

**ABERDEEN TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005**

Present: Wilhelmina Gumbs
 Nicholas Minutolo
 Joseph Raymond
 Thomas Perry
 Vincent Vinci
 Owen Drapkin
 David G. Sobel

Absent: None

Also Present: Mark Coren, Township Manager
 Daniel McCarthy, Ralph Conte and Colleen Paterson, Township Attorneys

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.

2005 Index Ordinance: Local Government Cap Law allows a municipality to increase their budget by 2.5%. When an Index Ordinance is adopted the budget is allowed to be increased by 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations. An 1% increase in the budget amounts to \$63,299.69 and is advisable and recommended to adopt. This will help us to create a bank. This ordinance needs to be adopted by the introduction of the 2005 budget. A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of introducing this ordinance at tonight's public meeting.

Revising Street Opening Ordinance: This ordinance is based on the recommendations of the Township Engineer and the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF). It increases insurance requirements, bond amounts and fees for street excavations. A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of introducing this ordinance at tonight's public meeting.

Award of Contract for Cleaning and Televising Sanitary & Storm Sewer Lines: Bids were received on December 8, 2004 for the aforesaid project. In a memo dated January 18, 2005, Jim Lauro recommends we accept the bid from Russell Reid, Keasby, NJ. A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of bringing this resolution to tonight's public meeting.

Appropriation Transfer for 2004: This is a transfer between accounts to cover the costs of water purchases. A straw poll vote was unanimously in favor of bringing this resolution to tonight's public meeting.

Liquor License - Butler Lodge: An application was submitted by Butler Lodge, 191 County Road for a new Club Liquor License in Aberdeen. All documents are in order and CO's issued. They are a bonafide club and it is recommended to approve this license. A straw poll vote was

unanimously in favor of bringing this resolution to the next public meeting.

Mayor Sobel asked Mr. Coren to explain Bond Ordinance No. 1-2005.

Mr. Coren stated it is a requirement of the State of New Jersey to participate in the Green Acres Grant Program. Green Acres states that we must first adopt a plan, which the Council has done and has had two public hearings on it. The next step is before an application is filed is that the Council has to put into effect the full faith and credit of the Town to secure 50% of the costs of this \$5.8 million. That means 50% of the costs, if the State approves it will be paid for by the State of New Jersey, close to \$3 million. The remaining portion will be paid for by the development opportunity in Freneau. \$2.3 million is part of the redeveloper's agreement between the two developers to set up recreational trust fund to acquire lands in the Township of Aberdeen. The remaining portion of money may be paid for by the New Jersey Land Trust. So the net effect to the tax payer if this all works out will be zero. Now, there have been some concerns as to why certain lands are included and not included.

Mayor Sobel stated there was an inventory done with more properties listed than in the Bond Ordinance. Why weren't those properties listed.

Mr. Coren stated the 19 acres in Freneau were given top priority because they were a part of the Court Order in 1992. The next was the one property in Cliffwood Beach, which is environmentally sensitive and part of the drainage system. The third has to do with the farm on Lloyd Road and the last one on County Road, has been an issue with the neighbors. There is a trucking company there. In each instance it improves the quality of life. These are items that have been out there a long time and ones the staff felt should be given the highest priority. All the five properties mentioned are ones that are important resources to the community. The properties on Monastery Lane and Wilson Ave are critical to fulfilling the COAH requirements and the need for recreational facility. Whether or not every parcel will be included is a matter of discussion going forward. This is a dynamic situation.

Mr. Coren stated the ordinance states your intent to fund and State Grant money comes with it. If we don't get the grant money, I will come back to the Council and what do you want to do. We worked hard as a staff to meet community goals and preserve open space. The Freneau situation, once it is engineered, whether or not certain parcels are included is up for discussion.

Mayor Sobel stated you identify a property, and just because a property is listed doesn't mean that it will be acquired.

Mr. Coren stated acquiring the properties listed in the ordinance are definite in the context of the ordinance, but the ordinance also states it is part of the grant program. We still have to sit down and negotiate with the property owners, if a property owner does not wish to participate or can't negotiate a fair price and the judgement of this Council is we don't want to acquire this we take the property out or they use their powers under eminent domain. That is were a decision will be made.

Mayor Sobel stated how are we going to decide which properties make sense.

Mr. Coren stated first we go to the State and get into the program. State says yes, than you get into specifics of how much money the State gives us and what we want to acquire. The properties will be brought back to you in the form of specific designs. The plan in Freneau includes a ball field, soccer fields and a passive park, which is from prior Council. Other areas have no intention of having anything done with them but leave them alone now. There is a great deal of flexible and nothing is cast in stone. It is a policy statement that the State of New Jersey is acquiring.

Councilman Raymond made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Gumbs and unanimously concurred by Council.

David G. Sobel, Mayor

Karen Ventura, Municipal Clerk