

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
October 1, 2013
Regular Meeting

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Gross at 7:00 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, and Attorney Mike Garofalo.

ABSENT:

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:

September 17, 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 – Pulled for a Separate Vote

2013-097 Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Statements of Consent for NJDEP Applications on Behalf of Fairview Lake YMCA Camp

2013-098 Authorizing Payment of Redemption – Block 4402 Lot 7

2013-099 Authorizing Payment of Redemption – Block 506 Lot 5

2013-100 Authorizing a Change in Monetary Amount of Change Fund – Recycling Center

Reports:

SCBOH Report August 2013

Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes from July 22, 2013

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by **Mr. Fisher**.

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

Resolution 2013-094: Mayor's Appointment of Michael Kokkelink as an Active Member of the Swartswood Fire Department with Committee Concurrence

Mrs. Straway stated she would like to vote on the resolution separately because she opposes how appointments to the fire departments are done.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to approve the appointment, seconded by **Mr. Fisher**.

Mr. Scott stated the fire departments have committees that look into the appointments and he trusts their judgment. Mrs. Straway stated tax payer dollars are spent every time there is an appointment. The town doesn't receive any documentation showing when they start as members, their training, etc. Mayor Gross

stated he had a meeting with Mr. Kokkelink, who is a high school student, and following the meeting he feels supportive of the appointment.

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

Resolution 2013-101: Bill List Cycle #17: \$785,991.92

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve Bill List Cycle #17, seconded by **Ms. Chamblings**.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chamblings, 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:

Mr. Scott: The Committee members received a memo concerning the purchase of grits. The recommendation from the road foreman is to purchase the grits from North Church Gravel at \$9.22 per ton. This is not the lowest price, but it is a better quality of grit.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to purchase grits from North Church Gravel, seconded by **Mr. Fisher**.

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

Mrs. Straway: There was an article in the newspaper about the carton recycling program at the school. Per discussion with the school custodian, the program is going very well. The League of Municipalities meeting will be held on October 9, 2013. They are doing a program based on the substance abuse epidemic in the county. They are expecting a large turnout.

Mr. Fisher: The Recycling Center took in 42 lbs of cartons from the school this week. Rick Nothstine resigned from the Recreation Commission. Mr. Fisher would like a letter sent to Mr. Nothstine thanking him for his service. Ms. Chamblings asked how many openings are currently on the Rec. Commission. Mr. Fisher stated there is one alternate who can now be made a full member.

There was then discussion about the types of trash bags used for the carton recycling program at the school. Ms. Chamblings asked Mr. Fisher if there was a plan for the clay sitting at Swartswood field. Mr. Scott is writing a letter to SLAP about spreading the clay.

Ms. Chamblings: The Planning Board has given the Committee an ordinance to consider concerning site plan waiver. If the Committee is in agreement, the first reading of the ordinance will be at the October 15, 2013 meeting. The ordinance will cut down the expense to the land owner. The next Planning Board meeting will now be November 13, 2013 where they will discuss GIS applications. The solar ordinance was also discussed. The Planning Board has a vacancy and two alternate vacancies.

Mayor Gross: There was one applicant at the last Zoning Board meeting. They were told they needed more information, and they will be back at the next meeting. Mr. Gross quoted NJ Assembly Bill 2007 introduced on June 29, 1998 stating "wearing an authorized Fire Police badge on the left breast of the outermost garment while on duty". He would like to revisit the decision not to purchase fire police badges. He feels the badges are necessary according to the law. Discussion followed. Mrs. Straway would like to get an accounting from the fire departments of how the contributions are spent. She also feels the badges should read "Stillwater Township Fire Police". There was discussion of the funding of the fire departments. Mayor Gross asked Stillwater Fire Chief Pavone how many fire police they have. He stated two or three, but wasn't sure. They purchased their own badges years ago. There was further discussion about the fire department budgets.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to approve purchase of Fire Police badges, seconded by **Mr. Fisher**.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE# 2013-007 Public Hearing and Adoption

Amending Chapter 10 “Board of Recreation Commissioners” to provide for two alternate members.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to open discussion to the public, seconded by **Ms. Chamblings**.

