

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
BILL & AGENDA REVIEW MEETING
Monday, June 15, 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 Deputy Mayor Gross

Roll Call

A. Gordon Gross, OEM & HO/ZO Report

B. Allen Foster, CMFO Report

C. Discussion Items

1. Unsafe structure hearing – Samuel Wood, Jr., 26 Quaker Street

2. Update of Pig Ordinance

3. Maintenance of West Creek Baptist Cemetery on Route 347

4. East Point Lighthouse

5. A request from NEOC received on June 15, 2015 requesting use of the OEM 1st responder Trailer with Gator on June 27 and June 28.

6. Port Elizabeth library

7. Town Watch progress

8. Verizon conference call regarding Landlines June 23, 2015 from 10 am to 12 noon.

9. Framed Article Veterans Vending Park

10. Historical Society

11. Ehrlich quote for treatment of clover mites – twice per season at \$225 per treatment.

D. Misc. Report of Operations

E. Township Committee Concerns

F. Review of Agenda for June 18, 2015

G. Public Comment

H. Review of Bills

I. Adjournment

Monday, June 15, 2015, 7:30 P.M.
Bill Review & Agenda Meeting

PRESENT: Patricia Gross, Deputy Mayor
J. Roy Oliver, Committeeman
Frank DiDomenico, Solicitor
Allen Foster, CMFO
Denise Peterson, Municipal Clerk

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

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Gross, present
Mr. Oliver, present

Deputy Mayor Gross 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. There are still quite a few projects being worked on and this will continue.

Cumberland Tower Project

The tower is up to about 50 feet and progressing according to the August deadline.

9-1-1 Numbers Designation

The numbers were assigned and posted in the respective park. The new 9-1-1 designation numbers for the park areas are also in the county CAD system.

Automobile Sales - Residential Properties

Mr. Gross expressed concern regarding constant sale of automobiles on some residential properties. There is nothing in the ordinance prohibiting this type of sale; rotating out different automobile for sale. There are some that are selling automobile all year long. Complaints have been received regarding this type of sale.

Mr. Oliver questioned Mr. DiDomenico if this should be forwarded to the Land Use Board for review. Mr. DiDomenico stated that this can be handled on the Township Committee level; falls under the police powers under the Township Committee. This is a common ordinance which will state how many automobiles can be out for sale in a given period of time or limit the duration of how long a car can be out for sale. Mr. Gross offered that in the year 2000 specifications were listed in the ordinance, but for unknown reasons it was eliminated. Mr. Gross stated that the previous ordinance stated that 90 days in a calendar year and it had to be the property owner's vehicle. Problem is year round sales and rotating vehicle for sale. Mr. Gross suggested put a certain car for a specified period of time.

Mrs. Gross asked that Mr. Gross to advise the committee regarding the letter from the New Jersey State Police and the treadmill. Mr. Gross stated that an email was received from the New Jersey State Police thanking the Township Committee for the treadmill and that they appreciate it very much.

Municipal Finance Officer Report

Mr. Foster provided a cash receipts report to the Township Committee. Mr. Foster stated that Thursday he will have the numbers that will be available for roadway improvements and will review with Cormac.

Mrs. Gross advised Mr. Foster of the Family Night Out scheduled for August 6, 2015. She questioned the budget cut on this line item. Mrs. Gross asked if a small fireworks display costs \$3,000 could this still be done. Mrs. Gross further explained that the Family Night Out is a coordinated project with Events Committee, Municipal Alliance and Recreation. Mr. Foster advised that there is money available in the Recreation line item.

Mr. Foster questioned Mr. Oliver as to where the sluice gate project is being drawn from. Mr. Oliver advised that the Public Works would seem correct.

Mr. Oliver described the sluice gate situation to the general public. Mr. Oliver explained that the total cost for the gate and collar construction was \$680. Mr. Oliver further stated that the hurdle that now must be overcome is the installation of the collar and gate. The problem is the tide; the tide must be down far enough to install. Mr. Oliver stated that the Road Department Supervisor, Steve Hagemann told him that this last Sunday was an unusual occurrence in that the tide was below the mouth of the pipe. The public works is requesting to incur over-time pay to do the work in the off hours and to perform the work at the discretion of the Road Department Supervisor, Steve Hagemann. A second alternative would be a piece of plywood on the land side of the sluice pipe to back of the water in the ditch and then install the collar and gate. The third and most costly alternative would be to rent an excavator to install the collar and gate.

Mr. Oliver stated this will be addressed at the Thursday, June 18, 2015 meeting. Mrs. Gross stated that due to the cost savings in having the collar and gate, having the public works due to work seemed to be feasible.

Public Comments

Mr. Oliver made a motion to open the public comment, seconded by Mrs. Gross.

Roll Call: Ayes – Oliver, Gross Nays – None Absent - Sarcellette

Mr. Drew Tomlin from Leesburg stated that he attended the Veterans meeting and the Veterans Vending Park was being discussed and it received very favorable comments. Mr. Tomlin also stated that the Veterans group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month and he will be attending if there is any information that the Township Committee would like passed on to them.

Ms. Nancy Patterson Tidy, had concerns regarding the management of the East Point Lighthouse. She believes that the group was at one time very active but now is run but only a few members which do not follow its own by-laws. Ms. Tidy states that applications are sporadically accepted, denied or returned with no explanation. The Historical Society is going to hold an annual meeting which has not taken place for several years. Primary concerns that Ms. Tidy had were for this Historical Society to follow their own by-laws, to encourage acceptance of the applications.

Ms. Tidy requested advice from the Township Committee to remedy the management of the East Point Lighthouse. Mrs. Gross asked if Ms. Tidy's application had been accepted. Ms. Tidy's application was accepted, but she was dissuaded from participating in any activities related to the Historical Society or the East Point Lighthouse.

Mrs. Gross asked if a non-profit can be held accountable. Mr. DiDomenico stated that this non-profit operates the lighthouse under a lease or agreement with the NJDEP. Mr. DiDomenico suggested reviewing this document because there are minimal standards listed in that document. If it appears that the Historical Society is not complying to contact the NJDEP regarding the violations. It was discussed that there is concern that if the lease is pulled from under the current Historical Society that there are two grants that will be lost. Mr. DiDomenico stated that another recourse would be a declaratory judgment action with the Superior Court to hold the non-profit in violation of their own by-laws. This could possibly involve the current officers removed from office. Ms. Tidy stated that officers are supposed to be elected annually; however this group has been electing the officers based on only the four members who have been active.

Mr. Oliver asked for clarification of when the grants deadline is set for. Mr. Tidy stated that it was originally 2015, however the county has a special commission to oversee the grants and the deadline was extended. Phase I of the grant is for the exterior of the building and what little

work that was done needs to be redone; phase II which was for the inside of the building and the work never started.

It was questioned whether Mr. Matt Pisarski is on this special commission. This was unknown.

Mrs. Gross expressed that there seems to be no accountability on the fundraising that has been taking place. Mrs. Tidy stated that it is very difficult to sit by and watch the lighthouse in need of repair with nothing being done.

Mrs. Tidy explained that she has been involved in a couple fundraisers and donation drives. For the functions she was involved in there was an increase in involvement. Mrs. Tidy questioned the committee where the money is going and she was told that it was going toward the lighthouse.

Mr. DiDomenico suggested that Mrs. Tidy submit an OPRA request to the NJDEP regarding the lighthouse.

Mr. Oliver advised Mr. Tomlin that a Wall of Honor is going to be installed in the Leechester Hall. The six panels will distinguish those serving in the military in the Revolutionary, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Peach Keeping Missions. The goal is to list every veteran who was born, raised, or lived in Maurice River Township. The goal is to have completed by Veterans Day and at the latest Memorial Day. Mr. Oliver asked Mr. Tomlin to supply any names that he may have to add to this list. Mr. Tomlin complied. Mr. Oliver is coordinating the project; there are several people working on the project. Mr. Oliver stated that tax records/deduction applications are being reviewed for veterans and the information is being included in the tax insert. Mr. Oliver stated that this will be available to all honorably discharged veterans.

Mr. Stowman stated that the grant information must be distributed to the marinas. Mr. Stowman will also be meeting with the ex-FEMA representatives that are currently working with Bob Campbell.

Mr. Oliver made a motion to close the public comment; seconded by Mrs. Gross
Roll Call: Ayes – Oliver, Gross Nays – None Absent - Sarclette

Discussion Items:

1. Unsafe structure hearing – Samuel Wood, Jr., 26 Quaker Street

Mr. DiDomenico stated that he sent notice by regular and certified mail for the public hearing for unsafe structure of 26 Quaker Street, owner Samuel Wood, Jr. (the signed green return receipt card was received). Additionally the lien holder US Bank custodian for CCTS Capital was also noticed regarding the public hearing (a green card was not received back). Mr. DiDomenico questioned whether a representative for Mr. Wood or CCTS Capital was present. No representative was present. Mr. DiDomenico advised that Mayor Sarclette was not present and Deputy Mayor Gross had a conflict regarding the case. The case for unsafe structure on 26 Quaker Street will be carried to Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

2. Update of Pig Ordinance

Mr. DiDomenico supplied an email explaining the process of amending the pig ordinance to all Township Committee, Ben Stowman and the Municipal Clerk. The Township Committee must adopt a resolution requesting the Land Use Board to review the current ordinance for possible changes and report to the Township Committee their finds and suggestions. Mr. DiDomenico will write the resolution for adoption at the Thursday, June 18, 2015 meeting.

3. Maintenance of West Creek Baptist Cemetery on Route 347

It was discussed regarding who owns this property. The tax records show the ownership as Old Baptist Church. Mr. Oliver stated that a few years ago the Boy Scouts had volunteered to clean up the property. Mr. DiDomenico suggested that the property be handled in the same manner as

any other property in disrepair, which would include notices by the housing officer. The matter was tabled to Thursday, June 18, 2015 for discussion.

4. East Point Lighthouse

This matter was discussed earlier during public comment at the request of Nancy Patterson Tidy.

5. A request from NEOC received on June 15, 2015 requesting use of the OEM 1st responder Trailer with Gator on June 27 and June 28.

Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the request from NEOC, seconded by Mrs. Gross.

Roll Call: Ayes – Oliver, Gross Nays – None Absent – Sarclette

6. Port Elizabeth library

Mr. Oliver explained that a report of damage to the ceiling area around the chimney had been received. A decision must be made regarding the ceiling, roof and chimney of the building. It was suggested that Mr. Morrissey may need to look at the structure to determine if it is safe for occupation/use. The matter was tabled to Thursday, June 18, 2015 for discussion.

7. Town Watch progress

Mrs. Gross provided information regarding the Town Watch progress. The Town Watch has had between 6 to 8 meetings so far. The Sheriff's Department and New Jersey State Police have been assisting with setting up the program. Additionally the Sheriff's Department and NJSP will be attending the Family Night Out on August 6, 2015 to provide information. The Sheriff's Department has started having bicycle patrols within the area. The next meeting is this Wednesday, June 17, 2015 and block captains will be chosen. The block captains will serve as liaison between the residents and the New Jersey State Police.

8. Verizon conference call regarding Landlines June 23, 2015 from 10 am to 12 noon.

A conference call will be taking place on June 23, 2015 to discuss Verizon's petition to abandon its telephone landlines over a 5 year period. This will include all maintenance to the lines. Mrs. Gross indicated that Mayor Sarclette may be attending this conference call and that she has the number for calling in and the access PIN number. This will be discussed further on June 18, 2015.

9. Framed Article Veterans Vending Park

Mrs. Gross explained that she had received a framed newspaper article regarding the Veterans Vending Park Ribbon Cutting which took place on Saturday, May 15, 2015. The request was made regarding purchasing the framed article. Consensus was to purchase the article.

10. Historical Society

Mrs. Gross announced that Dennis Bailey of Leesburg, NJ is trying to start a Historical Society for Maurice River Township and is requesting use of the Leecheester Hall for the meetings. Mr. Oliver questioned if the organization was a non-profit and explained that a request for use of the Leecheester Hall must be submitted to the Township Committee. If the organization is not set up as a non-profit, than use would not be permitted.

Mr. Oliver questioned if this new organization was in conjunction with, over and above or in opposition with the Preservation Society with Donna Justis. Mrs. Gross stated that she was not aware of this organization. Mr. Oliver further explained that the Preservation Society organizes the annual township wide yard sale. Mrs. Gross explained that the new organization is in the starting stages. Mr. DiDomenico advised that Mr. Bailey may want to contact Mrs. Justis.

11. Ehrlich quote for treatment of clover mites – twice per season at \$225 per treatment

Mrs. Gross made a motion to approve the treatment, seconded by Mr. Oliver.

Roll Call: Ayes – Oliver, Gross Nays – None Absent - Sarclette

Miscellaneous Report of Operations

Mr. Oliver stated that we have received authorization letters from the county to participate in the derelict housing disposal program for three properties located in Maurice River Township. The properties are 28 Oak Hill Road, 47 Quail Street and 196 Carlisle Place Road. The county will allow the township to dispose of them at the county land fill. Mr. Oliver requested a resolution to demolish the home and dispose at the county land fill. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the clerk had forwarded the request to him and he will write the resolution for adoption at the Thursday, June 18, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Oliver stated a question has been posed by the Municipal Clerk regarding the payment of inspection fees for the resource extraction companies annual and 5 year inspections. Mr. Oliver explained that this inspection report shows the number of acres to be mined. Mr. Oliver stated that as Clerk the 5 year inspection fees were drawn from an escrow account and regarding the annual inspections he did not recall doing these or how they were paid for. Mr. DiDomenico stated he believed that fees should be drawn from the escrow account. There is a question as to whether the annual inspection should be done and where it should be billed from or paid from escrow.

Mrs. Gross stated that the Municipal Alliance is going to have Movie Nights during the summer and would like to use the Leechester Hall on June 26, 2015. A request for use form will be submitted for approval on Thursday, June 18, 2015 meeting.

Mrs. Gross explained that there are ex-FEMA representatives working with Mayor Bob Campbell to get Sandy recovery money. Mr. Stowman stated that this is very positive. He is going to explore further with the group to see if money can be obtained for projects such as the Mouth of the Maurice River. Mr. Stowman plans to meet with this group and find out how much this group can help. Mr. Stowman stated the Township Committee will have to determine if they want to hire the group to work with Maurice River Township. Since these are retired FEMA employees they have knowledge to get things accomplished.

Mr. Stowman stated that this will be another avenue to use to get the larger projects done. Mr. Stowman stated that Mayor Campbell has already hired this group to work with Downe Township. Mrs. Gross stated that Mayor Moore of Commercial Township had also spoken to this group regarding the possibility of having the river dredging done. Mr. Stowman indicated that he will be attending one or two meetings with this group.

Township Committee Concerns

Mr. Oliver announced that on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm the second Senior Dance will take place at the Leechester Hall. The Buckshutem Country Band will provide the music and there will be plenty of good food.

Mr. Oliver announced that on Thursday, June 25, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm there is a county meeting at Leechester Hall. A recap of the Hunter Research of the Battle of Dallas' Landing archaeological investigation will be the topic.

Mrs. Gross received signed paperwork from the Mauricetown Fire Company advised that they would be willing to turn the small billboard located on Route 47 over to Maurice River Township. Mrs. Gross stated the annual state permit fee is approximately \$35.00. Mrs. Gross requested this be added to the Thursday, June 18, 2015 meeting for discussion.

Mrs. Gross questioned whether the security personnel for the court system could be paid for their training that the AOC is requesting. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the township has paid for training for other employees. Mr. DiDomenico indicated that Judge Casarow should talk to Mr. Sutton. The clerk will advise Harper Ewing, Court Administrator that the Township Committee is considering reimbursement to the court security for their training that is being required by AOC.

Mr. Oliver asked if state training with a DCA instructor would suffice. Mr. DiDomenico stated that this would be at the discretion of Carol Cummings at AOC.

Agenda Review

The Clerk next reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, June 18, 2015 meeting.

Second Public Comment:

Mrs. Gross made a motion to open the public comment sessions at 9:00 pm; seconded by Mr. Oliver.

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

Mrs. Gross addressed Mrs. Nancy Patterson Tidy and thanked her for participating in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony activities for the Veterans Vending Park on May 15, 2015.

Mrs. Gross made a motion to close the public comment session at 9:01 pm; seconded by Mr. Oliver.

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

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to the review of bills for approval at the Thursday, June 18, 2015 meeting.

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

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk