

**WORK SESSION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY**  
**MARCH 26, 2002**

The Work Session of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, New Jersey, held at 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, New Jersey, was called to order by the Mayor at 7:07 P.M.

The Mayor read a statement indicating all requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 (The Open Public Meeting Act) had been met.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Township Clerk called the roll.

Present: Mayor Eberle, Deputy Mayor Grippo, Ms. Barrier, Mr. Chivukula, Mr. Levine, Mr. Mazzola, Mr. Mettler, Mr. Sumter. Mr. McKenzie was absent at roll call but arrived immediately thereafter.

Absent: No one

Also Present: Louis N. Rainone, Esq., Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager, Jean C. Pellicane, RMC, Township Clerk:

**2. REVIEW PREPARED AGENDA FOR REGULAR AGENDA**

**12E. BOND SALE - COMBINATION OF CERTAIN ISSUES OF GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS INTO A SINGLE ISSUE - \$19,065,000**

**12F. BOND SALE - COMBINATION OF CERTAIN ISSUES OF OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND BONDS INTO A SINGLE ISSUE - \$21,975,000**

**12G. BOND SALE - COMBINATION OF CERTAIN ISSUES OF WATER UTILITY BONDS INTO A SINGLE ISSUE - \$790,000**

**12H. BOND SALE - DETERMING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS - \$41,830,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (\$19,065,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT/\$21,975,000 OPEN SPACE TRUST/\$90,000 WATER UTILITY)**

Mr. Mazzola noted the importance of these Bond Sale resolutions and requested that they be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. Council concurred and agreed to move these resolutions to a separate Consent Agenda II.

**12K. PURCHASE - ACENTRA TECHNOLOGIES, INC. - CITRIX PHASE 2 - \$74,128.26 - STATE CONTRACT**

In response to a question from Mr. Levine, Township Manager Daly advised that this purchase authorizes Phase 2 of the program to convert to a citrix system. Phase 3 will be proposed for FY 2003 and will be discussed during budget deliberations. Since our existing PC's are five years old, the Information Systems Director is recommending the citrix system for future replacements at a cost saving.

**12FF. AMEND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT - A.D. MARBLE - HISTORIC SURVEY OF TWO HOUSES/CANAL ROAD & OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD - ADDITIONAL \$5,000**

In response to a question from Mr. Chivukula, Township Manager Daly noted that it is anticipated that the report from A. D. Marble on these two dwellings owned by Trap Rock will show some historic value based on

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issues the Historic Preservation Commission has raised. If the report indicates historical significance, the Council will need to deal with Trap Rock and the residents of Old Georgetown Road who want the dwellings torn down. If the A. D. Marble report indicates historical significance, the report will be used to obtain grant funding to preserve the dwellings. These dwellings are also part of resolution 12HH for possible designation as a redevelopment area as a tool for seeking grant funding. The reports authorized by this resolution and Item 12HH are being paid for with Open Space funding with the approval of the Open Space Advisory Committee.

### **12HH PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT - HEYER, GRUEL & ASSOCIATES - DESIGNATION OF MILLSTONE RIVER/D&R CANAL REDEVELOPMENT AREAS - \$15,000.00**

In response to a question from Mr. Mettler, since a map of the area being considered for redevelopment has not been provided, Township Manager Daly noted that the area proposed includes the two Trap Rock dwellings on Old Georgetown Road and Canal Road (the same properties as the A. D. Marble study) and the Onka property. Mr. Mettler requested that the former rubber factory in East Millstone be included in the study if possible.

### **12II. APPOINTMENTS - ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH**

Mr. Mazzola nominated Cynthia Voorhees and Siddhartha (Sid) Prasad, both registered nurses, for two of the three vacant positions expiring December 31, 2004. There being no other nominations, these nominees will be added to the appointment resolution. The remaining one vacant position was deferred pending a future nomination. Mr. Mazzola questioned if Florence VanPelt has been appointed to the unexpired position expiring December 31, 2002. It was determined that Ms. VanPelt was appointed to that position on May 1, 2001 and the resolution of appointment will be corrected accordingly.

## **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Financial Oversight Subcommittee*

#### **Bond Sale**

Mr. Chivukula and Mr. Mazzola reported that the Subcommittee has concurred with the Chief Financial Officer and the Auditor and recommends to the Council the consolidation of bond ordinances previously adopted as set forth in resolutions:

12E - \$19,065,500.00 in General Improvement Bonds

12F - \$21,975,000.00 in Open Space Trust Fund Bonds

12G - \$790,000.00 in Water Utility Bonds

and offering of said bonds for sale as set forth in resolution 12H, to be paid off over the next 15 years. (Resolutions moved to a separate consent agenda at the Work Session).

Mr. Mazzola noted that the level of bonding we have reached will have an important impact on our future capital expenditures. While statute permits a municipality to bond up to 3 ½% of its equalized value (\$131,656,247), the Chief Financial Officer and Auditor recommend that bonding be limited to 1% of equalized value (\$37,616,071). Our current net debt will be \$29,763,640.00, leaving approximately \$7 million for future bonding without exceeding the recommended percentage.

In request to questions from Mr. Levine, Township Manager Daly and Chief Finance Officer Agosto noted:

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1. The bonding for Open Space and Water Utility funds are self-liquidating and the amounts are not included in the \$29 million net debt or considered in the recommended 1%.
2. The bonding by the Board of Education is not included in the \$29 million net debt or considered in the recommended 1%.

Mr. Mazzola noted that the bonds will have staggered payment schedules for each series of bonds, liquidating a certain amount every year. The liquidated amount will then go to our available bonding capacity.

Township Attorney Rainone noted that the Council has already authorized the bonding and the monies have been obtained through temporary financing, bond anticipation notes. Municipalities only go out to the bond market occasionally for permanent financing.

### ***Recreation Program Revenue***

Mr. Chivukula reported that the Subcommittee has recommended fee increases for the summer recreation program as set forth in a memo from Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks and Recreation. Township Manager Daly advised that the memo is being revised and will go on the agenda for the next Work Session.

### ***Advisory Board of Health***

Mr. Mazzola provided his report in the form of nominations for appointments as part of Item 2 on this agenda.

### ***Fire Prevention Board***

Deputy Mayor Grippo reported that Mr. Mettler, as Alternate Liaison, attended the last meeting of the Board and:

- (a) Recommended that all boards having Council liaison members also have Alternate Liaison members to provide continuity.
- (b) Reported that work on FESMA is moving forward and their meeting in April will result in a more comprehensive report.

Mr. Chivukula questioned the variation in fire district tax rates as set forth in the Consent Agenda resolutions. Mr. Mettler responded that the tax rates vary based on the ratable base in each district and because most of the revenue for Fire District No. 4 comes from South Brunswick Township. Mr. Mettler also noted that there is no desire on the part of the fire districts to merge the districts.

### ***SCAP Board of Directors***

Ms. Barrier reported:

- (a) SCAP has executed a contract for the purchase of property at 113 Belmont Drive for use as child care facility.
- (b) Renovations will soon be underway at 900 Hamilton Street for use as a Head Start program.
- (c) SCAP has voted to submit an application for the Individual Development Account Program, but the application has not yet been approved. The program promotes savings and asset accumulation for future purchases of homes, college tuition, small business, etc., and provides eligible families who have succeeded in the program's goals with matching funds. \*As

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- (d) SCAP has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with ARISE, a counseling program for at-risk adolescents, to allow them to gather at the Lewis Street facility 4 days a week 2 hours per afternoon and on Friday evenings. Policies are being developed to insure the safety of children using the facility.
- (e) SCAP has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with SHIP for the provision of a mobile soup kitchen two nights a week providing free meals.

### *Somerset County Coalition on Affordable Housing*

Ms. Barrier reported:

As noticed to Council by press releases from Somerset County, April is Housing Month which will be celebrated with the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual First-Time Homebuyers Exposition, Senior Housing Successes Workshop and Annual Outstanding Achievement Awards.

### *Library Board*

Deputy Mayor Grippo reported:

- (a) The Board is continuing with plans for the 10,000 square foot expansion of the library.
- (b) A Fundraising Committee is being formed.
- (c) The Board has begun budget deliberations for FY2003.
- (d) A butterfly bench has been donated to the new facility by the architect.

### *Emergency Life Support Delivery Committee*

Mr. Mazzola reported:

- (a) Performance statistic data, including calls answered and calls missed, is being compiled and will be shared with the other squads and the Council to enable the measurement of our ability to respond to emergencies.
- (b) The Committee discussed municipal contributions to the fire companies and squads which have not increased in many years.
- (c) The Committee is seeking Council's help in joint recruitment efforts at upcoming municipal events, school assistance in making posters, etc.
- (d) A plan for joint training opportunities to cut costs, share responsibilities and encourage retention of members is being developed to replace the current system where each squad does its own training.

### *Recreation Facility Study Committee*

Deputy Mayor Grippo reported that the Committee is moving towards its goals and working on a skateboard park proposal for Council.

## **4. DROUGHT UPDATE**

Township Manager Daly advised that in light of recent rains, he is not recommending any water restriction other than the State restrictions currently in effect.

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### 5. VOLUNTEER POLICY

Township Manager Daly noted March 22<sup>nd</sup> memo from Marc Dashield, Assistant Township Manager, recommending addition of a statement in our personnel ordinance to encourage municipal workers to volunteer as members of the fire and rescue squads. This policy will impact departmental operations but will provide a long-term benefit of having municipal employee volunteers provide daytime coverage. Some municipalities also give hiring preference to fire/rescue volunteers and circulate job openings to fire/rescue squads before offering same to the public.

Deputy Mayor Grippo suggested a mailing insert with tax bills for fire companies looking for volunteers; the rescue squads do not want to participate in this program. Volunteers will also be honored as part of our Fourth of July ceremony.

### 6. REQUEST FOR VACATION OF PORTION OF QUEENS PLACE

Township Manager Daly advised Council of receipt of a request to vacate a portion of Queens Place in the M-1 Zone. The request was not distributed for staff review based on Council's policy not to sell Township owned land. A report from Economic Development Director Frank Hasner notes that vacation would add land to make the adjacent property conforming for an industrial use in the M-1 Zone, add tax revenue and eliminate a possible attractive nuisance at the end of a dead end street for which the Township is responsible for maintenance.

Mr. Mettler noted that a paper street is in an entirely different category from Township owned land and, if such street would never be used by the Township as a street, add to the tax roles and serve no other public purpose, he would concur with Mr. Hasner's recommendation.

Ms. Barrier, having made the motion to not sell Township owned land, concurred with Mr. Mettler and the distribution of the request for staff review. Council concurred.

### 7. ROUTE 287 SOUND BARRIERS

Township Manager Daly noted a March 14<sup>th</sup> memo from Sgt. Vornlocker in conjunction with Township Engineer Joe Russo and survey indicating overwhelming resident opinion in favor of the sound barrier. If Council agrees, a resolution requesting NJDOT to start the process can be placed on an April agenda.

Mr. Mazzola questioned why the plan for the barrier does not include a large residential area along the northern side of Route 287 in the area of Garfield Avenue. Township Manager Daly responded that he will seek a response from Sgt. Vornlocker and Township Engineer Russo.

Ms. Barrier questioned why the plan does not include the area adjacent to Elizabeth Avenue School where noise problems interfere with school activities in the school yard. Mr. Mazzola responded that NJDOT will only consider areas adjacent to residences.

Ms. Barrier noted the importance of specifying to NJDOT that the barrier be made of absorbing material, not reflective material.

Mr. Levine noted the need to bring this information to the attention of the County/Municipal Task Force working with NJDOT on Route 287 problems.

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**8. APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO TOWNSHIP COMMITTEES**

Deputy Mayor Grippo suggested use of the proposed Community Service Inquiry form, with the addition of information on the address to which they should be mailed, for all future appointments by the Township Council. Mr. Mazzola suggested language on the form that all potential appointees must make a phone number available to the Council and the public at large. The telephone number can be a voice mail number, but it will be published and available to the public.

Council concurred. Township Clerk Pellicane will prepare the final form for Council use, and upon final approval, will post the form on the web site and make copies available to the Council and the public.

Upon a motion made, seconded and unanimously agreed, the Work Session was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean C. Pellicane, RMC  
Township Clerk