

**ABERDEEN TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Aberdeen in the County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at One Aberdeen Square and was called to order by Mayor David G. Sobel, who presided at the meeting.

Mayor Sobel said that this meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and that notice of same has been posted on the bulleting board in the Municipal Building and was published in the appropriate newspapers.

**ROLL CALL**            Present:        Janice Gallo  
   Thomas Perry  
   Vincent Vinci  
   Wilhelmina Gumbs  
   David G. Sobel

                                 Absent:        Owen Drapkin  
   Joseph Raymond

                                 Also Present: James Lauro, Acting Township Manager  
   Diane Dabulas, Township Attorney

A Moment of Silence was offered by Mayor Sobel followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REPORTS**

Councilman Perry stated on April 19<sup>th</sup> the Environmental Shade Tree had their annual spring clean up at the beach and was assisted by Boy Scout Troop 92.

There were no further reports.

Mayor Sobel read the following Proclamation:

***MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK  
May 4 through May 10, 2008***

***WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world; and***

***WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and***

*WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels; and*

*WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and*

*WHEREAS, The Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and*

*WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, province, county and international professional organizations; and*

*WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID G. SOBEL, MAYOR OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ABERDEEN,** do hereby proclaim, on behalf of the Township Council, the week of May 4 through May 10, 2008, as Municipal Clerks Week and further extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.*

**SPECIAL EDUCATION WEEK**  
**May 11 through May 17, 2008**

*WHEREAS, four hundred and eighty-five (485) children receive special education and related services in the Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District; and*

*WHEREAS, dozens of parents, teachers, child study team members and school administrators give generously of their time and energy to support the learning needs of special education students; and*

*WHEREAS, since 1985 the New Jersey School Boards Association has sponsored Special Education Week in New Jersey; and*

*WHEREAS, the Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District has the ability to make major contributions to these exceptional persons by helping them grow and learn to participate as citizens in our community and as members of society.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID G. SOBEL, MAYOR OF THE**

*TOWNSHIP OF ABERDEEN, do hereby proclaim, on behalf of the Township Council, the week of May 11 through May 17, 2008, as Special Education Week in Aberdeen and call upon all citizens to recognize the achievements of our district's special education students and the outstanding contributions made by educators, school board members, administrators and parents toward quality education for the exceptional students of our district.*

Councilman Perry made a motion to add Resolution No. 2008-65 and Resolution No. 2008-66 to tonight's consent agenda. Seconded by Councilman Vinci.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Gallo, Perry, Vinci, Deputy Mayor Gumbs and Mayor Sobel

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS - Agenda Items only**

Mayor Sobel asked anyone wishing to be heard on agenda items to come forward and state their name and address. There being no one wishing to be heard Mayor Sobel declared the Hearing of the Citizens closed.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-51 - PUBLIC HEARING - 2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mayor Sobel opened the public hearing to the public for any remarks or comments for or against the 2008 Municipal Budget. There being no one present wishing to be heard Mayor Sobel closed the public hearing on the 2008 Municipal Budget.

Councilwoman Gallo made a motion that public hearing for Resolution No. 2008-51 be closed and reserve decision.

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Gumbs

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Gallo, Perry, Vinci, Deputy Mayor Gumbs and Mayor Sobel

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-52 - PUBLIC HEARING - 2008 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DISTRICT BUDGET**

Mayor Sobel opened the public hearing to the public for any remarks or comments for or against the 2008 Solid Waste Collection District Budget. There being no one present wishing to be heard Mayor Sobel closed the public hearing on the 2008 Solid Waste Collection District Budget.

Councilman Vinci made a motion that public hearing for Resolution No. 2008-52 be closed and reserve decision.

