

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP  
BILL & AGENDA REVIEW MEETING  
Monday, April 14, 2014– 7:30 P.M.**

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. Gordon Gross, OEM & HO/ZO Report
- B. Allen Foster, CMFO Report
- C. Public Hearing – 2014 Budget
- D. Discussion Items
  - 1. Unsafe Structure – Port of Call Restaurant
  - 2. NJ Futures – Letter of Agreement & Grant Applications
  - 3. Custodial Services vs. Shared Services
  - 4. Tax Installment Plans
  - 5. Beach Protection Ordinance
- E. Misc. Report of Operations
- F. Township Committee Concerns
- G. Review of Agenda for April 17, 2014
- H. Public Comment
- I. Executive Session – Personnel
  - Resolution #64-2014** A Resolution Providing For A Closed Session 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. The executive session is being held to discuss Cumberland Council #18 employee contract ratification. The estimated length of the executive session will be ten minutes. Formal action will not be taken after the meeting.
- J. Review of Bills
- K. Adjournment

**Monday, April 14, 2014, 7:30 P.M.**  
**Bill Review & Agenda Meeting**

PRESENT: Andrew Sarclette, Mayor  
Patricia Gross, Deputy Mayor  
Kathy Ireland, Committeewoman  
Frank DiDomenico, Solicitor  
Raymond Colavita, Auditor  
Allen Foster, CMFO  
Linda L. Costello, Acting Municipal Clerk

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

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

Mayor Sarclette called the meeting to order; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Gordon Gross, OEM & HO/ZO Report**

Mr. Gross advised he is receiving inquiries regarding certain unimproved roads throughout the Township; Ellyn Lane, Main Avenue, Ingersol Avenue, Park Drive and Evergreen Drive. It was noted unless the road is deeded and accepted by the Township, it is a private road and the Township is not responsible to maintain the road. It was also noted development on unimproved roads has been approved by the Planning Board in the past.

Mr. Gross reported on an unsafe structure at 49 High Street. He advised he has been in court several times with the owner for property maintenance issues and there have been two fires at the property within the past month. The roof of the garage is caving in and is deemed unsafe. Mr. Gross advised paperwork has been provided to the Solicitor and requested an unsafe structure hearing be scheduled.

Mr. Gross advised the unsafe structure at 1 Bay Avenue has been removed but a large hole is along the roadway is creating an unsafe situation. Mr. Sarclette authorized the Road Department to fill the hole and expenses will be assessed as a municipal lien. Mr. Gross explained the existing footings, which are pilings, must be removed and backfilled. He noted after a property has been abandoned for 12-months, new development would require appearance before the Land Use Board.

Mr. Gross stated the Road Department did a nice job cleaning up the Port of Call Restaurant property. Mr. DiDomenico advised he has been in contact with the lienholder, CCTS, and they asked for the structure to not be demolished noting their desire would be to rehab and sell the property once obtained through foreclosure.

Mr. Gross advised he has been in contact with both property owners on Hands Mill Road where a recent tire fire revealed property maintenance violations. He noted Mr. Peterson has signed a memorandum of agreement for the Township to assist in the cleanup; however, Mrs. Lee has declined the Township's help. Mr. Gross advised all violations will be going through the court process.

Mr. Gross advised he received a quote from Serve-Pro in the amount of \$746.00 to have emergency cots professionally cleaned. He advised once the cots are cleaned they will be stored in a moisture free environment.

Mr. Gross advised the Emergency Management Assistance funding is being delayed again this year. Maurice River Township usually receives \$5,000.00 annually which offsets OEM salaries. Mr. Gross stated the criteria to receive the funding is getting more intense.

Mr. Sarclette asked Mr. Gross for an update on the construction project at the OEM building. Mr. Gross advised the bathrooms work but the shower installation is not complete. Mr. Sarclette advised conversion to gas is being explored.

Mrs. Gross advised Nick Graviano would like to meet with Mr. Gross to discuss the Community Rating System. Mr. Gross advised there are only two communities in Cape May County and none in Cumberland County that the Community Rating System. Mr. Gross and Mrs. Ireland will coordinate a meeting with Mr. Graviano.

#### **Allen Foster, CMFO Report**

Mr. Foster advised monthly financial reports were provided to the Township Committee.

Regarding the 2014 Proposed Municipal Budget, Mr. Foster reported on information provided by the State regarding grant appropriations, snow removal rider, and pension billing. Potential heavy equipment purchase options were discussed.

#### **Public Hearing – 2014 Budget**

Mr. Sarclette advised the 2014 Municipal Budget was introduced at \$3,785,271.50 with \$1,286,000 to be raised by taxation, an increase of \$21,000.00 over the 2013 Municipal Budget. The local purpose tax rate will be \$ .428, an increase .006¢.

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

There being no public comment, Mrs. Ireland made a motion to close the public hearing on the 2014 Municipal Budget, seconded by Mrs. Gross.

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

Mr. Sarclette thanked Mr. Colavita and Mr. Foster for their collaboration in preparation of the 2014 Municipal Budget.

**Resolution #45-2014** A Resolution Requesting Permission To Establish A Dedicated Trust By Rider For Snow Removal Reserve Trust Fund Pursuant To PL2001, C.138 And NJS 40A:4-62.1.

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to adopt Resolution #45-2014, seconded by Mrs. Gross.

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

**Resolution #69-2014** A Resolution Authorizing Cancellation Of Excess Amounts Anticipated And Appropriated For The 2014 Municipal Alliance Grant.

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to adopt Resolution #69-2014, seconded by Mrs. Gross.

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

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to adoption the 2014 Municipal Budget in the amount of \$3,785,271.50 of anticipated revenue and expenditures, with the amount to be raised by taxation of \$1,286,000.00 equating to a local purpose tax rate of .428¢ per hundred. Motion seconded by Mrs. Gross.

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

Mr. Colavita asked if there is a plan for projects requiring bond ordinances without issuing debt. Mr. Sarclette advised prioritization of road improvements will need to be determined. Mr. Foster advised if a project is under \$100,000.00 capital improvement funds may be utilized however if establishing debt specific roads must be identified and quotes obtained.

### **Discussion Items**

1. Unsafe Structure – Port of Call Restaurant

(See discussion under Report of Gordon Gross above.)

2. N.J. Futures – Letter of Agreement & Grant Applications

Mrs. Costello advised resolutions have been prepared to authorize submission of five USDA grants prepared by Nick Graviano for funding to explore wastewater treatment of five communities. Mrs. Gross asked if this will put a burden on the residents. Mr. Sarclette responded that the grants will provide funds to study the options but does not obligate the Township to act on any recommendations. Mr. Sarclette stated he is uncomfortable endorsing the Letter of Agreement provided by N.J. Futures.

3. Custodial Services vs. Shared Services

Mrs. Costello advised she has not been able to have a conversation with Mrs. Powell and information is still needed from the School.

4. Tax Installment Plans

Mrs. Costello advised letters have been sent to owners of residential properties with municipal liens regarding installment plan options. She advised the statutory maximum allowed is three years for an installment plan. A resolution will be prepared delineating installment plan options.

5. Beach Protection Ordinance

Mrs. Ireland advised Larry Niles asked for an ordinance endorsing beach closures from May 7<sup>th</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sarclette commented that considering the timing an ordinance would not be effective. He noted NJ Fish & Wildlife already have a beach closure program in place. He asked if the request has been presented to the Public Access Committee. Mrs. Ireland stated Mr. Niles is looking for support of the Township for beaches that are closed anyway. Mr. Sarclette stated the beaches are closed by the State not by the Township and asked that the Public Access Committee be consulted.

He suggested rather than an ordinance, perhaps a resolution could be adopted on an annual basis, but prefers support from the Public Access Committee.

### **Misc. Report of Operations**

Mr. Sarclette advised Cormac Morrissey provided a letter dated April 14, 2014 regarding the school drainage/ponding issue and anticipates cost to be \$2,500.00.

Mrs. Costello asked if the Committee has considered the request of Louann Karrer to hold a shred day in September. The consensus is to schedule the date in September 2014 but note the attendance to see if two times per year is warranted.

Mrs. Costello asked if the Committee has considered the quote submitted by Scattered Acres for landscaping maintenance at the Municipal Hall. The consensus is to proceed with the annual landscaping maintenance based on the quote provided of \$925.00.

### **Township Committee Concerns**

Mr. Sarclette advised Ms. Caroline Potter is the new liaison to the Governor's Office.

Mrs. Gross advised she is moving forward with the Senior Spring Fling to be held May 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the Senior Center.

### **Review of Agenda**

The Acting Clerk next reviewed the draft agenda for the upcoming April 17, 2014 meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Gross made a motion to open the public comment session at 9:40 P.M., seconded by Mrs. Ireland.

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

Ben Stowman of Delmont advised numerous trucks have been taking beach materials to Moore's Beach and he believes they are racing to beat critical dates. He said the road is getting heaving usage. Mr. Stowman advised he spoke with Mr. Gross regarding frequency of the road flooding. He noted he intends to submit his best estimate of a cost analysis regarding a potential upland berm to US Army Corps of Engineers.

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to close the public comment session at 9:47 pm, seconded by Mrs. Gross

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

### **Executive Session**

**Resolution #64-2014** A Resolution Providing For A Closed Session 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. The executive session is being held to discuss Cumberland Council #18

employee contract ratification. The estimated length of the executive session will be ten minutes. Formal action will not be taken after the meeting.

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to adopt Resolution #64-2014, seconded by Mr. Sarclette.

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

\*Note: Mrs. Gross left the meeting room during the Executive Session.

The public portion of the meeting reconvened at 10:14 P.M.

Mrs. Gross returned to the meeting room for the balance of the meeting.

### **Review of Bills**

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to the review of bills for approval at the April 17, 2014 meeting.

Mrs. Ireland made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Gross.

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Linda L. Costello  
Acting Municipal Clerk