

**WORK SESSION  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**January 26, 2016  
DELRAN, NJ**

**Sunshine Statement:** Be advised that proper notice has been given by the Township Council in accordance with the sunshine law in the following manner. Notice advertised in the Burlington County Times and Camden Courier Post on January 12, 2016 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Pangia, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Kolodi and Mr. Catrambone were present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Paris, Mayor, Mr. Long, Solicitor, Mr. Hatcher, Administrator and Ms. Eggers, Municipal Clerk.

**GREEN TEAM**

Bill Curzie, Chairman of the Green Team, stated that the Green Team is very honored to have achieved Bronze Certification in the Sustainable Jersey Program. Mr. Curzie reported on the following topics:

- Wildflower Garden - This coming spring, the Delran Green Team is proposing to construct a wildflower garden in the Township. Our site selection was based on visibility and available (Township) land. The area selected for the garden is the green meadow situated at the turnaround loop, at the Chester Avenue & Route 130 stop light. We plan to carve-out a design with a planting bed measuring approximately 20 feet by 10 feet; the bed will be curvilinear so that motorists passing by will see the wildflowers as they drive up to the stoplight. Due to the timing of construction and planting schedules, we will plant annual flowers in the planting bed this spring to ensure there are actual flowers for people to enjoy all summer long. In the fall, we will plant wildflower seeds donated by a few commercial establishments and other wildflower seeds that have been harvested by our team members. We are certain this planting method will yield a nice variety of wildflowers for the coming year. It is our vision that this wildflower garden will flourish and become the example for other similar projects to follow. At some point, we hope to place a sign near the planting bed to identify the project.
- Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk - Delran Township is vulnerable to flooding in the Riverside Park section. Potential flood impacts affect local residents and our sewer plant. It is time to fully assess our vulnerability and identify steps that can be taken to mitigate future impacts. The Sustainable Jersey action – Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk provides a structured stakeholder process to assess vulnerabilities and develop recommendations. The first step is to create a team with representatives from Planning Board, Zoning Board, Green Team, local community, Emergency management, Public Works, Police Department, Sewer Department, Fire and EMS and the Administrator. The second step is to hold a meeting (this could be a council work session or special meeting) to visually assess our vulnerability to flooding and future sea level rise scenarios using the Flood

Mapper Tool. The third step is to use the Getting to Resiliency Tool - A Community Planning Evaluation Tool. This online self-assessment process assists communities to reduce vulnerability and increase preparedness by linking planning, mitigation, and adaptation. The completion of this survey can be done as a group in future meetings or completed virtually by members of the team. Mr. Curzie described the five areas of the survey. They are Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Public Engagement, Planning Integration, Disaster Preparedness and Recovery and Hazard Mitigation Implementation. The questions can be answered with a yes, no, not applicable and comments. Some questions will be easy to answer, while others may promote discussion or identify future actions.

- **Community Forestry Program** – In response to municipalities and counties disbanding their Shade Tree Commissions in the late 1990's due to fear of litigation as a result of hazardous tree situations, the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act was passed on December 5, 1996. Liability protection requires a state approved community forestry plan and participation in the State's Training Skills and Accreditation Program. By providing liability protection to participating municipalities and counties, the Act has ensured that Shade Tree Commissions are in place to provide more livable communities through the care and management of trees throughout New Jersey.

The Township must apply for a Green Communities Grant which provides \$3,000 with a 100% match which the Green Team can provide. Once the grant is received the Township can hire an approved consultant to develop our community forestry plan. We'd like to recommend Barry Emens, Riverton Shade Tree Board chairman, to act as our consultant. Barry participated in our Summer Green Learning Campfire series and addressed tree management. We've invited Mr. Emens to attend the work session. He will be able to expand on the above points and address any questions and concerns the council may have.

Barry Emens, Forestry Management Consultant in Riverton, stated that the purpose in him being here tonight is to support Mr. Curzie and the Green Team in trying to develop a Community Forestry Program. There are one hundred and seventy municipalities that have an active program. The plan in a five year plan and the Green Team can decide on the steps to include in the plan. There is a \$3,000 grant available to municipalities to develop the plan.

Mr. Catrambone asked what is entailed in the plan.

Mr. Emens stated that there are fifteen areas that can be included in the plan depending on what area the Green Team wants to focus on whether it be planting

projects or inventory of hazardous trees or recycling. Once the plan is in place, it relieves the Township of liability of hazardous trees.

Mr. Paris asked Mr. Emens which towns he has worked with to develop a plan.

Mr. Emens stated that he has developed plans in Riverton, Palmyra and Merchantville.

Mr. Paris asked what success he has had with the plans he developed.

Mr. Emens stated that each plan he helped develop has been adopted by the municipality on the first round.

Mr. O'Connell asked Mr. Emens to explain what the program has done for Riverton.

Mr. Emens stated that he brought over \$100,000 in grants to Riverton in the last thirty years.

Mrs. Kolodi if we inventory hazardous trees are they then taken down.

Mr. Emens stated that is outlined in the plan.

Mr. Catrambone asked if this is all done on public land.

Mr. Emens stated yes, on public lands and right-of-ways. Mr. Emens stated that he is also hoping to work with the Green Team on fundraising ideas.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Council will digest this information and keep in touch with Mr. Curzie.

Ms. Pangia asked if there is a deadline for the grant application.

Mr. Emens stated that it is an open grant. Mr. Emens stated that one area we may want to develop in the plan is a section on the emerald ash borer. There are millions of dead trees to the west due to damage done by the emerald ash borer and the Township is going to need a plan to deal with this because it could be very costly.

Chris Martens, 160 White Marsh Way asked Mr. Emens to explain which trees are affected by the emerald ash borer.

Mr. Emens stated that variety of ash tree can be affected.

Deb Hammond stated that the Green Team posted a NJ Forestry Program article on their Facebook page that discusses the emerald ash borer and what to look for in affected trees.

Mr. Catrambone thanked the Green Team and the Mr. Emens for their presentation tonight. Mr. Catrambone stated that Mayor and Council will discuss the need to fill two vacancies on the Green Team at a future work session.

## **ADIRONDACK ENERGY**

Mr. Catrambone stated that Council invited Adirondack Energy back to update Council on their findings from the Sewer Plant energy audit.

Lou Magazzu, Adirondack Energy, thanked Council for the opportunity to make this presentation and thanked Mr. Hatcher and the staff for helping to turn around this audit in two weeks. The reason for the new audit was due to the updates at the plant since the last audit was done in 2012. Due to the improvements, the plant would need two fewer boxes than it did three years ago. Mr. Magazzu gave a brief overview on the results of the audit. He also compared the differences found between the 2012 audit and the 2015 audit. Mr. Magazzu stated that the Township has seen energy savings with the improvements to the plant. What this system is intended for is to improve efficiency, eliminate energy waste and ultimately save the Township money in energy costs. They will provide a guarantee on the energy saving if they were awarded a contract with the Township.

Mr. Paris asked Mr. Magazzu to explain the guarantee.

Mr. Magazzu stated that they would put into the contract that after the first twelve months the Township will save the percentage guaranteed in the proposal. If there is not savings after the twelve months they will refund the cost of the equipment and take back the boxes. If the percentage is less than guaranteed, they will provide a refund for the difference. That guarantee is between year one and year two.

Mr. Paris stated that there is some data missing in supply from March through July of 2015. He fears that the average may not be accurate because of the missing information.

They stated that they will need a full year worth of information and will backfill the information. They will also need flow data. This information was put together quickly but they are satisfied with the information they have. Mr. Magazzu stated that if the project is put out to bid they will come back and do a full year audit.

Mr. Schwartz asked if it would make more sense to make the presentation when they have all the information.

Mr. Magazzu stated that providing this service since 1998 and they have not been wrong yet. He is comfortable that they have enough information to make this presentation and urges the Township to call their references. The report indicates that the projected energy savings for the sewer plant is 10.13%. The cost for the boxes is \$90,504, which they believe the Township can pay off in 2.69 years based on the projected savings.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he appreciates that they were able to get the audit completed in the two week time frame.

Mr. O'Connell asked if this process is impacted by energy costs.

Ed stated that he believe the Township is on a fixed contract for energy costs.

Mr. Hatcher stated that the Township contract is through the NJSEIM and it is renewed yearly.

