

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
September 17, 2013
Regular Meeting

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Gross at 6:00 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 Gross, Committeewoman Chamblings, Committeeman Fisher, Deputy Mayor Scott, Committeewoman Straway, Acting Municipal Clerk Lynda Knott, Labor Attorney Howard Vex and Municipal Attorney Mike Garofalo.

ABSENT:

Executive Session:

After the reading of the following Resolution to enter into Executive Session, a **motion** was made by **Mr. Scott**, seconded by **Mrs. Straway** and carried by roll call vote to adopt the resolution permitting the Committee to go into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Personnel/Contract – Certified Public Works Manager Exemption, Shared Services Fire Inspector; Personnel/Potential Litigation – Former Employee Health Benefits.
3. As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

There being no further business to attend to, a **motion** was made by **Mr. Fisher**, seconded by **Mrs. Straway** to conclude the Executive Session at 7:00 p.m., unanimously carried by roll call vote.

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 SEPARATELY ON THE REGULAR AGENDA.

Minutes:

July 16, 2013 Executive Minutes

September 3, 2013 Regular and Executive Minutes

Resolutions:

2013-094 Mayor's Appointment of Michael Kokkelink as an Active Member of the Swartswood Fire Department with Committee Concurrence – Tabled to October 1, 2013 Meeting

Reports:

Building Department August 2013
Stillwater Emergency Rescue Squad August Day and Monthly Calls 2013
Environmental Minutes August 12, 2013
Tax Collector Report August 2013
Stillwater Recreation Commission Minutes August 5, 2013

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by **Ms. Chammings**.
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Scott, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Gross, yes

Resolution 2013-095: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the NJDOT for the Reconstruction of Sprout Hill Road project:

Mr. Scott made a **motion** for approval of the DOT grant application, seconded by **Mrs. Straway**.
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Scott, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Gross, yes

Resolution 2013-096: Bill List Cycle #16: \$164,625.90

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve Bill List Cycle #16, seconded by **Mr. Fisher**.
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Scott, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Gross, yes

Amendments to the Agenda: none

Open Public Session:

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:

Ms. Chammings: The Environmental Commission is continuing to look at the ordinance for the Recycling Center to see if it can be revamped. Stillwater is ineligible for the preservation grant due to the fact that we are not in that region. The PAC meeting was held on September 12, 2013. There was a presentation by Nathaniel Sajak with some information about agricultural grants. Ms. Chammings asked him to come speak to some of the farmers in Stillwater that are near watersheds. Camp Hoover isn't listed under ground water discharge. All other Township camps are on the list. She will bring up the omission at the next meeting. The Planning Board is meeting on September 18, 2013.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Fisher has looked into the Recycling Center ordinance with regards to truckloads of debris being dumped in the bulk dumpster. The ordinance states all garbage must be bagged and weighed on the scale. Someone has been dumping trash in the bulk dumpster after pulling around to the recycling area. The license plate number and make of the car have been given to the Zoning Officer. The Zoning Officer researched the owner through the State Police and has sent a \$30.00 fine for illegal dumping. Mr. Fisher would like to revisit the illegal dumping ordinance breaking down the \$30.00 fine to specify a \$25.00 fine for illegal dumping and a \$5.00 fee for paperwork. He would like to consider replacing the shed at the Recycling Center with a scale house. Renovations have begun on the Municipal Building: the new concrete floor has been poured, the framing for the new windows is done, interior walls have been framed and prepared for insulation and they are preparing the ceiling for insulation.

Mr. Scott: There is now a lock on the gate at the Recycling Center to prevent illegal dumping that had been occurring during the week. The trucks needed for snow plow/removal are being looked at to see what work needs to be done in preparation for the winter.

Mrs. Straway: The carton recycling program at the school is going well. The custodians have seen virtually no mess from the program. Solid waste has been reduced by one 30 gallon bag per day, and the weight has been reduced significantly due to the reduced liquid weight in the bags. JCP&L were the

guests at the Sussex County League meeting. They gave an update on changes they have made since the last storm. There is a new area representative who will be in the Newton office making it easy to reach her. She has offered to come speak at a Township meeting. They have a new program called My Town that residents may be interested in, and a new app is available for smart phones that shows outages in your town allowing you to zoom in to the actual street. As a part of the League, each municipality is being asked to join in a resolution stating: for a project costing \$100,000 or less the prevailing wage be suspended, and for tax appeals the school and the county will also have to refund. She asked the Committee members to consider these and she will then let the League know if Stillwater Township will join in the resolution.

Mayor Gross: The next Zoning Board meeting will be held on September 23, 2013. A couple of applications will be heard. Mayor Gross asked to have the discussion about the new ambulance and fire truck moved to the October 1, 2013 meeting so the CFO will be able to attend. The Committee members agreed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Amendment to Chapter 382 Trees: Jack Branagan had a discussion with the Zoning Officer about making a change in the wording of the ordinance for lots less than one acre. The Committee is waiting for an update from the Zoning Officer. Further discussion of the amendment will be carried over to the October 1, 2013 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on Municipal Building: An update on the renovations was given in Mr. Fisher's Committee Report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Proposed Amendment to Land Development Ordinance: Discussion was held over to the October 1, 2013 meeting.

Ambulance/Fire Truck: Committee discussion was moved to the October 1, 2013 meeting to include the CFO. The public was allowed to speak.

Michele Hess, Captain-Stillwater Rescue Squad, wanted to speak to why the squad would like a second 4-wheel drive ambulance. The squad was lucky to get their recent replacement ambulance with 4-wheel drive, but the vehicle is very large and cannot get into many areas. These are the same areas where the squad vehicles get stuck, especially in the snow and mud. She was unable to get a trade-in value on the current ambulance. The company needs to see the ambulance first. Both ambulances will be going in for winter service soon and they can give an amount for a trade-in or buy-out at that time. This is the same company that had two demos available for purchase. One of the demos has already been sold. The other will be available for purchase as of October 1, 2013. Mrs. Straway stated she would like to see what the cost of a 2-wheel drive would be. Mrs. Hess stated it will be substantially lower, but the squad would be in the same situation of getting stuck in many areas.

Mayor Gross informed the attending Rescue Squad and Fire Department members the safety meeting being held on September 19, 2013. He will contact the Swartwood Fire Department to inform them as well.

Bill Hughes, Lieutenant-Stillwater Fire Department, gave a brief description of an issue with the door at the fire house. The trucks are outside so it will not be a problem.

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

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road, spoke about phone calls he made to PSE&G about the contractors starting work on Hardwick Road and the possible contamination of his well. He showed the Committee water filters from his house. There was a discussion of the condition of his water. Mrs. Straway stated

the problem is between Mr. Steckowich and PSE&G. Mr. Scott recommended contacting the County Health Department.

Ed Szabo, 978 Rte 521, stated there is a Taxpayers meeting at the Town Hall on September 19, 2013 at 7:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Dawn Metzger from the Samaritan Inn.

Lois Chammings, 956 Fairview Lake Road, asked Mrs. Straway for clarification as to why Mr. Steckowich's problem is not the Township's business. Mrs. Straway stated because it is private property. PSE&G has gotten all the necessary permits. If a private citizen has a claim that the work being done is impacting their property the issue is between them and PSE&G. There has been a procedure put into place by PSE&G to handle these situations. If Mr. Steckowich had not gotten a response when he contacted PSE&G, the Township would have stepped in on his behalf.

Marion Gross, 912 Stillwater Road, stated if her well was contaminated she would be very upset and sees nothing wrong with Mr. Scott recommending placing a call to the County Health Department. Ms. Chammings relayed a safety concern that had been brought to her about the PSE&G trucks and the bus stops. The concern was brought to PSE&G and addresses by them as soon as the company's liaison returned from vacation. The town can become involved in areas of safety. She also suggested Mr. Steckowich contact land use at NJDEP concerning permits. The township is not able to interfere with PSE&G as per the agreement referred to by Mrs. Straway. There was discussion about the settlement amount from PSE&G and how it can/will be used.

Bill Steckowich spoke about a truckload of soil he saw being dumped and concerns of where the contractors were bringing it from.

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

Attorney Report: None

Correspondence: Mayors' Advisory Correspondence is available in the Correspondence Binder at the Municipal Building.

The meeting then moved into Executive Session# 2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Personnel/Contract – Certified Public Works Manager Exemption and Shared Service Fire Marshall.

There being no further business to attend to, a **motion** was made by **Mr. Fisher**, seconded by **Mrs. Straway** to conclude the Executive Session at 8:30 p.m., unanimously carried by roll call vote.

There being no further business, **Mr. Scott** made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, seconded by **Mrs. Straway**. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Leonard