

**Cape May Court House, New Jersey
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION AGENDA
August 21, 2023 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. 42-23 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 4, 2023.

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

Deputy Business Administrator Suzanne Schumann, Deputy Township Clerk Emily Bartleson, Township Engineer Vincent Orlando & Municipal Solicitor Matt Rooney

FLAG SALUTE:**PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:**

Goshen Irrigation

Mayor Donohue discussed deterioration of the fields at the Goshen Complex. Explained that \$1,000,000.00 in funds have been allocated to begin the process of upgrading the fields. Reviewed the various options to begin the project. Explained the different concerns they will face while undergoing the project.

Vince Orlando reviewed his analysis of breaking down the different fields in the complex and the level of improvements each needs. Explained there are two alternatives with one being sod at \$4.00 per square foot for that and irrigation or \$12 per square foot for artificial turf. Continued to review costs associated with each option. Explained benefits of the artificial turf versus sod but clarified that the upfront cost is three times the price.

Rob Flynn, Public Works Superintendent, explained the current issues with the wells on the property being used for the fields. Stated that one must be replaced. He then asked about the possibility of utilizing the MUA water system.

Vince Orlando clarified that if wells need to be redone than there will be additional costs.

Mayor Donohue asked what fields are lacking irrigation currently.

Rob Flynn, Public Works Superintendent, explained how field irrigation currently stands.

Committeeman Norris mentioned that field one is in the worst condition.

Vince Orlando clarified that one and two are in the need of the most upgrades.

Mayor Donohue asked what the next steps would be should they decide on option one for fields one and two.

Vince Orlando advised that the fields would be shut down at the end of the current season and be reopened by the spring of 2025 once the sod is set. Explained need to allow the sod to set for an extended amount of time.

Committeeman Gandy asked about focusing on irrigation and completing a plug seed season.

Vince Orlando explained concern with that option is the grade of the fields and that field one, if seeded, would need to have a suitable sub base brought in as it currently is mainly sand.

Committeeman Gandy asked about use of field one and its lack of use currently due to its quality.

Dustin Sturm, Recreation Director, stated no but it would be beneficial to utilize it.

Vince Orlando provided options should they decide to seed versus placing down direct sod.

Mayor Donohue asked if Dustin could go without one as a turf field which would it be.

Kyle Morinelli, Recreation Program Coordinator, suggested having one turf area for the size of a football field which could be utilized for multiple sports.

Vince Orlando asked if they were to go forward with this idea would they need field 1.

Kyle Morinelli, Recreation Program Coordinator, advised that they would actually not need field 5.

Vince Orlando explained issue with that option as it would not include enough of the outfield.

Kyle Morinelli/Dustin Sturm, explained various options rotating fields and sports as well as location of the turf field.

Mayor Donohue asked how long artificial turf takes.

Vince Orlando advised that the turf could be delivered the next day and if done over the winter could be completed by spring.

Mayor Donohue

Vince Orlando clarified the readjusted costs if they only do the football size field in one section and grade and sod field one.

Mayor Donohue asked about possibility of getting the lush green with seeding.

Vince Orlando explained with the proper irrigation they can achieve that.

Committeeman Norris asked the size difference for all sports.

Dustin Sturm, Recreation Director, explained lines will be placed down and all sports would fit on that turf. Stated field three would be eliminated and become a practice field.

Vince Orlando explained turf fields would have to have grass as an anchor around it.

Committeeman Gandy stated the turf lasts about ten year and discussed maintenance of the turf fields.

Rob Flynn, Public Works Superintendent, confirmed that even with turf irrigation still has to be considered to keep the grass green around it.

Mayor Donohue asked what Dustin and Kyle's immediate goal was.

Kyle Morinelli, Recreation Program Coordinator, discussed the perfect scenario would be for one field to be turf for game play and then sod everything else.

Vince Orlando asked what season they play on field two.

Dustin Sturm, Recreation Director, explained the sports played on field two and the current uses of the other fields.

Vince Orlando suggested doing a track around the turf field.

Mayor Donohue reviewed that phase one could be the turf field with phase two being the resurfacing of the remaining fields.

Vince Orlando advised he would provide an estimate with the option of one main turf field with the remaining being sod. Explained the savings this option would provide to be about an estimate of a total project cost of \$1.5 million.

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 Doniger, Rio Grande, raised concerns about money being removed from road and drainage.

Mayor Donohue explained that the funds have been reallocated and the reason for the reallocation.

Stan Doniger, Rio Grande discussed concern on the life time of the irrigation system and asked about the life expectancy of the artificial turf.

Vince Orlando stated the turf companies state that it should last about 15 years but most people he has spoken with say about 10-12 years.

Stan Doniger, Rio Grande, asked about the need and cost to complete the turf again in ten years.

Vince Orlando explained that the turf would not be completely redone but would be renewed like redoing a pool liner.

Stan Doniger, Rio Grande continued to raise concerns about allocation of funds for future issues with the fields/irrigation.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 4:44 pm

1st: Committeeman Gandy 2nd: Committeeman Norris

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

Kimberly D. Osmundsen, Township Clerk

Minutes Prepared By: E. Bartleson