

The Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, New Jersey, was called to order by the Mayor at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Levine read the following statement: “In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and transmitted to the officially designated newspapers, indicating that this Special Meeting would take place at the Franklin Township Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3, 2008. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.”

Everyone present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Township Clerk called the roll.

Present: Ms. Danile, Ms. Eberle, Ms. Francois, Mr. Glicklich, Mr. Levine, Mr. Mettler, Mr. Prasad, Deputy Mayor Vassanella

Absent: Mr. Sumter

Also present: Leslie G. London, Township Attorney, Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager, Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk

#### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Motion was made by Ms. Danile and seconded by Mr. Prasad to open the meeting for public discussion. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

No one from the public spoke.

There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Mr. Glicklich to close the meeting for public discussion. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Danile and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

#### **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Open Space**

John Loos, Open Space Consultant, and Randy Jones, Chairman of the Open Space Committee, presented the Open Space Budget.

Mr. Loos reviewed the following:

- Purchase of Open Space properties. There have been numerous Open Space purchases, most focusing on Farmland Preservation.
- Management of Open Space properties – numerous parcels is actively managed.
  - Two seasonal employees – under the direction of Public Works.
  - Completed trail system in Ten Mile Run Greenway – 15 miles of trails actively managed.
  - Negri Nepote Native Grassland Preserve – 3 miles of trails actively managed and serve as a refuge for endangered grassland birds.
- Signs – installation
  - Trail signs
  - Historic Preservation signs

There was a brief question and answer period by Council regarding the aforementioned line items. Mayor Levine pointed out that the actual amount of the Open Space budget is supplied by statute and that the Council is only allocating money. Mr. Levine also questioned if

at-risk youth could be hired for the summer season positions. Mr. Loos stated that he would talk to the Personnel department and pointed out that there is some advantage in hiring the same people in consecutive years. He stated that these workers are already familiar with the properties and can work immediately upon hiring.

Mr. Glicklich requested a status update on an ongoing project to preserve native grasslands. Mr. Loos stated that progress on the project has been excellent and that approximately 150 acres of land has been planted in native grasses and wildflowers. A grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service has paid for approximately 75% of the cost and will continue to provide funding for maintenance. He stated that one 15-acre parcel is infested with Canada thistle, an invasive plant, and could not be completed. The Open Space Committee is working with a local farmer who has planted corn on the property and they are using herbicide to remove the thistle. They are hopeful to finish planting the 15-acre parcel next year. Mr. Loos stated that birds have already come to nest in the planted areas and that these areas have attracted the attention of such organizations as Audubon and the Conservation Foundation. Audubon hosts walks on these properties and, through word of mouth, has attracted much attention. He stated that on one evening walk to observe woodcocks in Griggstown, over fifty people arrived to participate. He went on to state that he would be speaking with a federal representative the next day to discuss the maintenance of the properties and that plans are in motion to get help from the state to do controlled burns of the grasslands. He pointed out that the Open Space Commission attempted to do this last year but could not get on the queue. He stated that grasses burn quickly and such burns would only last approximately fifteen minutes. Neighbors and local fire departments would be informed and consulted when such burns were about to take place.

Ms. Francois questioned reductions in the Professional Consulting Services Fees. She stated that Open Space budgeted for \$140,000 last year and only used \$120,118.14. The line item was taken down to \$110,000 for this year. She asked for clarification of what this line item is spent on. Mr. Loos stated that it was for his own contract, approximately \$65,000 or \$70,000, New Jersey Audubon for \$10,000 and various surveys and appraisals. The Open Space Committee recommended the cut down in the budget. Mr. Loos stated that his consulting fees were decreasing.

Mr. Loos questioned the status of a new roof for the Kingston School. Mr. Glicklich stated that \$30,000 was budgeted for the replacement of the roof and that the school was self-sustaining through rental fees.

### **Parks & Recreation**

Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the Parks & Recreation Budget.

Ms. Osipowitz reviewed the following:

The Recreation Budget Proposal includes recommendations that support not only the Departments regular program operations and it also recommends additional funding to support several efforts of the Franklin Youth Initiative (FYI). One of FYI's main objectives is to facilitate the delivery of services for at-risk youth at the Community Resources Center at 935 Hamilton Street. We have several projects in mind that will help to get these programs off the ground, as well as providing support to and empowering at-risk youth to become more involved in the community by being part of the solution as opposed to being part of the problem.

