

**Cape May Court House, NJ
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSESSION AGENDA
March 16, 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.

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

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

CY 2015 Budget Discussion

Connie Mahon –

Discussed the current budget as prepared for CY2015 – 0% ley, expenses cut, 1.7% surplus. Mentioned that budget is \$350,000 under 2% cap allowed by budget.

Mayor Donohue –

Thanked department heads, key employees, auditor, finance office or work during budget process. Originally looked at 2 cent tax increase until cuts were made, significant achievement of 0% tax increase. Budget included 1.6% increase for all non-contractual township employees.

Committeemember Lockwood –

Thanked all involved with budget process.

Committeemember Clark –

Glad to see increase for employees, though it was an important part of the budget process for this year.

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

Bike Path Extension Phase 5

E-Mail from Aaron Baker, Lomax Consulting, dated March 12, 2015:

"We are progressing with the permit application for the Phase V Bike Path and are currently in the process of finalizing the plans with Remington, Vernick, & Walberg Engineers. During this review an issue arose concerning the alignment of the bike path between Langston St and Reeves St in Whitesboro. In this area the existing dirt road used by Atlantic City Electric forks and shifts their utility alignment and onto municipal ROWs. There is the unimproved Pennsylvania Ave (to the east) and a paper street, also called Pennsylvania Ave (to the west), of the ACE property. I have attached an aerial of the area in question and tax maps showing the ACE property and Pennsylvania Ave on either side. There are 3 options, which are shown on the attached sketch map:

- 1. Proceed with the RVWE construction plan and build the bike path on the unimproved section of Pennsylvania Ave. However, this dirt road is used regularly by the residents in this area and would result in user conflicts between the bike path and vehicular traffic.*
- 2. Continue the bike path straight ahead and stay on ACE property, avoiding conflicts on public property. This section of the ACE property is undeveloped and clearing of vegetation and grading would be required. There are no wetlands or transition areas that affect this section and this work would not be regulated by the NJDEP.*
- 3. Reroute the bike path onto the existing dirt road located in the Pennsylvania Ave paper street to the west of the ACE property. If there are plans to develop this paper street in the future then this option could cause future conflicts of use. There are also current residential properties adjacent to this paper street to keep in mind."*

Pete Lomax, Lomax Consulting –

Discussed the above three options with Mayor and Committee in order to move forward with the Bike Path Extension Phase 5 project.

Mayor and Committee decided to move forward with Option #2. Municipal Engineer concurred with this decision.

Police / Animal Control:

Buildings and Grounds:**Sewer:****Economic Development:****Personnel:****Zoning:****Township Clerk:****SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:****PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Donohue spoke of State of Township Address on February 24th, asked Committeemember Lockwood and Committeemember Clark to offer their opinions on the future of the Township.

Committeemember Lockwood discussed concerns with Code Enforcements and Public Works, specifically issues with dumpsters, clothing collection bins, trash/recycling co-mingling, leaf pick-up, electronics pick-up, and demolition of unsafe structures. Committeemember Lockwood also discussed the No Net Loss – Forestry Plan, GIS mapping and the progress made, irrigation project at Goshen Complex which is almost completed, and concerns with the Route 47 corridor. Committeemember Lockwood also spoke about the positive changes to the finance department and his thoughts on grants, capital/debt service, and long term debt.

Committeemember Clark discussed the Recreation Department and the positive aspects and would like to focus on improving the negatives. Committeemember Clark spoke of his excitement for the Ockie Whisting Complex and that he would like to see new bathrooms at the Gosh Complex rather than porta-potty's. Believes rumble strips have been a positive impact to Route 47 and would like to see improvements to the Rio Grande area for safety concerns. Committeemember Clark also mentioned the higher construction fees and is looking forward to regulations regarding clothing bins.

Dennis Anderson, Stagecoach Road:

Asked about status of Pierson Gravel Pit. Was application received? On time? Have any additional inspections or reports been filed? Concerned with depth of dredging, believes it is more than the allowed 30 feet.

Committeemember Lockwood:

Process has started with making changes to the Ordinance, Gravel Pit applications currently being reviewed by Municipal Engineer.

Kimberly D. Krauss, Township Clerk

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:02pm

1st: Committeemember Lockwood

2nd: Committeemember Clark

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