

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
BILL & AGENDA REVIEW MEETING
Monday, March 14, 2016 – 6:30 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. Presentation – Cumberland County Positive Youth Development Coalition regarding Gun Safety & Violence Awareness Month
- B. Gordon Gross, OEM & HO/ZO Report
- C. Allen Foster, CMFO Report
- D. Public Comment Session
- E. Discussion Items
 - 1. Update of the Leechester Hall bathrooms cost approval.
 - 2. Municipal Building sign update.
 - 3. Refund of \$100 deposit to Amber Brown for Leechester Rental of February 27, 2016.
 - 4. Set cost assessments of In Rem Foreclosure Township properties proposed for public sale.
 - 5. Request from Steven Borek received March 7, 2016 asking the Township of Maurice River to consider acquiring 4435 Route 47 (aka: Station Hardware).
 - 6. Change in Chairperson for Green Team, Environmental & Rail to Trails Committees
 - 7. OEM Building Emergency Light At Fire Escape & Electrical Heat disconnect
- F. Misc. Report of Operations
- G. Township Committee Concerns
- H. Review of Agenda for March 17, 2016
- I. Review of Bills for approval at March 17, 2016
- J. Adjournment

Monday, March 14, 2016, 6:30 P.M.
Bill Review & Agenda Meeting

PRESENT: Andrew Sarclette, Mayor
Patricia Gross, Deputy Mayor
Frank DiDomenico, Solicitor
Allen Foster, Chief Financial Officer
Denise L. 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, absent

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

Presentation

Presentation – Cumberland County Positive Youth Development Coalition regarding Gun Safety & Violence Awareness Month.

Jennifer Webb-McRae and Nicole McCann of the CPYDC provided information to the Township Committee regarding the initiative by the Cumberland County Positive Youth Development Coalition for Gun Safety and Violence Awareness.

The Coalition is policy prevention board; the Attorney General's office funds policy prevention boards throughout the state. There are approximately 10 boards statewide. Cumberland County's policy prevention board started in the City of Vineland and expanded about 3 years ago and now there are the first countywide policy prevention board. They are primarily focused on the three larger municipalities of Vineland, Bridgeton and Millville; they all have working groups in the Coalition. Ms. Webb-McRae chairs the county coalition working group. The group works to prevent juveniles from going into the juvenile justice system; geared toward child wellness.

The Cumberland working group is working on a Gun Safety and Violence Awareness initiative.

The initiative is three pronged:

1. Geared toward smaller children and parents guide brochures were created. This initiative is not about the Second Amendment; not about whether or not people should bear arms; the initiative is about proper handling of firearms, how to keep firearms safe and trying to talk to kids about what to do if they encounter a firearms.
2. PSA contest geared towards older children such as high school children and they will create short PSAs and hopefully broadcast over the local stations. Also working with the Sheriff's Department for the middle school children targeting the 21st century children located in Vineland, Bridgeton, Millville and Port Norris; this will cover about 400-500 children in the middle school age. The NRA program is modified to middle school children.
3. The last initiative is to have June designated as Gun Safety and Violence Awareness month for the entire county. A proposed resolution sample has been supplied to the Township Committee. Currently 11 of the 14 municipalities have agreed; Shiloh, Stow Creek and Downe are pending. Additionally, the County Freeholder Board is being asked to designate the month also.

Ms. Webb-McRae stated that the hope is after the county designation is made that they can petition the state legislators to push the initiative up to the state level and have the state declare June as Gun Safety and Violence Awareness month. There will be a celebration in June to announce if successful.

Mr. Sarclette clarified that this subject is not Second Amendment and that there is nothing in the program against the right to bear arms. This program is a NRA based program. Ms. Webb-

McRae stated that review of the brochure shows the program as gun safety and violence awareness; want to empower parents regarding responsible gun ownership. Mr. Sarcellette will ask the committee to review the information supplied and at the April meeting a vote will be taken.

Office of Emergency Management and Housing/Zoning Reports

Property Maintenance Mr. Gross asked about the public hearing for 31 MacDonald Avenue. Mr. DiDomenico stated that title search results were received only a day or two ago; then he will send notice(s) to the bank. A public hearing will be scheduled for April 18th regarding the unsafe structure (garage).

Happy Street Status Mr. Gross stated that the survey results from Mr. O'Doherty conflict with the survey results of Mr. & Mrs. Robinson. Mr. Gross asked for Township Committee advice on how to proceed. Mr. DiDomenico asked for confirmation that the fence in question is being shown on O'Doherty property by the new survey. Mr. Gross confirmed this was correct. Mr. Sarcellette asked about the berm location. Mr. Gross stated that the berm is located on the Robinson's property by their survey. Mr. Gross stated that neither the fence nor the berm is doing anything in regards to flooding or water problems.

Mr. DiDomenico stated there were two options: (1) leave it up to the property owners to resolve or (2) township obtain a third survey. Mrs. Gross asked have the property owners tried to resolve between themselves. Mr. Gross said he spoke to them both about resolving but does not appear this will happen. Mr. Sarcellette asked if the O'Doherty survey shows where the berm is located. Mr. Gross stated that Mr. O'Doherty survey does not include this area; only his property; it does include Happy Street. Mr. Sarcellette stated that at this point the Robinson's have not removed the berm and O'Doherty has not removed the fence. Mr. Gross stated that the berm and fence are not doing anything in regards to flooding or water issues.

Mr. DiDomenico stated that the notification to both residents can state that they both have a survey by a certified surveyor that shows in favor of each. They can hire a third surveyor, at their cost, to resolve or to go to court for a resolution. Mr. Gross will draft a letter and forward to Mr. DiDomenico for approval.

Generator The MOUs are on the agenda at the Freeholder meeting this month and if approved they will come back to the township for signatures and then they will go out to the contractors. No exact date/time has been set.

Cumberland Tower Mr. Gross spoke to the 9-1-1 center today to get an update today. Motorola testing was completed on March 7th, 8th and 9th. Now they are working on the data base, then testing the simulcasting this week or next (paging system). Possibly operational by May 1st. Recently there have been two calls which included a forest fire and house fire with county communications not even being heard (received) out there. The communications for these events was done through Gloucester County communications.

Flooding: Dike and Matts Landing, Moores Beach, Bricksboro There was a very productive meeting with Mr. Morrissey and Mr. Stowman, in which, they reviewed the areas. The dike repair was complete through cooperative effort by the township and the county. Mr. Gross recommended to not let vehicle traffic on this cross dike for quite some time and possibly never. Possibly installation of gates at either end of this cross dike will need to be installed; and opened on an "as needed basis". Mr. Sarcellette said that possibly in the future the road can be widened and lower the elevation after the ground solidifies. Another idea is to put a pull off spot for vehicles to pass. Mr. Gross stated that if the dikes are used as a shoreline protection mechanism; regular inspection and maintenance is necessary. Mr. Sarcellette said the eye must be kept on the small pond to make sure the sluice gate is functioning properly; may need a gate.

Mr. Sarcellette advised that tomorrow there is meeting with Stevens Institute, who are interested in helping with the dike breach problem. This may be a partnering situation; to allow for more stability and armor the bay side. Mr. Gross stated that the sand placed at the East Point Lighthouse by Public Works which does appear to be stopping some of the wave action. Mr. Sarcellette stated that the sand for this project was donated by Whibco.

Mr. Gross reported on Bricksboro flooding where the water is running over the bulkhead at the old Fisher property; it appears to come around and backfilling Bricksboro. Also the gate has some issues but most of the water is coming right over the bulkhead by the little boathouse. Mr. Sarclette asked if fill would help. Mr. Gross stated that when it comes over the bulkhead; the boat ramp is not going to change anything; this is a maintenance issue on private property.

Mr. Gross advised that he and Mr. Stowman had met with Nancy Schneider of School House Lane, regarding water and flooding. They told her that there is not a lot that can be done with this however, Mrs. Schneider is frustrated. She was advised that the township is trying to do things with the Mouth of the Maurice River project, the dike system and shoreline protection. Unfortunately, the water is coming in closer and closer. Mr. Sarclette asked if she was proposing that there is something the township can do that we are not doing. Mr. Gross stated that she just wants help and something done; road elevation, etc. Mr. Sarclette stated that the water is coming from Riggins Ditch across the meadow to her house. Mr. Sarclette asked could the water flow be pinpointed. Mr. Gross stated that from the pictures she showed it appears to be coming across the meadow from Riggins ditch.

EMAA The \$5,000 grant for salary reimbursement was received today.

Register Abandoned Property Ordinance Mr. Gross stated that he had provided the information regarding this ordinance to the township committee last month. He stated that the abandoned properties are growing and is getting worse. Additionally, Commercial Township has adopted this ordinance and it provides revenue each year between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Mr. Gross provided the registration cost per year that is stated in the Commercial Township ordinance: first year is \$500, second year is \$1,000, third year is \$1,500 and the year after is \$5,000. This gives incentive to get rid of the property or get back on the market. Drawback is that the abandoned properties must be placard. Mr. DiDomenico stated that he reviewed the Commercial Township ordinance and asked if Millville has a similar ordinance. Mr. Sarclette asked that Mr. DiDomenico would draft this ordinance for Township Committee review.

Public Sale of Fire Truck Stored in Delmont Mr. Gross stated he wants to move forward with emptying some of the items out of the Delmont Building. As previously discussed the fire truck can be sold at the next public sale. Mr. Sarclette asked if there were any other items that can be included in a sale and that Gov Deals can be used. Mr. Sarclette asked the clerk to contact Gov Deals and find out the details for selling through them. Mr. Sarclette also requested that Public Works be contacted to see what equipment/items they have that might be eligible to be sold.

2016 FMA/PDM Grant Mr. Gross previously forwarded the details of this grant to the township committee which pertains to mitigation grant funds. There is 199 million available and there is a time limit on this grant.

OEM Building Electric Mr. Gross stated that now that the heat is gas the electric baseboard heating should be evaluated for removal. When hooked up to the backup generator with the fire hall and the public works building, we could only power up the bottom floor of the OEM building. He is not sure what the heater circuits are on; hopefully it is a bottom floor circuit. If the electric heat is removed which is taking up a couple boxes in the basement maybe we could save some problems with heaters running; these electric heaters never shut off – always at a minimum of 40 degrees. The electric bills have been out of the ordinary. Mr. Sarclette understands that no gas is being used so therefore the gas heater is not kicking on. Mr. Sarclette suggested that since the electric heat is on a breaker to kill the breaker as a short-term fix. Mr. Gross said that the electrician, Mr. Griner, could not figure out the breakers for the heat because the boxes are so old and messed up. Mr. Sarclette stated that he has no problem with shutting down some or all of the electric heat. Mr. Sarclette asked whether the service should be moved from the basement to upstairs. Mr. Gross stated that the big box is okay in the basement and all the transfer switches for the generator are down in the basement; it is a matter of cleaning up the boxes and putting what is left in the new box that is in the basement.

Mr. Gross stated that there are state violations that must be addressed. Permits will be needed for emergency lighting on the back fire escape and now a wire smoke detector must be in the basement that is connected to the monitor company. Proof that the work was done by a licensed electrician must be shown to the fire marshal representative. Mr. Sarclette stated that the hiring

someone to do the things that we have to do and get a quote on the entire job opposed to an hourly rate.

South Tower Mr. Sarclette asked the status of South Tower; was it running. Mr. Gross stated that it is running most of the time, however, the other day they had some issues – humming through all the radio transmissions but it was operational. When they go to the simulcast system, the South Tower and Cumberland Tower are indicated to be the first two towers. Mr. Sarclette stated that Verizon has hired Salmon Ventures to work with the different municipalities and cities to help resolve some of the complaints that have been forwarded to them. They are supposed to be taking action on these complaints and also addressing the cable junction box pedestals. Mr. Gross stated that there were four Verizon trucks at the South Tower the other day; he is not sure if everything is resolved. Mr. Gross stated that they were moving into the Nextel building that is in the compound, but both air conditioning systems have been vandalized and are mostly missing; so they are going to stay in the little shed and run a window unit in the back. Unfortunately, you cannot get a straight answer. Today there have been pager problems; Heislerville VFC is getting toned out and Leesburg's siren is going off; this happened three times today. Mr. Gross stated that this may be part of the simulcasting system because it is supposed to mess with the paging which triggers the sirens.

Mrs. Gross asked if there was a barge at the lighthouse today. Mr. Gross stated that the barge that is out there is for pile driving and they are working for residents on Bay Avenue who are installing pilings for decks or docks. Mr. Gross also checked out Thompsons Beach and there is no barge there.

Municipal Finance Officer Report

Mr. Foster supplied the account status report to the township committee. Mr. Foster stated that there are negative line items but the emergency temporary has not been posted. Mr. Sarclette stated that the work OEM building is not a major expense and should not be a problem and go to the OE or building or grounds line.

Public Comment Session

Mrs. Gross made a motion to open the public comments session; seconded by Mr. Sarclette.

Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Sarclette Nays – None

There being no public comment, Mrs. Gross made a motion to close the public comment session; seconded by Mr. Sarclette.

Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Sarclette Nays – None

Discussion Items:

1. Update of the Leechester Hall bathrooms cost approval.

The township committee agreed to update the Leechester Hall Bathrooms sinks at a cost of \$800.

2. Municipal Building sign update.

Mrs. Gross stated that she was told the quote to repair the existing lights was previously stated at three thousand dollars. Mr. Sarclette stated the lights at the sign have been a problem as the kids that were above the sign; the kids hung on them. Then the floodlights in the ground the kids were kicking. The current lights are well lights and they are not working. Mr. Sarclette stated the lighted sign recently was addressed because of people going to court have been going to George's Pizzeria and asking for directions. George's Pizzeria has expressed concern regarding this ongoing issue. Mr. Sarclette suggested getting a quote to repair the existing lights.

3. Refund of \$100 deposit to Amber Brown for Leechester Rental of February 27, 2016.

Mrs. Gross made a motion to refund the \$100 deposit to Amber Brown; seconded by Mr. Sarclette.

Roll Call: Ayes – Gross, Sarclette Nays – None

4. Set cost assessments of In Rem Foreclosure Township properties proposed for public sale.

Mr. Sarclette and Mrs. Gross reviewed the nine township properties that had been obtained by In

Rem Foreclosure and set the minimum bid prices for same. Information was used from the Tax Assessor, Kevin Maloney and the Construction Official, Gordon Gross to set the minimum bid price. Mr. Sarclette stated that undersized lots must be offered to the contiguous property owners who have the right of first refusal.

5. Request from Steven Borek received March 7, 2016 asking the Township of Maurice River to consider acquiring 4435 Route 47 (aka: Station Hardware).

Mr. Sarclette stated that his property was considered when the township needed fuel tanks and there is a NJDEP outstanding hazardous spill situation with the property. The township no longer needs because they have fuel tanks. Mr. Sarclette asked the clerk to contact the Environmental Consultant Engineer, Mark Pietrucha for his recommendations regarding the acquisition of the property. Mr. Sarclette stated that he does not believe that this is something the township is interested in however, if the property can be considered under the Brownfields grants currently available it would be best to take care of the property before it becomes more dilapidated.

6. Change in Chairperson for Green Team, Environmental & Rail to Trails Committees

Mrs. Gross would like Mr. Oliver to take over Chair of these committees as she is overwhelmed and does not have time to take care of everything. Mr. Sarclette questioned whether these committees are needed at all or can the meetings be once a year versus quarterly. Mrs. Gross stated that Green Team has to stay. Mrs. Gross stated that the meetings have been consolidated; these three committees meet the same date and time and only 4 times a year. Additionally, the last few meetings have been cancelled. Mrs. Gross feels that Mr. Oliver possibly has more time to devote to these committees. Mr. Sarclette suggested asking Mr. Oliver if he is interested in chairing these three committees.

7. OEM Building Emergency Light At Fire Escape & Electrical Heat disconnect

Discussed above under the reports for Gordon Gross.

Misc. Report of Operations & Township Committee Concerns

Mr. Sarclette stated that the Public Works Supervisor has requested fluorescent yellow t-shirts with reflective tape for the road department. Mr. Sarclette this is a safety precautionary measure that should be done. Mr. Sarclette asked if the t-shirts previously supplied to the Public Works was policy. The clerk will check. Mr. Sarclette stated that public works should have vests and should have the t-shirts for the warmer weather.

Mr. Sarclette advised that there is a meeting tomorrow with Sari Rothenbeck of the Stevens Institute at Matts Landing to discuss the dike issue.

Mr. Sarclette announced that the American Littoral Society is holding a Shellebration on Saturday, April 9th from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This is to install the Oyster Reef at Thompsons Beach. Volunteers are welcome to participate. Mr. Sarclette and Mrs. Gross will check their availability to attend.

Mrs. Gross asked Mr. DiDomenico about make budgetary arrangements for the Town Watch program and whether there would be any liability to the township. Mr. DiDomenico stated that there is always the potential for liability; he recommends that they make the requests and that the requests be considered on a case by case basis. Mrs. Gross stated that there is a desire to help where needed such as refreshments, etc. Mrs. Gross stated that the Town Watch now has a solid foundation of members and some members are going to take training to be involved in Town Watch and not be a liability to the town. Mr. Foster stated that there must be a line item that these are charged to such as the emergency management line. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the Town Watch could incorporate as a non-profit. Mr. Foster offered that the requests could come out of the governing body O&E line as a sub-account such as a Town Watch donation annually.

Mrs. Gross notified that finalization of the agreement between the Maurice River Historical Society and Maurice River Township will be completed shortly. Additionally the ordinance will have the second reading and adoption on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

Mr. Sarclette stated that he is working on the properties list to be sent to NJDEP for the property swap for the marina district.

Mr. Sarclette asked Mr. DiDomenico about the status of the easements for Thompsons Beach. Mr. DiDomenico stated that there must be a "reason" for requesting these easements. Mr. Sarclette stated that there is a 10 year agreement based on the original court order for the project and the maintenance of the project. Mr. Sarclette asked the clerk to forward the ALS beach replenishment project agreement to Mr. DiDomenico. Mr. DiDomenico stated that the list he received includes a handful of people of signed the easements, some are unknown owners and then there are others that were mailed and were returned mail. Mr. Sarclette stated that the perpetuity easements are for the benefit of Maurice River Township to protect Heislerville and Matts Landing. Mr. Sarclette asked about PSE&G participation and may require an agreement. Mr. DiDomenico stated that an arrangement with PSE&G may be able to be made. Mr. DiDomenico stated bigger problems are owners who are deceased, families do not want to be involved and then there are properties that are underwater. Mr. Sarclette stated that the township is not trying to take the properties just protect. Mr. DiDomenico suggested that some of these properties should be foreclosed on and the township take possession of them.

Mr. DiDomenico forwarded his additions of the Flood Prevention Ordinance to Mr. Morrissey. Mr. DiDomenico asked about the Bid Specs for the Sapello Cleanup and whether Mr. Pietrucha requires any additional information from him. The clerk will check with Mr. Pietrucha.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. DiDomenico if he could prepare the bond note for one million or would he prefer to the township to obtain a bond attorney. Mr. DiDomenico stated that due to the amount it would be best to obtain a bond attorney. Mr. Foster stated that there is also the possibility that they would help disperse it so that better bids are received. Mr. Foster asked what the change would be for a bond attorney. Mr. DiDomenico estimated the cost to be between six to eight thousand.

Agenda Review

The Clerk next reviewed the agenda for the March 17, 2016 meeting.

Review of Bills

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to the review of bills for approval at the March 17, 2016 meeting.

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

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk