

**Cape May Court House, New Jersey  
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
WORKSESSION AGENDA  
January 17, 2018 5:00 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. 21-18 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 1, 2018.

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

Business Administrator Elizabeth Terenik, Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss & Municipal Solicitor Frank Corrado

**FLAG SALUTE:****SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:****ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

## Domestic Animal Ordinance

*Frank Corrado:*

- Discussed chapter 250 regarding definition of small domestic animal.
- Spoke of code enforcement issue with a goat.
- Proposed a re-write of the Ordinance to clearly define "small domestic animal".

*Committeeman Donohue:*

- Asked for clarification on lot size requirements and larger animals.

*Frank Corrado:*

- Spoke to section c of the Ordinance that speaks to horses and ponies for accessory use.

*Mayor Clark:*

- Spoke of pigs as pets.

*Frank Corrado:*

- Stated that the problem is not going to go away; can easily draft an amendment with definitions.

*Elizabeth Terenik:*

- Asked if there are any details on the goat.

*Frank Corrado:*

- Mentioned that the lot qualifies in size.
- Discussed that his neighbor has chickens.

*Elizabeth Terenik:*

- Spoke of purpose behind originally adopting Ordinance.

*Frank Corrado:*

- Commented on an amendment to the Ordinance; to be presented to the Committee for review.

*Committeeman Donohue:*

- Spoke of farm animals for recreational purposes.

*Elizabeth Terenik:*

- Explained Right to Farm Act.

*Frank Corrado:*

- Suggested to address small domestic animals first.

## Charter Study Commission

*Committeeman Donohue:*

- Explained his request to discuss a Charter Study Commission to change the number of committee members from 3 to 5.
- Spoke of concerns with having an election every single year in Middle Township.
- Discussed Rutgers study performed in 2016 on changing forms of Government.
- Reviewed concept of Charter Study Committee instead of a Commission; similar but work of Committee is strictly advisory.
- Discussed the process involved.
- Stated that he believes Committee should launch this Committee then let it "organically take its place".

*Committeeman DeVico:*

- Asked why now.
- Spoke of lack of participation of local citizens attending meetings.
- Mentioned that citizens echo the question of "why now."
- Spoke of 4-year staggering terms.

*Frank Corrado:*

- Term length and staggering is statutory.

*Committeeman DeVico:*

- Spoke of same 5 residents that attend meetings.
- Commented on lack of participation from different towns.

- Discussed only ever receiving 1 e-mail about the topic; additional cost to taxpayers for extra salary of committee.
- Recommended reducing salary of current members of committee if expansion were to occur.

Mayor Clark:

- Spoke of current committee members trying to represent all residents in town even though all three are from Court House.
- Expressed that members of the fire house stating that the town is "ran well."
- Also stated that he is not receiving a lot of feedback on the topic except from Madelyn McCarroll.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Spoke of conversations with Committeeman DeVico when he first took office; seemed open to the idea.

Committeeman DeVico:

- Stated that he believes the only positive would be the ability to talk to one another.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Spoke of dedication and time needed to be on committee; believes more members would provide more dedication to Township departments.
- Discussed not wanting it to turn political; better and more open government, more representative; does not see a downside.

Frank Corrado:

- Explained two concepts; expanding committee versus changing form of government.
- Spoke of petition by 20% of total registered voters; further explained.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Discussed the process not being an easy one; starts with discussion.

Committeeman DeVico:

- Stated that more people need to show an interest; those he speaks to do not see the need or the reason for the push.
- Spoke of letter to the editor and lack of residents attending to show an interest.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Stated that there is one way to find out if there is an interest; does not have to be decided on tonight.
- Discussed it being worthwhile to look into.

Mayor Clark:

- Discussed lack of interest in volunteer boards.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Spoke of it being a challenge; the more people feel that they are listened to the more willing they will be to get involved.

#### Snow Storm Update

Elizabeth Terenik:

- Spoke of great job done by the Public Works Department; some topics still need to be discussed.

Mayor Clark:

- Commended Public Works for their hard work during the storm; out for hours on end.
- Spoke of people complaining on social media; despicable.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Echoed Mayor Clark's comments.
- Discussed issues to be discussed are issues seen by every entity.

Elizabeth Terenik:

- Discussed opportunity to hire a private contractor; significant savings by not bringing contractor in.

Rob Flynn, Public Works:

- Spoke of last major snow storm and damage to infrastructure; 237 overtime hours, 101 tons of salt for 4-day storm.
- Discussed the fact that most calls were for developments not turned over to the Township; "1 in 1 out" paving for emergency access.

Elizabeth Terenik:

- Asked how many developments this would include.

Rob Flynn, Public Works:

- Eight.

Frank Corrado:

- Explained Municipal Services Act.
- Spoke of Municipal Services Agreement with Avalon Links for lighting.
- Reviewed process for the Township to accept a road.

Elizabeth Terenik:

- Discussed concerns for plowing for these developments until that happens.

Rob Flynn, Public Works:

- Discussed travel bans; more time spent helping stuck drivers.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Spoke of State's decision to declare a State of Emergency.

Rob Flynn, Public Works:

- Spoke of need to enforce a travel ban to keep people off the roads.

Mayor Clark:

- Discussed emergency situations for undedicated subdivisions.

Committeeman DeVico:

- Spoke of neighborhoods that are nearly full but not quite finished.

Vince Orlando:

- If 80% of homes are finished it would require 2 inches of asphalt.
- Spoke of letters sent out to subdivisions requiring asphalt around raised manholes.
- Discussed ordinance requirements for bond reductions.
- Stated that he believes that the Township does not need to plow these streets; further explained.

Committeeman DeVico:

- Spoke of planning board process.

Vince Orlando:

- Spoke of developer's agreement outlining developer's responsibilities.

Frank Corrado:

- Stated that a developer's agreement can easily be made as a Planning Board condition; key is keeping list current as streets are turned over, versus streets that have not.

Elizabeth Terenik:

- Spoke of opening of recreation facilities; needed streets to be safe.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Discussed striving to get complexes open in a timely fashion but public safety is priority; made the right call.

Mayor Clark:

- Worked hard with the schools.

Committeeman Donohue:

- Asked what controls are in place for private contractors.
- Expressed concerns with various private plowing contractors that interfere with the Township's ability to clear roadways.
- Discussed a possible ordinance.

Frank Corrado:

- Stated that he believes the Township has the right to establish an equipment standard.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:**

### **Administration:**

### **Finance:**

### **Public Works:**

### **Engineering:**

### **Legal:**

### **Tax Collection:**

### **Tax Assessment:**

### **Construction/Planning/Zoning:**

### **Recreation:**

### **Police / Animal Control/ Code Enforcement:**

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

### **Sewer:**

### **Economic Development:**

### **Personnel:**

### **Zoning:**

### **Township Clerk:**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Stan Donegar, Rio Grande:

- Stated that he lives in a neighborhood that is non-dedicated.
- Spoke of Municipal Services Act; tax dollars spent.
- Believes that Public Works did a great job.
- Asked about salting of private facilities.

Committeeman DeVico:

- Discussed plowing to allow access for emergency vehicles.

Stan Donegar, Rio Grande:

- Also questioned possible benefits of having more committee members.

Committeeman DeVico:

- Spoke to his availability to serve on committee as a business owner.

Mayor Clark:

- Spoke to his employer having strong belief in community service.

Committeeman DeVico:

- Spoke of Township professionals.

*Robert Springer, Goshen:*

- *Spoke of interest being out there to expand committee members; 5-member committee is a great idea.*
- *Volunteered to be a part of commission.*

*Sam Kelly, Swanton:*

- *Spoke to merit to 5-member committee.*

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 6:00pm

1<sup>st</sup>: Committeeman Donohue

2<sup>nd</sup>: Committeeman DeVico

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

Kimberly D. Krauss, Township Clerk

*Minutes prepared by Andrea N. Bruno, Deputy Township Clerk*