Mr. Magazzu reported that since this system makes the equipment at the plant more efficient, in many places the maintenance costs for the equipment has also been reduced. If they are awarded the contract, they will monitor the system for the first few months and track it for the year. In cases where boxes went bad, it happened early.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he wants to make sure he is clear that the guarantee is only for the first twelve months.

Mr. Magazzu stated that the base line is a year but they guarantee that the Township will continue to see that savings. In month thirteen, it is not going to jump back up. The savings is based on a reduction of kilo watt hours used.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he wants to make sure that we are clear in what they are saying. Mr. Catrambone stated that they said they would do an audit with a full year and data and out flow. They would provide a number that they would guarantee for reduction of kilo watt hours used. That reduction would be guaranteed for five years, which is the life expectancy of the box. The warranty on the boxes is five years.

Ed stated that in the first year their goal is to make the plant approximately 10% more efficient.

Mr. Paris stated that we need to be more proactive. We need to be cost effective but there is a certain amount of investment that we need to make. If it saves money in the long term for the Township and the residents, he feels it is a positive step to take.

Mr. Hatcher stated that in 2012, the references were not as strong as they are today. Mr. Hatcher asked how towns are paying for the installation.

Mr. Magazzu stated they are seeing it paid either through the operating budget or through bonding.

Mr. O'Connell asked if there is an environmental aspect to the system.

Mr. Magazzu stated that on the last page of the presentation are the environmental benefits. They will update that page based on the hard data.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he would like to have them fill in the missing information for Council to review at the next possible work session.

Mr. Magazzu stated that they will make sure to get the information to the Township the Friday before the work session in order for Council to review in advance.

## **2015 ROAD PROGRAM**

Mr. Catrambone stated that the 2015 road program was agreed to in the summer of last year and the roads were selected. What Council needs to do tonight is authorize the Engineer to put the project out to bid. The second area Council would like to discuss is how to handle moving forward with the 2016 road program and future years.

We would like to discuss whether there is a more efficient way to complete the roads and a better way to plan the road program. Mr. Catrambone asked Mr. Hatcher to discuss what is needed to move forward with the 2015 Road Program.

Mr. Hatcher stated that Engineer submitted a letter with the cost of services in regards to the 2015 Road Program. The project includes Fox Chase Drive (Waterford Dr. to Beaverbrook), Main Street (Front Street to Third Street) and Cleveland Avenue. The total engineering fee is \$160,000. CME Associates is looking for approval tonight to authorize the engineering services. If Council agrees, we can add a Resolution to the public meeting agenda for approval. Council agreed.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Mrs. Kolodi has done some research and spent some time talking to the Township Engineer about other possibilities and ways to improve our process. Currently, there is a three tier system prepared by the Township Engineer and Public Works Superintendent. They inventory the roads and determine the roads in the worst condition and most heavily traveled. We have a long list of roads and this Council has been very aggressive with the road program. Council typically budgets \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 each year for the road program.

Mr. Paris stated that on top of looking at roads in the worst condition and most heavily traveled, we have looked at spreading them out and make sure each ward was represented throughout town so that every area is happy.

Mr. Catrambone stated that our Engineer has indicated that it is more efficient to complete a cluster of roads in one neighborhood. That is a possibility he would like to discuss. He also suggests looking at a three to five year plan for the road program.

Mrs. Kolodi stated that she also discussed with the Engineer the completion of half roads. Doing that is more inefficient as opposed to doing the entire road. Another suggestion was to include a small project with a large project or a small project with two medium projects to make our money go further.

Mr. Catrambone asked that we open the meeting to the public since there are many residents here tonight that would like to speak on this issue.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to open the meeting to the public for this issue, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi. All were in favor, motion approved.

Diane Bivins, 146 White Marsh Way, presented a petition to Council to consider repaving White Marsh Way. Ms. Bivins thanked Mr. Schwartz who immediately responded to her after she left the work session in October of 2015. He sent someone out the road and he agreed with her that the road was horrific. After that, the Mayor visited her at her home and he indicated that he could not believe the condition of the road, as did Mr. Catrambone. Ms. Bivins stated that she cannot thank Mrs. Kolodi enough for all she has done. Ms. Bivins stated that the road has been in this condition for about five years and has continued to get worse. They are living on the worse street in Tenby. No one has looked at this street until she showed up several months ago. Pot holes are repaired and then two weeks later they are back. She was told that the

road has been pushed back because it is not a heavily traveled road. She is counting on their integrity to do the right thing and repave this road.

