

**Cape May Court House, NJ
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSESSION AGENDA
April 20, 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:**

COAH – Legal Counsel

Constance Mahon –

Discussed the Township's 3rd Round obligation towards Affordable Housing, more specifically a letter received from Michael Jedziniak which outlined the recent Supreme Court ruling on the Motion In Aid of Litigant's Rights, filed on October 31, 2014 by Fair Share Housing Center ("FSHC"), as well as a deadline for towns to take action to transfer from COAH to Court jurisdiction in order to remain immune from Mt. Laurel builder's remedy lawsuits.

Marcus Karavan –

Spoke of Jedziniak's email and his recommendations with regard to the Round 3 obligation number.

Township Committee commented on their concerns with moving forward with the hiring of counsel, as well as their standpoint on fighting the obligation numbers.

Constance Mahon –

Spoke of the formula utilized in calculating 3rd Round obligation numbers, which used open space information not utilized in the 2nd Round.

Mayor Donohue –

Situation will continue to be monitored before moving forward with legal counsel.

Proposed GIS Ordinance

Constance Mahon –

Combination of two ordinances which reduces codification fee to reflect charges from other local municipalities and is more user friendly. It also keeps maps current and up to date.

Marc DeBlasio –

Scheduled for introduction in May. The condition of approval has been established in the resolution and review letters. Fees will be collected at time of application.

Finance:**Public Works & Engineering:**

Request for Street Opening Waiver – 10 Seabreeze Lane

Kimberly Krauss –

Hardship letter was received by homeowner to install natural gas and will acquire more information concerning notices sent to homeowner during the project which took place in 2013.

Marc DeBlasio –

Wants to determine if an alternative method can be discovered for installation which will not affect the paving project.

Legal:

Tax Collection/Tax Assessment:**Construction/Planning/Zoning:****Recreation:****Police / Animal Control:**

Discussion of Public Safety Communications
Proposal

Chief Leusner –

Explained the glitches of the communications system currently in use by the police department and why the need for a new communications system is a vital requirement for a precise and safe operation. He referenced his written proposal for a new communications system, which is also going to be added to the police department's website under "Reports." Chief Leusner continued by further clarifying how a new communications system would benefit not only the Township of Middle but other surrounding municipalities that work in unison with each other.

Craig Reiner, Director of the Statewide Radio System

Further explained the system and its network. Mr. Reiner indicated that there are currently three tower sites at the following locations in Cape May County: the Cape May County Library, Woodbine, and the Cape May County Airport. He also added a brief history as to how the revision of a more accurate system came to be. He pointed out hosts of agencies who are currently on the radio system he is marketing, including New Jersey's State Police. The current trial with the Middle Township Police Department has proved successful.

Committeemember Clark –

Stated he believed Motorola is top of the line technology.

Committeemember Lockwood –

Asked if there are annual maintenance fees and if they are included in the contract.

Chief Leusner –

Yes, there are annual maintenance fees and they are included in budget planning for next year.

Officer Ron Miller –

Indicated that the new system has had a positive effect and he doesn't consider returning to the old system as beneficial compared to obtaining the new system.

Sean McDevitt –

Supports the Police Department's decision of obtaining the new communications system.

Paul Hand –

Agrees with Sean McDevitt's statement of supporting the Police Department's decision of obtaining the new communications system, but argues that the old system has to be maintained because all of the local fire companies that are still operating under that system.

Chief Leusner –

Commented that maintaining the old system will be less efficient compared to the new system, and explained that by purchasing the new system less towers would be needed to communicate.

Craig Reiner –

Added that the company is currently working on a back-up to revert to the old system of communication if need be, especially in case of an emergency.

Paul Hand –

Agrees with the comment of still having the old system in effect for communication purposes with the facilities that are still operating under the old communication system.

Rich Sweeten –

Added that one of the advantages is that on scene communications would benefit as they could utilize multiple channels to communicate, which would assure that they would not be "talking over one another" in the event of multiple emergency situations.

Dave Seitz –

Spoke to a grant writer to compose a grant for obtaining the new system. The total of obtaining the new system will cost roughly about \$1,500.00 and that's including other districts Middle Township has communication with.

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

Township Clerk:

Review of Gravel Pit Ordinance

Constance Mahon –

Reviewed proposed changes made to the Gravel Pit Ordinance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Phil Heun –

Spoke of the “5 year deadline” for Planning Board application, in the event of amended site plans. What would happen in the event that the Planning Board was backed up and Pit applicants couldn’t meet the deadline?

Marcus Karavan –

Indicated that he will include language with regards to this topic, however applicants must make application in a timely manner that would provide for the ability to be heard in time by the board.

Phil Heun –

Suggested that the Township Committee review Maurice River’s Gravel Pit Ordinance as it has similar language regarding Planning Board review.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:48 pm

1st: Committeemember Lockwood 2nd: Committeemember Clark

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

Kimberly D. Krauss, Township Clerk