

**Cape May Court House, NJ
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSESSION AGENDA
February 18, 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. 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.

Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss, Deputy Township Clerk Suzanne Stocker, Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan & Municipal Engineer Chris Eaton. *Business Administrator Constance Mahon was absent.*

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

Revisions to Animal Welfare Ordinance by
Animal Advisory Committee

Madelyn McCarroll – Discussed proposed changes to current Animal Welfare Ordinance.

Mayor Donohue – Asked if any revisions were being made to fines/penalties.

Madelyn McCarroll – Indicated no, but anticipates a future discussion on that section.

Committeemember Lockwood – Asked about thoughts of tackling individuals who own too many pets,

Madelyn McCarroll - Does not believe there is a current issue with too many pets, but with the welfare and care of them.

Mayor Donohue – Asked Ms. McCarroll's thoughts on animal control; in house v. privatizing

Madelyn McCarroll – Wants to take time to evaluate how other municipalities are working out with privatizing before making any recommendations or suggestions.

Finance:**Public Works & Engineering:****Legal:****Tax Collection/Tax Assessment:****Construction/Planning/Zoning:****Recreation:****Police / Animal Control:**

Discussion of Police Radio Options

Chief Leusner – Gave brief history of police radio system from 2003 to the present. Expressed concerns of officer safety due to poor connections, signals and battery life of existing radio system. Discussed option to switch to Statewide Radio System which was developed by funds through Homeland Security. Has been going through trial period with Statewide Radio System which appears to have no issues with coverage or signal between radios, small concerns with echoes and digital sound and noise cancellation but expects concerns to be addressed with learning of new radio skills by officers. Cost to switch to new radio system would be approximately \$365,000 which would include radios, mics and portables. A Yearly fee would be paid to the State for maintenance of system. Expects to have recommendation letters from Union and Sergeants to present to Mayor and Committee.

Committeemember Clark – Mentioned the possibility of adding fire districts to tail end of Statewide Radio System to possibly reduce costs.

Buildings and Grounds:**Sewer:****Economic Development:**

Tax Abatement Program Discussion by
Economic Development Council

Mike Zampino and Don Ayars of TRIAD - Presented information on a proposed Tax Abatement Program for the Township. Said program would promote an "economic stimulus reduction" for areas in need of renovation or rehabilitation. Program would be open to commercial or industrial properties and properties with late or unpaid taxes would not be eligible. Program would provide funding to increase the property value which would create additional tax revenue for the Township. Mr. Ayars indicated that applicants can be denied even if they are within the area of need. Applications can be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

Carol Struett, Economic Development Council – Mentioned that this program would also be an incentive for new business to open in the Township. Further mentioned that there have been potential areas of need identified within the Township.
Lou Altobelli – Believes that this program would be beneficial to the community as a whole and expects more municipalities to start similar programs.

Personnel:

Zoning:

Township Clerk:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Pegenkopf, Pagenkopf Land Development – Discussed issues with ownership of storm water basins at Seagrove Estates. Development was approved by Planning Board in 2007, issue was discussed at preliminary hearing but no determination made at final hearing. Asked Committee to determine who should be responsible for management of the storm water basins.

Kimberly D. Krauss, Township Clerk

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:38pm

1st: Committeemember Clark 2nd: Committeemember Lockwood

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