

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, January 24, 2013, 7:00 P.M.**

This Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was emailed to South Jersey Times on January 19, 2013 and advertised on January 22, 2013. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk on aforementioned date. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted.

Call to Order

Purpose of the special meeting is to discuss FEMA Mitigation Grant options relative to Hurricane Sandy.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Sarclette

Roll Call

A. Discussion – FEMA Mitigation Grant Program

B. Public Comment

C. Adjournment

**Monday, January 24, 2013, 7:30 P.M.
Special Meeting**

PRESENT: Andrew Sarclette, Mayor
Kathy Ireland, Deputy Mayor
Patricia Gross, Committeewoman
Frank DiDomenico, Solicitor
Linda L. Costello, Acting Municipal Clerk

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Jersey. This special meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was emailed to South Jersey Times on January 19, 2013 and advertised on January 22, 2013. In addition copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk on aforementioned date. Notes on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Sarclette, present
Mrs. Ireland, present
Mrs. Gross, present

Mayor Sarclette called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM noting the purpose of the special meeting is to discuss FEMA Mitigation Grant options relative to Hurricane Sandy. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Sarclette recognized Bob Brewer of Cumberland County Planning & Development and James Manski of Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management.

Mr. Brewer discussed letters of interest regarding County roads. He acknowledged the intent of FEMA funding is to alleviate future flooding. He advised options for residential properties include elevation or purchase and demolish. There is a 25% match.

Mr. Manski advised Maurice River Township is included in the 2011 county plan which is a requirement of FEMA to be eligible for grant funding. The plan includes a list of projects. He advised when submitting letters of intent to verify that the project is listed in the Multi-Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan. The letters of intent must be submitted to the County no later than February 1st. He noted all projects fall under statewide competition for grant funding. Rankings will be determined and notification provided to the County and the County will advise municipalities. There are two main categories for residential properties, buyouts and elevation. A cost benefit analysis will be used to determine should another declared event cause damage, the outlay would be less.

Mr. Manski advised projects he is aware are being considered for submission are roadways in Greenwich, Matt's Landing Road in Maurice River Township, a generators at the Vineland fuel yard, County Court House and Jail.

Mr. Manski advised the Township should give project descriptions involving County roads and property to him as soon as possible and he will forward to the County Engineer for to consider inclusion in County letters of intent. He suggested that a project may be a low priority for the County, but a high priority for Maurice River Township and the Township may wish to contribute to the 25% match.

Mr. Sarclette asked what the ranking is based on. Mr. Manski advised it is highly competitive and there is not enough money statewide.

Mr. Sarclette asked is the County is only submitting for Matt's Landing Road and will it include elevation of the road. Mr. Manski believes the request will be to put stabilization along the sides of the road. Mr. Brewer advised elevation of the road would trigger additional permit requirements. Mr. Manski noted it would need to be determined where the water will go if sections of the road are elevated.

Mrs. Gross asked if there is a timeframe for award decisions. Mr. Manski replied no, and it probably would not be before next year.

Mr. Manski advised project considerations should include repeat maintenance problems and repetitive losses. He advised the County will not prioritize projects before submission to the State unless the State provided more criteria.

Mrs. Ireland asked if generators will be considered for grant funding. Mr. Manski advised 5% of allotted FEMA funds may be utilized for generators. Mrs. Gross asked if a generator is for a shelter would that rank higher. Mr. Manski replied yes recognizing it is for a critical use. Gordon Gross stated we would be competing with counties and school statewide. Mr. Manski assumes the majority of funding will be dedicated in Northern New Jersey.

Mr. Brewer asked if there is a downside to putting in for projects. Mr. Manski replied no. Mr. Sarclette asked if the State is addressing any of Maurice River Township's issues. Mr. Manski replied he did not know.

Mrs. Gross asked how accurate estimated costs need to be. Mr. Manski suggested checking with the Township Engineer for project costs.

Mr. Sarclette stated high priorities in Maurice River Township should be State Highway 47 for the State and raising Mauricetown Causeway and Glade Road for the County.

Mr. Manski suggested updating the Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan annually, noting the plan is rewritten every five years.

Public Comment

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to open the public comment session at 8:20 PM, seconded by Mrs. Gross.

Roll Call: Ayes –Ireland, Gross, Sarclette Nays – None Abstentions – None

Ben Stowman of Heislerville suggested the Township put in for everything that we can think of and especially need to make sure Matt's Landing is included.

Mr. Sarclette advised he spoke with Bill Dixon of NJDEP and due to the extreme cold they have not been able to reach the proper compaction level of materials per the specs.

Robert Whildin of Heislerville asked if the plan to rebuild Matt's Landing dike is 8.2 feet or increase to 9 feet. Mr. Sarclette advised the plan on paper is 8.2 feet and he doesn't know if there is a long-term plan. He advised he will continue to push for a 9+ feet. Mr. Whildin also stated there are many ditches that are not maintained noting it would help prevent some of the flooding problems if ditches were cleaned out.

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to close the public comment session at 8:24 P.M., seconded by Mrs. Gross.

Roll Call: Ayes –Ireland, Gross, Sarclette Nays – None Abstentions – None

The Township Committee continued to discuss problem areas and prioritize projects to include on letters of intent.

Carlisle Place Road in Dorchester (County Road) – low lying road, dip by railroad tracks and drainage pipe not big enough.

Glade Road in Delmont (County Road) – floods often, needs elevation. County plan is to pave the road but not elevate.

River Road in Leesburg (Township Road) – floods often, needs elevation.

Newell Road in Leesburg (Township Road) – floods due to drainage problems.

Mauricetown Causeway (County Road) – needs elevation.

Mr. Sarclette will contact the County Freeholders regarding the County roads.

It was noted two property owners submitted letters to the Township requesting buy-outs. The consensus is not to pursue the buyouts due to the required funding match, loss of ratables, and the properties are not repetitive problems.

The Township Committee prioritized the following projects to be submitted via Letters of Intent:

#1 – Generator for the Municipal Hall – estimated cost \$82,000.00

#2 – River Road

#3 – Newell Road

A letter will be forwarded to the County requesting the following roads be considered for improvements and FEMA funding:

#1 – Matt’s Landing Road

#2 – Main Street & Carlisle Place Road

#3 – Glade Road

#4 – Mauricetown Causeway.

A letter will be forwarded to NJDOT regarding flooding of Route 47 in Bricksboro.

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to adjourn at 9:15, seconded by Mrs. Gross.

Linda L. Costello, Acting Municipal Clerk