

**TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 26, 2010
7:30 P.M. AT COURT HOUSE**

The meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Florek followed by a salute to the flag. The following statement was read by Township Clerk Bowden: “The notice requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by forwarding a “News Release” to the Asbury Park Press on December 10, 2009 stating that the meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee would be held on May 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., 124 Cedar Drive, Colts Neck. The notice requirements have been posted on the Township Bulletin Board and a copy is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.”

Roll call by Mr. Bowden indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Florek, Deputy Mayor Schatzle, Committeemen Engel, Eastman (arriving late), and Fitzgerald

Also Present: Administrator/Municipal Clerk, Robert Bowden; Deputy Municipal Clerk, Beth Kara; Township Counsel, Chris Ackerman, Esq.; Chief Financial Officer, John Antonides; and Township Auditor, Robert Allison.

Absent: None

- 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2010:** Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	S	X			
Engel		X			
Eastman					X
Fitzgerald	M	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2010:** Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Engel		X			
Eastman					X
Fitzgerald	S	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING:** 2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET. Mayor Florek provided his comments pertaining to the 2010 Municipal Budget, which are appended to these minutes. Hearing no comments from the Governing Body, Mayor Florek opened the meeting to public comment:

Ms. Elaine Mann, a resident, clarified the insertion of the “Business Advisory Committee” in the 2010 Budget newsletter was a typographical error. Ms. Mann stated the Historical Preservation Committee should be eliminated from the budget, stating the plaques required correction at an additional cost to the Township. Ms. Mann stated she was not happy with a recent comment in a local

news publication that the budget cuts to committees was disgraceful, and freezing municipal salaries at last year's level is her (the Chair's) preference.

Mr. Kristian DeVito, a Colts Neck Police Officer, spoke on behalf of the Colts Neck PBA requesting the Governing Body reconsider the proposed Police Officer layoff; his comments are appended.

Mr. Chuck Camarata, a resident, questioned the proposed \$800,000 School Tax deferral. Mr. Antonides explained the schools are on a fiscal year basis (July through June), and the Township is on a calendar year basis (January through December). At the end of the Township's year, there is money owed and outstanding, of which up to 50% can be deferred.

Mr. Mike Vodarski, a resident, stated in the past 33 years, he has seen the population increase and appreciates the open space that was preserved. Mr. Vodarski stated the Police Department has not grown with the increased population, and he stated there are times when Police calls for assistance are stacked. Mr. Vodarski is opposed to reducing the Police force and asked if the Police budget is a done deal. Mayor Florek responded advising the final budget vote has not been cast as yet. Mayor Florek stated the three Police teams working 24/7 will remain; the number of response units will not decrease. Mr. Vodarski questioned the impending departure of a highway officer, noting this position is a revenue generator. Mayor Florek stated he personally sees a problem with seeing Police as revenue generators.

Mr. Kristian DeVito commented the Police Department will maintain the same staffing on each shift; however, additional responsibilities will be given to the Officers. Mayor Florek noted the Detectives can support the Officers, when needed. Mayor Florek stated the Township cannot continue to keep increasing its costs, noting the contractual 4.25% salary increase this year for Police Officers, and all non-union personnel received no salary increase.

Mr. Frank Rizzuto, a resident, stated the PBA is not asking for much, and he does not want to see any lay offs in the Police Department. Mr. Rizzuto stated many Emergency Services staff are here in support of the Police Department. Mr. Rizzuto stated the Parks and Recreation Director could be laid off and the Police could perform that function. Mayor Florek responded stating the Township Committee does not want to have any lay offs; however, the State has given constraints on spending that must be followed.

Mr. Robert Sayko, a resident, stated he does not want to see lay offs and trusts the Township Committee reviewed the options. Mr. Sayko stated he does not believe there is a relationship between the number of Officers and community safety. Mr. Sayko stated given the State budget constraints and current local employee contracts, this is what has to be done and not every resident objects to the steps that must be taken. Mr. Sayko questioned the funds allocated to computer support. Mr. Bowden advised the main Finance system supports all departments at zero cost. The Construction office has specialized software. The Township has 24/7 unlimited backup and support for their computers. Mr. Sayko questioned the prices for computer hardware; Mr. Bowden stated the prices are set by State contract. Mayor Florek advised the Police computers and electronics budgeted is to replace laptops in the Police cars that are at least four years old and cost approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 per unit.

Mr. Fulton Wilcox asked what the implications were for the next year. Mayor Florek responded everything he has heard indicate things will get much worse. With the rise in cost of health care, pensions, and union contracts, Mayor Florek stated we may look at these days as the good old days.

Mr. Eastman arrived 8:05 a.m.

Ms. Susan Wilcox questioned when the Recreation and Parks Director position became full-time. Ms. Wilcox stated for the past 25 years the Director position

was part-time; now there is a full-time Director. Ms. Wilcox stated if you are cutting staff, there's your cut. Mayor Florek responded noting the part-time Director was paid \$59,000 per year; the full-time Director is paid \$62,000 per year. The part-time Director worked close to a 40-hour work week. Additional programs have been added, which brought in \$25,000 in increased revenue. Ms. Wilcox questioned the seasonal employees. Mayor Florek stated the Township always employed seasonal staff for summer camp, DPW work, and intermittent office support. Mr. Fitzgerald stated most seasonal workers are assigned to summer camp, which is a positive revenue generator. Mr. Bowden stated seasonal staff was reduced from 5 positions to 2 positions this year. Mr. Bowden stated the Recreation Programs are self-funded, and revenue received is deposited in the Township's general fund.

Mr. Frank Rizzuto asked if the Director of Recreation and Parks holds any parks certifications. Mayor Florek stated not that he was aware of. Mr. Rizzuto stated the Police Community Service Officer dances with the seniors and could perform the Director's function. Mr. Rizzuto stated the Township is laying off a Police Officer. Mayor Florek responded the Recreation and Parks Director has shown the ability to do the job.

Ms. Elaine Mann questioned if the Township was applying for grants for solar panels. Mr. Fitzgerald stated the Environmental Commission has people in the solar field coming in to discuss with Township representatives.

Mr. Jim Genke, stated he has been a resident for 48 years. Mr. Genke stated his father, Richard Genke, a former Township Committeemember from 1978 to 1984, recently passed. Mr. Genke stated the Township Committee's job is to protect its citizens and questioned the money being spent for the July 4th fireworks and fighting the Navy regarding NWS Earle. Mr. Genke stated the Township needs a Police Officer more than Special Education Teachers and a Recreation Director, who is just padding his pension. Mr. Genke stated he needs to know the Township is protected. Mr. Schatzle offered his condolences on the passing of Mr. Genke's father, Richard. Mayor Florek stated the Township Committee is trying to serve the community in the best manner possible under these circumstances. Mayor Florek stated there is no pension padding going on, as he does not believe in that, and it is pensions that led us to this point with the State.

Ms. Elaine Mann stated there may still be a problem with NWS Earle. The legislation has not passed as yet.

Mr. Robert Sayko stated if the Police laptops are still working, he suggests delaying the purchase of new laptops and retain the Police Officer. Mr. Bowden responded capital expenditures are outside the 4% property tax cap.

Ms. Michelle Tan, a resident, stated given all the fiscal challenges ahead, is there a plan for generating revenue? Mayor Florek stated Recreation is leasing the fields and will continue to do so; however, the revenue is not substantial. Mr. Mr. Fitzgerald stated although not within the general budget, the Construction fees are being raised to be consistent with neighboring municipalities. Fitzgerald stated all areas are being reviewed.

An unidentified male resident stated the Township Committee is doing a great job. He stated the budget meetings are open the public. He stated he just wants the Township Committee to try to keep the Police Officer.

Mr. Vince Domidion, a resident, stated he attends the budget workshops and has never seen harder working, more vigorous efforts to find solutions during this difficult budget period. Mr. Domidion stated the rising fixed costs, declining ratables and declining non-taxable revenue (interest on investments), has contributed to this situation, and he does not see an end in the near future. Mr. Domidion does not want to see any lay offs; however with limited revenue and rising fixed costs, the amount of money available is limited. Mr. Domidion thanked the Township Committee for what they have done.

Ms. Elaine Mann questioned the default level. Mr. Antonides responded noting last year's defaults were \$250,000 higher than in 2008, and a large portion were related to tax appeals.

Ms. Diana Piotrowski, a resident, questioned if the Township Committee is thinking of jettisoning the feel good committees or is the seed money returned to the Township's general budget. Mayor Florek stated seed money is not allocated to committees, noting most operate on \$700 per year to cover the cost of a Secretary. Ms. Piotrowski stated if the situation is this dire, we can't continue with these groups. Mayor Florek stated this may happen in the future; however, to-date the Township has received tremendous value from these committees.

With no further comments, Mayor Florek closed the meeting.

4. **RESOLUTION 2010-79:** RESOLUTION CONFIRMING ADOPTION OF 2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET was read by title by Mayor Florek. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek			X			
Schatzle			X			
Engel		S	X			
Eastman			X			
Fitzgerald		M	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

Mayor Florek called a five-minute recess at 8:35 p.m. Messrs. Antonides and Allison departed.

At 8:45 p.m., Mayor Florek reconvened the meeting.

5. **ORDINANCE 2010-4:** AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING SECTION 98-3 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND SETTING FORTH NEW FEES FOR CONSTRUCTION PERMITS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK was read by title at first reading by Mayor Florek. Mr. Bowden stated the fees were last changed in 2001, and after researching fees charged by surrounding municipalities, it is warranted to raise the current fees. Mr. Bowden stated all revenues generated go into a dedicated Construction account to offset the cost of Construction salaries. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and unanimously carried. Mayor Florek set the public hearing June 9, 2010.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek			X			
Schatzle			X			
Engel		S	X			
Eastman			X			
Fitzgerald		M	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

6. **MOTION TO ADOPT A CONSENT AGENDA:**

7. **RESOLUTION 2010-80:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RECREATION PROGRAM REFUNDS was read by title by Mayor Florek. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	S	X			
Engel		X			
Eastman		X			
Fitzgerald	M	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

8. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Mr. Bowden had nothing to add to his report. Mr. Bowden stated the Monmouth County Park System is soliciting applications for the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Program, with a due date of September 22, 2010, 4:00 p.m. Mr. Bowden stated the Township received \$100,000.00 last year under this program for the acquisition of property near the intersection of Routes 34 and 520 and several years ago received funds to improve the Core Site fitness trail. The County prefers land acquisitions, and while Mr. Bowden cannot think of any potential sites that are not farmland, and he requested suggestions. Mr. Bowden stated this issue will be placed on a future agenda.

9. **MOTION TO APPROVE VOUCHERS:** Mr. Schatzle reviewed the vouchers, noting all were in order, and are as follows:

Animal Control	\$92.38
Construction Trust	\$10,419.78
Current Fund	\$2,594,932.93
Escrow	\$4,179.00
Grant Fund	\$1,606.65
Tax Collectors Trust	\$51,372.38
Trust Fund	\$7,770.30
TOTAL APPROVED:	\$2,670,373.42

Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Eastman, and unanimously carried, with Mr. Eastman noting he approves all and *abstains from approving those involving Police matters.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle	M	X			
Engel		X			
Eastman	S	X		X*	
Fitzgerald		X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

10. **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committeemen Schatzle, Engel, Eastman and Fitzgerald had no report this evening.

Mayor Florek reported he received a note from a homeowner who had a 40' tall, 20" diameter Township tree fall on his property. The homeowner thanked the staff of the Department of Public Works for their assistance.

Mayor Florek reported the Fire Department has received free mentor services for grant writing. The Fire Department is seeking Scot Air Pacs and will be seeking matching grant funds.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

With no further comments, Mayor Florek opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Robert Sayko stated his dissatisfaction with the school budget reductions, particularly as they related to school busing and a reduction in health benefits resulting from projected retirements or movement out of the area. Mayor Florek stated the Township Committee defines the reductions; however, the School Board can cut other areas to reach the defined reduction. Mayor Florek suggested Mr. Sayko discuss the issue with the School Board.

Mr. Ray Carbone, a resident, stated the Township Committee provides the School Board with recommendations for budget reductions. He suggested the Township Committee follow-up to ensure the reductions were taken where recommended. Mayor Florek stated the School Board is a separate entity that has its own audits and must meet their obligations. Mr. Eastman stated funds could be taken out of surplus; however, the School Board has to answer to the voters.

Mr. Domidion stated the Township Committee has to certify the tax levy. If the Board doesn't appeal and as long as the reduction amount is reached, there is no argument where the reductions are made.

Mr. Domidion stated Pat Anderson, a long-time associate member of the Environmental Commission, has passed. Mr. Domidion remembered Ms. Anderson as a truly good Christian in the biblical sense, and he will truly miss her.

Mr. Domidion stated he provided two documents to the Township Committee, the Monmouth County Planning Board, the Township Planner, and Mr. Bowden pertaining to housing. Mr. Domidion stated he will be happy to discuss this issue. Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Domidion to hold this issue for now and let the Township Committee digest his work. Mr. Domidion stated he has been asked to chair a County committee on this issue and has asked Andrea Giannopolous to be a part of this. Mayor Florek thanked Mr. Domidion for the information.

Ms. Elaine Mann stated Ms. Sandy Huber requires a letter from the Township describing the amount charged to Clean Communities for Clean-up Day, including the cost of postage and printing and the weight collected. Mayor Florek stated Mr. Bowden will provide this information.

- 12. RESOLUTION 2010-81: EXECUTIVE SESSION was read by title by Mayor Florek at 9:05 p.m. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and unanimously carried by voice vote. Mr. Bowden stated the Township Committee does not anticipate reconvening in public session to take formal action after Executive Session.**

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle		X			
Engel	S	X			
Eastman		X			
Fitzgerald	M	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

Motion by Mr. Engel, seconded by Mr. Eastman, and unanimously carried to adjourn Closed Session and reconvene in Public Session.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle		X			
Engel	M	X			
Eastman		X			
Fitzgerald	S	X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

Motion by Mr. Eastman, seconded by Mr. Engel, and unanimously carried to adjourn meeting.

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Florek		X			
Schatzle		X			
Engel	S	X			
Eastman	M	X			
Fitzgerald		X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded					

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Robert Bowden
Township Administrator/Municipal Clerk

Attachments