

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 3, 2012**  
**Regular Meeting**

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Deputy Mayor Fisher at 7 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: Deputy Mayor Fisher, Committeewoman Chammings, Committeeman Gross, Committeewoman Straway, and Acting Municipal Clerk Lynda Knott.

ABSENT: Mayor Scott

**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.**

**Minutes:** Township Committee Regular – 6/19/12; Board of Health – 6/19/12

**Report:** Tax Collector Report from 2012

**Resolutions:**

**2012-078** Authorize Lien Redemption for Block 603, Lot 1

**2012-079** Renewal of Liquor License for Mountain Brook Inn LLC

**2012-080** Adopt Sussex County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

**2012-081** Approval to Withdraw Funds in Accordance with COAH Spending Plan

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

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Deputy Mayor Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes

**Bill List Cycle #13:** \$769,636.73

Mrs. Straway made a **motion** to approve Bill List Cycle #13, seconded by Mr. Gross.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Deputy Mayor Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes

Ms. Chammings asked what the budget amount was for Stillwater Day, noting \$1,800 has been expended to this point. Mr. Fisher indicated the total appropriation was \$2,500.

**Amendments to the Agenda:**

-Ms. Knott reported that Sussex County Habitat for Humanity has withdrawn their application for the donation of the Plymouth Lake property and this item would be removed from the agenda.

-Mrs. Straway added Southwestern Municipal Alliance under Discussion.

-Mr. Gross asked to add the Stillwater Inn under Old Business due to concerns expressed by residents. The Committee felt the issue should not be discussed without the Township Attorney present. Mr. Fisher reported the demolition permit has been applied for.

**Open Public Session (Agenda Items Only):**

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Mrs. Straway:** Stillwater School Board of Education is actively trying to fill the vacant Assistant Principal position. Sixty-six applicants have applied. Kathy Fobes-Jacoby, a member of the Environmental Commission, attended the last BOE meeting to inquire if there was interest in partnering with Sustainable Jersey, and there was a positive response.

**Mr. Gross:** The Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting was held on June 25, 2012 and declared the Cellco Partnership application for a cell tower on Fairview Lake Road complete.

**Ms. Chammings:** The Planning Board met on June 20, 2012 and reviewed sample solar ordinances, and also a zone change to Recreation/Conservation (R/C) to protect publically owned properties and the future development of such. The ordinance will be closely modeled after the R/C zone in Fredon. She encouraged anyone interested to attend the Planning Board meetings.

**Mr. Fisher:** A sales representative attended the last Recreation Commission meeting and presented the following playground information for Veterans' Memorial Park:

Burke	\$85,000 equipment
	\$32,400 installation
Big Toys	\$139,000 equipment (67% recycled material)
	\$47,000 installation
Matting:	\$30,000 w/drain pad

Photographs of each playground option were displayed for the Committee and public. Mr. Fisher stated the project could be funded by obtaining grants and through fundraising.

He reported Stillwater Day was very successful and would be held at the same venue next year with additional activities. Garage Sale Day will be held on July 14, 2012 with a registration deadline of July 9<sup>th</sup>. The maps will be available at the town hall and local businesses free of charge.

**ORDINANCE #2012-005 Introduction:** Public Hearing: July 17, 2012

**ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 275 OF THE STILLWATER TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "OPERATION OF TOWNSHIP MOTOR VEHICLES" AND PROVIDING CERTAIN STANDARDS WITH REFERENCE TO OPERATION**

Mrs. Straway provided a brief history of the ordinance. Mrs. Straway made a **motion** to introduce Ordinance #2012-005, seconded by Ms. Chammings.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Deputy Mayor Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes

**DISCUSSION:**

**Purchase of Tractor with Mowing System:**

Mrs. Straway provided a brief history on problems with the current side arm mower originating in 2010. The parts were purchased from Italy and all replacement parts have to be ordered from that country. Ms. Chammings expressed concern with ordering a \$40,000, 85hp tractor that will only be used for one purpose. Mrs. Straway indicated that Mr. Hendershot has conducted thorough research with comparable pricing, spoke with other municipalities and worked with the CFO, resulting in joining the Middlesex Cooperative for the best pricing. Research was also conducted on the mower arm, and this specific tractor was necessary due to the weight of the arm. Mrs. Straway explained a letter of intent was sent and a production date set for July 21<sup>st</sup> based on authorization by Mayor Scott. Mrs. Straway felt Mayor Scott may have thought that when voting to join the Middlesex Coop, it implied the purchase of the tractor. Ms. Chammings was concerned that action was not taken to do so. Ms. Chammings would like to obtain more information from Mr. Hendershot and she expressed concern with the commitment for \$83,000 and the questionable necessity of a mower with a 17 foot reach. Ms. Knott stated there is a 2 year, 2,000 hour warranty on the tractor and a 1 year unlimited hour warranty on the mower. Transportation is provided by the company for any repairs at no cost during the warranty period. Mrs. Straway expressed frustration with the process and the lack of time to act on such, however she has discussed the matter with Mr. Hendershot and is satisfied that he did the necessary research and due diligence to get the best product at the best price.

Mrs. Straway made a **motion** to purchase the tractor/mower at a cost of \$82,692.45, seconded by Mr. Gross.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, no, Deputy Mayor Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes

**Bike to Beat Epilepsy – Epilepsy Foundation of NJ:** Event to be held October 14, 2012, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Routes 619, 612, 521, and 622, Certificate of Insurance has been submitted.

Mrs. Straway made a **motion** to approve the Bike to Beat Epilepsy, pending any other required approvals, to be held on October 14, 2012, seconded by Ms. Chammings.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Deputy Mayor Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes

**July 2, 2012 Letter - Robert Morgenstern to Lakeland Bank:**

Mr. Fisher reported that Mr. Morgenstern has forwarded a letter to Lakeland Bank instructing them not to release any monies to the State. He stated Stillwater is on schedule with their COAH Spending Plan. Ms. Chammings questioned the certification for Mrs. Fisher that did not include a total salary amount for her work on Affordable Housing. Ms. Knott explained due to time restrictions with the holiday she was unable to have the CFO certify the amount and will do so as soon as possible to be included in the Resolution. Ms. Chammings explained the COAH spending process and the commitment of the funding prior to July 17th, after which any monies not committed would go to the State. She explained \$94,000 has been collected since 2008 and approximately \$68,000 has been committed. Mrs. Straway clarified there is an additional allocation for any monies collected outside of the four years and it does not have to be committed at this time. Any funds above the amount that is included in the spending plan are not a factor at this time. Ms. Knott explained the rehabilitation process and the use of the funds as low cost loans. Ms. Knott stated the COAH Spending Plan is available for inspection at the town hall or it can be provided through an email request.

**Southwestern Municipal Alliance:**

Mrs. Straway provided a brief history on the Alliance grant. She asked the Committee to consider withdrawing from the Alliance as the benefit to the community is minimal with limited participation, and managing the grant can be a full-time job. Other municipalities are passing resolutions to withdraw from the program and she asked the Committee to do so. The Committee agreed to place this item on the next agenda.

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

**Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road** asked for clarification on the allocation of \$35,000 for a consultant and \$200,000 for the revaluation. Ms. Knott stated Mr. Steckowich may be referring to Resolution 2012-076 appropriating funding for the revaluation.

Mr. Steckowich suggested borrowing a County tractor or have the County do the work for a month or so to allow the Committee additional time to make a decision on the purchase.

He referred to past Committee discussions regarding discontinuing the acquisition of open space at this time, and he asked why the residents are still being required to pay the open space tax if no further acquisitions will be made. Mrs. Straway explained the tax was approved by referendum and is in effect until 2015. The tax is for acquisition, development and maintenance of open space and is at the minimum of .05 cents.

Mr. Steckowich asked if mulch for the playground could be obtained from the landfill. Mr. Fisher indicated it has to be specialized and Ms. Chammings stated it must be certified to not contain any pesticides.

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

There being no further business, Mrs. Straway made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gross. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder