public for questions or comments specific to the Open Space Public Hearing. Seeing no one come forward, she closed the public portion of the meeting.

Council Reports

Sanchelli asked Leach about a section of Berkshire Valley Road heading toward Route 15, where there have been issues with vehicles using the area to turn around and then becoming stuck. Sanchelli asked what can be done to avoid problems in this area, such as signage. Leach said he will follow up tomorrow.

Sanchelli reported that the Dog Park Committee has successfully raised money for the fencing and the target date is September 19-20 weekend. Tonight the parameters were marked out for the area. Sanchelli said there will be 900 total feet of fencing. Sanchelli congratulated the Committee on all their hard work and fundraising. Sanchelli said that at the next meeting the responsibilities for maintenance of the dog park and ideas for the surface of the dog park will be reviewed.

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Dunham reported that he attended the Library Board meeting last week and the Finance Sub Committee meeting tonight. Dunham reported that he attended a meeting of the Utility Advisory Board on Monday evening and the Administrator will follow up with a report on that meeting later this evening.

Birmingham reported that the County did a good job with monitoring the traffic during the paving of Berkshire Valley Road. Birmingham suggested that a thank you letter be sent to the Freeholder Director thanking her for the capital funds for this paving work.

Birmingham commented on the recent efforts by the New Jersey League of Municipalities to oppose the amendments to the OPRA and OPMA legislation.

Merz said that she would like to thank the Mayor for his work on the After Prom Breakfast. He is always there with the PTA and Municipal Alliance to support drug awareness. Felter said that Sanchelli was also there and it was a great success. Merz thanked the Administration for putting up the Stigma Free signs. Merz reported that the next Teen Scene is scheduled for this Friday at the Star of the Sea Church.

Merz reported that she attended the Finance Committee meeting.

Administrative Reports of Mayor and Administrator

Felter reported that Summer Camp opened on Wednesday. The DPW and Recreation department employees removed the White Building. Felter reported that he will not be here during the day on Jefferson Day since he must attend a Lacrosse Tournament with his son. Felter said that he will have representatives fill in for him during the day.

Leach said that a company called "Greener By Design" has been working with the town, the NJDEP and Kean University and all issues have been resolved. They have come up with a concept plan to build new buildings and renovate the existing buildings. There will be a meeting in a few weeks. Birmingham mentioned the new Technology School to be located in Jefferson. Felter said the new Kean University School will be a graduate school and it will also help local businesses.

Leach commented that 8 Willis Street, is a small lot, .13 acres. A few years ago, someone bought the tax lien and then realized that the lot is unbuildable. Leach said the owner will now sign the deed over to the town and the building will be removed. Cohen said that the title search is being done. Once that Deed is turned over, the lot will be offered to adjoining properties. Merz asked what the timeframe is and Leach said that as long as the search is okay, it should be relatively quick.

Motion: Accept the Property Known As Block 200, Lot 29, 8 Willis Street
Subject to Clear Title Work

Motion: Sanchelli, Second Dunham

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

Leach presented the Council with the report from the Township Forester as requested on this year's Gypsy Moth Outbreak. Leach explained that the Forester had some reservations about preparing the report since there are so many factors involved. Next month an aerial survey is being done by the State to track the problem.

(67-A)

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

Merz opened the meeting up to the public for questions or comments.

D'Amico came forward and thanked the Council and Administration for taking the

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action on the property at 8 Willis which has been a blight in the neighborhood for years.

Tupaj came forward and said that he has appealed the assessment on his property on Hardbargain Road this year. Tupaj said that he feels there is a disparity in assessments in town. Tupaj asked if the Township will be reassessing properties. Leach said that tax assessments are measured with the equalization rate and the town has been involved in a compliance plan. Cohen said that Jefferson Township is probably the most proactive town in Morris County. The assessments are very close if not right on the number with sales. Tupaj said he is having trouble finding comparable sales for his property. Cohen said that he has a right to appeal his assessment. Merz said that the Council is not the Board to review assessments. Cohen said the Council is not the Board, by law, to hear appeals.

Seeing no one else come forward, Merz closed the public portion of the meeting.

New Business

Request: Amendment Ordinance to Ch. 138 for False/Mistaken 911 Calls

Cohen said that he reviewed the sample ordinance and he does not understand the assessment of the fee for a mistaken call. If a fee is assessed, then a summons has to be written and heard in Court. Cohen recommended a complaint be written and heard in Court. Leach suggested that Captain Wilsusen be asked to come in to the next meeting to review this request. This item will be placed on the July Agenda.

Ordinance For First Reading

ORDINANCE #16-15: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 367 OF THE JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE" IS OFFERED FOR ADOPTION ON SECOND READING AND FINAL HEARING

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

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

Birmingham left the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Resolutions

Resolution #15-53: Annual Renewal of Liquor Licenses 2015-16 Term

(68-A)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

Sanchelli commented that with the implementation of the new online renewal system at the ABC, some licensees are taking their time coming in to renew. Merz commented that licensees are not offering up information that needs to be forthcoming regarding changes in their license and/or their property. Cohen said that if the licenses are not in compliance then the Council is not obligated to renew. Leach suggested that notices of non-compliance be delivered by the Police since the police are empowered to enforce ABC laws. Leach suggested putting a checkmark on the Building Plan requirements and if the property holds a liquor license, then notification should go to the Clerk's Office.

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

Resolution #15-54: Authorizing the Execution of An Addendum to the White Collar Agreement Between the Township of Jefferson and OPEIU Local 32

(68-B)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

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

Resolution #15-55: Approval of Bills

(69-A)

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

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

Motion: P O No. 15-00464 Headley Lumber \$712.53
P O No. 15-01735 Headley Lumber \$149.16
P O No. 15-00316 Headley Lumber \$165.14
P O No. 15-01787 Search Institute \$22.00
P O No. 15-01786 Emily Marsh \$250.00
P O No. 15-01785 Max Goldstein \$250.00

Motion: Sanchelli, second Merz

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

Resolution #15-56: Authorize Passage of Consent Agenda Remove Item #5

(69-B)

Motion: Dunham, second Sanchelli

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

Motion: Approve Consent Agenda Item #5

Motion: Dunham, second Merz

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Nay
Mr. Birmingham	Absent
Vice President Merz	Aye
President Yocum	Absent

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

Leach advised the Council that on Monday, he and Dunham met with the Utility Advisory Board and reviewed the Sewer Utility Budget, Capital projects and a proposed sewer rate increase. The rate increase would be as follows: January 1, 2016, an increase of \$40.00; January 1, 2018, an increase of \$45.00; and January 1, 2020, an increase of \$45.00. The Council agreed to have the information forwarded to Cohen for preparation of the amendment to the Ordinance.

Adjournment at 7:52 p.m.

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Mr. Birmingham	Absent
Vice President Merz	Aye

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President Yocum

Absent

Dated: June 24, 2015

Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Richard W. Yocum, Council President