Mr. Paris stated that he did say the road was very bad. He also indicated that there is a tier system and the roads are rated based on those in the worse condition and the most heavily traveled. White Marsh is in bad shape but there are other roads in similar condition, some of which are more heavily traveled. Mr. Paris stated that he recommended she get the petition because the more the residents come out in support of their road the more of an impact it has.

Ms. Bivins asked that Mr. Catrambone allow her neighbors to speak.

Steve Safka, 142 White Marsh Way, stated that she agrees with Diane Bivins. He walks the neighborhood with his wife and he feels Fox Chase Drive is in much better shape than White Marsh Way. Water collects in front of his house and weeds grow out of the roadway. He feels that they are watching other roads get paved and their road is a hazard.

Mr. Catrambone stated that it would be great if we could pave every road. He is not wavering from his support of White Marsh Way but we will have other residents in front of Council with the same issue. We have had a petition brought to us from a resident on Drexel about five times. Council has to evaluate the roads each year. Mr. Catrambone stated that many members of Council and the Mayor have visited the road and there appears to be a lot of crumbling. He asked Mr. Hatcher when the next opportunity is to patch those areas.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we can do pot hole repairs but when a road is in that condition that is not much we can do.

Mr. Catrambone stated that the roads selected for the 2016 Road Program will most likely be paved in the summer or fall of 2017.

Mr. Paris stated that the discussion on the selection of roads will take place in the spring of this year.

Mr. Safka asked if there will be communication from Council to the residents.

Mr. Catrambone stated that they will stay in touch with Ms. Bivins.

Bill, 146 White Marsh Way, stated that with the blizzard he purposely did not remove his car from the road because he did not want the pavement to end up on his lawn.

Reba Kohn, 161 White Marsh Way, stated that a few years back there was a water main break across the street and the resident's vehicle almost fell into the sink hole. She stated that she is a little frustrated with the condition of the road.

Joe Scheideler, 124 Fox Chase Drive, stated that he is on the home is on the side of Fox Chase Drive that is not being paved. He stated that he cannot believe Council choose that half over the half he lives on which is horrible. They take pride in their

home and have to deal with terrible streets. Maybe we need to increase the amount spent for roads.

Mr. Hatcher stated that Engineer recommended we start at Waterford Drive but he does not disagree that the other side is worse.

Christopher Martens, 160 White Marsh Way, asked since White Marsh is contiguous to Fox Chase Drive, why can't we continue and pave White Marsh Road.

Mr. Paris stated that a cluster of roads is something that Council will be looking at for future road programs.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we need to continue to find a better way at selecting roads. We used to do full reconstructions on each road and have found that we get more for our money if we do a mill and overlay unless the road has serious damage.

Mr. Martens stated that he has also had a water main break in front of his home.

Charles Mothershed, 150 White Marsh Way, stated that he cannot add anything additional to the comments on White Marsh Way. This is a beautiful town and we want to be better than the surrounding towns. He stated that he votes against his politics because everyone has done such a great job.

John Toppin, 149 White Marsh Way, asked if the Township has a protracted schedule for the roads or if it is done year by year.

Mr. Catrambone stated that there is a road program every year.

Mr. Toppin stated that he would love to have White Marsh Way paved as soon as possible but if he knew that it would be done in 2017 he could live with that. He understands that the heavily traveled roads need to be taken care of but the residents of White Marsh Way pay taxes and we expect our road to be taken care of. He asked why they don't set up a couple year plan and not substitute one road for another.

Mr. Catrambone stated that the residents will be made aware of the meeting when Council discusses the selection of roads for the 2016 Road Program.

Mrs. Kolodi stated that she feels very strongly that we have been inefficient in choosing the roads. To her it makes sense to complete full roads and neighborhoods where we can get the most for our money. She hopes that as a Council we can look at this and find a plan that is more efficient.

Dean Kallin, 163 White Marsh Way thanked Council for giving the residents the opportunity to talk and stated that he agrees with all the comments made tonight. He stated that he may be a special case because he has had three water main breaks in front of his home since he has lived there. There is severe erosion underneath the roadway. The sidewalks were already depressed and since the new water lines were installed it is getting worse. His concern is that there is also a shut off valve coming out through the depressed sidewalk. He fears that there may be a lot of force on that

value that could cause another water main break. His car drives right over that area every day.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we will reach out to the Engineer and NJAW Company have someone take a look at that issue.

Diane Bivins stated that she told the Township Engineer about the issues in front of Mr. Kallin's property. Ms. Bivins stated that the condition of Fox Chase Drive is not worse than White Marsh Way. She is still baffled that Council chose Fox Chase Drive over White Marsh Way. Now they are talking about the other half of Fox Chase Drive which is in far better condition.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to closed the public portion, seconded by Mr. O'Connell, All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Catrambone thanked the residents for attending tonight and sharing their information.

### **ILLEGAL DUMPING COMPLAINT – SWEDES LAKE**

Mr. Catrambone stated that this issue was brought forward by Councilman Schwartz. He asked if we found out what was being dumped at the lake.

Mr. Schwartz stated that the complaint was that antifreeze was being dumped into the lake. This incidence was the catalyst that brought the issue up and he told the residents he would discuss with Council the possibly of installing a camera at the entrance to the park. Other than a description of the vehicle the police do not have any additional information to go on for an investigation. This item can be discussed during the budget process.

Ms. Pangia asked what he is looking to do.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he was thinking of something similar to what is used on the River Line. It would be a recording mechanism that the police could use if there is a need for an investigation.

Mr. Paris stated that we have issues and complaints at all of our parks. Should we install cameras in every park? We may not have the funds to be able to handle that.

Mr. Schwartz stated that the cost of fixing the vandalism and not being able to identify the perpetrator many outweigh the costs of installing a camera.

Mrs. Kolodi stated that she is sometimes opposed to installing a lot of cameras. She asked if that park is particularly vandalized.

Mr. Schwartz stated that Swedes Lake is similar to Faunce Street in that once you are in the park you are somewhat secluded. There is also only one entrance for vehicles. Having a recording mechanism that showing the comings of goings of the park would be beneficial to the Police Department.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he shares Mrs. Kolodi's concern. Maybe we could talk to the Chief of Police and get a handle on the problems and see if the situation warrants a camera.

Mrs. Kolodi stated that she agrees we should get information from the Chief on all parks to get a handle on the issues.

Mr. Schwartz stated that we should determine if this is a helpful tool for them to use. If it is not, then it may not make sense.

Mr. Paris stated that another area that we receive a lot of complaints is about Summerhill near the Football Field.

Mr. Schwartz stated that getting input from the Chief is a good first step. Mr. Schwartz stated that the residents are also happy with the entrance to Lake Lonnie that was installed on Fifth Street.

Mr. Catrambone stated that once we get the additional information, we can discuss this further.

### **ABANDONED AND VACANT PROPERTY DISCUSSION**

Mr. Catrambone stated that there were two proposed ordinances in the agenda tonight. The first ordinance is to establish an abandoned property list and authorizing the public officer to designate qualified rehabilitation entities. He asked who the public official would be.

Mr. Long stated that it would depend on the decision of Council. It could be the Code Enforcement Officer or if Council is looking to hire a third party agency, they could fill that role. Mr. Long stated that he has a conversation with the Chris Taylor, who is the Attorney for the group that presented to Council in December. They are a few weeks away from providing a proposal and he told them to propose as if they were the public officer and as if our Code Enforcement Officer was the public officer. This ordinance allows the public officer to establish the list and the second ordinance establishes the registration requirements and penalties.

Mrs. Kolodi asked if it the person we hire would be the logical choice and would it be better to do this in house.

Mr. Hatcher stated that they would be the logical choice if it was being done in house. He feels it will be difficult for one person to handle this but it will be up to Council to determine. If that is where it falls, we will do the best we can.

Mr. Schwartz recommended that instead of listing a public officer, maybe we indicate in the ordinance that Council will appoint the public officer by Resolution. Council agreed to this change.

Mr. Hatcher asked, in regards to the registration ordinance, does a property that is vacant but actively marketed for sale have to register.

Mr. Long stated that if they are being actively marketed for sale they will not be on the list. He will make the language in the ordinance clearer.

Mr. Schwartz questioned what is considered secure in the ordinance and if we can have language in the ordinance that outlines this.

Mr. Long stated that he can add that language.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he would also like to see an annual renewal date for registration similar to license. That way it can be easily managed. Council agreed that December 31<sup>st</sup> will be the expiration date for all registrations.

After discussion, Council asked Mr. Long to make the revisions and provide them to Council for possible introduction at the next meeting.

Mr. Lisicki, 905 Oak Avenue, asked if there is a property that has been abandoned and someone slips in like they did next door to him, who has the ability to get them to move out. Would it be the Township's responsibility?

Mr. Long stated that this great tool to smoke out the owner of the property. If the public officer puts the property on the vacant property list, the owner would have to come forward and appeal that decision.

Mr. Lisicki stated that at the court hearing, the tenants were given thirty days to clean up the property or vacate the property. He asked who will order them to vacate the property.

Mr. Hatcher stated that they would be ordered by the court to vacate the property if they do not make clean up the violations they were cited for by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Linda Lisicki, 905 Oak Avenue, asked about the three cats and dogs. They keep the window open all winter for the cats to go in and out.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it is not against the law to have an open window. They were cited for the dog.

Hope Sanderson, 904 Oak Avenue, stated that her daughter and her fiancé came over on Christmas Eve and the neighbors at 903 Oak Avenue told them that they could not park in front of their home. They decided to park somewhere else so they did not create a conflict.

Mrs. Lisicki stated that she appreciates everything that Council is doing but feels that if this was next them it would have moved faster.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we have to follow the laws.

Mr. Hatcher stated that the court has told them they have thirty days to correct the problems or vacate the property.

Mrs. Lisicki stated that herself and the neighbors will pray that they do not correct the problems and will have to vacate the property.

### **AERIAL MOSQUITO CONTROL**

Mr. Hatcher stated that Council has to authorize this every year to have the County to perform the aerial spraying for mosquitos. If Council agrees, a Resolution will be placed on the public meeting agenda. Council agreed.

### **NEW OWNERS-SEWER**

Mr. Hatcher stated that there is a new owner at 54 Stoneham Drive and based on the regulations, the sewer bill will be adjusted to the minimum. Council agreed.

### **HARDSHIP WAIVER – 149 NATALIE ROAD**

Mr. Catrambone stated that Council has always approved these requests in the past to preserve the COAH credit. He asked if there is any reason it should not be done in this case.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he sees no reason not to approve this. If Council agrees, a resolution can be adopted at the public meeting. Council agreed.

### **SNOW REMOVAL AGREEMENT – COUNTY ROADS**

Mr. Hatcher stated that this agreement is between the County and Township and provides the Township to remove snow on county roads. We recommend that this agreement be approved but he would like to address the issue that there is no increase in the reimbursement for salt and sand from the prior three year contract. The price of salt has increased approximately 20%. Mr. Hatcher will address the issue and put the agreement on the agenda for approval once a decision is made.

### **TAX ISSUE**

Mr. Catrambone stated that a resident at 123 Windmoor Road is requesting the refund of interest on taxes due to an error on the tax office. If Council agrees, a resolution will be placed on the public meeting agenda. Council agreed.

### **CWA REQUEST FOR 2016 FLOATING HOLIDAYS**

Mr. Hatcher stated that as per the contract, the CWA receives two floating holidays. They have requested December 23, 2016 and either July 1<sup>st</sup> or July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Council agrees to December 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>. The public meeting for July will be moved to July 12, 2016.

### **E-WASTE CHARGES**

Mr. Hatcher stated that we discussed this at the last work session. We thought we were going to have more time but the Governor has vetoed the bill that would have allowed us to continue the electronic recycling program. It will cost the Township \$2800 per month to continue. We recommend that this program be shut down. Most towns have either shut it down already or are discussing shutting it down. Council agreed. A notice will be placed on

the website that due to a change in state law, we will no longer be able to continue the program. The residents can currently drop electronic recycling off at the county.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Ms. Pangia has no report tonight and will need to recuse herself from the next discussion and will be leaving the meeting and will not be returning.

### **125 DIANE AVENUE**

Mr. Catrambone stated this issue was brought to Mr. Schwartz by a resident. The individual is asking for relief from various fees within the Township including property taxes, sewer fees and permit fees.

Mr. Schwartz stated that this individual is attempting to purchase this property from the bank which has had property maintenance issues. The home will be repaired and will not be able to be occupied for some time. As far as the property tax issue, the individual is already working with the Tax Assessor. The individual is a volunteer firefighter and single parent that would like to maximize their money to fix the property. This is all relatively new and we do not have an incentive program for abandoned properties. Mr. Schwartz stated that it is for Council to discuss what concessions they are willing to make in terms of sewer services and or a discount in permit fees. The only time he remembers Council suspending sewer service was due to a fire. Mr. Schwartz stated that because of the issues with the property it would be positive for the Township to have someone fixing it up.

Mr. Catrambone asked what criteria Council would set to authorize this request.

Mr. Schwartz stated that anyone could make this request. This is an individual case but we may want to look into a broader view. He is not looking for a policy decision.

Mr. Catrambone asked if this is being requested because the property is abandoned or because he is a volunteer firefighter or a friend.

Mr. Schwartz stated that the request was brought to him and he brought it to Council. He feels this is a great opportunity.

Mr. Catrambone stated that while he applauds his efforts to purchase and fix up the property he is not inclined to waive any fees. He asked Mr. Long and Mr. Hatcher what the Township has the ability to do if we were in favor of this request.

Mr. Long stated that Council does not have the ability to abate taxes except through ordinance. He is not sure what is provided for in the sewer regulations.

Mr. O'Connell stated that his concern is that if we start doing this for abandoned properties, what impact it will have on the other residents.

Mrs. Kolodi stated that she agrees, we may be opening ourselves up to requests from other individuals purchasing vacant homes.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Council is not here to help individuals' purchase and rehab homes. We are here to be stewards of the taxpayers' money.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he both agrees and disagrees with Mr. Catrambone. We are here to be stewards of the tax payers' money but is it more beneficial that to the tax payers that the home is no longer vacant.

Mr. Catrambone stated that if this he is happy that he is fixing up the property but we are just not in business of helping with that. If the individual does not pay their part, everyone else has to.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he sees thing differently but he respects his opinion.

## **REPORTS**

**Mr. Long** – No report.

**Mr. Hatcher** – Mr. Hatcher stated that the annual elected officials training is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. O'Connell and Ms. Pangia have already confirmed that they will be attending. If anyone else is interested, he will send in the registration.

Mr. Catrambone stated that there is a public meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he will confirm the date tomorrow and get back to them.

Mr. Hatcher reported that the Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer position we are looking to hire has been advertised through civil service as required and we received no applications. As a result he posted the advertisement in the paper. This has set us back about two months. In the Construction Official position, we are going to promote Steve Rickershauser. He is already our part-time Plumbing Inspector and Mr. Hatcher feels he should work out well.

**Ms. Eggers** – No report.

**Mr. Schwartz** – Mr. Schwartz reported that he had a discussion today with Mr. Hatcher and asked to have an executive session tonight. The situation has now changed and he does not believe it meets the threshold.

**Mr. O'Connell** – Mr. O'Connell thanked the Public Works, Police Department and Fire Department regarding their work with the fire on Creek Road during the recent snow storm.

**Mrs. Kolodi** – No report.

**Mr. Catrambone** – No report.

**Mr. Paris** – Mr. Paris reported that he has been meeting with the County in regards to several projects including Fairview Blvd. and Hartford Road traffic light and also what would be required to turn Hartford Road over to them.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

Mr. O'Connell made a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schwartz. All were in favor, motion approved.

Myla Rodgers, 300 Arch Street, stated that there is a sign down across from the Middle School.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it has been reported.

Mr. Paris stated that there is also a stop sign down at the entrance to Water's Edge.

Ms. Rodgers asked if we are doing anything about residents not shoveling sidewalks. Chester Avenue is not shoveled after the municipal building to Route 130.

Mr. Hatcher stated that try and hit the areas that the kids have to walk to school.

Mr. Paris stated that if she sees an area that is not done report it to Mr. Hatcher.

Mr. O'Connell made a motion to end the public portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. O'Connell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Schwartz. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Eggers, Township Clerk