

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
November 14, 2016
Regular Meeting

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by 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: Committeeman Gross, Committeeman Morrison, Committeewoman Chammings, Mayor Fisher, Municipal Clerk Lynda Knott, Township Attorney Angelo Bolcato.

ABSENT: Deputy 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 SEPARATELY ON THE REGULAR AGENDA.

MINUTES:

Regular Minutes of October 18, 2016

RESOLUTIONS:

2016-120 Mayor's Acceptance of the Resignation of Greg Chontow as Electrical Subcode Official with Committee Concurrence

2016-121 Amending Employee Handbook to Require Authorization for Outside Employment

2016-122 Cancelling General Capital Balances

2016-123 Township Committee's Appointment of Eric van der Haeghen as Alternate #1 of the Zoning Board of Adjustment

REPORTS:

Convenience Center Report – September 2016

Building Department Report – October 2016

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

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Ms. Chammings, yes, Mayor Fisher, yes

BILLS LIST #17 \$1,894,403.56

RESOLUTION 2016-123 PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Morrison made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2016-123, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Ms. Chammings, yes, Mayor Fisher, yes

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Add Under New Business: Millings

Open Public Session:

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

Robert Molinet, 901 Five Points Lane expressed concern with millings being used by residents. Over the last week five neighboring properties to his have received and spread millings improperly, not in compliance with NJDEP regulations. His wife is pregnant and they have health concerns due to the carcinogens associated with the millings. He has reached out to County and State agencies with no success. He asked the township to consider prohibiting millings by ordinance. Mr. Fisher explained that

the NJDEP regulations have been provided to the township attorney for his review and input. Mr. Fisher will be attending the League of Municipalities Conference and will try to obtain further information. **There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Motor Vehicle Authorization:

Ms. Knott stated that no one from EMS has submitted their authorization as of this date. Ms. Chamblings asked for a second request to be sent to the EMS Captain in pdf format. Ms. Knott will do so.

Reduction of Speed Limit and/or Signage Preventing Automobile Accidents near 1040 Mt.

Benevolence Road:

Ms. Knott will ask Mr. Vreeland to look at this location and also Five Points. Mr. Morrison questioned if shrubbery could be causing a site distance issue; Ms. Chamblings agreed it was. Mr. Morrison suggested reviewing the ordinances in place and possibly amending them accordingly.

Tennis Court at Stillwater Park – Restoration:

Ms. Knott has not heard back from the two companies she contacted. She will inquire further at the League of Municipalities Conference.

Gadsden Flag:

Mayor Fisher read the following history of the Gadsden flag into the record:

The origins of the Gadsden flag, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps

By 1775, the snake symbol wasn't just being printed in newspapers. It was appearing all over the colonies: on uniform buttons, on paper money, and of course, on banners and flags.

The snake symbol morphed quite a bit during its rapid, widespread adoption. It wasn't cut up into pieces anymore. And it was usually shown as an American timber rattlesnake, not a generic serpent.

We don't know for certain where, when, or by whom the familiar coiled rattlesnake was first used with the warning "Don't Tread on Me."

We do know when it first entered the history books.

In the fall of 1775, the British were occupying Boston and the young Continental Army was holed up in Cambridge, woefully short on arms and ammunition. At the Battle of Bunker Hill, Washington's troops had been so low on gunpowder that they were ordered "not to fire until you see the whites of their eyes." In October, a merchant ship called The Black Prince returned to Philadelphia from a voyage to England. On board were private letters to the Second Continental Congress that informed them that the British government was sending two ships to America loaded with arms and gunpowder for the British troops. Congress decided that General Washington needed those arms more than the British. A plan was hatched to capture the cargo ships. They authorized the creation of a Continental Navy, starting with four ships. The frigate that carried the information from England, the Black Prince, was one of the four. It was purchased, converted to a man-of-war, and renamed the Alfred.

To accompany the Navy on their first mission, Congress also authorized the mustering of five companies of Marines. The Alfred and its sailors and marines went on to achieve some of the most notable victories of the American Revolution. But that's not the story we're interested in here.

What's particularly interesting for us is that some of the Marines that enlisted that month in Philadelphia were carrying drums painted yellow, emblazoned with a fierce rattlesnake, coiled and ready to strike, with thirteen rattles, and sporting the motto "Don't Tread on Me."

Marion Gross, 912 Stillwater Road read the following into the record:

The Gadsden flag is named for American General Christopher Gadsden (1724-1805). It was used by the Continental Marines as an early motto flag designed in 1775 during the Revolutionary War. The marines chose it along with the Moultrie flag.

In modern times the Gadsden flag "Don't Tread on Me," has become a symbol of both American patriotism and a symbol of disagreement with government policies. It has a surge in popularity after 9/11 and has been used by U.S. Customs and now is flown on all active naval ships.

The Liberty flag also known as the Moultrie flag was named after Colonel William Moultrie to prepare for war with Britain. It was flown by his troops in the successful defense of Sullivan's Island against the British in June 1776.

Mr. Morrison explained that residents had complained the flag is a symbol of the Tea Party and should not be flown at Veteran's Memorial Park. Mr. Morrison felt it should remain as it has historical significance and Mr. Gross felt it should remain as it was the first Marine flag. Mr. Fisher suggested placing a plaque at the location of the flag to explain its background and importance in history.

Turnout Gear:

The Committee received a memo from the CFO indicating four sets of turnout gear were budgeted for in 2016. The fire department thought the budget included funding for five sets and ordered an additional set. The CFO can transfer funds to cover the cost of the additional gear. Ms. Chamblings stated the cost is \$3,200 per set. Mr. Gross expressed concern with the cost and asked that the fire department maintain the equipment to the fullest extent possible.

Justin Francomacaro, Stillwater Fire Department Chief, stated there must have been a miscommunication because the department planned to request five new sets per year to replace gear that is eight to nine years old in order to meet PEOSHA compliance and also space out the cost.

Mr. Morrison made a **motion** to authorize the CFO to make the necessary transfer of funds to cover the cost of the fifth set of turnout gear, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mayor Fisher, yes

Property Donations: Cartabona and Turnof

Ms. Knott reported that Mr. Cartabona and Mr. Turnof would like to donate their properties to the township. This has become a routine inquiry for the Clerk. They have offered the land to neighboring owners with no interest. Ms. Knott stated there are many abandoned and township lien properties and the Committee is considering foreclosing. She indicated she is in favor of donation as it is less costly. Mr. Bolcato stated it could be cheaper to accept donation vs. foreclosing, however if choosing foreclosure it would be more cost effective to do it in groups of properties. The CFO will provide a complete list of properties for Committee review. The majority of the properties are vacant lots. Ms. Chamblings and Mr. Morrison were concerned with setting a precedent by accepting the donation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Guiderail on Maple Avenue:

Ms. Knott asked the Committee for authorization to send a letter to the County requesting the installation of a guiderail in this area. There has been concern from the public regarding the safety of this curve and the close proximity of the pond. Ms. Chamblings felt there was no room to install or anchor a guiderail and she suggested asking the County for a plan to make the location safer. Ms. Knott will do so.

Electrical Subcode Official/Inspector:

Ms. Knott reported that Greg Chontow tendered his resignation effective the end of December. Two resumes have been submitted and Mayor Fisher stated the position will need to be advertised through Civil Service. Ms. Knott was concerned with the short time period in which to hire someone. Mr. Fisher asked the Clerk to advertise the position and then interviews would be set.

Budget Hearings:

Mr. Morrison asked for an update on the budget status. Ms. Knott stated the CFO is waiting for all requests to be submitted; she will follow up. Mr. Morrison asked for budget hearing dates to be added to the next agenda.

Attorney Report:

Mr. Bolcato reported that Mr. Vreeland and Ms. Leo are still working on the COAH Spending Plan. Ms. Knott received a draft today and commended Mr. Vreeland on his work. Ms. Chamblings asked for an update on the parking lot. Ms. Knott reported Mr. Vreeland's efforts have been focused on the COAH plan and once that is completed he will address the other projects. The plan is due December 10th.

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.

Zoning/Planning Board:

Ms. Knott reported that Mr. Pierce would like to serve on either the Planning or Zoning Board. Ms. Schemm has indicated the Planning Board currently has four openings. Ms. Knott asked if she could add the appointment of Mr. Pierce to the next agenda. The Committee agreed.

Recycling Center:

Mr. Morrison had a discussion with the Clerk regarding the difficulty with staffing the Recycling Center. He noted the wages are low and getting someone that wants to work both Saturday and Sunday is also difficult. Mr. Morrison asked for this item to be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

There being no further business, Mr. Gross made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Chamblings.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder