

**EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
October 23, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

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

Pledge to the Flag

Everyone participated.

Opening Statement

Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2006. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and sent to the Courier Post for information.

Roll Call

PRESENT: MR. NAGLER, MR. RENZULLI, MS. RUSSOMANNO, MR. PANEQUE, and MR. HARTMAN

ALSO PRESENT: TOWNSHIP MANAGER SCOTT CAREW, TOWNSHIP CLERK LINDA LOVINS AND TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR EILEEN FAHEY

Township Manager's Report

Appreciation to Springfield Township for lending the Township the recording equipment as the Township shops for a new one. It is a bit more expensive that we originally anticipated.

Mr. Klaus asked about a crossing guard program and he was kind enough to look into a program that AAA runs whereby they provide equipment and some of the training. The information has been passed on to the Police Department and we have reached out to the school district to see if they have an interest in looking into this program as a partner with the Township. This program would have to be administered by the Police Department and the setup would be paid adult employees along with safety patrol run by the school.

The Public Works Department went up to Hamilton to participate in the first annual snow plow rodeo. Harry Parks finished first Derek Nappier finished second Nick Ohern finished third and Rich Parks finished fourth. It was good experience for them to get behind the wheel of a plow without the snow.

Hamilton has a training facility and Public Works will be doing some additional training with them.

Manager Carew received an alert from a resident. A card was left in her mailbox and there was no phone number, address or name on it. The card stated that they were going to be in the area to paint numbers on curbs for \$15.00 per house. This was passed onto the police department. The manager asked that anyone who receives such a card should call the police department to advice that illegal solicitation is going on in the Township.

The Chief has done some moving around of appropriations as the Township nears the end of the 2006 budget. It has been a good year with the exception of gasoline.

Manager Carew had to contact DEP last week. There was a situation where a resident was pouring paint and concrete down a storm water drain. This was witnessed by our Public Works Department. ERI had to look at it as well. There will be an ongoing investigation conducted by the Police Department.

Manager Carew advised that next year will be Eastampton's turn to receive CDBG funds. It will be beneficial as the Township is going through the road program. Only certain developments qualify.

Mayor Hartman asked if ERI was going to help with determining what gets done. Mr. Carew stated that they have already come up with a priority list. Oxmead is pretty high on the list. CDBG is for smaller roads. The Township is looking at a couple roads by the apartment complexes.

Councilman Renzulli asked if the Township could use the grant for sidewalks on Student Drive. Manager Carew stated he already looked into that, and it can't. Deputy Mayor Nagler sent Manager Carew information on Safe Streets Grant that will be available next week and there is a seminar next week that Mr. Carew will attend.

Public Comments

Mayor Hartman opened to the public at 7:40 p.m.

John Morris is not a resident of Eastampton Township. He lives in Westampton and is here representing Westwood Swim Club. He is the President of the Board. He is asking to partner with the Township in the coming year or sometime in the future. Westwood has fallen into financial difficulty due to a drop in membership. There is only a small group of people working to fix this problem. Mr. Morris is here to open a line of communication and to partner with the Township. Hainesport and Mount Holly have looked into the opportunity of using the pool.

Mayor Hartman asked Mr. Morris if he had spoken to the Manager. Manager Carew stated that he suggests that he and Mayor Hartman be part of the communication team. The Township would like to look at financial records even before the Township begins to look at the beneficial aspects. Manager Carew will check his schedule and get back with the swim club for a preliminary meeting.

Tom Czerniecki, 2 Wellington Court. Mr. Czerniecki spoke regarding the recent article in the Burlington County Times. Mr. Czerniecki felt that it cast a shadow on the work that he did here as the Township Manager. Mr. Czerniecki explained that the article was inaccurate and irresponsible.

Mr. Czerniecki commented that as a professional manager he has no political affiliations. Mr. Czerniecki served as a professional without getting into any political activity in this community.

Mr. Czerniecki commented that the Plan the Land Program was funded by a grant. It was a \$60,000 NJ Office of Smart Growth Grant. After the Township purchased a 1,200 green belt through the town, the Township did a chert where the Township hired a professional planner. The Township put up lawn signs, put the information in the paper and sent it home with children. Every resident had an opportunity to attend. Only 200 attended. The

legal status of every piece of land was given to the residents at that time. Based upon principles and policy, any land that was deemed open space was because we were partners in the Green Acres program.

Council policy stated that the Township was not buying any land that could be used for tax relief. Flyers were distributed and an article appeared that was distributed throughout the State.

Mr. Czerniecki offered Township Council the advice to stay the course and seek tax relief as it was planned to happen. He told council not to go for any cheap drive-by shootings.

Peter Ulyette, 19 Chelsea Road. Mr. Ulyette stated to Mr. Czerniecki that he did not mean to offend him. He also commented that he thinks Mr. Czerniecki is an upstanding guy. Mr. Ulyette explained that the intention of his letter was to state that open space should be open space. He stated that the information he printed was from a Township Council meeting. He received information that the Township in litigation with that land now. Solicitor Fahey stated that there was no judgement. The Township prevailed in each litigation.

Mr. Ulyette said “so there is no litigation on that land”. Ms. Fahey replied yes and apologized if he was confused with her statement.

Solicitor Fahey stated that the word litigation may have been used, but the correct term is attorney-client privilege.

Mr. Ulyette asked to go back two or three months ago where Council approved an \$800,000 bond for land for municipal purpose.

Deputy Mayor Nagler stated that was a refinance on the squad building it was not new debt.

Mr. Ulyette stated that he will find the resolution and bring it back to a meeting. There have been occasions that it wasn't open space and then at the last meeting I was told that it was open space.

Councilman Renzulli stated that this was a two-year long litigation and had offered to sit down with Mr. Ulyette to explain it to him. Councilman Renzulli stated that he cannot interpret what Mr. Ulyette means by the question.

Councilman Renzulli stated that there are legal issues, and if he used the word litigation he apologized.

Mr. Ulyette stated that Counsel said it was rezoned to open space. Ms. Fahey stated that was untrue. She explained that it is not subject to any new zoning code.

Solicitor Fahey clarified that Mr. Ulyette asked if this was being zoned for development. Mr. Ulyette also asked if the land is open space.

Mr. Czerniecki stated he would offer that Council not answer that question. Complex issues should not be addressed in this type forum.

Mr. Tafe wanted to clarify that Mr. Ulyette is not coming to the Council meeting on his agenda if that is what is being implied. It is Council's responsibility to answer questions from the public. And Mr. Tafe is offended by the political agenda statement that Mr. Czerniecki made.

Mr. Tafe asked about the \$30,000,000 in ratables in the newsletter that came out. Mr. Renzulli stated that was a political newsletter. Mr. Tafe asked why the Newsletter has the website of the Township on it. Ms. Fahey stated that it is not an official Township newsletter. Mr. Tafe asked if there was 30 million in new commercial ratables for the Township of Eastampton.

Ms. Fahey stated that number would come from Mr. Renwick. She asked Manager Carew to check with Mr. Renwick on that issue.

Mr. Tafe read a portion of the newsletter that stated that during Mr. Searfoss's tenure as a member of the LUPB the Board has recently approved \$30,000,000 in ratables. Is that statement true?

Ms. Fahey again explained that the amount of approved commercial ratables has to come from the Assessor it cannot come from the LUPB or this Council. She stated that the Township can get him that information.

Kevin Klaus Windham Drive asked what the official zoning of the property at the end of Knightsbridge on Woodlane Road is. Mr. Czerniecki replied that it is BP - ACR. The map doesn't show the redevelopment overlay which is basically the town green idea. Mr. Klaus asked if it is deed restricted. Ms. Fahey stated that it is not encumbered. Mr. Klaus stated that any good lawyer can get it removed. Ms. Fahey stated that it is a question for a judge.

Mr. Ulyette asked for Manager Carew to point that out on the map.

Joe Maroccia, 9 Kensington asked for the status on the easement on the Emergency Squad that is holding up the development. Ms. Fahey stated that is information that the Township is not privy to. That is between the owners. Mr. Maroccia asked for status relative to the fire department. He was told that he would have to ask them directly.

Mayor Hartman closed to public at 8:08 p.m.

Acceptance of Current Year Minutes

Motion by Councilman Renzulli seconded by Deputy Mayor Nagler to accept the following Minutes:

- Land Use Planning Board Minutes of September 20, 2006

All voted in the affirmative.

Approval of Current Year Minutes

Motion by Councilman Paneque seconded by Deputy Mayor Nagler to approve the following Minutes:

- Township Council Minutes of October 16, 2006

All voted in the affirmative.

Acceptance of Departmental Reports (September 2006)

Motion by Councilwoman Russomanno, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nagler to accept the following reports for September 2006:

Township Clerk
Treasurer
Assessor
Court
CCO

Tax Collector
Public Works

Police

*Construction not presented for September Steve was on vacation.

All voted in the affirmative.

Resolutions (Consent)

2006-114:

Manager Carew There is an issue with an easement and once that has come to resolution the Township can expect to move forward.

Councilman Renzulli asked if the Resolution was being tabled . Ms. Fahey said that the Township can approve it but will not be closing for some time. She said Council can table or vote so the Township can move forward at this time. Mr. Nagler suggested that the Township table this matter for now.

Motion Councilman Renzulli, seconded by Councilwoman Russomanno to table Resolution 2006-114 Resolution Authorizing Purchase of the Emergency Squad Building and Execution of an Agreement with the Eastampton Township Board of Fire Commissioners Regarding Use of the Emergency Squad Building. All voted in the affirmative.

2006-115:

Councilman Renzulli stated that the hours needed to be changed on the Resolution.

Motion by Councilman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Paneque to adopt Resolution 2006-115 Approval of Application for Raffle License for the Eastampton PTA with corrections. All voted in the affirmative.

2006-116

Manager Carew stated that the Township is just moving money within the budget - gasoline was the big line.

Motion by Councilwoman Russomanno seconded Deputy Mayor Nagler to adopt Resolution 2006-116 Transfer of Appropriations Excess to Insufficient Appropriation. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative.

Bill List

Motion by Deputy Mayor Nagler, seconded by Councilwoman Russomanno to approve the October 2006 Bill List. All voted in the affirmative.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Committee Reports

Land Use Planning Board -Mayor Hartman - Mr. Renzulli stated that the Master Plan re-examination was presented to the Land Use Planning Board. There were several comments made. No major changes. That will be up for public comment at Planning Board Meeting on December 4, which is the first Monday in December. The master plan re-examination was started while Tom was with ERI. Once he left ERI, ERI was gracious enough to allow Tom to finish the project that he had started and that he finished and to his credit he is doing it without any charge to the Township. It was a well-done plan. Council thanked Mr. Czerniecki.

Environmental Commission -Councilman Paneque stated that there will be a meeting this coming Wednesday.

Route 206 Study - Councilman Paneque stated that the group is notoriously silent.

Economic Development Advisory Committee - Councilwoman Russomanno advised that there was no meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee - Councilman Renzulli stated that the committee conducted its usual business as well as the wrap-up meeting for Fun Day. Hayride and Bonfire at Buttonwood park this Friday. He invited everyone to come.

Comments

Acknowledgment was made to Mr. Nagler's cub scout troop that will be fixing the Township shed in Hollyville Park on Sunday ---- so thank you in advance.

Motion by Councilman Renzulli seconded by Deputy Mayor Nagler to adopt Closed Session Resolution 2006-117 to discuss Contract Negotiations. All voted in the affirmative.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Nagler seconded by Councilman Renzulli to exit closed session at 8:37 p.m. All voted in the affirmative.

Manager Carew stated that there was a residential complaint relative to stray cats by the creek. The County Health Department gave Wes some additional traps. The Township has done their part. The police will go out with the County Health Department every time they go out there, but be reminded that this is the County's issue. The house where it looked like they were being fed was cited by the County Health Department.

Adjournment

Motion by Deputy Mayor Nagler, seconded by Councilwoman Russomanno to adjourn at 8:40. All voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Lovins, RMC
Township Clerk

