

**TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 13, 2016, 7:30 P.M.  
TOWN HALL**

The meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Orgo followed by a salute to the flag. The following statement was read by Deputy Municipal Clerk, Ms. Capristo: "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 17, 2015 stating that the regular meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee would be held April 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m., Colts Neck Town Hall, 124 Cedar Drive, Colts Neck, New Jersey. The notice requirements have been posted on the Township website and a copy is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk."

Roll call by Ms. Capristo indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Thomas Orgo, Deputy Mayor Michael Fitzgerald, Committeemen Russell Macnow and J.P. Bartolomeo

Also Present: Township Administrator/Deputy Municipal Clerk Kathleen Capristo

Absent: Committeeman Edward Eastman, Jr.; Municipal Clerk Beth Kara

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2016. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Bartolomeo and carried by Messrs. Orgo, Fitzgerald, Bartolomeo and Macnow.

<b>RECORD OF VOTE</b>						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Orgo			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow		S	X			
Bartolomeo			X			
Eastman						X
M - Moved   S - Seconded   X - indicates vote   NV - Not Voting   Ab - Absent						

- ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**  
Ms. Capristo reported that the Central New Jersey Mensa will be holding their annual picnic at Bucks Mill Park Pavilion on May 21, 2016 from 1:00 pm to 10:30 pm and are respectfully requesting approval from the Township Committee to consume beer and wine (BYOB) at the event. Mr. Bartolomeo made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and unanimously carried.
- MOTION TO APPROVE VOUCHERS:** Mr. Fitzgerald noted he reviewed the vouchers and recommends approval as follows:

Animal Control	\$190.13
Capital Fund	\$20,918.35
COAH	\$4,902.50
Construction Trust	\$20,165.09
Current Fund	\$3,020,231.63
Escrow	\$14,087.64
Grant Fund	\$6,960.60
Tax Collectors Trust	\$48,570.27
Trust Fund	\$14,338.96
 TOTAL	 <u>\$3,150,365.17</u>

Mr. Bartolomeo made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Macnow and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Orgo			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald			X			
Macnow		S	X			
Bartolomeo	M		X			
Eastman						X
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent						

**4. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Bartolomeo reported that the Little League Opening Day event was cancelled due to bad weather. Mr. Bartolomeo further reported on personnel changes including the resignation of DJ Ten Hove and the appointments of Fran Cherchio as Softball Commissioner and Maria Thompson as Baseball Commissioner. Mr. Bartolomeo also reported that there have been some preliminary improvements to the restroom facilities.

Mr. Bartolomeo reported that Mr. John Walsh and Mr. Al Youdakakis have tendered their resignations from their respective positions with the Senior Citizens Club and noted they are looking for replacements. Mr. Bartolomeo further reported that the 2016 membership of 279 members is an approximate increase of 100 members from last year. Mr. Bartolomeo also reported that Mr. Thom Hennessy, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided a fitness program for the seniors of which 17 members participated. Mr. Bartolomeo emphasized the importance of exercise in preventing bone injuries such as hip breaks. Mr. Bartolomeo noted that the Senior Citizens expressed their gratitude for the support of the Township Committee in connection with the budget.

Mr. Bartolomeo reported that Ms. Michele Tan has been appointed as a new board member on the school's Board of Education. Mr. Bartolomeo further reported that Mr. Macnow attended a "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" event which educates parents on the dangers of hosting parties that serve alcohol to minors.

Mr. Bartolomeo reported that Ms. Sara Genke, a Brookdale student, is the newest member of the Colts Neck First Aid Squad.

Mr. Bartolomeo reported that the Weekend in Monmouth event will be held at Montrose School April 30, 2016 and May 1, 2016 at which there will be many Colts Neck related memorabilia including many items in connection with the Laird family. Mr. Bartolomeo shared an anecdotal story regarding Robert Laird, a Revolutionary War soldier who served under George Washington and whose family supplied the troops with Applejack. According to historical records, Mr. Bartolomeo stated, George Washington wrote to the Laird family requesting their recipe for Applejack.

Mr. Macnow reported that the renumbering project on Route 537 is underway noting that there will no longer be an East or West reference and the numbers will go from low to high from Freehold Township to Tinton Falls. Mr. Macnow noted that this will provide easier access to residents seeking emergency services.

Mr. Macnow reported that the county is offering vaccinations for emergency services personnel and their families.

Mr. Macnow reported that the First Aid Squad has purchased ten (10) defibrillators and an auto compressor for use when administering CPR.

Mr. Macnow reported that the First Aid Squad will be holding a drill on May 24, 2016 during which residents may observe a low flying helicopter.

Mr. Macnow reported that the library will be putting in place a plaque honoring founding fathers who have passed away. Also, Mr. Macnow reported that the library's book sale event was a success. Finally, Mr. Macnow reported that the Community Garden Dedication will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Macnow reminded residents that the Township is hosting a Special Meeting in connection with COAH on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm and encouraged residents to spread the word and attend.

