

MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

April 23, 2008

This is a regular meeting of the Mansfield Township Committee. The notice requirements of the law have been satisfied for this meeting by notice to the Star-Gazette and the Express Times of the time, date and location thereof. Notice was also posted on the announcement board located in the Municipal Building.

Roll Call: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Salute to the flag was done by all.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mrs. Oakley made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on April 9, 2008 with corrections, which was seconded by Mr. Baldwin.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to approve the bill list as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

CFO REPORT:

Mr. Coppola stated that he had given each Committee member copies of the payroll and overtime reports for their review.

Mr. Coppola asked the Township Committee for their consent to present the new court contract to Washington Twp, Warren County and explained that the new contract would extend the agreement for another 3 years and that we would be spending about \$20,000 less than we were in 2005.

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to approve authorizing presenting to Washington Twp the contract for shared courts for the next three years, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Nays: None

Absent: None
Abstain: None

CLERKS REPORT:

Ms. Hrebenak stated that General Code had returned their Preliminary Questions about the current adopted ordinances which will have to be reviewed and returned to them.

Ms. Hrebenak stated that she had received a call from one of the churches asking when the Township would be holding the Town wide yard sale.

Mrs. Oakley stated that she would set up a date and let Ms. Hrebenak know.

Mayor Nerbak stated that she received a letter that the Township was awarded the Clean Communities grant in the amount of \$11,597.

Mr. Watters asked if this amount was up from the previous year.

Mr. Coppola stated that the amount is in the same ball park as last year.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Mr. Mace explained to the Township Committee that Fujiyama has complied with all of their site work and that the Township should release the bond.

Mrs. Oakley made a motion to approve releasing the bond that the Township is holding, which was seconded by Mr. Baldwin.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mr. Mace stated that he has set up a meeting with Ray Rice about the affordable housing for either April 29, 2008 at 4pm or May 1, 2008 at 4pm and Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Jewell stated that they would be able to attend the May 1, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Mace stated that after this meeting was completed then he would set up a meeting with David Roth from Mansfield Village.

Mr. Mace stated that when the Planning Board discussed Ordinance 2008-06 they wanted the wording changed to reflect that no one under the age of twenty three may be a permanent resident of the community.

Mayor Nerbak asked the Township Committee for their opinion on the County Wastewater Management Plan and if we had any interest in participating.

Mr. Baldwin stated that we had already made a decision to keep the plan that we have enacted and not participate in the county plan.

Mr. Mace stated that if the County holds meetings on this topic he would like to attend.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Merle Morris, 3 Walter Terrace, asked if her area of Diamond Hill would ever be able to be hooked up to the water and sewer.

Mr. Reardon, Hillside Village, spoke of the conditions at the trailer park and asked if there was anything that the township could do to help the residents of Hillside Village.

PRESENTATION: (7:45pm) Comcast

Charles Smith, Comcast Director of Government Affairs, introduced Jim Humphreys, Comcast Technical Operations Manager, and spoke to the Township Committee about the latest changes and programs that Comcast has presently explaining all of the options that are offered and also explained to the Township Committee the new federal law that goes into effect on February 17, 2009 that will require that all powered TV stations in the United States to no longer broadcast in the analog format. Which means that any tv that is not set up to receive digital programming will need a converter box.

Mr. Smith stated that included in the packets for the Township Committee is the letter inviting the Township Committee to join in the outreach project "Comcast Cares" on May 3 at 20 Karrsville Road. They will be assisting in doing work around the outside of the house.

Mrs. Oakley stated that she subscribed to Comcast Triple Play in August of last year and her high speed internet is extremely slow and that she has called and the Customer Service has told her that there is no problem with her service.

Mr. Glenn Todd, complained that he has had nothing but problems with Comcast, like weak signals, channels being removed from Comcast programming, the prices that keep climbing higher and higher, when calls are made to Customer Service the wait times are ridiculous and when speaking with the Customer Service they are not resolving the issues.

Merle Morris, 3 Walter Terrace, complained about the prices getting higher and higher and channels still being removed, and also about the converter box and asked why they couldn't offer less expensive programming.

Charles O'Connor, Mount Bethel Road, stated that he thought that it was ridiculous that a box is required for all tv's and that there is a fee for the rental for each box that you are required to have.

Mr. Jewell asked if he for installation in a new home where there is already underground cable out to the pole all that needs to be done is the wire dropped across the street and inside the house is wired to a central point in the basement and the wire comes in right alongside how long should this process take?

Mr. Smith stated that this should only take a few days.

Mr. Jewell said he did make that call seven or eight times and that he waited for five weeks for the technician to come and install the Comcast Triple Play and that when they finally came to install he was told the phone service would be installed in 2 days. After 10 days Mr. Jewell called back and was told that the phone service was not available in his area but his biggest complaint was the wait times that he had to deal with when calling customer service and also being shuffled through people at customer service.

Mayor Nerbak thanked Mr. Smith for his time.

Mr. Smith thanked the Township Committee for their time.

RESOLUTION:

2008-45

OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF NEW JERSEY STATE PARKS

WHEREAS, over 17 million visitors use New Jersey State Parks and Forests each year for camping, swimming, hiking, boating, and other recreational activities, and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey State Park system, represents a vital resource in the State of New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous business enterprises in Northwest New Jersey that rely heavily, or exclusively, on the commerce generated by tourists who visit New Jersey State Parks each year, and

WHEREAS, High Point State Park is the location of High Point Monument, a beautiful and necessary historic landmark dedicated to the memory of our Veterans of the Armed Forces, and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is giving consideration to the full closure of High Point State Park in response to budget pressures of the New Jersey State Government, and

WHEREAS, the closure of High Point State Park will eliminate the ability of the general public to give honor due to our Veterans, by closing off the High Point Monument, and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Committee of the Township of Mansfield consider it to be a travesty that any State Park, would be closed because of the decades-long inability of New Jersey State Government to operate within the same spending caps and fiscal responsibility that they impose on local governments, and

WHEREAS, State Parks represent a successful and popular venue of tourism and economic stimulus generating \$3.9 billion for New Jersey's local and state economies, and

WHEREAS, the closure of any New Jersey State Parks would lead to extensive and widespread business failures in Northwest New Jersey, serving to further exacerbate the Economic Recession currently in effect, as well as increasing the loss of tax revenue by increased tax appeals created by loss of property valuation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Mansfield does hereby oppose the closure of any New Jersey State Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Mansfield respectfully points out to Governor Jon Corzine, NJDEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson, and the entire State Legislature that the solution to the fiscal problems of Trenton must not be sought by pursuing budget cuts that will cause the economic collapse of Northwest New Jersey.

Mrs. Oakley made a motion to approve the passage of Resolution 2008-45, which was seconded by Mr. Jewell.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mayor Nerbak stated that there will be a sunset rally for the closing of the parks being held at High Point State Park if anyone is interested in attending.

ORDINANCE:

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2008-07

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2-51 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ENTITLED SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD:

Section 1. The following sections of the Code of the Township of Mansfield are hereby amended to read as follows:

2-51.1 (d) DEPOSIT OF CLEANUP DEBRIS AT MUNICIPAL FACILITY

Station Wagon or Car	\$15.00 Per Load
Pick-Up Truck	\$25.00 Per Load
Van	\$25.00 Per Load
Any of the above with single axle utility trailer	Additional \$25.00 per load
Truck Tires	\$7.50 Each
Auto Tires	\$5.00 Each

Section 2. All ordinances inconsistent with the foregoing shall be deemed repealed by this ordinance.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication as provided by law.

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to approve the introduction of Ordinance 2008-07 and requested that the public hearing be held on May 23, 2008 and that the public hearing be advertised, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

COMMITTEE PERSON COMMENTS:

Mrs. Oakley stated that Officer Conklin has returned to work after his back injury. Also that Corporal Bates will be out for 2 weeks with a back injury and that Corporal Hydock will be out with an injury for a week.

Mayor Nerbak asked Ms. Todd if the Environmental Commission will be setting up a booth at the Health and Resource Fair at the school.

Ms. Todd stated that they would be setting a booth up with all of the information.

Mr. Baldwin stated that he had received a call from Harold Pellow and Associates and they are requesting that the farmer be told not to use grass killer on the fields on the Recreation Property.

Mayor Nerbak stated that there is a Shared Services meeting on April 28, 2008 at 7pm being sponsored by Florio, Perucci, Steinhardt & Fader.

Mayor Nerbak stated that she and Mrs. Oakley attended the first game for the Little League and at the game the little league dedicated the baseball field to James Broscius for all of his time and hard work.

Mayor Nerbak also attended the first junior softball game and threw out the first pitch.

Mayor Nerbak stated that Merle Morris asked her to convey her thanks to Chief Ort, Officer Kirchner, Sergeant Newman and Detective MacDonough for their professionalism and support when her husband passed away.

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq. and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and designated below:

- (8) Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship: Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion, or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, assembled in public session on April 23, 2008, that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on April 23, 2008 at 9:12 PM in the Mansfield Township Municipal Building, for the discussion of matters relating to the specific items designated above.

It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in the closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Township Committee that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to go into Executive Session, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Return to Regular Meeting 9:41 pm all members present.

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to approve the raffle application for the Easter Seals of NJ, which was seconded by Mr. Jewell.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Jewell, Mayor Nerbak

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to adjourn at 9:42pm, which was carried by all.