

**Cape May Court House, NJ
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSESSION AGENDA
January 22, 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 arrived at 5:15pm.

FLAG SALUTE:**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:****Administration:**

Abolishment Local Ethics Board Discussion

Jim McGill, previous member of Middle Township Ethics Board presented Committee with the idea of abolishing the Ethics Board. Mr. McGill presented Committee with a handout outlining several reasons for considering abolishing this board. Mr. McGill also presented Committee with hypothetical situations where several members of the board would be recusing themselves due to conflicts and that matter would end up going to outside counsel for a hearing which would incur additional costs. Mr. McGill also mentioned the costs of advertising each meeting, highly recommended training for members, and the time put into filing annual financial disclosure forms for each member. Mayor Donohue and Committeemember Lockwood mentioned that they would not be against abolishing the boards, but invited Mr. McGill to discuss this matter further to include Committeemember Clark in the conversation. Mayor Donohue mentioned that this topic may not make good headlines, but would be a beneficial topic to discuss.

Grassy Sounds Sewer Discussion

Mayor Donohue mentioned meeting scheduled for January 23 with key principals in this matter. Connie Mahon presented Committee with packet of correspondences relating to this matter. Maizer is working on final draft of municipal chapters for sewer service areas, will be sent for review and comments from municipalities, then sent to DEP in April for approval. Applications must be submitted by June 30th, Van Note-Harvey and RVE are working on preparing application and will be submitted in time. Mayor Donohue spoke with Carol Powell who has been involved in this, mentioned that sewer stations must be compatible with each other.

Finance:**Public Works & Engineering:****Legal:****Tax Collection/Tax Assessment:****Construction/Planning/Zoning:**

Chapter 193 - Property Maintenance Code Ordinance Discussion

Sal DeSimone discussed the importance of having a property maintenance code which is effective when citing residents for violations. Committee discussed making several changes to this Ordinance such as adding additional language to be more specific about certain terms, the number of trash receptacles required in public areas, and modifications to Section 193-24 pertaining to vehicles. Also discussed was the modification of Section 193-31 pertaining to penalties. Committee and Mr. DeSimone discussed reviewing the "use groups" to determine occupancy limits for hotels/motels.

Chapter 146 – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Discussion

Connie Mahon discussed the importance of hiring a Flood Plain Manager to work between the residents and FEMA. Mr. DeSimone is also able to apply to FEMA to get Middle Township into community rating systems for residents to be able to receive discounts on flood insurance premiums, which could be up to 25%. This Ordinance will be a step towards this process. There will be a financial gain which will positively affect our taxpayers after this is complete. Ordinance is a model flood Ordinance provided by the State, Division of Flood and Dam Management. This Ordinance will replace the current Chapter of the Township Code.

Sal DeSimone stated that there was required language for Flood Damage Prevention ordinances which was not included in the standing Ordinance. This Ordinance amends that by adding the required language, which will make it compliant with regulations and make it a bit easier to receive FEMA based funds for the Township. Committeemember Lockwood spoke of a condominium association which questions whether or not they were in the flood plain, if they were out of the flood plain, the insurance would be cheaper. Asked if this Ordinance pertains to this type of situation.

Sal DeSimone stated that this outlines the regulations for building, does not necessarily pertain to situation mentioned by Committeemember Lockwood. Believes this Ordinance is a positive step to helping everyone.

Recreation:

Police:

Buildings and Grounds:

Sewer:

Economic Development:

Personnel:

Zoning:

Township Clerk:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Helen McCaffrey, CMC Herald – Recently read two cases from Delaware and Virginia articles about homeowners who have made their manicured lawns into butterfly gardens which have high grasses, possibly against Township Code. Asked if there will be any provisions in Property Maintenance Code Ordinance pertaining to lawns being made into a habitat.

Committeemember Clark - Was going to question this as well, mentioned Sturdy Savings Bank Administration building who has high grass in the spring which grows wildflowers. Would think that this type of situation would be exempt from this Ordinance.

Suzanne M. Stocker, Deputy Township Clerk

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:40pm

1st Committeemember Clark

2nd Committeemember Lockwood

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