

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
May 1, 2012
Regular Meeting

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Scott at 6 p.m. noting the meeting date, time and place were duly published in the New Jersey Herald and posted at the Town Hall and advised those present that this meeting was being held in compliance with provisions of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13.

Roll Call was taken and the flag was saluted.

PRESENT: Mayor Scott, Committeewoman Chammings, Committeeman Gross, Committeewoman Straway, and Acting Municipal Clerk Lynda Knott.

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Fisher

Regular Session:

CONSENT AGENDA:

ALL MATTERS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE IN NATURE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THE ITEMS. IF ANY DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT PARTICULAR ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPERATELY ON THE REGULAR AGENDA.

Regular Minutes: April 17, 2012

Executive Minutes: April 3, 2012

Resolutions:

2012-059 Authorizing Payment of Redemption, Block 4207, Lot 15

2012-060 Supporting Full Reinstatement and Permanent Open Space Pilot Fund

2012-061 Renewing Campground License for North Shore House LLC

2012-062 Authorizing the Issuance of Raffle License RA2012-006 for Stillwater Recreation League

Mr. Gross made a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Straway.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

Bill List Cycle #9: \$123,112.43

Mrs. Straway made a **motion** to approve Bill List Cycle #9, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

Open Public Session (Agenda Items Only):

Rob Jacoby, Vice President of the Historical Society of Stillwater Township read the following statement into the record:

The Historical Society of Stillwater Township expresses its concern about the current status and future condition of the former Swartwood Methodist Church, also known as the former Township Municipal Court. Built in 1856, the former church is one of the oldest extant buildings in the Swartwood section of Stillwater. The church exhibits an eclectic combination of gothic, Greek Revival and Georgian architectural elements, distinguishing itself from other religious structures of the period.

In 1975 Swartwood United Methodist Church and Stillwater United Methodist Church merged to form Harmony Hill United Methodist Church. The merged congregations retained the Stillwater church and in 1976 sold the Swartwood building to the Township for one dollar (Sussex County Deed Book 980, Page 1074). This was more than just a financial transaction, however, for by signing the deed the Township committed itself to:

“Agree that it will maintain the exterior of the structure in substantially its present architectural form as a historical building and that said premises and the structures thereon shall forever be dedicated to use for public facilities and that title thereto may be conveyed by the Grantee to another agency so long as the premises shall be used for worthwhile governmental, civic, charitable, or similar nonprofit functions.”

From 1976 to 2010 the Township utilized the building as its municipal court, with the attached addition housing its police department. With the dissolution of the Township police department and the removal of the municipal court to shared quarters with Wantage and Sussex, the former Swartwood Church is unutilized and, over time, will be increasingly susceptible to structural injury.

The HSST believes that the character of historic Swartswood is enhanced by the presence of the former church building. We therefore recommend that the Township Committee formulate a plan to find an appropriate tenant or new owner to occupy and maintain the building in accordance with the provisions of the 1976 deed.

Respectfully,

The Historical Society of Stillwater Township Executive Committee

Bob Grabowsky, President

Rob Jacoby, Vice President

Betty English, Recording Secretary

Maureen Block, Treasurer

Dennis Pegg, Corresponding Secretary

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Gross: The Recycling Center is doing well and free electronics disposal is now being offered. The issues with individuals stripping electronic parts has been resolved.

Ms. Chamblings: The Planning Board (PB) met on 4/18/12 and they are continuing to work on the ordinance for the open space government use zone. Ms. Chamblings has obtained a list of tax exempt properties from the Tax Assessor to be reviewed by the PB. They are also reviewing solar ordinances and some members may attend an upcoming ANJEC seminar on the topic. She asked that a copy of the 1999 Master Plan be made available at the Municipal Building and encouraged the public to review it. Ms. Chamblings will provide a copy of Resolution 2012-060 Supporting Full Reinstatement and Permanent Open Space Pilot Fund to the Environmental Commission. She asked the Township Committee to consider revisiting the preliminary approval for Block 3805, Lot 4.01. Correspondence has been received from Donna Traylor and Sandy Urgo and the item should be placed under Old Business to resolve. Mayor Scott indicated the item would be on the next agenda.

Mayor Scott: Mayor Scott reported he and Committeeman Gross attended the Mayor's Convention in Atlantic City. He further clarified Resolution 2012-060 Supporting Full Reinstatement and Permanent Open Space Funding, which has been cut by the State of New Jersey.

Mayor Scott reported the signs at Town Hall have been nicely refurbished by town resident Wayne Picun. The Mayor, Clerk and DPW Supervisor met with FEMA regarding the October snow storm reimbursement to the Township.

The DPW is currently preparing to cut the roadsides. The Mayor thanked and commended the County Sheriff's Department and SLAP for their work at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Old Business:

Pass It Along Bike Tour:

Sunday, September 16, 2012, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

The tour will utilize Route 521, Route 622, Route 619, and Route 610 through Stillwater. The fire departments and Rescue Squad have been notified.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Scott made a **motion** to approve Pass It Along Bike Tour on 9/16/12 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., seconded by Ms. Chamblings.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

Discussion:

Coin Toss for Swartswood Fire Department 5/26-5/28/12:

The engineering plan was submitted to the County as required.

Tammy Richardson, Swartswood Fire Department indicated approval was provided by the State Police, an insurance certificate has been obtained, and the plan was submitted to the County. The toss will be held in front of the Swartswood Firehouse on 5/26, 5/27 and 5/28.

Mayor Scott made a **motion** to approve the Swartswood Fire Department Coin Toss to be held during 5/26-5/28/12, seconded by Mrs. Straway.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

Municipal Clerk's Class Reimbursement:

Mr. Gross made a **motion** to reimburse the Acting Clerk, Ms. Knott, for the cost of her Clerk's courses which she passed, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Ms. Chammings asked for the total cost of the courses. Ms. Knott indicated it was between \$600-\$700 per course and she has completed two while employed by Stillwater. Ms. Chammings questioned if Ms. Knott would remain with Stillwater long term, and Mrs. Straway indicated the employee policy would be amended with respect to that issue.

Ms. Chammings **amended the motion** to reimburse the Acting Clerk, Ms. Knott, for the cost of two Municipal Clerk's courses not to exceed \$1,500, and pending amendments to the employee policy, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

New Business:

West End Drive/Duck Pond Road: Mayor Scott determined this matter would be placed on the May 15th agenda to allow sufficient time for Committee review as the document was just received today.

Certificate of Liability – Horse Ring/Show: Ms. Chammings recused herself at this time.

Attorney Cohen reviewed the Certificate of Insurance provided and found it to be sufficient. A copy was provided to the Township Insurance Agent. In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Gross, Mayor Scott indicated policing of access to the area by horse show participants and Recycling Center patrons has been addressed. Those wishing to use the Recycling Center will not be permitted past the gate until 9 a.m. when the center opens. The horse show commences at 7:30 a.m. and horse trailers will be entering the area beginning at 6 a.m. Mrs. Straway noted the agreement is not with Chaps and Breeches or 4-H, it is with the insured which is the Chammings Open Horse Show, the sponsoring organization. At this point, the Committee proceeded with the agenda, allowing Attorney Cohen time to review the facility use form.

Ms. Chammings rejoined the Committee at this time.

ORDINANCE #2012-003 Introduction/1st Reading (Public Hearing May 15, 2012):
Ordinance Fixing Salaries and Wages of Officers and Employee for the Year 2012.

Mr. Gross made a **motion** to introduce Ordinance 2012-003, seconded by Mrs. Straway.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

Ms. Chammings recused herself at this time.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public:

Denise Current, 955 Fairview Lake Road spoke on the horse show matter. There has been no history of any problems with access to and from the Recycling Center during shows, or other problems that have been associated with the Recycling Center such as dumping of garbage and not charging residents. She expressed concern that parking is provided for other programs and noted there are liability issues on those municipal properties such as individuals bringing their dogs to the fields. She felt the Committee needed to focus on all aspects of the community and not just special interests.

Mrs. Straway provided a brief history on the matter and clarified that it originated with the request for an additional ring, and a private property use spilling onto public property. Insurance became an issue when addressing that request and the agent recommended that the show be contained on the private property, including the parking. Another concern was the width of the access to and from the property and an increase in the use of the Recycling Center by patrons. She clarified that the matter was brought to the Township and was not political or personal.

Mr. Gross stated the matter was not political and noted the Chammings have always made sure the property is immaculate following a horse show. He expressed concern with policing of access to the Recycling Center so there are no issues with trash being dropped off without payment before 9 a.m.

Mrs. Straway felt the private entity should be kept on private property and not mixed with municipal property.

Mayor Scott made a **motion** to approve the use, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, no, Mayor Scott, yes

Ms. Chamming explained the organization is not private it is a 503C organization and is still the Chaps and Breeches, Inc., only the name was changed to the Chamming Open Horse Show. If she had known it was going to be part of the discussion based upon a facility use request, she would have provided the by-laws and charter of the 503C non-profit organization.

Bob Fritsch, 1009 Stillwater Road commented that there is a large piece of property located alongside the Recycling Center with more than sufficient room for parking.

There being no further comment on the horse show, Ms. Chamming rejoined the Committee.

Kathy Fobes-Jacoby, Environmental Commission, asked about replacement of the bright light in the parking lot. Mayor Scott indicated it would be changed to a motion sensor light during future renovations.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Mayor Scott informed the public that Donald Ploetner, candidate for Freeholder, was present at the meeting.

Attorney Report: Attorney Cohen reported an answer was filed on behalf of the Township in response to the Nextel complaint. He also sent out a letter regarding the Stillwater Inn matter, requesting a response if there was any further communication necessary.

There being no further business, Mrs. Straway made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m., seconded Mr. Gross. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder