

MAY 13, 2009

The South Harrison Township Committee held the regular meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Mayor Robert Campbell called the meeting to order and was followed by the flag salute.

Requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were met. Notice of this meeting was given by: (1) sending sufficient notice herewith to the Today's Sunbeam of Salem and the Gloucester County Times of Woodbury; and (2) posting notice on the public bulletin board at the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Roll Call: Robert Campbell – present, Robert Diaz – present, Robert Gaines – present, Gary Spinner – present, Charles Tyson – present, William Zeigler, Solicitor - present, Richard Fini, Engineer – present, Leah Furey – present, Henry Ludwigsen, Auditor – present, Nancy Kearns, Municipal Clerk – present.

Committee Reports:

Police Department – April 2009 Report

Chief Maybe reported on two incidences that occurred this week which were not included in his report. First, there was a barn fire within the township. During the fire a resident was rescued by Sergeant Priore who has been honored with a life saving with valor award. The second incident involved two pit bulls who attacked several miniature horses. In the course of the event, one dog was killed and the other dog was wounded and then euthanized at the owner's request. Chief was concerned that the dogs were allowed to roam even though they had been previously sited. The horses were severely wounded.

Construction Code Official – April 2009 Report

Engineering Report – May 2009 Report

Tax Collector Report: Tax report was not received; it will be emailed to the committee.

Old Business:

Mr. White, Deputy County Administrator spoke regarding the county wide assessment plan. In addition, Ed Burek, county tax coordinator also spoke about the new county tax assessment plan. Both gentlemen briefly reviewed what the county was trying to do with regionalizing the county tax assessment. Several brief questions followed.

Open meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on county-wide tax assessment only was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Jack Fitzpatrick, 911 Monroeville Road, asked several questions regarding current and proposed costs.

Mark Nagtegaal, 719 Franklinville Road, addressed the board and asked a question regarding the new tax assessment.

Mel Robertson, 103 Foxford Lane, asked about residents and how their tax bill would be changed.

Jim McCall, 46 Cedar Grove Road, asked about the tax position within the town.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on county-wide tax assessment plan was made by Robert Diaz, second Charles Tyson. Motion carried.

Motion to support the county tax assessment program was made by Charles Tyson. There was no second.

Motion to not support the county tax assessment program was made by Robert Diaz, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – no, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – no, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – no. **R.C.V.: 2– yes’, 3– no’s. Motion Failed.**

Resolution R-09-68

Resolution In Support of Senate Bill 2356-County Property Tax Assessment Reform Act

Motion to support the county tax assessment program was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – no, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – no, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 3– yes’, 2– no’s. Motion Carried.**

Ordinance O-09-03

Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison Amending Ordinance O-08-03 Which Established a Board of Recreation Commissioners

This ordinance is to amend the current board of Recreation Commissioners. Public hearing and final adoption is tonight.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-09-03 only was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Sarah Freeman, 781 Eldridges Hill Road, asked why the board is being expanded to 7 members when they currently can't find the required 5 members. She asked for an explanation. There was considerable discussion on all aspects of board following this question.

Matt Warner, 34 Ashford Court, suggested putting up information on the website. Basically, you could ask for volunteers, etc.

Jeannine Campbell, 706 Lincoln Road, asked for support from the committee to the Recreation Board. The committee is saying one thing and doing the other. She believed Ms. Freeman asked a valid question and it needs to be addressed.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-09-03 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-09-03 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Diaz.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – no, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 – yes, 1 – no's. Motion carried.**

Ordinance O-09-05

Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison for the Establishment of an Agricultural Advisory Committee in the Township of South Harrison, County of Gloucester, New Jersey

This was to be the public hearing and final adoption of Ordinance O-09-05, however, the Planning Board recommended a change. Leah Furey (Town Planner) introduced this change. Their recommendation was to allow one member to be a member of the planning board. They feel this is a good practice and the overlap allows for good communication. This is not a substantial change and the public hearing could still take place.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-09-05 only was made by Gary Spinner, second by Charles Tyson. Motion carried.

Leah Furey, Town Planner, gave an overview of this committee and why it is important for our township to have.

Jim McCall, 46 Cedar Grove Road, he affirmed that it was a good idea to have a member of the planning board on this committee.

Mark Nagtegaal, 719 Franklinville Road, asked when this ordinance could be approved. It was explained that the amended Ordinance could be adopted in June.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-09-05 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Motion to re-introduce Ordinance O-09-05 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Diaz.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes’, 0 – no’s. Motion carried.**

Public hearing and final adoption is set for June 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m..

Ordinance O-09-06

Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison Amending Chapter 90, the Land Use and Development Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison

This was adopted at the last town committee meeting and sent to the Planning Board. The Clerk has received several inputs regarding this Ordinance. The Clerk now has a new Ordinance including all the changes. Leah Furey, Town Planner, explained all the recommendations; most recommendations concerned the agricultural buffer.

