

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

March 8, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Mayor Springer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Springer certified that the meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 8, 2010. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board. All requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were satisfied.

Everyone participated in the flag salute. There was a moment of silence for the former Tax Collector Pat Pincus who passed away.

Present were: Mayor Jay Springer, Deputy Mayor Louise Campbell, Council Member Joseph Maroccia, Council Member Keith Nagler, and Council Member Walter Tafe. Also present were: Township Attorney Eileen Fahey, Municipal Clerk Kim-Marie White and Township Manager Scott Carew.

PRESENTATION: Eastampton Board of Education Administration to discuss:

- 2009-2010 school budget including recent cuts
- School Regionalization

Dr. Robert Krastek, Superintendent of Eastampton Community School gave an overview on how the school has cut spending, froze expenditures for new and unplanned activities.

Susan Taylor, President of Board of Education, said the task force that was created last year to evaluate school regionalization is no longer meeting because there is no money to support a feasibility study.

Marian Smith, Business Administrator, spoke about having no excess surplus in the budget.

Mayor Springer thanked them for coming out and keeping the lines of communication open.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

Township Manager Carew thanked Mayor Springer for the moment of silence for Pat Pincus.

Township Manager Carew said he had a meeting with FEMA regarding the December snow storm. FEMA advised him the Township would get reimbursed \$8,500 from the snow storm. During the snow storm in December the public works department hit their limit of overtime mid way through the storm. They collected overtime until there was no more money and then they accrued comp time. He spoke to Rich Parks and would like to take back the comp time that was

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accrued and pay them when they receive the money from FEMA. He said each person would have to sign off that it was a onetime deal. He asked for Council feedback.

Councilman Maroccia asked what the pro's and con's were.

Township Manager Carew said since they received the comp time already they could leave it as is and put the money into the general fund.

Councilman Nagler asked if the money could be used for maintenance of the public works vehicles.

Township Manager Carew said they could compensate them for their services or they could put the money in the general fund and use it for maintenance of the vehicles. He said financially it is the most advantageous way to go. He said there is no rush to figure out what they want to do until the money comes in.

Township Manager Carew said the staff had Edmunds training and it went very well. A few days later Doris, Gerry and he had a very productive meeting with Jack Bruno who is a Registered Municipal Accountant, Chief Financial Officer and Certified Public Accountant. He has asked him for a proposal so Jack could set up the general ledger on Edmunds and train Gerry to take it over from that point forward. He said Jack Bruno could do much more for the Township working smarter and, would be spelled out in the proposal. He asked for Jack's proposal by March 12.

Councilman Tafe asked what training was received and how long was the Edmunds training.

Township Manager Carew said Edmunds came in and went over any questions with staff and he was the only one who had fresh training to do escrow. He said the Edmunds trainer arrived at 9:30 and left around 1:00. He said Gerry did not receive training that day because he had an issue with the auditors doing the 2009 audit. There was a \$45,000 discrepancy on money that was carried over from 2008 to 2009. He said due to the problem with the money, Gerry gave Doris a list of questions to ask.

Councilman Nagler asked if the \$45,000 could have been found easier if the annual financial statement was done in house.

Township Manager Carew said when the audit is being done it is not uncommon that everything needs to add up, the auditors can move money around and have the Chief Financial Officer sign off on it and that never happened.

Councilman Nagler said usually when transfers are being done it is approved by the Township Council and they did not approve a \$45,000 transfer. He asked if the money was moved without Council action. He said this is an issue because being a public official it is their job to make sure the proper procedures were taken and have it as part of the public record; this becomes a trust issue now.

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Township Manager Carew said it was moved without Council or the Chief Financial Officer's approval. He said he is not happy about the situation and asked Mike Holt, the Auditor, to put it in writing by March 12 and he would forward to Council.

Township Manager Carew said his ultimate goal is to bring Jack Bruno in to clean up the Finance Office and then have him be the next Chief Financial Officer and Gerry is aware of his plans. He would be part-time and need to come in only one day a week.

Councilman Nagler said he wants a breakdown for 2008 to 2009 to see where the money went.

Councilman Tafe said when Council discussed the training for Edmunds the Chief Financial Officer was supposed to be the main person receiving the training based on the last audit comments. A crisis comes up and he can't take training for 3.5 hours, did it take him all that time to resolve the problem. He said this is a problem and doesn't sit well with him.

Township Manager Carew said he agrees with him that Gerry should have taken the training. The training that Gerry needs is for general ledger and there is training that he needs outside of the general ledger.

Councilman Tafe asked how many hours the present Chief Financial Officer works in a week. He said they pay for a fulltime police chief and he does a part time job on his full time police salary.

Township Manager Carew said depending what time of year it could be 5 to 20 hours a week. He also said the decision to have him be part-time Chief Financial Officer happened 19 years ago.

Councilman Tafe said that does not make the decision right.

Township Manager Carew said he asked the Township Engineer to prepare a report to Council for April 5 having it on the agenda for discussion April 12.

Township Manager Carew said he had a meeting with Family Services last week. Family Services provides help to adults with disabilities. They are looking to purchase some condo units from Sharbell. He said he would arrange a meeting with Family Services and Sharbell.

Township Manager Carew said he had a meeting with the Environmental Commission and Dan Chieco would provide specifications for the rain garden.

Township Manager Carew said he has had meetings with Mark Remsa regarding the landfill and a potential solar farm.

Township Attorney Fahey said that Rob Willis from Trash Pro advised her that the consolidation of trash is on hold because there is no more grant money.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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February 8, 2010

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by MAROCCIA that the February 8, 2010 minutes, be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays February 8, 2010 minutes were approved.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution R2010-33 Authorizing Sale to Highest Bidder of Tax Certificate and Subsequent Lien Held by the Township of Eastampton on Certain Properties

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by MAROCCIA to approve Resolution R2010-33.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2010-33 was approved.

Resolution R2010-34 Authorize License Agreement with Meredith Hauser

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by CAMPBELL to approve Resolution R2010-34.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2010-34 was approved.

ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance No. 2010-3 An Ordinance Creating New Chapter 48 of the Township Code Regarding Fire Insurance Claims

Mayor Springer opened the public hearing, there being no comments he closed the public hearing.

It was MOVED by TAFE and seconded by MAROCCIA to approve Ordinance 2010-3.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2010-3 was adopted.

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Ordinance No. 2010-4 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1 of the Township Code with respect to Penalties for Code Violations

Mayor Springer opened the public hearing.

Peter Ulyett, 19 Chelsea Road, asked what this ordinance is about.

Township Attorney Fahey explained it would bring the code violation penalty to the proposed state maximum by law.

Mayor Springer closed the public hearing being no further comments.

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by MAROCCIA to approve Ordinance 2010-4.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2010-4 was adopted.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

- Police (January)
- Public Works
- Tax Assessor
- Township Clerk
- Treasurer (January and February)

It was MOVED by TAFE and seconded by MAROCCIA to approve the reports for Police, Public Works, Township Clerk and Treasurer.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the monthly reports for Police, Public Works, Township Clerk and Treasurer were approved.

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by CAMPBELL to approve the report for Tax Assessor.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None
Abstain - Maroccia

There being four (4) ayes and one (1) abstention, Tax Assessor report was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Township Manager Carew said he is asking if Council wants to adopt a Resolution to change the time of decision rule.

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by CAMPBELL to have a Resolution prepared for the next meeting.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, a Resolution would be prepared by the Township Attorney for the next Council meeting.

Councilman Tafe said that Public Works has done a superior job during all of the snow storms and should be recognized at the Volunteer Awards Night.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Parking Regulations (snow and over sized vehicles)
Snow fall how many inches to plow

Mayor Springer asked Township Manager Carew if he reached out to Rich Parks.

Township Manager Carew said he did and asked him to get in touch with Eileen and Gerry. He said he would follow up with him.

- Portable Storage Units (PODS)

Mayor Springer said at the last meeting they discussed the time period for pods.

Council agreed that 60 days was long enough to have a pod and asked that the Township Attorney prepare a draft ordinance to review for the March 22 meeting.

- Power surge problems at Manor House and in town

Township Manager Carew said he is waiting for PSE&G to conclude their investigation. He said he would reach out to them.

- Edmunds Training (February 26 moved to March 1)
BAN Balances (Escrow Module Component)

This item was addressed in the Township Manager's Report earlier in the meeting.

Township Manager Carew said the Township does not need to purchase the escrow module because the financial system through Edmunds is sufficient.

Mayor Springer said the Escrow Module Component could come off.

- Escrow Report for January/February

Township Manager Carew said he did not do the escrow report for January and February yet. He said he would have them for the March 22 meeting.

- Collecting old Court Fines

Township Manager Carew said he has nothing new to report. It is on his priority list and he would have updated information for March 22.

- Social Networking (Facebook)

Township Attorney Fahey said she spoke with the New Jersey League and they just reiterated the article they wrote. If Council wishes to move forward she would ask that it be set up properly.

Township Manager Carew said he would check with the school to see how they set up the one they have.

- Newsletter (still scheduled for March) (notify owners on Knightsbridge to shovel sidewalks)

Township Manager Carew said the newsletter is scheduled to go out on March 19.

Councilman Nagler asked if Linda Rogers could do a mail merge of all the resident addresses because that could be sent directly to the printer and have them print on the actual newsletter.

Township Manager Carew said he would ask Linda to look into that at the end of the week.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Deputy Mayor Campbell said a donor has come forward to donate old tile for the summer park program. She also said that recreation is sponsoring soul line dancing lessons for six weeks.

Councilman Nagler said there is a first grade student that has a curable cancer and the family is in extreme financial difficulty paying for the medical bills. He asked Township Manager Carew to put something in the newsletter since it is going out on March 19 regarding the fundraising event that is being sponsorship in her honor on April 16.

Mayor Springer said the rescue dinner was well attended and a nice event.

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

Peter Ulyett, 19 Chelsea Road, asked how many homes Family Services was looking to buy. He said whoever plowed on December 19 did not do a good job near his street. He damaged his car trying to get through the mound of snow that was piled up. He asked why the Gregory's site moved onto Route 38.

Township Manager Carew said he thinks Family Services would buy four to eight units. He said he would speak to Rich Parks regarding the street that was not plowed well on December 19. He said Gregory's moved to Rt. 38 because it is a busier area.

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by MAROCCIA to adjourn meeting at 9:25 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Nagler, Tafe, Springer
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

Kim-Marie White

Kim-Marie White
Municipal Clerk

Jay Springer

Jay Springer
Mayor

Approved: March 22, 2010