### **FYI Prevention Program Support**

- **Priority 1 Afterschool Programs**

Funding is requested to support After-school Mentoring, Tutoring and Homework Program at Community Resources. **\$15,000** is requested for seasonal staff and **\$5,000** is requested in capital for computers.

- **Priority 2 Community Services Open House**  
Funding is requested to support several open house events to promote community services available at 935 Hamilton Street. Events will be targeted at different age groups including parents and children, teens and young adults. Activities will include agency involvement, activities for youth and/or teens, entertainment and refreshments. We would like to hold 4 events/fairs throughout the year to attract residents to the programs and services. A budget of **\$6,000** is requested to support these initiatives.
- **Priority 3 Leadership Training**  
FYI plans to engage teens and young adults as youth leaders and to involve them in community service activities that will help them address concerns in their community and to guide them in being part of the solution. A budget of **\$10,000** is requested to provide leadership training, supplies and materials for activities/events and to provide refreshments.
- **Priority 4 Printing and Dissemination of Prevention Materials**  
Printing and mailing of promotional material regarding Resources and Services available at 935 Hamilton Street. **\$5,000.00**.
- **Priority 5 Twilight Program**  
We would like to recommend that the Township provide funding to add one or more summer shop classes for Franklin students to attend at the Summer Twilight Program. One workshop cost approximately \$1,500 per student for a total of **\$15,000**. This covers the cost of the instructor and stipends for students.

In addition the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee has asked for a 3% increase in the funding allocated to senior clubs, which would be an increase of **\$600.00**.

#### **FY09 Recreation Programs Continued from Prior Year**

- # of People Anticipated in FY09
- Program Hours
- Program
- Full Time Salaries & Overtime
- Printing
- Maintenance of Equipment
- Rents & Fees
- Janitorial
- Office Supply
- Conferences
- Education
- Professional Duties
- Recreation Supplies
- General Fund
  - Temporary & Part Time Wage
  - Program Cost
- Trust
  - Revenue Anticipated in FY09
  - Expenditures Anticipated in FY09
  - Revenue - Expenditures
- Township Cost per Person

The Department of Recreation, Community Celebrations & Park Administration is committed to improving the quality of life in the Township by providing outstanding recreation opportunities and leisure services, by promoting the stewardship of parkland and by fostering an environment that is service-oriented and responsive to public needs. The Department sponsors a wide variety of activities that meet the physical, social and cultural needs of the community through a well-rounded series of seasonal, year-long and special event activities. The Department is located in and oversees the operation of the Community/Senior Center at 505 DeMott Lane. Administratively the Department provides guidance on Park Planning, works to

support the needs of Youth Sports and Civic Organizations in the Community and works cooperatively with Franklin Township Public Schools.

### **Organization**

The Department of Recreation, Community Celebrations & Park Administration has 4 fulltime staff including the position of Director, Superintendent of Recreation, Recreation Program Coordinator and Senior Citizen Program Coordinator. Full-time staff are supported by The Advisory Recreation Council, the Advisory Senior Citizens Council and approximately 200 part-time program instructors that deliver program services.

### **Accomplishments During FY08**

#### **Franklin Youth Initiative**

A major focus for the department in FY08 was the establishment of the Franklin Youth Initiative in response to Youth Violence and Gang Related activities in the community. The Department was responsible for overseeing the coordination of FYI meetings and activities throughout the year. In addition to serving on several committees the Recreation Department played an instrumental role in the following projects:

- October Gang Prevention Parent Workshop
- January Mentoring Workshop with Phyllis Beals
- Safe Night Teen Activities for 100 youth
- Employment Training Workshops (50 teens) and Job Fair (100 teens)
- Teen Fitness Night (60 teens) at Hillsborough Racquet Club

The Recreation Department was also responsible for development of the **FYI Website**, [www.franklinfyi.org](http://www.franklinfyi.org) which provides information regarding ongoing FYI programs, community activities and resources and services.

The Recreation Department is also working with Community Resources and the Somerset County Youth Services Commission towards the establishment of **495 Hamilton Street as a base of resources and services for at-risk youth.**

#### **Other Accomplishments**

- Instituted agreement for access to Somerset County Park Commission Therapeutic Recreation Services
- Institution of Saturday Harmony Club Therapeutic Recreation Program once/month
- Received \$5,000 grant from the NJ Department of Community Affairs to run P.E.E.R. Camp which offers an inclusive day camp for developmentally disabled youth at the Bunker Hill Environmental Education Center.
- Received \$1,000 grant from the United Way for the Play Program an inclusive therapeutic recreation sports program for preschoolers.
- Junior Olympic Sport Competition
- Management and administration of Franklin/Seniors in Technology
- Entered a 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Softball Team in local Tri-County League
- Supports the Hershey Track & Field Club and the Franklin Wrestling Club. Host State Hershey Track Meet and Franklin youth compete in National Event
- Implementation of Senior Wellness Program with blood pressure screenings for seniors.
- Combined Tennis, Technology and Theater full day camp with Recreation Full Day Camp and doubled enrollment
- Supported MLK Breakfast Committee. Youth Council Volunteers.
- Offered 55 Alive Safe Driving Course for seniors.
- Continued planning, design and development of Middlebush Park and a southern regional park.
- Collaboration on Healthy Communities grant with Health Department for \$2500 in funding.

- Managed the senior 911 cell phone program which offers donated cell phones to seniors to use in case of an emergency and the File of Life cards used by emergency responders to get a senior's health care information in case there's need for an emergency response.
- Teen Recreation has been recognized for its contribution to the reduction of Juvenile crime.
- Management of Community/Senior Center operation including: scheduling; policy; permit; maintenance; and supervision.
- Management of Kingston School Lease Agreement
- Staff coordination of 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.
- Award of \$48,000 Alliance grant and prevention program management
- Award of \$5,000 SCYSC grant and prevention program management
- Management of \$15,000 SC Athletic Field Grant and facility improvements
- Management of NJDA summer nutrition program and grant
- Coordination criminal history background checks for Recreation employees and volunteers.
- Increase program revenue from FY07-FY08 by 10%

### **Future Outlook**

- Maintain and expand Teen Recreation Program and services targeted at Juvenile delinquency prevention.
- Increase Therapeutic Recreation Services for the Disabled.
- Increase Senior Citizen activity support and continued development of new programming for Senior Citizens.
- Manage Kingston School for community use and tenant lease agreement.
- Management of skate park
- Conduct criminal history background checks for all employees and volunteers
- Continued planning, design and development of Middlebush Park and a southern regional park.
- Increase program revenue by 3%.
- Enhancement of Community Wellness Campaign
- Management of Franklin/Senior in Technology Program
- Expansion of Transportation to Community Center for Senior Citizens
- Improve Recreation Office Administrative Support

### **Major Program Areas**

#### **Programs for Youth**

The Department offers a wide variety of programs for children 6 months to 12 years of age including: swimming instruction, open swim, the Play Learn Pre-K workshops, Toddlers Adventures, Tennis Instruction, the Summer Park Camp Program, Instructional and League Basketball, Roller Hockey Leagues and clinics, Football Clinics, Girls Softball. The Department also supports the Hershey Track & Field Club and the Franklin Wrestling Club.

#### **Programs for Teens**

The Teen Recreation Program has been recognized by the NJ Recreation and Parks Association as a model program for teenagers. This program uses Recreation as a draw and provides informal counseling for at-risk youth through a cooperative agreement with family and Community Services of Somerset County. This program offers sports, crafts and trips to teens 13-18. Additional programs offered by the Township include: Open Basketball, Tennis Instruction, Aerobics, Swimming Instruction, the Summer Park Camp Program, Roller Hockey, and the Counselor in Training Program.

#### **Programs for Adults**

Adults can partake in a variety of programs including: Softball Leagues, Open Volleyball, Open Basketball, Aerobics, and Tennis Instruction.

### **Therapeutic Recreation**

The Recreation Department provides a number of services to meet the needs of developmentally and physically disabled residents. Our philosophy is to provide inclusion when ever possible in programs. Several programs are identified as inclusive including the Summer Adventure Camp, the Play Program and our Summer Park Program. Every effort is made to accommodate the needs of our residents when possible. The Adult Therapeutic Recreation Program meets weekly throughout the year offering a variety of social events and trips.

### **Special Events**

The Recreation Department sponsors 3 community events including the Pumpkin Patch Festival, the Tree Lighting Ceremony, and the Bunny Jamboree. The Department also lends support to Operation Cooperation, and is actively involved in the planning and coordination of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

### **Senior Citizen Programs**

The Recreation Department is focused on providing senior citizens with opportunities and leisure services that will help them maintain an active lifestyle socially, physically, and culturally. Programs are provided by Full-time and Part-time staff as well as volunteers. The majority of the programs and services are offered on-site at the Community/Senior Center. The Recreation Department provides administrative support and guidance to the Senior Clubs that operate semi-independently and independently of the Department. The Recreation Budget includes a funding allotment to support senior club activities. In addition the Department provides support the Senior Hi-Steppers, the United Seniors and the Senior Advisory Committee. Some of the program areas include a variety of arts & crafts; exercise opportunities through aerobics classes, Yoga, Sit-er-cize, Healthy Bones, Tai Chi and the Walking Club; the Swingin' Singin' Seniors; mini-trips; and computer classes. Transportation is also made available to the center through an inter-local service agreement with Somerset County.

### **Youth Services Commission and Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse**

The Recreation Department acts as the lead agency for the coordination of the juvenile delinquency and substance abuse prevention activities supported by these committees. Funding as been made available through the Somerset County YSC and Alliance as well as through the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission. A wide range of services are provided in the community and the schools. Programming, staff or financial support is provided for Community workshops, Peer Leadership and Conflict Resolution in the Schools, DARE, Project Graduation, the Edgemere Learning Center, The Parkside Learning Center, Teen Recreation, Williams Park Day Camp, Teen Alternatives for FMS, The FMS Hip Hop Dance Afterschool Program, Girls on the Run, FHS & FMS Rebel Program, the ARISE Program.

### **Franklin Township Youth Council**

The Franklin Township Youth Council has completed three years of active community service. The program has grown from 15 students in the first year to 35 students in grades 7-12 in FY08. Their objectives are: to provide an open forum to foster communication, education and information concerning youth and youth-related issues to the Franklin Township Youth Council, Franklin Township Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of substance Abuse, the Township Council, and to the community; to advise on the planning, policy and, programs; to be involved as an action-group in the Township in cooperation with government, other Councils/Boards, and community programs. In FY06-08 the Youth Council provided community services support to; the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration; the Week of the People; the Leukemia Society Light the Night Walk; Family Fitness Fund Day; the annual Pumpkin Patch Carnival; Red Ribbon Week Prevention Education; Elijah's Kitchen; Franklin's Tree Lighting Ceremony; MLK Breakfast Celebration; the Angel Tree of Giving; Recreation Ski Trip sponsorship; the annual Bunny Jamboree; the Cultural Diversity Showcase and Taste of Hamilton Street; the Real smoking prevention education week at FHS; and Teen Fitness Night.

### **Franklin Township Senior Citizens Advisory Council**

The Recreation Department provides administrative support to The Senior Citizens Advisory Council that meets monthly to discuss a wide variety of issues facing the 55+ population including: transportation; housing; Medicare; the community center; recreation programs, etc.

#### **Budget Dollars at Work**

- Annual program administration of approximately 22,000 registered participants, over 75 different programs and 360,000 participant hours in recreation and grant supported programs.
- Generation and management of \$200,000+ in revenue through the Recreation Trust Fund.
- Scheduled 200 evening and weekend dates in the Community/Senior Center by 40 Township organizations.
- Issued 75 park reservation permits.

There was a brief question and answer period by Council regarding the aforesaid line items and budgets. Mayor Levine pointed out that the Budget was broken down differently from last year. After some clarification from Mr. Daly it was determined that the overall Parks & Recreation budget was requesting a 5% increase from \$594,000 to \$622,000. Ms. Osipowitz pointed out that some of the costs would come from the Trust fund.

Ms. Danile requested an explanation of any tie in to the Open Space budget. It was clarified that there were no tie-ins and that references to recreation in the Open Space budget was a matter of federal financial coding and did not pertain to the line item breakdown of the budget.

Ms. Francois requested clarification regarding programs not budgeted. These programs were mentioned as they seem to be good programs to look into but that will not be created and maintained, as they do not currently fit in the budget. Mayor Levine questioned which programs had been added or deleted. Ms. Osipowitz stated that some programs that had low participation were closed. The money from these programs was used to fund programs with higher participation, such as the full-day summer camp.

Mr. Mettler questioned the use of capital for improvements on Open Space and Recreation properties. Mr. Daly stated that this would be discussed in further detail in the Capital budget.

Deputy Mayor Vassanella questioned the funding and participation in recreational programs. He questioned if it was possible to save money by using County programs instead of, or combined with, their own. Ms. Osipowitz stated that some residents could not afford to travel out of the Township for some programs. She pointed out that non-residents who use Franklin Township programs sometimes paid double what residents pay in program fees. Mr. Glicklich stated his support in the idea of sharing and combining recreational services with other neighboring communities.

Ms. Osipowitz pointed out that the Parks & Recreation budget also covered the Community Celebrations budget. This budget is used to purchase games and supplies for programs such as International Night Out, Operation Cooperation as well as the annual Fourth of July Celebration, Halloween Pumpkin Patch, the Bunny Jamboree, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Black History Month. She pointed out that Black History Month is run by Community Resources but is budgeted here. She stated that this budget was the same as last year. Ms. Osipowitz also pointed out that there was an increase in the Senior Transportation budget due to the maintenance of a bus leased to Somerset County Transportation.

Police

Craig Novick, Chief of Police, presented the Police Department Budget.

Chief Novick reviewed the following:

- Department Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives and Action Plan
- Personnel Report
  - Increase of officer strength by 7
  - Handled 79,803 calls per service – increase of 4,214 calls
  - 29,765 security checks performed
  - GREAT Program went into effect for the start of the school year. Officers were trained in the spring.
  - Neighborhood Police Team
- Crime Analysis – 2007 Crime Statistics
  - UCR – 1274 total crimes for the entire year – decrease of 12
  - Violent Crimes – 65 for the year – decrease of 22
- Summons/Arrest Activity
  - Total of 1288 arrests
  - Total Summonses – 7786 – increase of 1084
- Police Vehicle Fleet Information
- Patrol Division
  - “Park, Walk & Talk” – 1900 Community Policing Details – increase of 757
- Investigative Division
  - Specialized Unit for Crime Suppression – 351 arrests – increase of 28
  - Detective Borough Clearance Rate – 77% - Up by 4% - remarkably high for a detective borough.
- Professional Services Division –
- Traffic Safety Bureau –
  - Traffic Enforcement & Radar Details – 1847 total – increase of 1022
- Organizational Table

There was a brief question and answer period by Council regarding the aforesaid items. Chief Novick recognized Deputy Chief Roberts who runs the technical applications of the Police Department, Lt. Vornlocker who serves as the Administrative Commander, and Sgt. Holzheimer, SOA union representative. Deputy Mayor Vassanella questioned the break down of the ranks in the Police Department. Chief Novick explained the ranks and stated that there are about 25% department administrators that supervise the other 75% of the department. He stated that the Police Department is 5 officers short of the recommended minimum.

Chief Novick expressed concern regarding a new high school that is being built in New Brunswick. The new high school is very close to the Franklin Township border and the police department is expecting an increase in youth activity in that area. He further stated that Franklin Township is a dynamic town with several different kinds of areas in the whole town, including a hotel district that invites outside problems. He praised the Police Department for keeping incidents to a minimum.

Mr. Daly clarified that in 2006 a plan was implemented to assist the Franklin Township Police Department in catching up with the Federal Standard. Sixteen new officers were hired at that time and the plan incorporated an increase in officers by two or three every year until 2016. As this year they have only hired two officers, the plan is somewhat behind its schedule.

Ms. Danile commented that Franklin Township’s position as fifth best place to live in the nation is provided for, in a large part, by the Police Department’s efforts. Safety is an important issue to residents of any community. She commended the Police Department for making Franklin a safe place to live in.

Mr. Mettler stated that the establishment of the municipal court security pass was state mandated but the state does not pay for it. He went on to express concern over the effect that

the current economic situation will have on the crime rate. Chief Novick echoed the concerns, stating that an increase in car and house burglaries can be expected.

Mr. Glicklich thanked the Police Department for their work with the Franklin Youth Initiative.

Ms. Francois asked for clarification regarding the hiring of two new police officers in the next year, questioning if they were written into the budget already. Mr. Daly explained that the hiring of these officers was already written into the budget.

### Engineering/DPW/Water

Thomas Zilinek, Township Engineer, presented the Engineering/DPW/Water Budget.

Mr. Zilinek reviewed the following:

#### Engineering

- Reducing costs by making department more self sufficient
  - \$20,000 decrease in GIS consulting fees
  - Do more in-house and reduce dependency on outside consultants.

#### Public Works

- Roads Division
  - Maintenance
  - Snow/Ice removal – reduced budget due to a build up in the Trust fund.
- Solid Waste Division

#### Water

- Attempting to bring numbers down to what the Township is actually paying for water.
  - New Jersey American Water submits to the State for fee increases. The Township raises fees based upon this application but the full amount is not always granted to the water company. The water department is working on adjusting the fees.
  - There will be no rate increase for this year.
  - Working on a plan that anticipates annual increases to help Franklin Township families plan for rate increases on their water bills.

There was a brief question and answer period by Council regarding the aforesaid items. Ms. Francois questioned the amount of overtime recorded by the Department of Public Works. Mr. Zilinek explained that the 270% increase in Public Works overtime was recorded incorrectly. That overtime was charged to the wrong account and should have been broken up between other accounts set aside for that purpose. This error was due to a miscommunication between Public Works and Finance. The problem causing this error has since been corrected.

Deputy Mayor Vassanella questioned if it was possible to make Saturday hours at the mini dump part of the workweek. Mr. Zilinek stated that that was not possible due to the existing union contract.

Mr. Daly clarified that the Department of Public Works did not overrun its Budget. Only one line item was overrun due to clerical error. He recommended discussing the management of overtime and union contracts in an executive session.

Mr. Prasad questioned if Council could assume that Public Works employees work a six-day workweek in the summer. Mr. Zilinek stated that some people would work six days in a week because of the mini dump but it is not a full crew and not everyone in the department will work Monday through Saturday. Mr. Prasad stated that the mini dump needed to be better

managed in terms of cost but the public did not want to close down the facility entirely. Mr. Daly and Mr. Zilinek stated that they had been in contact with the State and it would take \$500,000 just to organize the mini dump. This price did not reflect operational costs.

Mr. Prasad questioned the installation of water meters, stating that they were supposed to save the Township money. Mr. Zilinek explained that the water meter replacement program was an eight-year program that consists of nine phases. They are currently working on Phase 2. This project is designed to reduce the need to have a person reading meters and the new meters will be more accurate in determining actual water usage. He stated that some meters are over ten years old and are no longer accurately reading water usage. He further stated that this program is not a one or two-year program and that a savings would not be noticeable until at least 50% of the meters were swapped out for new ones.

Deputy Mayor Vassanella questioned how much manpower would be needed to swap out the meters. Mr. Zilinek responded that the department was currently concentrating on industrial meters and that manpower and hours would be provided during the workweek. However, when it finally comes time to switch out the meters for private homeowners, not all homeowners will be available between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This overtime will come out of the Water budget. Not everyone can do these meter replacements either. Trained employees will have to replace these meters. While the department is working on training all employees in this procedure, it is impossible to train all the employees at once and will take time to get all employees properly trained. The program is currently slightly ahead of schedule.

### Capital

Kenneth Daly, Township Manager, presented the Capital budget. Tom Zilinek, Township Engineer, and Ross Bobal, Director of Finance, assisted with answering the Council's questions.

Mr. Daly reviewed the following:

- Programs –
  - 2009 Road Resurfacing Program
  - Recreation – Funded through the Recreation Trust Fund without going into debt.
    - Engineering and Development of Middlebush Park
    - Engineering of the Southern Park
  - Kingston School Project
    - New roof – Funded through the Open Space Budget.
  - Water – Funded through the Water Budget.
  - Other line items – Funded through borrowing money and issuing bonds.
- Vehicles –
  - Funding through the Somerset County Improvement Authority
  - Last year most vehicles were paid for through cash capital, including Police vehicles.
- Information Technology (IT) –
  - Paperless Council Agenda Initiative
    - Includes software and laptops for Council members to receive information electronically.

There was a brief question and answer period by Council regarding the aforesaid items. Mr. Daly excused himself at this time. Mr. Bobal and Mr. Zilinek answered Council's questions.

Mr. Mettler questioned if all of the projects listed were for 2009. Mr. Bobal stated that they were and that there is a projected plan for the Capital Budget written in a document form. Ms. Francois requested a copy of that document but Mr. Bobal stated that he did not have a copy of it yet.

Mayor Levine questioned why the Electronic Signs line item would have a budget of \$100,000 when he recalled an amount closer to \$20,000. Mr. Zilinek explained that more specifics needed to be known about the sign and explained that different kinds of signs cost more money. The cost would depend on the features of the sign.

Mayor Levine questioned the cost of road resurfacing, pointing out that prior years the Township budgeted half the amount that is currently budgeted for road resurfacing. Mr. Zilinek explained that more money is currently being budgeted for road resurfacing so that the Township can catch up on the work. The Council approved a plan for street resurfacing last year. It was pointed out that phone calls have been coming in regarding road resurfacing. Mr. Zilinek stated that this is due to the public's awareness that roads are being resurfaced and are now questioning when their roads will be resurfaced.

Mayor Levine questioned if the plans for the engineering and development of Middlebush Park could be broken up into two pieces. He specified the idea that the engineering of Middlebush Park could begin this year but the development could be put off until the following year. Mr. Zilinek said that the work could be broken up like that.

Mayor Levine expressed concern over Middlebush Park's single entrance and exit. Mr. Zilinek stated that more entrances and exits would be added to the park depending on the long-term plan for the park. For now access to the park is sufficient. If the park is developed more then something would have to change.

Mr. Mettler, stated that he was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee looking into the southern park. Mr. Glicklich and Ms. Eberle are two other members of that committee. He stated that the committee agreed that they would prefer to see Middlebush Park progress before tackling the southern park. Due to this preference the southern park may be one item that does not have to go on this year's Capital Budget. Mr. Zilinek pointed out the length of time it would take to get the permits necessary to develop the southern park. Mr. Glicklich agreed with Mr. Mettler and stated that Middlebush Park was more of a priority.

Mr. Prasad stated that there was a need for a park in the southern portion of the Township. He further pointed out the need for cricket fields in the township, expressing a desire for fields in both the Middlebush Park and the southern park. Mr. Glicklich clarified that the Ad Hoc Committee agreed that there was a need for the southern park but decided that by the time they could actually get to work on the southern park that other projects could have been worked on. Mr. Prasad stated that these fields should not sit idle and that work should begin on getting those fields ready for use. Mr. Mettler agreed and stated that the County might be able to assist. He further stated that Middlebush Park would remain the priority, as it could be prepared more quickly and with the least amount of difficulty.

Deputy Mayor Vassanella questioned the possibility of working with the Board of Education for cricket fields. Mr. Mettler stated that there are some concerns with using school property; mostly focusing on the fact that school use would have to take priority over recreational use.

Mayor Levine questioned the replacement of several vehicles in the Public Works Road Division. He expressed concern over the replacement of vehicles that have only gotten 80,000 miles on them in the course of 10 years. Mr. Zilinek explained that such vehicles were usually badly damaged from snow plowing and salt spreading. These types of uses damage the body of the vehicle and causes a great deal of erosion. As these vehicles are traveling local roadways they do not get a lot of mileage. Mr. Bobal stated that the damage to the bodies of these vehicles make them difficult to pass inspections and serve as an insurance liability. Mr. Zilinek stated that 10 years is a lot of use out of a Public Works truck.

Mayor Levine further questioned the replacement of one van and the acquisition of two smaller vehicles for the Assessor's Office. He questioned if economy cars or hybrids could be used for these vehicles. Mr. Zilinek responded that the van required a large passenger capacity but they would be looking for the best deals for the two smaller vehicles.

Mayor Levine asked for clarification on the Emergency Notification System. Mr. Zilinek explained that the “Reverse 911” system needed to be enhanced, upgraded and cleaned up. Mr. Zilinek also pointed out the SCADA system, which is used for the water system. This system gives up to the minute, graphic readouts of what’s going on in the system.

Mayor Levine questioned the GPS system for all township vehicles. As the details for implementing this system have not been finalized it was not put into the budget. This matter was intended to go back before the Public Works Subcommittee. Ms. Francois questioned if the system should be placed back into the budget if it was returning to the subcommittee.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Glicklich, seconded by Mr. Prasad and unanimously approved, meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Approved: *As Submitted.*

Brian D. Levine, Mayor

Date: *November 10, 2008*

Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk