

**Cape May Court House, NJ
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSESSION AGENDA
February 19, 2014 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. 16-14 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 6, 2014.

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

Business Administrator Connie Mahon, Deputy Township Clerk Suzanne Stocker, Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan & Municipal Engineer Marc DeBlasio. Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss was absent.

FLAG SALUTE:**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:****Administration:****"No Net Loss-Reforestation Grant" & CMFP**

- Pete Lomax- Consultant
- Joe Bennett- NJDEP-Assistant Regional Forester- No Net Loss Team
- Alec McCartney- NJDEP-Community Forestry Management Plan

Pete Lomax:

-Gave introductory statement on parkway project and proposed reforestation project.

Joe Bennett, Team Lead for No Net Loss Program:

-Spoke of process of no net loss grant. Provided the following statistics regarding this project:

Total Deforestation: 26.03 Acres

19.78 Acres to hopefully replaced, anticipating to begin in Spring 2014

6.25 Acres remaining for Middle to replace, equal to 1,275 trees or \$382,500 in compensation

Current rate for compensation for trees is \$300/tree

-Discussed Middle Township being very proactive and issued prompt letter of interest when responding to grant.

-54 month work period once grant agreement is executed.

Committeemember Lockwood:

-Discussed trees being placed in residential areas affected by parkway project to create sound barriers. Mentioned increase in noise in residential areas due to loss of trees.

-Asked who would be in charge of designating areas for trees to be planted.

Joe Bennett:

-Stated that new trees may not be as large or mature, so sound may continue to be an issue. Will reach out to contact within project to monitor planting of trees.

Pete Lomax:

-Spoke of plans that showing spacing of trees based on final maturity, not "here and now" size.

Joe Bennett:

-Discussed possibility to plant on a residential property, but would require an easement to prevent homeowner from removing the trees for any reason.

-Stated that trees must have 95% or better survival rate after two years in order for forestation group to issue final permit.

Committeemember Lockwood:

-Asked about potential area of trees not surviving due to bad soils, etc.

Joe Bennett:

-That type of situation would have to be analyzed by team to make determination on how to proceed.

Mayor Donohue:

-Asked if this program only works with NJDOT projects?

Joe Bennett:

-Advised that program works with DOT, NJTA, State Colleges, etc.

Alec McCartney:

-Spoke of need to use NJDOT contract for forestry projects which does not typically meet forestry expectations.

Joe Bennett:

-Mentioned that performance rate has not been all that positive with these projects and believes it is caused by a lack of supervision by forestry staff.

Committeemember Lockwood:

-Recognized daughter and Mr. Lomax's daughter sitting in audience who are curious as the reforestation project and concerns with loss of trees during project.

Alec McCartney:

-Provided Mr. Lomax with necessary paperwork to apply for \$3,000 grant to hire consultant for project.

Joe Bennett:

-\$300 per tree is currently being compensated, most trees will cost less. Mentioned that remaining funds can be used for protection of trees, care, maintenance, etc., could also include purchase of equipment to maintain trees.

Connie Mahon:

-Asked approximate cost per tree at this time.

Alec McCartney:

-Less than \$100 per tree if purchased in bulk.

-Advised Mayor to have Shade Tree Commission application submitted to his office ASAP.

Pete Lomax:

-Summarized plan for deforestation and advised as to steps to proceed with project. Mentioned that he has been in contact with local nurseries to determine availabilities to meet necessary quote.

Committeemember Lockwood:

-Asked is it would be beneficial to purchase from nurseries then hire a local contractor to plant the trees?

Joe Bennett:

-Advised that could work, should be discussed with project consultant hired by Township.

-Mentioned 250 mile radius for purchasing trees for project.

Alec McCartney:

-Mentioned groups available to review credentials of local nurseries for purchasing trees.

-Spoke of requirement of CEU training, liability raining, need 8 hours of training per year for program.

Finance:

Public Works & Engineering:

Legal:

Tax Collection/Tax Assessment:

Construction/Planning/Zoning:

Chapter 193 - Property Maintenance Code Ordinance
Discussion

Mayor Donohue:

-Gave introduction on reasons why Ordinance is being reviewed and amended.

Connie Mahon:

-Reviewed amendments to section of Ordinance in section 193-25, specifically that the section will now read "unregistered or inoperable" as it pertains to motor vehicles, trailers, boats, recreational vehicle or ATVS.

Committeemember Lockwood:

-Asked about provision to allow RV's to be pulled next to house to prepare for a possibly 72 hour limit.

Connie Mahon:

-Similar provision was on Ordinance two drafts ago and was asked to be removed. Could consider adding back in.

Committeemember Lockwood:

-Believes this Ordinance covers most complaints received by Township. Asked about equipment being included, "heavy equipment" or "commercial equipment".

Connie Mahon:

-Will add language to include equipment and add to definitions.

Mayor Donohue:

-Asked how to define "inoperable".

Connie Mahon:

-Can compose a definition for review and add to definition section of Ordinance.

Mayor Donohue:

-Recognized hard work being put into amending this Ordinance.

Committeemember Lockwood:

-Spoke of this being a current Ordinance but required tweaking to make it a better Ordinance.

Recreation:

Police / Animal Control:

Animal Welfare Advisory Board

Mayor Donohue:

-Spoke of recent changes to Animal Control, now only offered in Middle Township and no longer offering shared services with neighboring municipalities. Dog census is in the process and is required every two years. The dog census assures that all pets in the municipality are registered and up to date on rabies vaccination.

-Creation of an Animal Welfare Advisory Board will consist of several members who will pull information in the Township to help protect the welfare of animals throughout the Township.

Rick DeFrasio:

-Previously provided possibly language to be incorporated in Township Code relative to animal welfare, thinks information should be put on hold until new board meets then could be discussed further. Has been researching more information on animal welfare and has questions regarding same.

Committeemember Clark:

-Mentioned that Administrator has been looking into what other municipalities offer as it related to animal welfare committees.

Buildings and Grounds:

Sewer:

Economic Development:

Personnel:

Zoning:

Township Clerk:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

****No Public Comment****

Suzanne M. Stocker, Deputy Township Clerk

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:25pm

1st: Committeemember Clark 2nd: Committeemember Lockwood

Roll Call Vote: Committeemember Clark, Committeemember Lockwood, Mayor Donohue