

**Township of Mansfield
Township Committee Meeting**

March 28, 2007

This is a regular meeting of the Mansfield Township Committee. The notice requirements of the law have been satisfied for this meeting by notice to the Star-Gazette and the Express Times of the time, date and location thereof. Notice was also posted on the announcement board located in the Municipal Building.

Roll Call: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin

Salute to the flag was done by all.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mr. Appleby made a motion to approve the bill list as presented which was seconded by Ms. Nerbak.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Mr. Mace stated that he had given the Township Committee a letter detailing the bids that had been received for the recreation driveway and walkway he would advise the Township Committee to award the contract to Jerry Conover Excavating, Inc. whose bid for the project was \$107,705.30.

Mrs. Oakley made a motion to award the contract for the Recreation Driveway and walkway to Jerry Conover Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$107,705.30, which was seconded by Ms. Nerbak.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Mr. Mace stated that the property that is at the top of Hilltop Road has been taken over by The Trust for Public Land, and there was a portion of the road that we did not own that we had improved for the snowplow trucks to turn around and The Trust for Public Land. We have finally come to an agreement with The Trust for Public Land about this piece of property and we have an easement that will need to be signed and filed that will give us permission to continue to do the improvements of the roadway for the snowplows for as long as we need to maintain the piece of roadway.

Mr. Mace stated that in the meeting with the Highlands Commission they had stated that the municipalities could petition the Highlands Commission for waivers on certain properties that the municipalities believe would be an asset to the community with there growth, and asked if the Township Committee would be interested for Mr. Mace to with the Commission on the Borealis property and the Flexco property and possibly NYK Logistics if needed.

Mayor Baldwin stated that with the Highlands Task Force group Mr. Mace could discuss working with the Highlands Commission on those properties.

COMCAST COMMUNICATIONS: (7:45)

Mr. Charles Smith, Comcast Cable Government & Community Affairs Director, stated that he was there to discuss with the Township Committee the events that have happened over the last year with Comcast Cable, and to respond to any questions or concerns that anyone may have. Comcast offers hundreds of hours of programming with many new channels that have been added over the past year. Comcast has also begun to offer digital voice which is a telephone service. Which has also made available the Comcast Triple Play which offers price savings for customers that subscribe to the telephone, internet, and cable tv that the customers may lock into a rate for 1 year and up to 24 months. The rollover has also begun for all of the analog channels to go through to digital channels.

Mr. Smith also spoke of the legislation that would allow Verizon to have a statewide franchise has been approved. Mr. Smith stated that they have received many questions of whether or not Comcast will opt into the Statewide Franchise Agreement and he stated that Comcast will not opt into the agreement they will continue to seek municipal consent for franchise renewals. The current contract with the Township of Mansfield will need to be renewed by August, 2009.

Mrs. Oakley asked if it would be possible for the gentlemen that go to houses for cable issues that are unknown to the homeowner that maybe they should let the homeowner know that they will be in the area of the home, so that the homeowner is not alarmed.

Mr. Mace asked if the cable customer is paying for the advertisements that are broadcasted on all of the channels a good part of the time.

Mr. Smith stated that essentially yes the customer does pay for the advertising.

Mr. Donald Autreath, Snyder Road, questioned why it was that he was quoted a price of \$60.00 a month for basic service and he wanted to know why this was.

Mr. Smith stated that basic service is available for \$12.80 per month which is the basic cable with about 60 analog channels.

Mayor Baldwin thanked Mr. Smith for his time, and questioned whether all of the cable lines were ever run.

Mr. Smith stated that he believe so.

Mr. Watters stated that Cary Road, Tunnel Hill, Beatty Road were still not been included in the build out.

Mr. Smith stated that they would address any open issues.

Mr. Watters made a motion to close the receipt of bids for the Lift System for Public Works, seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Mayor Baldwin asked for the bid opening to be held until after the Public Hearing of the Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING OF BUDGET: (8:00)

Mayor Baldwin opened the public hearing of the budget.

Tom Ferry, Municipal Auditor, was present and presented the Township Committee with the 2007 Budget. Mr. Ferry stated the state had changed some of the numbers of funds that the Township was given and that is why a budget amendment needed to be done. This year the state has given the Township an addition of \$23,244. The taxes have increased this year from 644 million to 652 million which spreads the taxes over a larger base which equals 1.31 increase. The budget this year has gone up 206,000 which equals 3.85% which would keep the budget under 4%. The municipal tax rate .325 and last year was .312 which means that the tax rate went up 1 cent, and less of the fund balance was used this year than last year. Mr. Ferry stated that the budget was put together well.

The Township Committee thanked Andrew Coppola, Chief Financial Officer for his hard work on the budget.

Mayor Baldwin closed the public hearing of the budget.

RESOLUTION:

2007-50

**Budget Amendment Resolution
(see attached)**

Mr. Watters made a motion to approve Resolution 2007-50 as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

2007-51

**TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD, WARREN COUNTY
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AUCTION OF PERSONAL
PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE**

WHEREAS, the Township of Mansfield Committee has determined that certain items of municipally owned personal property are no longer needed for public use, which items are set forth on the attached list; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.1 permits a municipality to dispose of personal property no longer needed for public use by public sale to the highest bidder; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a resolution authorizing a public sale and setting the conditions thereof is required by N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mansfield Township Committee on the 28th day of March 2007 as follows:

1. A public sale at auction is hereby scheduled for April 14, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. at the Township of Mansfield Municipal Building, 100 Port Murray Road, Port Murray, New Jersey, at which time the items on the attached list shall be offered for sale;
2. All items are offered for sale in “as is” condition with no warranties or guarantees as to the working order thereof;
3. The successful bidder shall be required to pay the full price for the item following the Township’s acceptance of the bid;
4. The successful bidder shall be responsible for all arrangements related to the transport or removal of the item from the municipal site which transport or removal must occur within three (3) calendar days following the acceptance of the bid and payment of the consideration;
5. Although no minimum price shall be established for any item, the Township reserves the right to reject all bids where the highest bid is not accepted;
6. The sale of all items shall be free of any conditions or interests on the part of the Township.

Mrs. Nerbak made a motion to approve Resolution 2007-51 as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin
Nays: None
Abstain: None

RESOLUTION 2007-52

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR AN NJDCA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT

Whereas, the Township of Mansfield desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$1921.48 to reimburse the Township for overtime paid for domestic violence training.

Be it therefore RESOLVED,

- 1) That the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Mansfield authorize the filing of an application for an NJDCA Domestic Violence Reimbursement Grant;
- 2) That the Township of Mansfield recognizes and accepts that the Department of Community Affairs may offer a lesser or greater amount than applied for. Upon receipt of a grant

agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community affairs, the Township of Mansfield further authorizes the execution of such agreement; and

- 3) That Mayor George Baldwin and John D. Ort, Chief of Police of the Township of Mansfield, or their successors in said titles, are authorized to sign the application for said grant and sub-grant agreement, if received, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

Ms. Nerbak made a motion to approve Resolution 2007-52 as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**2007-53
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS
NEW JERSEY STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM
PO Box 299 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0299**

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION to terminate participation under the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (which includes Prescription Drug Program).

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD-WARREN COUNTY
Corporate Name of Employer – County

hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the Program (including Prescription Drug) thereby canceling coverage provided by the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (N.J.S.A. t2:14-17.25 at seq.) for all its active and retired employees.

- 2 We shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the program
- 3 We understand that the Division of Pensions and Benefits will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.
4. We understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the Division of Pensions and Benefits and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health and prescription drug insurance program.
5. We understand that this resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission.

Ms. Nerbak made a motion to approve Resolution 2007-53 as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

2007-54

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2007 BUDGET BEING READ BY TITLE ONLY

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey under the direction of the Local Budget Law allows for the budget to be read by title only if certain conditions are met, and

WHEREAS, the Clerk of the Township delivered to the Warren County Public Library a full copy of the budget for the year 2007 and has a sign affidavit as such, and

WHEREAS, the State of NJ-DCA, Division of Local Government Services has also returned approval of the 2007 budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2007 Municipal Budget be read by title only.

Ms. Nerbak made a motion to approve Resolution 2007-54 as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin
Nays: None
Abstain: None

2007-55

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE DEED FOR AN EASEMENT ON HILLTOP ROAD

WHEREAS, the Mayor's signature is required on the deeds filed on the Township of Mansfield's behalf, and

WHEREAS, a deed is required for the conveyance of easements on properties,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee approves the Mayor to sign the necessary deed for recording.

Ms. Nerbak made a motion to approve Resolution 2007-55 as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Watters.

Ayes: Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mrs. Oakley

ADOPTION OF 2007 BUDGET:

Mrs. Oakley made a motion to approve 2007 Budget Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Watters.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin
Nays: None
Abstain: None

BILL LIST ADDENDUM:

Ms. Nerbak made a motion to approve the Bill List Addendum as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Appleby.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Mr. Watters, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin
Nays: None

Abstain: None

RECIPT OF BIDS (8:00pm) MOHAWK OR EQUIVILANT LIFT SYSTEM

Mr. Mace opened the bids that were received there was only 1 bid packet that was received from Specialty Automotive Equipment from Saddle Brook, which was in the amount of \$43,000.

Mayor Baldwin requested that the bid packet be referred to Mr. Brent Sliker, CPWM, for review for completeness.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Robert Jewell, Sunnyview Terrace, stated that the bid that was received for the lift was much to expensive, and questioned what the money from the 250th Anniversary is still doing in the budget. Mr. Jewell also questioned what the purpose of the two stops of the signs on Hazen Road.

Mr. Scott Cruts, Recreation Commission, stated that the Recreation Commission would like to raise their fees to \$55 for a family and \$20 for a single child.

COMMITTEE PERSON COMMENTS:

Mr. Baldwin appointed John Lunghi as a Planning Board Alternate with a term to expire 12/31/2008.

Ms. Nerbak made a motion to accept the resignation from Mr. Charles Lee as Township Attorney, which was seconded by Mrs. Oakley.

Ayes: Mrs. Oakley, Ms. Nerbak, Mr. Appleby, Mayor Baldwin

Nays: None

Abstain: Mr. Watters

Mrs. Oakley made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm, which was seconded by Mr. Watters and carried by all.