

WorkSession Meeting  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Meeting was opened by Mayor Theresa Branella at 6:00pm. Those present were G. Gilbert, P. MacAdams, M. Mevoli, J. Meehan, J. Granstrom, J. McCleary, and T. Branella. The Solicitor was Timothy Higgins, Esq..

This Meeting was advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and complies with all the laws therein

**Acceptance of Committee Reports**

Motion – G. Gilbert  
2<sup>nd</sup> – J. Granstrom  
All in Favor: Carried.

**Engineer's Report** – Update of ongoing projects by Greg Fusco, Kei Associates:

- 1) CDBG Year 35 funding is going to be used for select sidewalk replacements throughout town. We are using a list provided by the clerk's office.
  
- 2) Municipal Aid application for the second phase of Christiana Street project was rejected. We will reapply in the upcoming year.
  
- 3) We received \$135,530.00 discretionary aide needed to begin the grading of the Railroad Crossing Project. We are ready to put the project out to bid once we hear from Conrail about their recommendations. We are also awaiting a resolution authorizing Conrail's work contract. The clerk informed G. Fusco that a resolution was passed at the last meeting and he will send his office a copy of the resolution.
  
- 4) CDBG year 33 funding has been used for sidewalks in conjunction with the Christiana Street repaving. Bud Concrete has completed all the work on the sidewalks.
  
- 5) Year 34 CDBG for \$24,700 needs to be utilized soon. R. Giles told G. Fusco to go ahead and get quotes for fencing around the playground.
  
- 7) We got quotes for the spray foaming of the fire house roof. The cost is approximately \$30,000. We are awaiting information on how well the spray foam will work with the type of roof. R. Giles said we approved a note for an additional \$30,000 for work on the roof. J. Granstrom said he wants to reach out to a friend to see if there is any other options out there.

Everyone thanks G. Fusco for his time.

**Open to Public**

D. Domico, Superintendent of Public Works, said that she is interested in starting a textile program in Brooklawn. She started one in Westville and has worked out nicely.

There is no cost to the Borough and a benefit to the residents. Westville was the first town in the state to have this program. She said bags would be given to the residence in advance to throw in shoes, belts, clothes, and etc. Once a month would be dedicated to pick up the bags from the residence. Council thinks this would be a good idea and request a resolution to be passed at the next meeting.

Closed to the Public

Resolution # 96-13 Renewal of Liquor License for 2013-2014

Motion – J. McCleary

2<sup>nd</sup> – G. Gilbert

All in Favor: Carried.

### **Discussion/Committee Updates**

1) J. Granstrom:

The clerk provided me with copies of all the logs and work orders for Public Works. He feels that the log sheet provided does not have enough information of what each employee does. D. Domico asked what do you expect us to put into the log, everything that is done in a day. She continued to say that someone might start in grass cutting and then end up pulling a pump in a well that was an emergency. M. Mevoli says he has worked on numerous jobs that required a work order for every job that is done. J. Granstrom said we have an important decision to make in the future and this lack of information hinders that decision. He knows they do a lot of work but there needs to be a better log for each employee done. He says he would have to sit down at the end of the day and write down what every person on his/her job did. D. Domico says she will make sure she let everyone know what council wants and will send J. Granstrom the logs everyday through email.

2) G. Gilbert:

He said that the borough home on Haakon is finished and ready to be rented out. It was a long process, but it is finally over. The next project will be a home on Broadway. He is going to get with the engineer and make blueprints for that borough home.

Mayor Branella asked for a five minute recess at 7:19pm.

Motion – Greg Gilbert

2<sup>nd</sup> – J. McCleary

All in Favor: Carried.

Meeting resumed at 7:34pm.

3) P. MacAdams:

He said the new Fire Truck is completed and will be picked up within the next month. We will have it for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations.