There being no members of the public wanting to speak, the meeting was closed to the public.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to adopt the amendment to the ordinance, seconded by **Ms. Chamblings**.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Proposed Amendment to Land Development Ordinance: Discussion was held over to the October 15, 2013 meeting.

Ambulance/Fire Truck:

Michele Hess, Captain-Stillwater Emergency Rescue Squad, the cost for an E450 van type ambulance, with a gas engine, is approximately \$155,000. The 4-wheel drive demo with a diesel engine, which is still available, is \$156,000. A 4-wheel drive ambulance would be preferable, due to the fact that she has had to transport patients from their homes to the ambulance in her personal vehicle. The police used to help transport to the ambulance in their 4-wheel drive vehicles. The ambulance is over 13 years old and has needed many repairs. She has worked hard to find a good price and feels it is necessary. She has been told about a website where the old ambulance could be sold outright for a much better price than the trade-in value. Mayor Gross asked the CFO if the ambulance purchase was budgeted for this year. The capital budget is a plan, and everything must be put through by ordinance. Nothing is a given. There was a plan for an \$187,000 ambulance purchase. It is not funded. The Township would need to figure out the funding. Ms. Chamblings was given a letter by Diana Nause stating the need for two ambulances. The letter will be distributed to the Committee.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** for the CFO to certify funding for the demo ambulance at \$156,000, seconded by **Ms. Chamblings**.

Mayor Gross pointed out the town is still paying off the ambulance which was totaled earlier this year. There was discussion about the size of the current 4-wheel drive ambulance and the ability to fit into certain areas.

Jim Pavone, Chief-Stillwater Fire Department, the fire department started putting specs together for a new truck over a year ago and asked the Committee if there were any plans in the future to replace the tanker. They were told to go ahead and put a spec together. They worked hard on it and believe they did a great job. They are now at an impasse and want to know if this will be moving ahead. They don't know what the cost will be; it would need to go out to bid. He believes it will be in the range of \$350,000 to \$400,000. The fire department's truck committee also thought they would be able to keep the current tanker for a backup, but have heard that may not be the case and would like clarification. The trade-in value would be very low. They feel it would be more cost effective and beneficial to the town to keep the 23 year old tanker. Mayor Gross stated he is proud of the current tanker, but Swartswood Fire Department has a tanker serving as a backup already, which was purchased by the fire department. There was discussion about the specs and bidding process. Chief Pavone stated the department originally had four pieces of apparatus. In 2003, when they acquired the Pierce pumper, they gave up two pieces of apparatus. Purchasing the new tanker would bring them back up to their original four pieces. Mayor Gross pointed out those pieces were purchased by the fire department, not the town. The cost of insurance, maintenance and repairs needs to be considered. Chief Pavone stated if the purchase is put off for a few years, the cost could be closer to \$500,000 at that point. Due to how the current tanker would

be used if a new tanker were purchased, Chief Pavone doesn't feel the cost of repair/maintenance would be very high. He stressed that having water available is extremely important when fighting a fire. Ms. Chamblings asked about the amount of water needed for various fires. Discussion followed about the amount of water needed for different types of fires. There was also discussion about mutual aid.

Eric van der Haeghen, Chairman-Stillwater Fire Department, the department met with manufacturers but only to see what was available, and they did all their own research before meeting with anyone. The entire spec given to the Township Committee was written by the fire department, not the manufacturers. There are four manufacturers in New Jersey that are allowed to do state bid; they can be told what is wanted and they can say how much it will be. The NFPA, National Fire Protection Association, allows 15 years on a piece of front line fire apparatus. The current tanker is 23 years old, so technically cannot be a front line truck. It can transport water, it can pump water, but it cannot go to a fire. If a new truck isn't going to be purchased, they need to look into refurbishing the existing truck to bring it up to NFPA standards. Mrs. Straway stated Fredon has one tanker, Hampton has one tanker, Swartswood has one tanker. Why is the Swartswood tanker not the town's front line truck? There was discussion about the number of trucks in neighboring towns. Mr. Fisher asked how much it would cost to refurbish the truck. Mr. van der Haeghen stated it would not be cost effective to refurbish the truck. The body and tank would need to be taken off and put on a whole new chassis with all the updates. Mr. Fisher asked about new brakes. New brakes are in the budget but haven't been done yet. There was some discussion about the motor. Mr. Fisher asked if they could get some estimates on the cost of a refurbish. The department feels that based on the money that has been put into the current tanker, and its sentimental value, they would like to see it stay in town. Mayor Gross asked if the town were to give the tanker to the department and leave them responsible for the insurance and upkeep would they take it. They stated they would be open to the option. Mayor Gross turned the discussion over to the CFO. Dana Mooney stated the town just took out a bond anticipation note. Stillwater doesn't have any formal bonding, meaning the town takes out temporary notes and each note can go for 10 years. A bond anticipation note was just taken out in September for 1,401,900.00. This includes many ordinances over the past 10 years including the renovations to the Municipal Building. The town got an excellent interest rate of 0.9712. Mrs. Mooney explained the town's debt situation to the Committee. The town's total current debt is \$1,462,910.00. There is also an indirect pledged debt of approximately \$50,000 for the Rescue Squad's lifts. As of the beginning of 2013, the town's surplus was \$1,774,304.00. The town used \$500,000 in the 2013 budget, leaving \$1,264,304.00. By the end of the year, appropriations from the 2012 budget will be retired and added to the surplus totaling \$460,000.00. Including miscellaneous fees, the town is expected to have \$1,777,000.00 in surplus by the end of 2013. If the town takes on any more debt, from the purchase of a new ambulance or fire truck, it will be added to the note that will be taken out next year. Mrs. Mooney also pointed out money that has been borrowed but not used yet. This should be looked at to see if it should be used or canceled to reduce the town's debt. Mayor Gross asked about the payments for the revaluation. That will be paid off over five years. Mayor Gross stated tax appeals could affect the town next year.

Best Practices: Mrs. Mooney reviewed the State's Best Practices with the Committee, which are guidelines the State wants municipalities to follow in order to receive funding. The Committee answered enough questions affirmatively to maintain 100% of the town's state aid.

Green Team Community Challenge: The Green Team would like to challenge the residents to recycle and utilize the Recycling Center. This would increase the town's tonnage which increases the town's grant money. This will not cost the town anything; it is simply a matter of educating the public. There was a booth at the Fall Fest which was very well attended. Mrs. Straway would like the Committee to consider two ways the town can add to its tonnage: 1) having teams that utilize the town fields recycle at their practices and games, to be picked up later by the DPW, and 2) having the town camps institute a recycling program, and bring the recycling to the Recycling Center. Ms. Chamblings suggested asking the Rec. Commission if they would add the recycling request to the field use forms for 2014. Mrs. Straway would like to approach Fairview Lake YMCA Camp first concerning recycling. The Committee agreed.

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

Kathy Fobes-Jacoby, 964 Mt. Holly Road, regarding the new ambulance and fire truck, asked if the town has received money from PSE&G. Mrs. Straway stated the PSE&G money is readily available and \$150,000 can be used for fire and rescue. Mrs. Fobes-Jacoby wanted to point out the town has some money available, that doesn't need to be bonded, that could be put toward new trucks. She also stated she agrees with Mayor Gross that learning about recycling begins at home.

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road, stated he has been in contact with PSE&G contractors but will keep it private. Mrs. Straway stated if they do not respond to him, he should let the Committee know and they will step in. He wanted to tell the fire department truck committee he appreciates all the work they did compiling the specs for the new truck. He does, however, think the department or the Township Committee should seek a professional to write a more simplified specification.

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.

There being no further business, **Mr. Scott** made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm, seconded by **Mrs. Straway**. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Leonard