

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:30 PM**

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Jersey.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Sarclette

Roll Call

A. Review of 2014 Municipal Budget

1. Motion to introduce the 2014 Municipal Budget – Resolution #48-2014 and set date for advertising synopsis and date/time/place of public hearing.

B. Discussion Items

C. Public Comment

D. Adjournment

**Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:30 P.M.
Special Meeting – Budget Introduction**

PRESENT: Andrew Sarclette, Mayor
Patricia Gross, Deputy Mayor
Kathy Ireland, Committeewoman
Allen Foster, Finance Officer
Denise Peterson, Clerk
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 February 18, 2014 and advertised on February 21, 2014. 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. Gross, present
Mrs. Ireland, present

Mayor Sarclette called the meeting to order at 7:47 PM noting the purpose of the special meeting is to discuss the 2014 Municipal Budget. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Review of 2014 Municipal Budget

The following line items were reviewed: recreation, streets and roads, county authority Economic Development Committee, snow removal, street lighting, and other items which may impact surplus.

Mr. Foster advised the proposed budget would provide for a .006¢ per hundred tax increase. The equalized budget will be \$3,785,271.50 with the amount to be raised by taxation of \$1,286,748.86. The local purpose tax rate will be .428¢ per hundred.

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to approve the 2014 Municipal Budget on introduction in the amount of \$3,785,271.50 with the amount to be raised by taxation of \$1,286,000.00 and set the date of publication for March 19, 2014 and public hearing to be held April 14, 2014. Motion seconded by Mrs. Gross.

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

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

There being no public comments, Mrs. Ireland made a motion to close the public comment session at 8:23 P.M., seconded by Mrs. Gross.

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

Discussion Items

Nick Graviano, the Recovery Planning Manager assigned to Maurice River Township by New Jersey Future presented information on the following:

1. Grant for the sewerage investigation is ongoing. A feasibility study is being pursued.
2. An analysis of sign ordinance was done. Mr. Graviano recommends that the Ordinance pertaining to signs within the township be updated to keep the feel of Maurice River Township as a community. The update would include sign placement, structure as well as size.

Mr. Sarclette agreed that keeping the rural feel is important but does not want to restrict the businesses or put them at a disadvantage. Mr. Sarclette also stated that input from the Land Use Board is needed as they are the enforcing authority in this matter.

3. Nick Graviano stated he is also working on an analysis to evaluate the set back and placement of new buildings for business to mimic the existing buildings.

Mr. Sarclette stated that Pinelands must be addressed when making considerations for change and questioned solutions or recommendations regarding the business/commercial zones located within Pinelands areas. Both Route 550 and Route 47 have areas zoned commercial.

Discussion took place regarding traffic on Route 47 from the end of Route 55 and Route 347 and the need to evaluate and enhance the business opportunities there. It was further discussed regarding the closure of business when Route 347 was opened and traffic was diverted from Route 47. Evaluation is needed on how to attract traffic to this area. Mr. Graviano presented the idea of making a section of Route 47 have a “main street” feel, give people a reason to stop and walk around.

4. Mr. Graviano suggested finding a site to locate a sign advertising the local businesses; an example would be the township property where the Recycling Center is currently located. A sign approximately 32 square feet would be sufficient.

Mr. Graviano suggested that signs be “similar” in size, structure, etc. thereby presenting a more universal look. Kathy Ireland stated that Bayshore is working on signage which will be uniform; only adding the municipality’s logo. Kathy Ireland questioned whether there were grant opportunities for signs. Mr. Graviano will check. Patti Gross inquired into signs indicating “marina district”. This also will be reviewed by Mr. Graviano.

5. Properties were discussed that may have the potential for development. Suggestions were Sapello property, Ackley property, property located on River Road (old shipyard). These properties need to be evaluated and looked at for opportunities.

Nick Graviano questioned when the first reading of an ordinance could be? Mr. Sarclette stated that any new ordinance must be read and also reviewed by the Land Use Board. Mr. Graviano would like to make a presentation to the Land Use Board regarding the ordinances. Mr. Graviano will make the new sign ordinance similar to a matrix, thereby making it easier to understand and execute.

Mr. Graviano asked that the Letter of Agreement previously forwarded to the Committee be signed off on and returned to him as soon as possible. Mr. Sarclette and Mrs. Gross still need to review this document.

Mr. Graviano will draft the sign and zoning ordinances and forward to the Township Committee for review. He will try to conclude the waste water analysis as soon as possible and submit also. He will send these drafts to the Township Committee by March 20, 2014.

Kathy Ireland made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 PM, seconded by Patti Gross.

Denise Peterson, Clerk