

**ABERDEEN TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009**

Present: Owen Drapkin
Thomas Perry
Fred Tagliarini
Vincent Vinci
David G. Sobel

Absent: Joseph Raymond
Wilhelmina Gumbs

Also Present: Joe Criscuolo, Township Manager
Diane Dabulas, Township Attorney
Thomas Fallon, Township Auditor

Mayor Sobel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that notice of this meeting has been posted and published in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

2007 Audit and Corrective Action Plan: Tom Fallon gave a brief presentation to Council on the financial situation of the Township. The 2007 Audit opinion is a clean (unqualified) opinion, which means based upon the audit the financial statements are presented in accordance with State of New Jersey. A second opinion, is based on compliance and internal controls of financial reporting, that opinion is clean opinion. One item has a significant deficiency – fixed assets. The current fund had a slight decrease in surplus, collection rate was 98 ½ %. Water and sewer funds are self liquidating. Both funds need to be monitored. The comments and recommendations of the 2007 Audit are Fixed Assets has not been updated since 2003, Corrective Action Plan states CFO will reconcile by May, 2009. Several bank reconciliations were not in agreement with the general ledger, CFO states she will make changes in the preparation of bank reconciliations and she will be responsible for the monitoring. General capital fund reflects negative cash balances, which means you spent money you haven't raised. Interfunds should be liquidated at the end of the year, it is not always possible. Municipal Court reconciliations have improved, the Court Administrator has received assistance, by the end of 2008 all reconciliation items will be off the book.

Mayor Sobel asked how we compare to other towns.

Mr. Fallon stated five findings in the audit is not substantial, in terms of seriousness on a scale of 1 – 10 it would be a 2. The Fix Assets and bank reconciliations need to be cleaned up. Compared to other municipalities the Township does an excellent job.

Councilman Tagliarini stated could be expect 2008 audit sooner.

Mr. Fallon stated yes, with getting a new manager the audit was delayed until that time. The 2008 will be issued prior to June 30th.

A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of bringing these resolutions to tonight's public meeting.

Prohibiting Glass Bottles in Public Parks and Beaches: This ordinance is a result of a request from the Environmental Board. It prohibits all glass bottles and containers at the beach and public parks.

Councilman Drapkin asked if the State would bring back the return deposit for glass bottles, maybe this would help.

Frank Huza, Environmental Board stated New Jersey Environmental Commission and others have approached the State, however, the glass making industry is stronger and this has never been implemented. Mr Huza asked if there is a provisions for signage.

Mr. Criscuolo stated Jim Lauro will have signs prepared and installed.

Michelle Devanney, Environmental Board asked if the signs would be put by the recycling cans.

Mr. Criscuolo stated most likely in the parking lot and as you enter the beach.

A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of introducing this ordinance at tonight's public meeting.

Renewal of Amusement License: Fun Time America has submitted their application for annual amusement license. All paperwork is in order and police has no outstanding issues. A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of brining this resolution to tonight's public meeting.

Requesting State to Pass a 50% or Better Sales Tax Reduction for Purchasing New Automobiles: Councilman Tagliarini requested this resolution, in light of the economic conditions now and the suffering in the automobile industry and the State behind on revenue this might be a stimulus to get new business in the State. A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of bringing this resolution to tonight's public meeting.

2009 Professional Appointments: Professionals were chosen from the Request for Qualifications issued to the Township in December, 2008. Mayor Sobel read the list of professionals that responded to the RFQ's.

Township Attorney - Charles P. Tivenan, Esq.
Rogut McCarthy LLC

Township Labor Attorney - Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC
Rogut McCarthy LLC

Township Bond Attorney - Rogut McCarthy LLC
John G. Hudak, Esq.
McManimon & Scotland, LLC
Lomurro, Davison, Eastman & Munoz, PA
Parker McKay PA

Litigation Counsel - Charles P. Tivenan, Esq.
Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC
Rogut McCarthy LLC

Conflict Attorney - Charles P. Tivenan, Esq.
Rogut McCarthy LLC

Township Auditor - Thomas P. Fallon, CPA, RMA
Robert Morrison

Township Planner - Cranmer Engineering
Planning Design Collaborative LLC
Coppola & Coppola Associates
Heyer, Gruel & Associates

Township Engineer - Cranmer Engineering
CME Associates

Planning Board Attorney - Michael R. Leckstein, Esq.
Charles P. Tivenan, Esq.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Attorney - Marc A. Leckstein, Esq.
Charles P. Tivenan, Esq.

Public Defender - Marc B. Schram

Prosecutor - Allen E. Falk

Special Counsel Tax Foreclosures - Charles P. Tivenan, Esq.
Marc B. Schram
Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC

Special Counsel Tax Appeals - Charles P. Tivenan, Esq.
Marc B. Schram
Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC

Appointments will be Attorney, Labor Attorney, Litigation Attorney – Rogut McCarthy LLC, Bond Counsel – Rogut McCarthy - LLC, Prosecutor – Allen Falk, Public Defender – Marc Schram, Auditor – Thomas Fallon and Conflict Attorney is being removed from the agenda, when it is needed will go out to bid. The Tax Foreclosures and Tax Appeals are being researched.

Councilman Tagliarini stated he would like to do a study on professional fees and capping fees.

Mayor Sobel stated I don't think it would be unreasonable to ask for a reduction in fees of all of our professionals.

A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of bringing these resolutions to tonight's public meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding with Superior Officers Association: Resolution authorizes Township Manager and Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 2, 2008 between the Township and SOA. Superior Officers Association consist of 6 officers with a contract that mirrors the PBA. There is a reduction in stipends and a reduction in training sessions. SOA currently has a rotating shift but will go to a steady shift. A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of bringing this resolution to tonight's public meeting.

Mayor Sobel stated we will add potential litigation to the executive session.

Councilman Perry stated in the regular meeting we have minutes of December, 2008. We were getting caught up on the minutes but now we are dragging behind and I would like to see a conscience effort to have the minutes done.

Councilman Perry stated at the last meeting he submitted a letter supporting the Credit Unions, he would like the Mayor to sign the letter and send it to the League to support Legislation.

Councilman Perry asked when we will be scheduling budget workshops.

Mr. Criscuolo stated at this point, we are waiting for Angela to be prepared and ready. All budget discussions were done on time and as soon as Angela gives us to do ahead we can advertise for the workshops.

Mayor Sobel stated he hopes we will start on Saturday, February 7th, February 14th and February 21st.

Pay to Play: Mr. Criscuolo distributed sample ordinance to Council for review. Mr. Criscuolo stated the State is putting something together much like what we have. If you decide to put on agenda the State could supersede it. We can save money and hold off a couple of weeks. Within the next 30 days we should know what the State is going to do.

Mayor Sobel asked Mr. Criscuolo to post a copy of the draft ordinance on our website.

Mr. Criscuolo stated the main concern was contribution limits. The Ordinance would state, "Any individual meeting the definition of "professional business entity" under this article may make a contribution up to the amount that is reportable by the recipient, currently in excess of \$300, to each candidate for mayor or Council, Aberdeen Township or Monmouth County party committees or to a PAC reference in this article, for each election, without violating Subsection A or B. A professional business entity including such principals, partners and officers of the entity, may not contribute in a aggregate in excess of a total of \$2,500 for each election to all Township municipal candidates and municipal office holders seeking reelection who have, or if elected would have, ultimate responsibility for the award of the no bid contract and to all Aberdeen Township or Monmouth County political parties and PACs referenced in this article without violating Subsection A or B." Mr. Criscuolo stated he will place this ordinance on the website.

Mr. Criscuolo stated we need to table Ordinance No. 3-2009, we have not received approval from the Commissioner of Personnel.

Councilman Vinci made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Tagliarini and unanimously concurred by Council.

David G. Sobel, Mayor

Karen Ventura, Municipal Clerk