Mr. Macnow acknowledged the passing of Colts Neck resident Susan Wilcox stating that he, Mr. Eastman, and Mr. Orgo attended the services. Mr. Macnow shared that Mrs. Wilcox was a frequent attendee at Township Committee meetings, was a County Committee member for District 6, worked as a poll worker, and volunteered in youth sports and various charities. Mr. Macnow noted that she will be remembered in the Colts Neck community for her volunteerism and her active interest in the issues of the Township. Mr. Orgo added that Mrs. Wilcox was an accomplished athlete who was a state championship swimmer.

Mr. Macnow reported that there was a news report this past week in connection with Naval Weapons Station Earle's development of a solar farm. Mr. Macnow reported that their efforts are part of a US Navy initiative to become more energy self-sufficient. Mr. Macnow noted that it seems the genesis of the news report was a recent large scale clearing of trees by Six Flags Great Adventure to put in place a solar farm. Mr. Macnow reported that he's been told that the project at Earle would not significantly impact Colts Neck residents and should Earle install the farm it would likely not even be visible. Mr. Macnow reminded residents that the Township has a very strong relationship with Earle and that he was confident they would keep them apprised of their efforts.

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that the Shade Tree Commission is working to reinvigorate their efforts through a more proactive approach. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the Commission intends to inventory the greenways and identify trees in the Township that may need to be tended to. Mr. Fitzgerald further reported that the Commission may be interested in expanding the membership from seven (7) members to nine (9) members and asked Ms. Capristo to research state statute on this topic.

Mr. Fitzgerald recognized and offered thanks to the Colts Neck Fire Police for their efforts during the recent wind storm noting that they worked many hours and were of great assistance setting up traffic cones, setting up detours, and directing traffic in areas where there were downed trees.

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that Monmouth County will be offering a Special Needs Registry to allow police and emergency personnel to better assist residents with special needs. The registry is to be rolled out soon, reported Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that he and other Township representatives attended a hearing of the Monmouth County Agricultural Development Board in connection with TV personality Jon Stewart's interest in opening a Farm Sanctuary in Colts Neck. Mr. Fitzgerald reported that while they are fundamentally not opposed to the project they took issue with the manner in which Mr. Stewart's organization chose to pursue it, namely by going directly to the Agricultural Development Board versus the Township's Planning Board. The concern, Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out, is that protection under the Agricultural Development Board may detrimentally limit the Township's ability to consider and vote on certain components of the project, such as the size of certain structures and the volume of potential visitors to the location. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that there were a number of Colts Neck residents at the hearing. Mr. Fitzgerald requested that Mr. Macnow review with the Long Range Planning Committee possible deed restriction options. Mr. Fitzgerald reported that the next hearing is scheduled for May 3, 2016.

Mayor Orgo reported that he attended a meeting last week with the Department of Transportation (DOT) in connection with the expansion of the Route 34/County Road 537 intersection. Mr. Orgo reported that the DOT hopes to go out to bid on the project in June with work beginning in the fall of 2016. Mr. Orgo reported that this will likely be a two (2) year project.

Mayor Orgo reported that Colts Neck was awarded a matching grant of \$300,000 for Five Point Road road repairs.

Mayor Orgo reported that Farmland Preservation is looking to find new ways of raising additional funds.

Mayor Orgo reported that the Spraypark at the Dorbrook Recreation Area will be undergoing a complete renovation this spring with hopes of being reopened by June of 2016.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Hearing no further comments from the Township Committee, Mayor Orgo opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Diana Piotrowski, a resident, requested information about a road closure on Phalanx Road. Mayor Orgo reported that there was a tree downed during the wind storm that impacted telephone and electrical wires that required repair. The Mayor reported that the work was complete and the road has been reopened.

Mr. Jeffrey Sauter, a resident, in connection with Mr. Bartolomeo's comments shared that after his grandmother broke her arm she never fully recovered. Further, Mr. Sauter commended Mr. Fitzgerald for his efforts in connection with the Farm Sanctuary matter and suggested a resolution be drafted voicing opposition. Mr. Sauter also expressed his sympathy in connection with the passing of Mrs. Wilcox. Regarding OPRA, Mr. Sauter sought guidance as to where to direct follow-up questions upon the fulfillment of his OPRA requests. Mayor Orgo and Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald directed Mr. Sauter to send his questions to the Township Attorney.

Ms. Judith Laufer, a resident, asked for clarification of a parsonage and reported that she believes a resident has deemed their home a parsonage and has begun holding services. Ms. Laufer expressed concern that this may result in increased traffic in the neighborhood.

Ms. Laufer also asked about the status of the recently removed mailbox at the post office. Mr. Bartolomeo reported that he was unsure as to the circumstances surrounding its removal but that he did not expect it to be put back in its original location due to the potential traffic hazards. Mr. Bartolomeo cautioned residents from parking in front of the post office and then leaving their vehicle to drop off their mail reminding them that this is not only dangerous but also a traffic violation. Mayor Orgo offered that many of the area office buildings and shopping centers have mailboxes that the public are welcome to use.

6. **MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

RECORD OF VOTE					
Committeeman	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Orgo		X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	S	X			
Macnow		X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
Eastman					X
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Kathleen Capristo, RMC  
Deputy Municipal Clerk