

**Rio Grande, New Jersey
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION AGENDA
September 16, 2019 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. 25-19 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 2, 2019.

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

Business Administrator/Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss, Township Engineer Vincent Orlando & Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan

FLAG SALUTE:**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

Update on Del Haven Water Project

Joe Baumann:

- Gave update on Del Haven Water. Stated water should be installed by January 1, 2021 if not sooner
- Discussed work done to look into funding for the project

Mayor Donohue:

- Commented Middle Township will not be going for financing on the project

Joe Baumann:

- Stated Township will not have to borrow money for the project. Discussed ways the project will be funded

Mayor Donohue:

- Asked Mr. Baumann to discuss the parameters of the project

Joe Baumann:

- Discussed failure of well in the Del Haven area
- Explained firm's assignment to help assess project and find a solution to the salt water intrusion
- Spoke of agreement with New Jersey American Water to supply all of Middle Township with water; discussed need to seek alternatives.
- Lower Township MUA was found to be the most reasonable solution

Unknown Speaker:

- Asked about financing for the connection fee

Joe Baumann:

- Stated Lower Township is funding the project

Mayor Donohue:

- Clarified the various connection fees with other companys

Stan Donigar, Rio Grande:

- Asked about fire hydrants in Del haven

Joe Baumann:

- Stated Del Haven does not currently have Fire Hydrants, but they will be installed during the project

Stan Donigar, Rio Grande:

- Asked who will pay for the maintenance of the fire hydrants

Committeeman Clark:

- stated the fire districts will pay for the maintenance

Update on Railroad Ave Park and
Community Input on New Park Name

Mayor Donohue:

- Gave a brief background on the project. Stated construction has begun
- Committee still seeking input from community on a park name.

Vince Orlando, Engineer:

- Discussed various features within the park; i.e. dog park, play area, bike station and handicap accessibility
- Stated construction of the park will be about \$1.2 million and will be mainly funded from open space grants
- Explained the construction for the park has already begun, with a contract awarded to Think Pavers.
- Anticipating that most of the construction on the park to be completed by the end of the year, putting the black top down in the early spring. Goal for the park opening to be around April 2020

Mayor Donohue:

- Discussed County desire for a bike station at this location, since it abuts the bike path.
- Explained the bike trail will eventually go up to Woodbine
- Asked if anyone has any suggestions for the name of the park

Chris South, Lower Township:

- Suggested Henry Mattera who was a member of the Rio Grande Fire Department

Safe Streets to Transit Application

Vince Orlando, Engineer:

- Spoke of improvements to streets in Rio Grande. Explained project is currently funded and in the design process
- Discussed application for street improvements from Shunpike to Route 47; explained the project is currently before the Department of Transportation for funding; further explained they typically hear from the Department of Transportation in November regarding Funding
- Discussed project for Linden Lane from Route 9 to Marilyn Avenue; application was made for improvement of the street; further explained application is currently pending with the NJDOT

Mayor Donohue:

- Commented on the number of side streets off of Route 47 that have been able to be redone through the program

Vince Orlando, Engineer:

- Discussed types of streets NJDOT prioritize for funding.

Mayor Donohue:

- Asked Vince Orlando to discuss Hand Avenue sidewalk project

Vince Orlando, Engineer:

- Discussed safe streets to transit project approved by NJDOT. Stated sidewalks are to be put in on Hand Avenue from Muscle World Gym and Wynndemere Court to Reading Avenue

Mayor Donohue:

- Discussed approach to take smaller grants to correct problems with sidewalks

Vince Orlando, Engineer:

- Stated he is hopeful for the Linden Lane application

Update on Cape May County "Kmart Project"

Mayor Donohue:

- Spoke of major renovation currently in progress at the former Kmart Plaza
- Explained County will be presenting possible plans for the plaza at the October Work Session Meeting
- Discussed possible plans for the plaza; government service section with stores and movie theater next door
- Goal to open by end of the year
- Stated Tractor Supply is going to open in the plaza hopefully by the end of this year
- Elaborated on upcoming Veterans Affairs Clinic, which open in the spring of next year
- Indicated that the County was current out for RFQ for operation of the movie theater.

Stan Donigar, Rio Grande:

- Asked about ratables if the Township cannot get taxes from the county for the property

Kimberly Krauss:

- Explained that the property will be taxable. Stated the non-County sections will be taxed

Marc Karavan:

- Reiterated the same

Presentation by Chief Leusner – Public Safety Updates

Chief Leusner:

- Spoke of uniform crime rating done by the FBI each year; explained premise behind report. Stated last years crime rate was under 500 Township wide. Explained this year's 1st half numbers were 191 reports crimes Township wide; projected end to this year to be in the 380 area
- Discussed DDACT program; explained change of deployment of the police department resources. Explained the concept that higher police activity focused in one area helps reduce numbers.
- Discussed trend of reduced crime in Rio Grande since 2011; Stated street crimes unit has been a big asset to reducing the crime in Rio Grande
- Talked about the Rio Sub-Station; expressed that it was a great addition and helps make police presence known in Rio Grande; explained the sub-station is open 24/7 and a safe exchange zone; further explained the station is used with other law enforcement agencies as well
- Elaborated on calls for service at Conifer apartment unit. Discussed proactive approaches taken in topics such as shopping carts and panhandling.
- Briefly discussed the Branches located in Rio Grande
- Explained local violations were not included in the crime report

Mayor Donohue:

- Asked about the status of the homeless in the area

Chief Leusner:

- Stated in speaking with officers the issue has gotten better through the summer

Mayor Donohue:

- Asked if the partnership with Cape Christian will continue with the warming center this winter

Chief Leusner:

- Stated yes, the partnership is anticipated to continue. Mayor Donohue:
- Stated chief is doing a great job

Denise South, Lower Township:

- Asked for name of cape assist counselor

Chief Leusner:

Stated he will obtain a name for her. Phil Barlow:

- Asked what time the counselor is in

Chief Leusner;

- Stated 9-3

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:****SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:****PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Stan Donigar, Rio Grande:

- *Asked for an update on various projects around his neighborhood*

Vince Orlando, Engineer:

- *Explained a tentative application was submitted for 6-8 town houses but the applicant is rethinking now*
- *Further explained it is zoning R not Farm.*

Stan Donigar, Rio Grande:

- *Asked if notice will be sent out*

Vince Orlando, Engineer:

- *Initially made an application for 8 townhouses but withdraw the application. Explained two or three duplexes is possible. Stated nothing is currently pending*

Stan Donigar, Rio Grande:

- *Asked about project behind the electric factory*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Spoke of project and area being labeled as an area in need of redevelopment*
- *Explained Delco / Mr. Juliano is the conditional developer and he brought forward a plan for the area; further discussed proposed plan for the area.*
- *Explained there is a discussion between Mr. Juliano and the Township; Township wants to ensure the project will be beneficial*

Stan Donigar, Rio Grande:

- *Asked if there was a time limit*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Explained Mr. Juliano technically has 6 months but the Township will not walk away*

Denise South, Lower Township:

- *Asked where the property is located*

Committeeman Gandy:

- *Explained it was next to the Rio Grande Firehouse behind the new electric plant*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Stated the entrance would be off of Railroad Avenue*

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 4:52 pm

1st: Committeeman Clark 2nd: Committeeman Gandy

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

Kimberly D. Krauss, Township Clerk