

**Rio Grande, New Jersey
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION MINUTES
December 21, 2015 4:00 PM (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. 17-15 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 6, 2015.

Members present are Mayor Donohue, Committeemember Lockwood and Committeemember Clark.
Deputy Township Clerk Suzanne Stocker, Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan & Municipal Engineer Marc DeBlasio. ***Business Administrator Constance Mahon and Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss were absent.***

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

Request for Non-Residential Trailer (Construction Trailer) at
1080 Pamela Road

Township Committee reviewed the hardship letter which was received for a request of a temporary trailer at a construction site. Committee verbally agreed to allow the trailer at the requested location until April 1, 2015.

Gypsy Moth Spraying Program

Joseph Zoltowski provided information regarding the program. Mr. Zoltowski advised Committee that the survey was completed and that the program is a voluntary program. The costs is \$54.50 per acre, for a total of \$4,360 to cover the 80 acres needed for the Township. Request submitted to US Forestry for 50% reimbursement, but total project cost will be due up front. Spraying is done in May and takes a few hours.

Finance:**Public Works & Engineering:**

Pierces Point Drainage Study

Marc DeBlasio spoke of the property located at 130 Beach Avenue which was built at a low point in the road. Marc gave synopsis of Drainage Study dated November 11, 2015 by Remington, Vernick & Walberg Engineers which suggested three options to correcting the draining issue on Beach Avenue. Marc suggested that if Township Committee decides to proceed with addressing this concern, that they proceed with Option #2 of the Study which would be a reconstruction of the roadway along the property lines, for an estimated project cost of \$114,000.

Mary Kelly, 130 Beach Avenue – Discussed ongoing concern with flooding and drainage around her residence. Concerned with water freezing during winter months and attraction of mosquitos on standing water during warm weather. Ms. Kelly asked Committee to consider taking action to correct flooding/draining on Beach Avenue.

Legal:**Tax Collection/Tax Assessment:****Construction/Planning/Zoning:****Recreation:****Police / Animal Control:****Buildings and Grounds:****Sewer:****Economic Development:**

Reed's Beach Open Space Application

Anne Garrison, Economic Development/Grant Coordinator – Spoke of project revisions and scale down due to input of public. Modified plan shows the removal of the gazebo and added parking spaced. DEP did not permit birding platform on jetty, but added it at end of existing nature trail. Handrails on jetty will be ADA compliant.

Mayor Donohue – Goal is to be hospitable with better access for public. Revisions made with comments and concerns of public in mind. Jetty access with be ADA compliant and will include handrails.

Diane Jackson, 173 North Beach – Concerned with safety, spoke of high tides reaching jetty. Residents are not permitted on beach, believes project will attract more people going on beach.

Mayor Donohue – DEP owns the jetty and approved plan.

Marc DeBlasio – Design stage will consider concrete walkway with handrails.

One resident expressed concerns with water spraying over the jetty, dangerous to walk on.

Jeff Severance, 200 North Beach Avenue – Added parking spots are in front of his residence and mailbox, asked if they could be moved across the street.

Marc DeBlasio – Parking spots were added in Township right-of-way, will look into moving proposed parking spots to another location within right-of-way.

Don Douglass, 64 Reed Beach Road – Believes Open Space Application is doing away with open space. Against application and believes it is targeted at a special interest group (“birders”). Mr. Douglass suggested the use of Cook’s Beach or Kimble’s Beach for project rather than Reed’s Beach. Further expressed concerned with excess traffic that will be traveling on the street if project goes through.

Nancy Norberg, 171 North Beach Road – Expressed concern with excess traffic on street and parking. Indicated that area is not currently maintained or kept clean by the Township and believes this project will make the area look worse if more people are attracted to the area.

Ron Hoguet, 161 North Beach Road – Concerned with traffic, safety and trash if more people visit the area. Spoke of loitering vehicles in the middle of the night and no police presence in the area.

Vincent Norberg, 171 North Beach Road – Vehicles currently park on both sides of the road which limits vehicles getting through roadway. Beach use is prohibited during the months of May and June, but this project will attract people who will expect to be able to use the beach. Would like to see current land preserved and parking issues addressed. Suggested parking only being permitted on one side of the street. Concerned with maintenance now which would be expected to get worse with more people using the area.

A resident asked how Committee would feel if a fire truck could not access the area due to the parking issues.

Sally Barry, 103 North Beach Road – Believes there is a difference between the grant application and historical preservation of the area. Agrees with Mr. Douglass’ comments. Spoke of vandalism on previous birding area and fire which damaged the area after only being there for a couple of years. Does not believe that grant money should be used just because it is available. Further indicated that she believes that the bay areas should be kept for simplicity and preserved accordingly.

Ron Hoguet – Asked is speed limit could be lowered on the road?

Mayor Donohue – A separate issue to be discussed, mentioned Traffic Study which would have to be done.

Barbara Galambos, 128 North Beach Road – Discussed construction interrupting the ecological habitat balance. Concerned with animals being disturbed and being killed in the roadways. Spoke of concerns with safety on the roadway and no sidewalks for pedestrians.

Marilyn Evanousky - 140 North Beach Road – Concerned with flooding at the South end of the road, believes there are other opportunities for grant money to be spent on.

Committeemember Clark - Acknowledged concerns of speed limits and access for emergency personnel, thanked residents for their input.

Committeemember Lockwood – Did not wish to take away open space, but to reorganize it. Concerns will allow Committee to reexamine project.

Jeff Severance – Indicated that proposed new parking spots will cause difficulty with trailering boats or business equipment.

Mayor Donohue – Indicated that he is not against the project after listening to the comments of residents. Project will be revisited. Mentioned that he will issue a Press Release with the status of the project and whether or not the Township will move forward.

John Moran - Asked about beach replenishment which covered the drainage, high tide and rain water pushed down Pierces Point Road rather than back into the bay. Asked how to have Wildlife Committee address issue.

Mayor Donohue – Mentioned all agencies involved with different interests in beach replenishment projects. Hopes for good news soon, recognized Connie’s work on bayside areas with restoration projects.

Personnel:

Zoning:

Township Clerk:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Suzanne M. Stocker, Deputy Township Clerk

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:00pm

1st: Committeemember Clark 2nd: Committeemember Lockwood

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

Minutes prepared by Suzanne M. Stocker, Deputy Township Clerk