

**Cape May Court House, New Jersey  
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
WORKSESSION AGENDA  
January 20, 2016 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. 18-16 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 4, 2016.

Members present are Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor DeVico, and Committeemember Donohue

Business Administrator Constance Mahon, Deputy Township Clerk Suzanne Stocker and Municipal Solicitor Frank Corrado. *Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss and Municipal Engineer Marc DeBlasio were absent.*

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

Proposed Bike Path Plan – Discussion with  
Joseph J. Nice of Real Property

*Connie Mahon gave overview of connector bike path project. Final project is expected to go from Rehoboth, Delaware onto the ferry and through Lower Township and Middle Township. Spoke of approval process with Atlantic City Electric in order to move forward with the project.*

*Committeemember Donohue mentioned that although the project is going through Lower Township and Middle Township, it is being funded by the Cape May County Open Space Program.*

*Joe Nice discussed process of finalizing a location for bike path which is away from Atlantic City Electric poles but not too close to the highway for safety purposes. Also mentioned properties with decorative boulders which will be required to be removed.*

*Connie Mahon presented board prepared by Township Engineer which showed proposed bike path plan. Spoke of stop sign requirements at end of driveways and striping which will be approved by NJDOT.*

*Committeemember Donohue spoke of railroad right-of-way, laws, jurisdictions and lack of access to railroad area as an alternate location.*

*Allen Robson spoke of the easements which he owns at his business (A1 Storage) location and license agreements with Comcast. Pointed out location on presentation board. Indicated that he is not opposed to the project, but is concerned about his easement.*

*Joe Nice will look into the easement, but expects it to be a non-exclusion easement which would not present a problem with proceeding with the project in the area.*

*John Fitzgerald, 208 S. Railroad Avenue, owner of property with boulders which were spoke about. Questioned if the bike path will be inside or outside of the poles? Also spoke of West Cape May bike path which is not as wide as this proposed bike path plan.*

*Nicole Mastalski, 100 N. Railroad Avenue, bike path will cut across front yard of her home, concerned with privacy and decreasing of home value. Mentioned that she is opposed to the location of the proposed bike path.*

*Charles Jackson, 212 S. Railroad Avenue, concerned with drained of water and elevation of new pavement. Requested more information on project details as he is a tax payer but resides in Tennessee.*

*John Fitzgerald, 208 S. Railroad Avenue, questioned motorized vehicles being permitted on the bike path. Ambulances?*

*Committeemember Donohue indicated that motorized vehicles are not permitted on the bike path. Ambulances would obviously be permitted for emergency purposes.*

*Judy Hansen, 4 Cresse Street, has a current lease with Atlantic City Electric for property which motorhome is parked on, bike path will run through her side yard. Asked if any barriers or fences will be placed between houses and bike path.*

*Connie Mahon indicated that there has been no approved fencing.*

*Tony Finocchiaro, 3 Cresse Street, asked how far off the road the bike path will be.*

*Connie Mahon indicated that it will be different depending on locations. Engineer would have exact plans and*

measurements. Further indicated that the purpose of this meeting was to start a dialogue between residents to hear their comments and concerns.

Mayor Clark apologized on behalf of Township for lack of Engineer's attendance due to illness.

Denis Camrody, 905 Tidewater Avenue, asked if Atlantic City Electric owned the property to the road. Asked if sidewalks could be added instead of a bike path.

Connie Mahon indicated that since funding is received from the County, they have required that the project be designed as an off-path bike path, which cannot touch upon a roadway and must meet AASHTO standards.

John Fitzgerald, 208 S. Railroad Avenue, spoke about West Came May and their use of a "bike lane" and asked the Township to consider that option.

Allen Robson spoke about his safety concerns in the Rio Grande area and the lack of lighting, believes issues should be addressed before a bike path is added.

Charles Jackson, 212 S. Railroad Avenue expressed concerns of elevation, drainage, safety and believes the Township should consider these concerns before moving forward. Believes that there are other opportunities and locations to place bike path.

John Fitzgerald, 208 S. Railroad Avenue, questioned railroad lease and who railroad is maintained by. Railroad track area would be ideal area for bike path.

Committeemember Donohue indicated that railroad area is in a lease with Tony from Seashore Railroad through NJDOT, not the Township.

Connie Mahon indicated that she contacted the NJDOT about the railroad track area, but was advised that the property is currently leased.

Denis Camrody, 905 Tidewater Avenue, spoke of "Orange Trail" in Mt Dora, Florida – 22 mile bike path which was a positive improvement to the community and increase revenue for area. Indicated that he would like to see bike path project move forward without upsetting the residents.

**Finance:**

**Public Works & Engineering:**

**Legal:**

**Tax Collection/Tax Assessment:**

**Construction/Planning/Zoning:**

**Recreation:**

Review of Recreation Fees and Proposed Amendments

Robert Matthews reviewed proposed increases to recreation fees with Committee, inclusive of Harvest Festival fees which would be included in the new fee schedule.

Committeemember Donohue questioned vendors that are exempt from paying a fee for Harvest Festival.

Robert Matthews advised that all vendors were required to pay appropriate fee in 2015, unless they were a non-profit or volunteer type organization.

Connie Mahon suggested that Robert meet with Solicitor Corrado for advice on vendors who would be "exempt" of fees. Committeemember Donohue and Connie Mahon suggested revised language for use of snack stand – in-house organization v. outside organization.

Dan Lockwood, 9 N. Boyd Street, asked if analysis was done with regards to increase of fees to determine amount of additional revenue which may be received as a result of increased fees. Indicated that Cape Express may be a loss of \$12,000 in rental fees for complex.

Robert Matthews indicated that no analysis has been done, but will meet with the finance department to review revenues.

Committeemember Donohue questioned the use of fields at Goshen Complex by Cape Express.

Connie Mahon expects Cape Express to continue using fees for another couple of years while Ockie Wisting Complex is being improved.

Robert Matthews explained that increase of fees is a proactive approach to prepare for anticipated loss of revenue when Cape Express is no longer using the Goshen Complex fields.

*Connie Mahon spoke of follow up conversation with Green Acres regarding Cape Express lease. Lease is being reviewed for approval by Green Acres. Also spoke of paths for Ockie Wisting Complex which have been approved by CAFRA and will be ADA compliant.*

**Police / Animal Control:**

Update on meetings with Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies regarding issues in Rio Grande

*Committeemember Donohue spoke of meetings with County Probation, Parole and Social Services. Social Services indicated that the assistance vouchers are available for any state residents, regardless as to which county they reside in. Funding for vouchers is provided by the State and Federal, so they are restricted for who can be entitled to these funds.*

*Chief Leusner spoke with County Corrections who directed him to the Parole Division and was asked to submit a formal request to Commissioner for further discussion.*

*Committeemember Donohue spoke of homeless issue within the Township and believes that agencies are in denial of the situation. Spoke of "The Branches" which is a volunteer center in Rio Grande to assist and provide food, but no overnight stays. Center hopes to open a 14 bed homeless shelter.*

*Committeemember Donohue also spoke about the heroin issues within the Township, as well as the hotels/motels in the area. Believes that good progress has been made and informative information received with meetings held thus far with ongoing issues in Rio Grande.*

*Albert Manko, 605 Tidewater mentioned a recent newspaper article about an individual who was released from jail and came to our area to find employment. Concerned with "accepting" these people in an area with a very low employment rate.*

*Committeemember Donohue agrees with Mr. Manko's concerns, but is beyond the control of the Township and the Township feels the effects of the process. People go to where they have family or an area where they have a connection to. Hopes that State Legislatures get involved.*

*Chief Leusner spoke about DDACTS program which began in 2013 and decreased crime 30% from 2013 to 2014, but crime is coming off of that downfall, with shoplifting crimes increasing which is a result of the heroin issues. Spoke of Street Crimes Unit and Public Advocate Program.*

*Mayor Clark thanked Chief, Connie and Committeemember Donohue for meeting with agencies to tackle issues in Rio Grande.*

**Buildings and Grounds:**

**Sewer:**

**Economic Development:**

**Personnel:**

**Zoning:**

**Township Clerk:**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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Suzanne M. Stocker, Deputy Township Clerk

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:34pm

1<sup>st</sup>: Committeemember Donohue      2<sup>nd</sup>: Committeemember DeVico

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

*Minutes prepared by Suzanne M. Stocker, Deputy Township Clerk*