4) M. Mevoli:

The annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is coming up soon. He requested that everyone attend the event. They need as many volunteers as possible. He said we also will need to go door to door and hand out the flyers again. The clerk said he will have them available by Monday.

5) Ryan Giles, Borough Clerk

He asked everyone about the Water shutoff/ late fee ordinance that was put together by T. Higgins. T. Higgins said that the late fees in the ordinance is the max level set by state statute. G. Gilbert liked the ordinance but thinks that the shut off prices were too high for certain things. J. McCleary added that she agrees and that charging someone to shut off the water for maintenance is not necessary. T. Higgins said he wrote the ordinance based on other towns and should be used as a guideline to which direction we are taking. J. Granstrom thinks we need to discuss this matter further. Mayor Branella asked the committee to get together and come up with a consensus. Council agreed to discuss it more in the future.

The street opening and Curfew ordinance were explained briefly by T. Higgins. The clerk explained that cost associated with the street opening ordinance is on par with other municipalities and the curfew ordinance give police more enforcement power for daytime curfews while school is in session. Both ordinances would be a first reading at the next meeting.

R. Giles explained the situation of the privatization of trash. The low bidder was Central Jersey and they were on average \$61,000 per year for the next 3 years for solid waste and recycling. He said that Central Jersey would do one year contracts for the same price as the three year contracts. He continued to say that we have money in the budget to consider this option and that it may be close to the same cost as a new hire. Overall, he thinks there may be a minimal savings in the short run for privatization of trash and moderate savings in the long run because of controllable cost associated with privatization.

Mayor asked for a brief recess at 7:55pm.

Motion – M. Mevoli  
2<sup>nd</sup> – P. MacAdams  
All in Favor: Carried.

Meeting resumed at 8:19pm.

Mayor Branella asked everyone to put forth their thoughts and questions in this meeting. We do not want a decision tonight.

J. Granstrom asked what we can significantly gain from privatization. D. Domico said we would gain a guy at least three days a week for not driving the trash truck. We can also do more preventative maintenance and other projects that we are behind in. J. Granstrom asked how can we know what is being done if trash is privatized. He continued to say what will guarantee that these extra things will get done if trash is privatized.

G. Gilbert said that we were told we need two guys and a trash truck to continue on our current path and keep trash. We are currently working on a shoe string. Based on R.

Giles analysis that is over \$120,000 in budgeted cost the budget. Strictly from a finance perspective, that is insane to not privatize.

J. McCleary thinks that there are too many scenarios to really make a right choice. Based on information of what can be quantified privatization seems more viable. On the other hand, there seems to be a lot more things that need to be discussed before she could make an informed decision.

P. MacAdams thinks that since the contract can be for one year, then where is the harm in seeing what they can do in one year. He feels that a business will try and do better to keep the work up to par for fear of losing the contract.

M. Mevoli said that in previous years this has not worked. He says he is keeping an open mind but sees no concrete evidence that this will save us a ton of money. If the savings are minimal then why should we do it? He rather see our guys taking care of the town because they care for the town.

J. Meehan said he has been behind this company when they pick up trash in Gloucester. He has even been tempted to get out of his car and yell at them for their behavior. They throw the cans back onto the property and excess trash in the cans go flying everywhere. M. Mevoli said he has seen the same thing. J. Meehan said there is trash blowing all over the place. He said he would not want that done in my town. He also added that in order to make a decision, he would need to know what exactly would be done with the extra time of employees if trash was privatized. He wants to know how long it would take to do the behind schedule projects that aren't getting done. Without knowing what is going to be done or at least forecasting the next year, how can we make an informed decision of creating more time for our employees.

T. Branella thanked everyone for their input and asked the committee to get together and discuss the situation in more detail. She also ask that R. Giles be kept in the loop along with D. Domico. The decision should be made at the July meeting no matter what.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to Adjourn – G. Gilbert

2<sup>nd</sup> – P. MacAdams

All in favor: Adjourned.

Ryan Giles  
Borough Clerk