

\* Meeting held at Rio Grande Fire Hall

**TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
WORKSESSION AGENDA  
September 17, 2012 4:00 P.M. (prevailing time)**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor's announcement: I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times, the Atlantic City Press and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law). Notice of this meeting was properly given in Resolution No. 16-12 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 4, 2012.

Members present are Mayor Lockwood, Committeemember Donohue, and Committeemember DeLanzo.

Business Administrator Mark Mallett, Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss, Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan & Municipal Engineer Marc DeBlasio.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:**

**Administration/Finance:**

Wayfinding / Signage Project

*Elizabeth Terenik spoke of standardizing signage in the county. The project would standardize icons, logos and wording. She asked the township to provide pictures and information they would like used with the project. Looking for comments by Friday. Project calls for information that makes "Middle Township stand out from other towns". Needs 10-12 images. Signs could provide a list of districts in Middle Township.*

*Mayor Lockwood asked what the signs would look like.*

*Terenik – unsure as of yet.*

*Mayor Lockwood – would like to set the bar higher when it comes to signs.*

*Committeemember Donohue asked if website information can be placed on the signs.*

*E. Terenik – believes that this is a comment we should provide. Believes we should point out various locations in the township that can be pulled up by those utilizing GSP systems while traveling.*

**Public Works & Engineering:**

Engineering Report – Shannon Oaks & 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

*Marc DeBlasio went over the "Safe Streets to Transit" grant program. A resolution needs to be done at the next meeting. The project needs to be defined for the application. His office has reviewed the electric bills. During the review they noticed that Hess has not applied the discounted rate to all our bills. 34 accounts were not included. Believes that the township can take these accounts and get a better rate for the township.*

*Mayor Lockwood – do we know why these 34 accounts were not applied by Hess? Ballpark figure on the market rate?*

*Marc DeBlasio – if we have a "contract" with Hess we may be stuck with their rates. If not 7 ½ - 7 ¾ cents. Suggested going out for 3<sup>rd</sup> party supplier as soon as possible.*

*Marc Karavan will look into the agreement and see what language, if any, is included.*

*M. DeBlasio discussed various terms of 3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers.*

*Committeemember Donohue asked if we pay a different rate for street lighting.*

*M. DeBlasio – yes.*

**Legal:**

**Tax Collection/ Tax Assessment:**

**Construction/Plan/Zoning:**

**Recreation:**

Ockie Whisting Complex Review

*Mark Mallett reviewed the Ockie Whisting Complex project thus far. In 2002 the complex was purchased for \$1.18 million. \$980,000 has been spent since the purchase. Most of the money spent thus far has been for site improvements. 2<sup>nd</sup> most expensive expense has been engineering and site inspections. \$229,500.00 remaining in the two capital ordinances. Ideas proposed include a fishing pier, hiking trails and a playground. Mr. Mallett*

*presented a map to the public for review. Short term the township is looking at providing hiking trails and fishing arrangements. Committee indicated they were looking for feedback from residents as to what they would like to see at the complex. Ideas include a concert shell, tennis courts, BMX trails, and a hockey rink.*

*Carmen Sarno suggested that the township look at the various neighboring complexes and also nationwide for ideas.*

*Mayor Lockwood asked Mr. Mallett the balance of debt as of today.*

*M. Mallett - \$375,000.00 principal and interest.*

*Mayor Lockwood – on Acquisition....*

*M. Mallett agreed.*

*Committeemember Donohue stated that other parts of the complex would be developed on a parallel path as the Cape Express fields.*

*Mark Mallett stated that the land was purchased with Green Acres funding.*

*Mike Granagan of Cape Express acknowledged the need for more soccer fields in the area. The teams are piling up in Goshen. Cape Express has run fundraisers in the past to alleviate some of the cost of the improvements to Ockie Whisting. The soccer club is looking at developing 5 fields than when complete they would maintain the fields and pay the cost associated with the maintenance.*

*Mark Mallett stated he wanted to express that while Cape Express is paying the capital cost with the project this parcel is still a public facility.*

*M. Granagan expressed that the idea behind this agreement was to provide security for 20 years.*

*Mary Ann Welcz asked about increase traffic in the area due to the fields. The neighbors have been trying to get a traffic light at Fulling Mill and Route 47 for a long time. Cannot seem to get it done. How will the community handle the traffic?*

*M. Mallett – the Township has been working on this for 2 years. He spoke of the proposed flashing light to be placed around the bend at the Wildwood Water Building and the proposed traffic light at the intersection.*

*M. Welcz – the grass doesn't get cut unless the circus is in town. Agrees the kids need a place to play, however parking will be an issue.*

*Carmen Sarno asked about designated parking for the complex.*

*M. Mallett outlined the proposed parking plan.*

*Mayor Lockwood stated Cape Express is spending money to add parking, lighting, etc. with this project.*

*C. Sarno – the speed limit drops from 45 to 35 in Lower Township. Stated he was concerned with the residents trying to make a left hand turn into their development with the high speeds on Fulling Mill Road.*

*Mayor Lockwood stated the county just lowered the speed limit on that road.*

*Bob Zimmerman – the Rio Grande Fire House was paid for with funds raised by firefighters through donations. The fire house needs a new roof. Stated the fire company is looking for compensation from the township or Cape Express if they lose the money from the circus.*

*Mayor Lockwood – if the fire company wants to continue the fundraiser then we will try and find a way to make it work or help the fire company look into other fundraisers.*

*B. Zimmerman stated that they sign contracts with the circus in the beginning of each year. The company is looking to make sure they raise enough income to pay the bills. He wants to go on the record to say this would hurt the company in the pockets if they lose this income.*

*Mayor Lockwood - we will find a way to keep the revenue stream going.*

*Committeemember DeLanzo echoed Mayor Lockwood's comment. We will work with the fire company to find another location.*

*Rich Sweeten discussed the Rio Grande Park. Fill dirt is used in the baseball field. The ground is hard as concrete. If committee is going to seriously look at fixing this field this needs to be fixed. Suggested they take a look at the in-field.*

*Mayor Lockwood discussed the open space and recreation plan. Part of this meeting is to look at areas and to see what the community wants.*

## Open Space and Recreation Plan

*Elizabeth Terenik presented the Open Space and Recreation Plan. This inventories what we have and puts together the cost of items and the wants of the community. It serves as a planning tool for long-term future plans. Indicated she would be assisting the township in finding opportunities. Middle Township just applied for an irrigation grant. Monies are only available because we are part of the Sustainable Jersey Program. Elizabeth went over preliminary inventory maps. She indicated that the stake holders would be the Board of Education, US Fish and Wildlife, campgrounds, and The Nature Conservancy just to name a few. Thus far there are 16,000 acres preserved in Middle Township. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be held in the spring.*

**Police:**

Report by Chief of Police – Issues & Concerns of Rio Grande – *Postponed until 6pm meeting*

**Buildings and Grounds****Sewer****Grants****Personnel****SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:**

Joint Insurance Fund Presentation – Paul Forlenza

*Mr. Forlenza outlined to the public the definition and meaning behind the Joint Insurance Fund. He outlined the items covered under the township's current policy. Currently, the JIF covers 42 municipalities. Congratulations to the township for making the wise decision to stay with the JIF. All professionals that work for the JIF live locally. The JIF provides specific specialized program that public entities require.*

NO FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT.

Motion to adjourn meeting:

1<sup>st</sup> Committeemember Donohue    2<sup>nd</sup> Committeemember DeLanzo

Roll Call Vote: Passed on roll call.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

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Kimberly D. Krauss, Twp. Clerk