MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
BILL & AGENDA REVIEW MEETING
Monday, March 16, 2015 – 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. Discussion Items

1. Tiffany Cuviello letter dated March 3, 2015 regarding the conservation easement for various properties including Sapello Foundry and some Longwood Gardens properties preserving the properties for open space and recreation purposes only.

2. Cumberland County Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for Plumbing repair services.

3. Use of Leechester Hall and the Senior Center for funerals and social events.

4. Ordinance regarding the keeping of pigs in Maurice River Township.

5. Ordinance 640 - An Ordinance of Maurice River Township, Cumberland County, Amending Ordinance No. 460 and Ordinance No. 627 Regulating Soliciting, Vendors and Peddlers Operating Within Maurice River Township

6. Bids for the new backhoe.

D. Misc. Report of Operations

E. Township Committee Concerns

F. Review of Agenda for March 19, 2015

G. Public Comment

H. Review of Bills

I. Adjournment

Monday, March 16, 2015, 7:30 P.M.
Bill Review & Agenda Meeting

PRESENT: Andrew Sarclette, Mayor
Patricia Gross, Deputy Mayor
J. Roy Oliver, Committeeman
Frank DiDomenico, Solicitor
Allen Foster, Chief Financial Officer
Denise Peterson, 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
Mr. Oliver, present

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

Office of Emergency Management and Housing/Zoning Reports

Property Maintenance

Mr. Gross provided the Township Committee with update regarding property violations. Mr. Gross stated that in April he will start evaluating problem properties.

Mr. Gross provided a status report on 5 Station Road. Mr. Frank DiDomenico interjected and stated that an email response had been received from Mr. Adam Taki from Actlien. Mr. Taki stated that to his knowledge as a lien holder they have no right work on the property.

Mr. Gross stated that this property had been this way for a very long time. Mr. Gross' recommendation was to send the road department to the property to perform a clean-up and have a lien assessed against the property.

Mrs. Gross made a motion to send the road department to the property to do a clean-up and assess a lien against the property for said costs; seconded by Mr. Oliver.
Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Oliver, Sarclette Nays – None

Mr. Gross proceeded to give a status report on 6 Oak Hill Road in Dorchester. Mr. Gross stated that the property owners have so far done an excellent job of cleaning up the property and the building is secure. It was discussed that the property owners can request an extension of time at the April meeting, which was previously agreed upon.

Mr. Gross stated that 26 Quaker Street which is a house destroyed by fire. Mr. Gross gave 60 days for clean-up and nothing was done. Today Mr. Gross forwarded a letter that a written corrective action plan for the clean-up is needed within 7 days. If not received a summons and court measures will have to be taken. Mr. Gross stated that they have not even attempted to clean-up outside the building.

Cumberland Cell Tower

Mr. Gross provided an update regarding the Cumberland cell tower. A meeting with the engineers was held. The Freeholders will be awarding the contract at their next Freeholder meeting. Originally they were going for a 90 day substantial completion on the tower however this has been extended to 120 day substantial completion. This 120 day period would be around the end of July.

Mitigation Update

Mr. Gross and Mr. Stowman attended a meeting recently and the meeting went very well. Mr. Gross and Mr. Stowman took different breakout sessions to gather more information. Mr. Gross met with Bob Brewer who discussed giving the townships some of their roads. It was determined that the County OEM, Mr. Gross, Mr. Stowman and the engineer and other officials to discuss projects that can be started. A determination was made that some of the projects will never be completed. Mr. Stowman questioned what type of insurance and how much coverage will be required. Mr. Gross offered that the Delmont building and Heislerville Fire Company are within the flood plan area. Mr. Stowman questioned that when the four-county plan and who was eligible for the grants. What determines the 75/25 match and the 90/10 match grant plans was discussed.

Mr. Gross further stated that both the county and the state are inclined to believe that generator for Maurice River Township will come to be.

NJSP Assist

Mr. Gross discussed the New Jersey State Police assist. Mr. Gross had a meeting with the State Police regarding what was going on in the township. Mr. Gross noticed that recently the New Jersey State police have been present at the court sessions. Mr. Gross questioned whether the township could assist the NJSP in obtaining some gym equipment.

A discussion took place regarding how the township would be able to assist by having a fund-raiser to help with the gym equipment. Mr. DiDomenico suggested contacting the local gyms to see if they had old equipment they would like to donate. The four fire companies have been discussing having dances on a quarterly basis. Possibly they could use the money from one of these dances as a donation to the police gym equipment.

Mr. Foster stated that a budget line would be needed in order.

EMA Funding

Mr. Gross received the approval letter to submit the application; this is for the $5,000 salary reimbursement. The resolution has already been completed.

RERP

Mr. Gross explained that we back-up Greenwich EOC. This grant will go to purchase sign boards.

Emergency Relief Project

Mr. Gross explained that a need for a trailer and spot-a-pot is needed for emergency situations occur which required an extended amount of time. Caprioni may donate the spot-a-pot. A trailer would be needed to haul the spot-a-pot. The ideal length of the trailer would be 10 foot for safety issues.

Mr. Gross requested approval to purchase the spot-a-pot the quote received was for $1,598. Mr. Gross further explained that he believes Caprioni will clean the spot-a-pot if it is transported to their facility.

Mr. Sarclette questioned where the unit would be housed. Mr. Gross suggested either the Delmont building and could be pulled by any of the four fire companies trucks. Obtaining the unit for use a request call could be made to OEM personnel. Mr. Sarclette suggested that it may be more accessible to everyone if it was housed at the Suzie Bell (recycling center) location.

Mr. Sarclette suggested that at least three quotes on the trailer be obtained. Suggested vendors were Lowes, Trailer Supply and there is another trailer dealer north of Garden Road on Delsea Drive in Vineland.

Mr. Sarclette indicated that there is money in the budget for this expense.

Mr. Sarclette asked if anything was being evaluated as problem properties on High Street in Leesburg. Mr. Gross stated that he is going to start evaluating properties in April and he is aware of properties on High Street that need to be evaluated.

Municipal Finance Officer Report

Mr. Foster provided the Township Committee with a status of the budget. He stated that there are a couple lines in the negative. A resolution will be done to increase the line items of the temporary budget at the March 19, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Foster advised that he will not be able to attend the Thursday, March 19 meeting. Mr. Foster indicated that he would like to get together with Mr. Morrissey to get the road projects started. Mr. Sarclette stated that he had spoken with Mr. Morrissey and he is going to get some numbers together.

Discussion Items:

1. Tiffany Cuviello letter dated March 3, 2015 regarding the conservation easement for various properties including Sapello Foundry and some Longwood Gardens properties preserving the properties for open space and recreation purposes only.

Mr. Sarclette stated that the property is restricted to conservation and open space. Mr. Sarclette questioned whether Tri-County Sportsmen were still interested in the property. Mr. Oliver stated that they did not want to wait a very long time to wait for the Brownfields clean-up. The impression he got was that they did not want to waste time.

Mrs. Gross asked if a response regarding the UST had been received from Mr. Alan Miller. Mr. Sarclette stated that additional information had been sent to him at his request, but no findings had been received.

Mr. Stowman stated the question was raised at the LUB meeting to have the Sapello property removed from this list. Mr. Morrissey suggested the "trading" of one property for another. Mr. DiDomenico stated the conservation easement is in perpetuity. Mr. Sarclette stated that any exchange would have to be approved by the Pinelands. Mr. DiDomenico stated that once a property is deed restricted there is no way lift the restriction from the Pinelands point-of-view. Mr. Oliver stated that under the LPU program it was restricted to conservation or recreation use. It was felt that Tri-County use would fall under the recreational use stipulation.

Mr. Sarclette stated that information had been received that the school may be interested in a portion of the property for a soccer field.

Mr. Sarclette indicated that the cleanup of the property must be completed first.

2. Cumberland County Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for Plumbing repair services.

The consensus was to keep this service on a local level.

3. Use of Leechester Hall and the Senior Center for funerals and social events.

Mr. Sarclette indicated that the concern was for consistency with the use. Mr. Oliver stated that Dorchester Church provides the hall for services related to funerals. Mr. Sarclette stated that Heislerville Church also provides this service. Mrs. Gross stated that she does not want to have requests made and then denied when a family is having this type of hardship. Mrs. Gross stated that she wants to prevent a situation where a family is made a victim of the township's inconsistency with the use of the facilities. Mr. Sarclette does not believe that anyone has been denied the use for funeral situations.

Mr. Oliver stated that what the reply should be for requests. Mr. DiDomenico indicated that the use is not permitted by ordinance. Mr. Sarclette indicated that the concern would be for residents that suffer from hardship if they need a facility.

Mr. Oliver suggested that working with the churches in these situations. Mr. Sarclette requested that Mr. Oliver explain this to Mary Hagemann the Senior Activities Supervisor.

Mr. Oliver would like to have this as a written "policy" regarding the use of the Senior Center and Leechester Hall.

4. Ordinance regarding the keeping of pigs in Maurice River Township.

Mr. Sarclette indicated that the subject was brought up at Land Use Board and the Land Use Board was not inclined to change the ordinance. The consensus of the Township Committee also was that this ordinance not be changed.

5. Ordinance 640 - An Ordinance of Maurice River Township, Cumberland County, Amending Ordinance No. 460 and Ordinance No. 627 Regulating Soliciting, Vendors and Peddlers Operating Within Maurice River Township

Mr. Sarclette stated that a veteran feels there should be two applications – one for veterans and one for other applicants. Mrs. Gross questioned the concern for the 90 day renewal. Mrs. Gross also indicated that there are certain personal questions on application that they do not want to complete. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the descriptive information is necessary to identify to proper person is applying and using the permit. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the tax information can be removed but feels the other information should remain. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the ordinance states 90 days and 90 day renewal (this totals the 180 days set by statute for the Veteran's Peddlers License).

Mr. Oliver requested clarification regarding Ordinance 253 and was it rescinded. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the intent was to rescind 253, 240 and amend 460.

Mr. Sarclette stated that to make the permit for 180 days and take the tax request out and make another for the "other" applicants which will remain 90 days and leave the tax inquiry.

6. Bids for the new backhoe.

Mr. Foster made the necessary modifications to the bid specs for the backhoe. Mr. Foster inquired does the ditch cleaner need to have specifications. Mr. Sarclette stated that they would know what was needed for the ditch cleaner attachment. Mr. Foster inquired whether Mr. DiDomenico would like to review the bid specs and explained that bid is similar to those of the loader. Mr. DiDomenico will review. Mr. Foster stated that the ditch cleaner attachment is stated as inclusive not separate.

Mr. Foster stated that an allotment of $95,000 has been made for the backhoe.

Township Committee Concerns

Mr. Oliver mentioned correspondence that was received in the last couple of weeks: English sewage application, Leechester Hall request for June 25th for Dallas Landing, designation of polling places, letter from Port Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene regarding new sign, ASF door to door solicitation. Mr. DiDomenico stated that our ordinance does not permit door-to-door solicitation. Also mentioned the letter from Jennifer Robinson regarding the bus stop change. Mr. Sarclette has talked to the MRTES Principal Mr. Kappeler. Letter from Charles Costello requesting a waiver of permit fees for Fire District and use of the Township Engineer for survey and site plan.

Mr. Oliver discussed replacing the sluice gate on River Road. Mr. Oliver talked with Mr. Morrissey who did some preliminary work 3 years ago and copies of the Lomax Consulting group were forwarded to him. Mr. Stanley Novakowski brought this matter to his attention recently. Mr. Oliver stated that Cormac will be in touch with the county to discuss replacing this gate. Mr. Sarclette spoke to Doug Whitaker from the county has stated that this is not their gate and therefore would be the responsibility of the township to replace. Mr. Sarclette said that is unclear as to whether the gate was intentionally removed or fell off due to age. Mr. Sarclette stated Mr. Morrissey will measure and provide quotes of replacement cost. The township will have to replace the sluice gate and monitor it to see if it is helping or not.

Mr. Sarclette also discussed the Leechester Hall drainage with Mr. Morrissey also and he believes that the drainage could be piped into the picnic grove area. This ditch runs to the river.

Mr. Sarclette and Mr. Morrissey also discussed the Matts Landing Bike Path; it was determined that planning the route of the path is necessary and get some construction estimates to determine if the grant will cover the costs.

Mr. Sarclette questioned who was working on the street light quotes. The clerk will pursue getting the quotes for New Road, Leesburg Belleplain Road and Schoolhouse Lane.

Mr. Sarclette asked the clerk to forward the sign ordinance to Megan Wren.

Mr. Oliver explained the history of the veteran's signs which previously were on display within the township. A sign quote is being obtained from Mr. Barry Fisher.

Mr. Sarclette questioned how the lists be created without missing a veteran's name.

Mr. Oliver stated that he has a list of veterans for the Dorchester area and is aware of a list in Heislerville area that is approximately 2 pages long.

Mr. Oliver plans to meet with the Dorchester Church ad hoc committee to get an idea of the interest is and also regarding the sign size, design etc.

Mr. Oliver stated that Mr. Baggaley has a good knowledge of the veterans in Heislerville area. Mr. Oliver suggested that the villages pursue this sign on an individual basis. He also believes that individual acknowledgement would be better than generic acknowledgement.

Mr. Sarclette is working of a special use permit for the lease at Fishtails Marina and the Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs will be starting in April.

Mr. Sarclette provided an update that the Thompsons Beach Road has been started and the beach replenishment is pending receipt of the permit. The permit is required from NJDEP to start.

Mr. Sarclette asked if the resolution that Senator Van Drew referred to, has it been put together. Mrs. Gross advised that Mayor Moore from Commercial Township was working on the resolution. Mr. Sarclette stated the resolution is needed for Thursday night's meeting. Also Mr. Sarclette stated that a project team is needed.

Mr. Stowman advised that there is another meeting in Dennis Township on Thursday, March 19th at 3:00 pm to discuss the Bayshore Project.

Mrs. Gross advised the new surveillance cameras have been installed at the Leesburg Fire Company and that a representative will be available in the next week to provide a demonstration. Joe Sterling of Leesburg Fire Company said the resolution is very good and that the system can be accessed remotely.

Mr. Sarclette stated that remote viewing of the cameras at the municipal hall has not been working recently. Mrs. Gross advised that she also has been having problems.

Mrs. Gross stated that Friends of the Lighthouse told her they are still having problems with the Maurice River Historical Society. Ms. Patterson of Friends of the Lighthouse asked if the township could host a meeting in the municipal building in the future.

Mr. Sarclette asked if an agenda of Maurice River Historical had been provided. Mrs. Gross provided that they are planning a work detail and have two meetings set; one is on March 25th. The work detail is scheduled for March 28th. Mrs. Gross will check with Gail of the Historical Society to verify the work detail date and time.

Mrs. Gross asked about the Bay Avenue and items in the right-of-way. Mrs. Gross received feedback from the public works that it would be a more comfortable situation if a letter was sent out to all property owners to remove items in the right-of-way.

Mr. Sarclette requested that a list of all property owners be created and sent to the property owners of Bay Avenue along with a copy of the tax map which shows the right-of-way.

Mr. DiDomenico reference correspondence received regarding Avenue A property from Assemblyman. The previous property owner made an agreement with the township regarding building a road based on specification made by the Township Committee. Mr. Sarclette stated that the new owner wants to put in a clam shell driveway. It was discussed that changes are made to the agreement than later on they could request the township to upgrade the roadway. The consensus was that the agreement would not be changed. Mr. DiDomenico will reply to the correspondence on behalf of the township.

Public Comment:

Mr. Sarclette asked that the public comment session be moved up prior to review of the Agenda for March 19, 2015.

Mrs. Gross made a motion to open the public comment sessions at 9:30 pm; seconded by Mr. Oliver.
Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Oliver, Sarclette Nays – None

Mr. Stowman stated he had forwarded to Jenna Gatto the Getting to Resilience plan. This will allow some leverage for the CRS (Committee Rating System). He plans to work with Gordon and Lillian on this to get something done regarding the flood insurance rates. Mr. Sarclette stated that he believes any help with the flood insurance rates would be great.

Mr. Stowman also advised that at the county meeting for mitigation he posed the question regarding the increase the flood rates. The current bill increases premiums because the government does not want to subsidize the insurance anymore but will extend the increase over a period of time. It appears that even if a house is raised to the height suggested you will see an increase in your flood insurance premium. The information available now is suggestive of increases for everyone with flood insurance.

Mr. Stowman questioned why Megan Wren needed the sign ordinance. Mr. Sarclette stated that this was for the "way finding" signs to keep the signs compliant. Mr. Sarclette stated that he believes it is for the placement of 6 to 8 signs within Maurice River Township.

Mr. Stowman stated that there is Bayshore meeting tomorrow and questioned if there were any concerns that the Township Committee would like to have addressed. Mr. Sarclette said it does not believe so, but the biggest concern is the East Point Lighthouse. Mr. Stowman concurred. Mr. Stowman questioned the status of the remaining portion of the $500,000 grant which he believes is $130,000. Mrs. Gross advised to check with Mr. Nick Graviano. Mr. Stowman stated that the $500,000 supported the $1.8 million which comes from the Army Corps had for the project. Mr. Stowman questioned the matching grants and how they are handled. Mr. Stowman believes this subject should be pushed to find out if this project is waiting for another partner.

Mr. Sarclette stated that the resiliency report by Jenna Gatto indicated a rating of 7 or 8 with very little work to do.

Mr. Oliver stated that he checked with Bob Connor and the signs are covered for $100,000. Therefore, damaged or vandalized signs can be replaced by filing a claim with the insurance.

Mrs. Gross questioned replacing the sign on the Mauricetown Causeway with the new sign design approved by the EDC. She believes the cost of the sign is around $1,100 or more. Mr. Sarclette said the budget will be approved on April 1st. Mr. Foster said he does not believe so.

Mr. Oliver questioned whether the signs should be made of metal versus plastic material. He is aware that the signs created by Barry are very esthetically pleasing, but wouldn't metal be more appropriately regarding vandalism. Mr. Sarclette indicated that metal is more likely to get stolen and wood is the least likely to get stolen.

Mrs. Gross made a motion to close the public comment session at 9:48 pm; seconded by Mr. Oliver.
Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Oliver, Sarclette Nays – None

Agenda Review

The Clerk next reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, March 19, 2015 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to the review of bills for approval at the Thursday, March 19, 2015 meeting.

Mrs. Gross made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Oliver.

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Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk