

**GREENWICH TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

Mayor Reinhart called the meeting to order stating, "Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act by notifying the South Jersey Times on January 6, 2015."

Those present were Mayor Reinhart, Deputy Mayor Port and Committeeman Orr. Also present were: Kim Fleetwood, Treasurer; John Carr, Township Solicitor; and Lisa Garrison, Township Clerk.

Flag Salute - Mayor Reinhart

Demolition Hearing - Mr. Carr opened the Demolition Hearing for 822 Sheppards Mill Road. Pursuant to NJSA 40:48-2.7 advertisement was given in reference to 822 Sheppards Mill Road for a hearing and if anyone has a complaint or problem with the Township moving forward in the demolition of the house this is the time for anyone to speak. Notification and publication was done. A final ruling will be pursued by the court and proposals will be sought for demolition. The hearing was closed with no comment forthcoming

Presentation to the Committee – Bruce Harbinson, Business Administrator/Board Secretary for Cumberland Regional High School was present this evening to give an overview of the formula utilized to calculate the school tax rate for Greenwich Township. Mayor Reinhart indicated the presentation is to the Committee. Mr. Harbinson distributed handouts to the Committee and indicated it is present on the school's website. The general fund tax levy is \$100,000 less than 2007 and 2008. He proceeded to explain the process of equalization that was approved at the legislative level it equalizes property values and then proportions it. The next step is to determine the "fair share" which uses the equalized values and percentages based on enrollments. All of these factors together are used to calculate the local tax levies. Mr. Harbinson explained Greenwich's increase. Mr. Harbinson answered the Committee's questions regarding the formula and the impact. Mayor Reinhart questioned the impact of a revaluation and was advised as there is an equalization it would not change. The Committee thanked Mr. Harbinson for his presentation.

Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills – After review and discussion of the Treasurer's report and bill list, on motion of Deputy Mayor Port, seconded by Committeeman Orr to approve the Treasurer's report and the bills for payment in the amount of \$483,155.45, unanimously carried.

Approval of Minutes - July 14, 2015. On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Committeeman Orr to approve and adopt said minutes, unanimously carried. Deputy Mayor Port indicated that in the July minutes he had misspoken and the storm referenced in regards to the repairs to Mill Creek Dike was Irene related and not Sandy. Deputy Mayor Port also indicated that in printing out the minutes there were a numerous amount of pages with page numbers that were blank. Ms. Garrison indicated it was due to "cutting and pasting" and she will correct in future.

Resolutions -

RESOLUTION NO. 8-39-2015

AUTHORIZING GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREENWICH TOWNSHIP AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - GRANT IDENTIFIER: FS15-007

WHEREAS, the governing body of Greenwich Township desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of approximately \$3,000.00 to fund the following project:

**Green Communities Grant
Community Forestry Management Plan**

THEREFORE, the governing body resolves that William C. Reinhart or the successor to the office of Mayor is authorized (a) to make application for such a grant, (b) if awarded, to execute a grant agreement with the State for a grant in an amount not less than \$3,000.00 and not more than \$3,000.00, and (c) to execute any amendments thereto which do not increase the Grantee's obligations.

The Greenwich Township Committee authorizes and hereby agrees to match 50% of the Total Project Amount, in compliance with the match requirements of the agreement. The availability of the match for such purposes, whether case, services, or property, is hereby certified. 100% of the match will be made up of in-kind services (if allowed by grant program requirements and the agreement).

The Grantee agrees to comply with all applicable federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the Agreement.

On motion of Committeeman Orr, seconded by Deputy Mayor Port to approve and adopt the foregoing resolution, unanimously carried.

On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Committeeman Orr to approve and adopt the following resolution, unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-40-2015

RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE FUNDED THROUGH THE NJDEP NJ STATE FORESTRY SERVICES FOR THE GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of Revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and,

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount.

SECTION 1.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Greenwich Township, County of Cumberland, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of additional revenue in the Calendar Year 2015 Budget in the amount of \$ 3,000 which item is funded through a grant provided by the NJDEP NJ State Forestry Service;

SECTION 2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, a like sum of \$ 3,000 is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

Green Communities Grant \$ 3,000

RESOLUTION NO. 8-41-2015

RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE FUNDED THROUGH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE SEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of Revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and,

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount.

SECTION 1.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Greenwich Township, County of Cumberland, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of additional revenue in the Calendar Year 2015 Budget in the amount of \$ 30,000 which item is funded through a grant provided by the USDA SEARCH grant program;

SECTION 2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, a like sum of \$ 30,000 is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

SEARCH Grant- Study for Wastewater Mgmt Solutions \$ 30,000

On motion of Deputy Mayor Port, seconded by Committeeman Orr to approve and adopt the foregoing resolution, unanimously carried.

On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Deputy Mayor Port to approve and adopt the following resolution, unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-42-2015

ACCEPTING CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the 2014 Annual Audit of the Township of Greenwich contained certain recommendations requiring action; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations have been reviewed by the Township's Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the requirements promulgated by the N.J. Division of Local Government Services, has developed a plan to address the recommendations listed by the auditors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Greenwich that the Corrective Action Plan for the 2014 Annual Municipal Audit, hereto attached, is hereby approved and accepted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution and its attachments to the Division of Local Government Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-43-2015

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF GREENWICH AND THE TOWNSHIP OF
HOPEWELL FOR REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Greenwich has determined it is in the best interest of the taxpayers and residents of the Township of Greenwich that the services of the Registrar of Vital Statistics be undertaken through a Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Hopewell and such agreement has been negotiated by and between the parties; and

WHEREAS, said agreement has been approved by the Director of the State of New Jersey Office of Vital Statistics.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Greenwich, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey that the 2015 Shared Services Agreement by and between the Township of Greenwich and the Township of Hopewell

is hereby approved and the Mayor, Municipal Clerk and any other Township Official is authorized to take whatever action is necessary in order to effectuate the stated purpose of this Resolution.

On motion of Committeeman Orr, seconded by Mayor Reinhart to approve and adopt the foregoing resolution, unanimously carried.

On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Committeeman Orr to approve and adopt the following resolution, unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-44-2015

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTING REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

WHEREAS, the Township of Greenwich is in need of a Registrar of Vital Statistics; and

WHEREAS, Lois Yarrington wishes to serve and perform the duties of the Registrar of Vital Statistics within the Township of Greenwich;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Greenwich, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey that Lois Yarrington is hereby appointed Registrar of Vital Statistics for Greenwich Township for a term of three (3) years or until a successor is qualified and appointed.

At this time Resolution No. 8-45-2015, "A Resolution Approving the Form and Circulation of an RFP for Engineering Services Related to \$30,000 Wastewater Management Search Grant" was requested to be tabled until the next meeting contingent upon approval of the RFP from USDA.

It had been noted from the minutes of the previous meeting that Penny Watson had not been included in the appointments to the Steering Committee for the Resilient Coastal Community Initiative. On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Committeeman Orr to approve the addition of Penny Watson to said Steering Committee, unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business:

Roof Bids on Fire Hall – Mayor Reinhart indicated they are incomplete and would prefer to bring another bid to the table.

Facilities Use Agreement – The Committee will review and schedule for the next meeting.

Land Sale - The properties are still being reviewed.

New Business –

Meeting dates – Meeting dates were discussed for the September and October meetings. For the month of September the dates of September 2nd or 3rd were proposed. For the month of October the dates of October 20th or the 21st were proposed. Mr. Carr will review his schedule and advise Ms. Garrison who will then post on the website and advertise in the newspaper.

Solicitors Report – Mr. Carr reviewed the following:

Demolition - The purpose of the hearing had been to add the bill for the demolition to the tax record.

Property Maintenance Code Issue - Three properties had been referred to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Tax Sale Assignment - Mr. Carr had received correspondence for a request for a tax sale assignment and he had encouraged the interest.

Zoning Officer Report - There were three (3) Certificates of Occupancy issued, three (3) inspections resulting in three (3) certified letters issued and three (3) Certificates of Occupancy issued.

Committee Comment – Deputy Mayor Port attended a meeting with Ted Baker, Paul Ritter, Deputy Mayor of Hopewell, Susan Quinones, Administrator/Clerk of Hopewell Township and John Knoop, County Engineer in regards to the Mill Creek Dike. There is a \$175,000 public works order for the repair of the dike, which is FEMA funded. It requires a 25% local match and the question asked by the County is would Hopewell and Greenwich Townships split the 25% match. Hopewell was reluctant to make a commitment as it is a question of maintenance of a facility that protects a road. The County has bonded funds for repairs on the water control structure. The County does not want to do this without a commitment that someone will be maintaining it. The County feels if they repair and maintain it a precedent would be set. If no one offers to maintain the structure it may not get built. It threatens the road and if it is washed out it would take the road with it. He thinks of it as a question of maintenance. A dike has been there for 50 years and questioned the cost spent on maintaining it for the past 50 years. He feels that maintenance is important as the Township maintains other buildings. He does not anticipate much assistance from Hopewell Township as it is at the bottom end of their municipality and does not protect their residents. The alternative is possibly no repair being done and the dike remains in its current condition. It is only a matter of time and questioned how long it can last. Committeeman Orr indicated it is a County road. Mayor Reinhart questioned why would the dike be repaired if a sluice is going in it. Deputy Mayor Port indicated the match is only being requested of the dike. The County is bonded for the sluice. He indicated the County is proposing to utilize a private consultant, Mr. McDaniel, to search for other funding sources. Greenwich was not asked to share in his fee. Mr. McDaniel pointed out if the FEMA \$175,000 repair is not going to be done then next time there is an emergency or a problem with the dike FEMA will be reluctant to participate as the Township had demonstrated no interest in maintaining. Deputy Mayor Port felt this was unwise. A \$175,000 repair plus a \$1.2 million

repair and the Township's commitment would be to at least participate in a 25% match of the \$175,000, \$21,875. He felt there was room for negotiation if the Township desires to take that route and in addition there is the ongoing maintenance. He felt over the past years the Township has not spent much on the maintenance. Committeeman Orr indicated the County had worked on the sluice gates in the early 90's but was unsure of the value of the work. Mayor Reinhart indicated it is a significant amount of money which would increase taxes significantly. Deputy Mayor Port indicated the other side must be looked at if the Township does nothing and it is lost then what would be the cost not only in dollars but inconvenience, emergency response, loss of power and communications.. He indicated discussion had been held to the alternative if it was not done, in terms of protecting the road, and was advised it would be more expensive. He questioned if it could be a DOT project but Mr. Knoop was non-committal. The consultant will investigate and we will hear more from him. In his thought this is something the Committee should take a close look at. He recognizes the large amount of money but feels the road is a critical facility to the Township. Mayor Reinhart indicated in December of 2013 Mr. Olbrich said "it is done, a done deal" that the county is going to start the sluice in December. He indicated it never occurred. He stated we should wait to see what the consultant comes up with. Committeeman Orr indicated he would be inclined towards the 25% match but not commit to the maintenance. Deputy Mayor Port indicated it will still remain an earthen berm but only in better condition. Ms. Fleetwood indicated \$20,000 was allocated in the capital budget for dikes. Deputy Mayor Port questioned if the County may be interested in providing Hopewell's share. Deputy Mayor Port indicated the Dike Committee met and reviewed the steering committee meeting. A checklist of assets was reviewed. A follow up meeting needs to be set up which he will schedule a within the next few weeks, probably early September. He will be in touch with Stewart Wallace in regards to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He questioned if anything has been heard from Triad Associates. Ms. Garrison indicated the Committee should contact them and provided the contact information. He indicated there is another gentleman with NJSEA grant who could also collaborate on things.

Mayor Reinhart reported on July Fire calls which was 7, EMS calls were 8 with a total year to date of 80.

Public Comment –

Mayor Reinhart prior to opening public comment reminded the public the committee is responsible for slightly less than 12 ½ % of the tax bill. If there is an increase of \$400 the Township is responsible for \$50; an increase of \$600 the Township is responsible for \$75; an increase of \$800 the Township is responsible for \$100; an increase of \$1,000 the Township is responsible for \$125.

On motion of Mayor Reinahrt, seconded by Committeeman Orr to open the public comment, unanimously carried. Dennis Price, 41 Bacons Neck Road, indicated he had spoken with Bruce Harbinson. He stated what was not said was a revaluation brings up everything as far as less of our load towards Cumberland Regional with equalization however it will not reflect until a year later as it is a calendar year. In speaking with Patty Belmont and Lois Mazza Greenwich is at 79%, which is the lowest in Cumberland County. Ms. Belmont indicated the Township feels a revaluation is needed. The first step is to update the tax maps which could take

a year before the State approves. He referenced Stow Creek's recent revaluation and the benefits. The cost was \$74,500 for their revaluation and indicated Greenwich could use the same company. Since 2004 the tax rate has increased by \$1.34. He indicated in speaking with Ms. Belmont a maintenance plan can be contracted with the company doing the revaluation to avoid being "sidelined" with big increases the increases may be a little every year but the Township would stay close to 100%. He recommended the Committee discuss the issue with Ms. Belmont and Ms. Mazza. Hopewell Township is at 81% and they will be revaluated next year. He feels Greenwich gets beat up by the County. Every penny generates \$6,000. His taxes had increased about \$1,000 and indicated he had heard public outrage in regards to the increase. The township should pursue a revaluation. He recognized the expense but depending on the revaluation the homeowner is still saving money. Mr. Kubis questioned who is the representative at the County level and why are they allowing the residents to be blindsided. He agrees with Mr. Price's opinion on the savings versus the cost of a revaluation to the taxpayer. Deputy Mayor Port indicated a revaluation would not prevent our taxes from being increased. Mr. Kubis indicated the regional school tax increased by 9%. Deputy Mayor Port indicated at the beginning of the meeting a presentation had been given regarding the regional school tax. Mr. Kubis questioned if there is a regional school board representative and was advised there was. He expressed his dissatisfaction of the increase in school taxes and questioned if the Committee has power over the County. He questioned if the Committee was aware there would be a tax increase and was advised that there was knowledge of the increase. Mr. Showers indicated what could be considered is for the assessor to verify the veracity of the exemptions and deductions.

On motion of Committeeman Orr, seconded by Deputy Mayor Port to close the public comment, unanimously carried.

Adjournment –

On motion of Committeeman Orr, seconded by Deputy Mayor Port to adjourn, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Garrison
Township Clerk