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Gumbs

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Gallo, Perry, Vinci, Deputy Mayor Gumbs and Mayor Sobel

Nays: None

Abstain: None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Deputy Mayor Gumbs made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, all items listed under 7A including Resolution No. 2008-65 and 2008-66. Seconded by Councilman Vinci.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Gallo, Perry, Vinci, Deputy Mayor Gumbs and Mayor Sobel

Nays: None

Abstain: None

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-63 - BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that it hereby authorizes an agreement with CME Associates for the Preliminary Assessment & Limited Site Investigation for Sea Wall Pedestrian Access Project.
2. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-64- BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that it hereby awards a contract for the 2007 Road Improvement Program.
3. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-65 - BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that it hereby authorizes an agreement with CME Associates for Remedial Investigation of South River Metals.
4. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-66 - BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that it hereby authorizes an agreement with CME Associates for preliminary assessment and site investigation of former Matawan Borough Water Facility.
6. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION - BE IT RESOLVED that the general public shall be excluded from discussion held during executive session - Negotiations - SOA, Contractual - Duda lane Engineering Proposal, Negotiations - Matawan -Aberdeen Region School District defeated budget.

### **HEARING OF THE CITIZENS/CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS**

Mayor Sobel asked any member of the public wishing to be heard to come forward and to state their name and address.

Paul Gentile  
229 Cashel Drive

Mr. Gentile stated he is a lifelong resident of Aberdeen and is concerned about the safety of Cashel Drive. Cashel Drive is a well known cut through street. It is a very wide street.

Over the last eight months there were a couple of close calls with speeding motor vehicles cutting through. There was also an incident of a car going around a bus when the bus was stopped dropping off children. Complaints have been made and the police department sent out patrol cars. Unfortunately, they can not be there all the time. We are coming here tonight to ask to Council to look at ways mitigate the street. There are 22 children on the street, 10 children under the age of 5, we are very concerned. We came up with a proposal that we think would best take care of the situation. We have a letter of support signed by owners of twelve houses, there are 14 houses on the street altogether. We would like to see a guardrail at the South Atlantic end of Cashel Drive or timed turn limits. Speed bumps didn't go over well.

Mayor Sobel stated the same problem occurred on Oxford Lane. First, timed turn limits were installed and that did help. The problem of speed was still there, we surveyed Oxford Lane resident and 90% of the residents wanted speed bumps. The speed bumps have been well received.

Mr. Gentile stated our first idea was to close off one end of Cashel Drive, it is not a vital throughway.

Councilman Perry stated the buses are the worst offenders for blowing through the street. Mr. Perry asked if approval will be needed for signage on Church Street. South Atlantic is ours.

Mr. Lauro stated Church Street is ours also.

Mr. Gentile stated the road is so wide and a long straight away it makes it easy to speed. First recommendation would be to block off the South Atlantic side of Cashel Drive. Second was time restriction to make turns.

Mayor Sobel asked why people would not want speed bumps.

Mr. Gentile stated some people worry about the noise and breaks.

Mayor Sobel stated he lives next to Oxford Lane which has the speed bumps and there is no noise and no squeaky breaks. Cars are stopping going over the bump.

Mr. Gentile stated the street is long, people would speed, stop, speed, stop. A guardrail is cost effective.

Bruce Domalewski  
222 Clair Court

Mr. Domalewski stated speed bumps are not a good idea, they do not slow you down. Speeders will go through. Cars will race and stop, race and stop.

Kellie Ritter  
225 Cashel Drive

Ms. Ritter stated cars use Cashel Drive as a cut through, she has been passed making a right hand turn into her driveway on the right hand side. Speed bumps will not stop the problem. People will still pass you. This is a residential street, they have to understand that. We are afraid of speed bumps, they may not solve the problems and need to be solved.

Mayor Sobel stated we will talk to the engineers, police and fire department to come up with a solution. The residents of Cashel Drive did the first step by coming to the Council.

Mr. Gentile stated there are numerous police records with accidents at the intersection of Cashel and Church Street.

Lynn Lawrence  
217 Cashel Drive

Ms. Lawrence stated can we do a speed study. We may not have enough facts.

Councilman Perry asked if a traffic study can calculate speed as well.

Tim Gillen, Township Engineer stated yes, the police department will do traffic studies with radar.

Councilman Perry asked if there is a wire that would count the cars and do a calculation on speed.

Mr. Gillen stated there are devices that are made to calculate speed. CME has had experience with it.

Don Bolton  
221 Cashel Drive

Mr. Bolton stated on two occasions I was almost hit pulling into my driveway.

Mayor Sobel instructed Mr. Lauro to bring the matter to the attention of police chief, to begin a study. We will need the Township Engineer to look at a solution, a design and cost to put up a gate for emergency vehicles to have access to Cashel Drive.

Mr. Gillen stated that would be a change in traffic pattern, it would have to comply with safety requirements.

Councilman Perry asked if there was a state statute that prohibits one from cutting through to avoid a traffic light.

Mr. Gillen stated Title 39 regulates all the traffic and there is a prohibition using private property to cut through to avoid a light.

Mayor Sobel stated the police department issued tickets when people cut through Lloyd

Road School.

Mark Lawrence  
217 Cashel Drive

Mr. Lawrence stated Cashel Drive stated school buses should not be affected with Cashel Drive being closed at one end. It would be the same distance.

Mayor Sobel stated to leave a name and phone number and we will keep you informed of progress made and results of studies. We will also have private meetings with you.

Mrs. Bonnett  
Wayside Drive

Mrs. Bonnett stated listening to these good parents something should be done as soon as possible. There is a danger here.

Mayor Sobel agreed.

Bill Maranella  
Lloyd Road

Mr. Maranella stated the school budget has been defeated. Now you are being asked to play referee. You are caught between taxes and the school districts needs. I was on the Board of Education for 6 years. Right now we are in a sluggish economy, highly taxed state. Residents want good schools and programs for their children. Budget needs to meet the objectives of the Board of Education but still be fair to the taxpayers. The School Board is responsible for ensuring that the administration offers a costs effective education. I feel like my vote doesn't count. The School has not proven why they need a \$2.4 million increase. Voters gave a clear mandate. With seven years of failed budgets there has not been one major negative impact in our schools. We are doing worst than comparable schools. We need the Council to send a message to the school board, they have to earn a tax hike. Only 25% of the budgets in Monmouth County were voted down. The voters of Aberdeen sent their message. This district has proven that more money doesn't produce better results. These school budgets always have items to take out in case of defeat. Help stop this. We need you to put an end to this game.

Mayor Sobel stated the two towns get together and agree on a number to be reduced. The School District is not required to listen to the Councils. If it can not be decided on a local level it goes to the County. It is up to the County to take action, they could make their own cuts or approve the budget that was defeated. It is a frustrating time for everyone.

Mr. Bonnett  
Wayside Drive

Mrs. Bonnett suggested bringing in another cable company other than Cablevision. Cablevision doesn't have the programs that people would like to see.

Mayor Sobel told Mrs. Bonnett to petition Cablevision.

Mrs. Bonnett stated she did and it is not working. The other issue is the Sea Wall.

Mayor Sobel stated yes, repairing the Sea Wall and access to the Sea Wall.

Mrs. Bonnett stated in 1985 she went to meetings to have the beach redone, it was suppose to be finish in 1995, it never got started. What happened to it.

Council could not recall a Sea Wall project from 1985.

Mr. Ouben stated he was chairman of the Planning Board, there were no plans for a boardwalk facility, only fixing up the beach and basketballs courts.

Mr. Gentile stated he is the president and CEO of the New Jersey Credit Union League, we recently partnered with the State to offer free financial literacy classes in school districts. We will come in and educate students on financial literacy which is lacking in our schools.

Brian Pfeiffer  
243 Lennox Road

Mr. Pfeiffer stated what is the purpose of spending the money at the SeaWall. No one goes to the park where the basketball courts are or the roller hockey rink. It is not cleaned up or maintained. I don't know what we are hoping to do at the Sea Wall. Not many people go down there at all.

Mayor Sobel stated we and the State have invested a lot on the beachfront and will continue to do that. Unfortunately there has been a lot of vandalism and it is very difficult to control. The purpose of the Sea Wall, people are not even aware that we have a beach. The more we can improve this natural resource and make the community aware is great. We received a two grants for this project. For us to do nothing and let the beachfront deteriorate would be irresponsible.

Mr. Pfeiffer stated no one is using it. It would be great to fix it up and have more people at the beach. Is it well spent money.

Mayor Sobel stated we are trying to do things to promote the beachfront.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Sobel closed the public portion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Deputy Mayor Gumbs made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Vinci and unanimously concurred by Council.

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David G. Sobel, Mayor

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Karen Ventura, Municipal Clerk