

**WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN**

**APRIL 7, 2010**

**OAKHURST, NEW JERSEY**

---

The Workshop Meeting was held in the Council Conference Room, Town Hall, 399 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Larkin  
Deputy Mayor Hiers, Councilmember(s) Garofalo, Schepiga, Siciliano

**Others:** Martin Arbus, Esq., Township Attorney  
Andrew Brannen, Township Manager  
Vincent Buttiglieri, Township Clerk

Mayor Larkin announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act for this meeting have been satisfied; a copy of the Annual Notice was sent to the Asbury Park Press and The Coaster, posted in Town Hall and filed in the Office of the Township Clerk on December 9, 2009.

Andrew Brannen, Township Manager, introduced Ray Pogwist and Ken Lutz from the Environmental Commission who wished to address the Council with regard to the following items:

1. Mr. Pogwist thanked Mr. Brannen and Michele Petito, Commission Secretary, for their dedication to the efforts of the Commission.

Mr. Pogwist thanked the Governing Body for getting them involved with the deer issue. The Commission has been able to bring both factions together to work towards the common good concerning this issue. Mr. Pogwist noted that it appears that the vegetation is the major issue in Joe Palaia Park. Mr. Pogwist reported that the group who favors the deer has now begun to work with those individuals who have been negatively impacted by the large deer population that inhabit the park.

The Environmental Commission has reached out to the AP Biology class in Ocean Township High School to begin to work on a project that will include tabulating the deer population.

The Environmental Commission will begin to examine if there are deer paths being formed which will allow the deer population to inhabit certain areas of the Township.

Deputy Mayor Hiers stated that perhaps the Environmental Commission can put the information regarding what is being done with regard to this situation on the Township website. Mr. Pogwist stated that the Commission was hoping to set up kiosks throughout the Township that would contain information regarding a number of environmental issues, including the deer issue.

2. Mr. Pogwist spoke about having Ocean Township establish Pest-Free Zones in all the Township parks. Mr. Pogwist provided the Council with a sample resolution that he had hoped the Council would consider.

If the Council does concur with passing said resolution, plaques will be placed at the entrances to all the affected parks noting that it is a pest-free zone.

3. Mr. Pogwist inquired if the Environmental Commission could have a liaison from the Council this way they would have a member of the governing body that they could forward information to and get direction from. Councilmember Schepiga gladly volunteered to serve in that capacity.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

At this juncture, Mr. Brannen introduced Police Chief Amodio and Lieutenant Resetar to discuss the following two issues:

**Subject:** Residential Alarm Program

Lt. Resetar reported that the Township has between 2,800-3,000 registered alarms. In 2009, the Police Department received 2,300 false alarms. The Township spends on average approximately 750 man hours per year answering false alarms. Lt. Resetar gave a breakdown of the number of false alarms that are activated between 1-5 times during the course of the year. In 2000, the Township had 134 alarms registered with the Township and in 2009, there were 247 alarms registered.

Lt. Resetar has calculated that the Township spends approximately \$61,000 per year on responding to false alarms, as follows:

2 Officers per call  
20 minutes per call  
2,300 false alarms per year  
767 hours  
\$40.00 per hour per officer

Lt. Resetar further noted that 80% of the false alarms received by the Township were preventable and 20% of the alarm users caused 80% of the false alarms. This further depicts the problem of repeat offenders with regard to false alarms.

Lt. Resetar explained the False Alarm Reduction Program in detail, explaining that there are no upfront costs to the Township. Also, the information that the Township currently has would be forwarded to the company that wins the contract and they would upload the current information, with that set-up taking approximately two months to complete. Also, current information would be solicited periodically from the company, which would enable the Township to have accurate information.

Lt. Resetar explained the benefits of moving forward with this program as: decrease the number of false alarms received, decrease the Township Risk and Liability insurance, and decrease "out of service" patrol time.

If the Township agrees to move forward with this program, the Township would prepare a Request for Proposal for an Alarm Billing Company, which in turn would take 20% of the alarm fees collected by the Township.

**Action:** The Council concurred with the benefits of this presentation and authorized the Police Department to move forward with implementing this new False Alarm Prevention Program.

**Subject:** Traffic Control

Once again, Lt. Resetar presented statistics denoting that there was a 22% increase in accidents from 2007 to 2008 and another 33% increase from 2008 to 2009.

Lt. Resetar explained the process to implement the Red Light Camera Program. The process is as follows:

1. The Township would prepare a bid/RFP
2. Once awarded, the contractor would perform a survey of the various Township intersections.

3. Based on the findings of the survey, the equipment would be installed at the desired intersections,

Lt. Resetar explained the benefits associated with the installation of these Red Light Camera's throughout the Township, as follows:

1. Live feed video at the desired intersection
2. Access to the images for criminal activity
3. Synchronize video fees

The cost for this program is as follows:

1. \$4,750 per intersection
2. \$19,000/intersection/month

Lt. Resetar explained that if Monmouth County participates in this program with the Township, the cost of the Township decreases by 50%, or \$9,500 per month. Lt. Resetar proceeded through the projected revenues that the Township would realize should this program be implemented.

**Action:** The Council concurred with the benefits of this presentation and authorized the Police Department to move forward with implementing the Red Light Camera Program.

At this time, Chief Amodio and Lt. Resetar gave the Council an update on the Accreditation Program that has been undertaken by the Police Department.

Lt. Resetar explained that there are 112 different professional standards that get evaluated during this process. The goal of becoming accredited is that the processes of the police departments become standardized.

Lt. Resetar explained the benefits of achieving accreditation. They are as follows:

1. Accountability
2. Reduced Risk and Liability Exposure
3. Stronger defense against civil lawsuits
4. Increased community support

Chief Amodio commended Lt. Resetar and all the officers that have been spear-heading this process, which is extremely detailed and involves looking at every procedure utilized in the Department and making sure it meets the criteria of what has been established industry-wide.

Mayor Larkin, and the entire Council, thanked Chief Amodio, Lt. Resetar, and all those involved in this process for their dedication to moving the Township's Police Department forward by receiving this accreditation.

**Subject:** Automated Garbage Update

Andrew Brannen, Township Manager, reported that based on past usage patterns, there is significantly more trash collected on Monday and Tuesday verses Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Brannen explained the new collection schedule. Mr. Brannen also stated that bulky waste collection will be going to one time per month from the two times per month it is currently being collected. Also, metals will be collected on the fifth Wednesday of every month.

Mr. Brannen also reported that there will be no restriction on the number of containers any one house can have, although the Township will be providing

one garbage and one recycling container. The cost for the additional containers will be \$55.00 per container.

Mr. Brannen reported that, based on the implementation of these revisions, the Township is expecting to realize approximately \$400,000 in savings by 2012.

Mr. Brannen also reported the following:

1. Handicapped residents will be treated the same as they currently are being treated.
2. The Township will initially purchase three new automated garbage trucks and will also be utilizing the existing trucks in this new process.

Mr. Brannen reminded the Council that there will be a presentation at the April 19, 2010 Public Meeting outlining the provisions of the program.

**Action:** The Council concurred moving forward with the implementation new program.

**Subject:** Sign Request

**Action:** The Council agreed to honor the dual signage requests for five (5) locations between April 1, 2010 – April 7, 2010.

**Subject:** Commercial Signage

**Action:** After discussion, and based on a review of the Zoning Officer and Director of Community Development, it was decided that no revisions to the existing sign ordinance should be undertaken at this time.

**Subject:** Residential Parking Restrictions

**Action:** Andrew Brannen, Township Manager, reported that a request had been received by the Township to restrict parking along a portion of a cul-de-sac in the Township. After discussion, it was decided that the Township did not want to establish such a restriction as it will just create a problem on another street in that area.

**Subject:** 2010 Budget Update

**Action:** Andrew Brannen, Township Manager, reported that, due to the recent decrease in State Aid, the Township has needed to make some drastic changes to the budget. The elimination of all open positions as well as reductions in various line items enabled the Township to cover the reduction in State Aid without having to increase taxes any more than previously agreed upon.

**Subject:** 2010 Road Program

**Action:** Andrew Brannen distributed a list of the roads slated to be repaved/reconstructed. Mr. Brannen explained that the funding for some of the roads have already been approved in previous ordinances, some are being paid for through grants and the funding for the remaining will be approved in this year's capital ordinance.

**Subject:** Rezoning Request

**Action:** Based on the report from James Higgins, Township Planner, it was decided to move forward with this rezoning request.

**Subject:** Active Transit Network Update

**Action:** Andrew Brannen, Township Manager, reported that the Township has received funding for the planning phase of this project. It was also decided that a staff member from the New Jersey Department of Transportation will perform the planning phase for the Township.

**Subject:** Athletic Field reservation Fees

**Action:** Andrew Brannen, Township Manager, reported that the Township and the Wanamassa Fire Company have a few small items to still agree upon with regard to the Fireman's Field Agreement. All outstanding items should be concluded in order to approve this at the April 19, 2010 meeting.

**Subject:** West Park Avenue Transportation Study

**Action:** Andrew Brannen, Township Manager, reported that the Township has begun discussions with Monmouth County regarding the traffic situation at the intersection of West Park Avenue and Route 35. Joseph Ettore, Monmouth County Engineer, will also be looking into this situation, however, any improvements will take time to come to fruition. Further discussions will occur. Mr. Brannen will report back with any update.

**Subject:** Sign Request

**Action:** The Council agreed to honor the dual signage requests for five (5) locations between April 12, 2010 – April 30, 2010.

### **COMMENTS:**

The following individuals did not issue a report at this meeting:

Councilmember(s) Garofalo, Hiers, Schepiga, Siciliano

Andrew Brannen, Township Manager

Martin Arbus, Esq., Township Attorney

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments at this time.

## **RESOLUTION DECLARING CLOSED SESSION**

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Ocean, County of Monmouth as follows:

1. The Public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Litigation – COAH Update

Contract – Land Sale

Contract – PBA/SOA/Local 701/ Local 77

Personnel – Employee Benefits

3. It is anticipated at this time that the Municipal Clerk shall on a six (6) month basis, review the minutes of closed sessions of the Township of Ocean and make a recommendation to the Governing Body which minutes should be considered for public record. The minutes which are made public shall not thereafter be treated as confidential but may be seen and copied by any person(s) in the same manner as any meeting minutes of the Township of Ocean.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Record of Vote	Deputy Mayor Hiers	Councilman Garofalo	Council-woman Schepiga	Councilman Siciliano	Mayor Larkin
Motion To Approve	X				
Motion to Second				X	
Approved	X	X	X	X	X
Opposed					
Not Voting/Recuse					
Absent/Excused					

Seeing that there were no additional comments, the meeting was adjourned.

Record of Vote	Deputy Mayor Hiers	Councilman Garofalo	Council-woman Schepiga	Councilman Siciliano	Mayor Larkin
Motion To Approve		X			
Motion to Second				X	
Approved	X	X	X	X	X
Opposed					
Not Voting/Recuse					
Absent/Excused					

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Buttiglieri, RMC/CMC  
Township Clerk