Motion to reintroduce Ordinance O-09-06 with amendments and recommendations by the Planning Board was made by Charles Tyson second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes’, 0 – no’s. Motion carried.**

Public hearing and final adoption set for June 10, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

Deputy Mayor Tyson gave an update on the Route 45 and Route 538 intersection construction. The road is set to open up and be fully functioning by May 21, 2010.

Ed Crispin gave an update on the progress of the South Harrison Veterans Memorial.

New Business:

Resolution R-09-65

Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Payment of Bankruptcy Monies.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-65 was made by Robert Diaz, second by Robert Gaines.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes’, 0 – no’s. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-66

Resolution Reducing Certain Work Hours and Compensation of Certain Township Employees Based Upon Budgetary and Economic Needs

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-66 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – no, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – no, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 3– yes’, 2 – no’s. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-67

Resolution Excluding the Public for discussion of possible shared services with other municipalities and personnel matters.

It was asked for more detailed information regarding reason for closed session. The information was not forthcoming. Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-67 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes’, 0 – no’s. Motion carried.**

Ordinance O-09-07

An Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison to Address the Requirements of the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) Regarding Compliance with the Municipality’s Prior Round and Third Round Affordable Housing Obligations

Ordinance O-09-08

Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison Amending Chapter 90, the Land Use and Development Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison

Leah Furdy, Town Planner gave a brief overview of these ordinances. Motion to adopt Ordinance O-09-07 and Ordinance O-09-08 on first reading was made by Robert Gaines, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – was not present, stepped out of the room. **R.C.V.: 4 – yes’, 0 – no’s. Motion carried.**

Public hearing and final adoption is set for June 10, 2009 at 7:30 pm.

Audit Report Findings and Conclusions

Mr. Ludwigsen, Township Auditor gave a brief overview of his report and was available to the Township Committee if they had any questions. A resolution will be needed to endorse and approve the corrective actions submitted by the CFO. Discussion followed.

Motion to table the corrective action plan to the May 27, 2010 meeting was made by Charles Tyson, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes, 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Attorney's Letter - Matthew Warner

Mayor Campbell read a letter received from the legal counsel of Mr. Warner. It was suggested that the Township Clerk send a letter to the township Solicitor advising of the townships actions regarding OPRA requests containing personal information and how the information was redacted. The Solicitor will then forward the letter and information to Mr. Warner's counsel.

Report of Re-Constituted Sub-Committee

Mr. O'Connor gave a status report on where the sub-committee stands regarding the computer incident. He stated the committee of all three residents has met once to discuss and review the information. There was some discussion regarding this committee and its purpose.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Janice Huggins, 22 Lincoln Mill Road, asked if Elk Township residents were privy to all the information regarding possible shared services. Does the committee have cost/savings numbers? And, if so where are they?

Jim McCall, 46 Cedar Grove Road, wanted additional information about the changes to the construction company. He also asked questions regarding the possible merger of the police department.

Mark Nagtegaal, 719 Franklinville Road, asked several questions regarding the engineering report and retention basins located in the township. He also addressed his concerns about the reduced staffing hours in the Clerk's Office. In addition, he asked what he can do about a member of the planning and zoning board who fails to attend. He was advised to send the member a letter. Finally, he asked about township staffing.

Don Palamucci, 300 Fox Run Court, asked if the soccer club could use the field behind the Municipal Building for practice. The club would provide proof of insurance and other paperwork.

Motion to approve use of the field behind the municipal building for soccer practice with proof of insurance was made by Robert Diaz, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Mel Robertson, 103 Foxford Lane, asked about current articles regarding successful merging of police departments and if our committee was in contact with these individuals to see how they were successful. He also addressed his concern regarding the corrective actions needed by the CFO regarding the budget and audit.

Mary Howard, 4 Hollybrook Road, asked questions regarding feasibility studies available to municipalities looking into police department merging. In addition, she asked about the time frame of the possible merger and if there was a possibility of resident input. The Mayor indicated the town residents would be brought in when he had the facts and at a Town Hall meeting.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines. All members were in favor.

Due to the late hour the committee decided to table several items to the work session.

The mayor was asked to write a letter of termination to construction officials affected by the third party contract.

Resolution R-09-69

Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement for the Performance of Certain Construction and Sub-Code Inspections Services.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-69 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines.

Roll Call Vote. Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – no, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 – yes’, 1 – no’s. Motion carried.**

The mayor was asked to write a letter of termination to construction officials affected by the third party contract.

Ordinance O-09-09

Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison Amending Chapter 55, Construction Codes, Uniform Providing for Administrative Fees to be Collected in Connection with the Issuance of Construction and Related Permits

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-09-09 on first reading was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – no, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – no, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 3 – yes’, 2 – no’s. Motion carried.**

Public hearing and final adoption will be held on June 10, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

IT Services

This item is being moved to a meeting being held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 6:00 pm along with the interviews for the open administrator position.

Approve Payment of the Bills:

Agreement was made to approve payment of the bills that were signed. Payment of the unsigned bills was tabled to the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Kearns, RMC
Municipal Clerk