

**MINUTES
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 10, 2018**

Mayor Ritter called the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham to order at 7:31 P.M.

Adequate Notice of this meeting of the Township Committee was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to both *The Chatham Courier* and the *Morris County Daily Record* on January 5, 2018; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 5, 2018; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 5, 2018.

Mayor Ritter led the flag salute.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Committeeman Selen, Committeeman Kelly, Committeeman Sullivan, Deputy Mayor Swartz and Mayor Ritter.

Approval of Agenda

Deputy Mayor Swartz moved to approve the agenda. Committeeman Kelly seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Proclamation – Parents Who Host Lose the Most

Vince Fiorito of the Municipal Alliance Committee of the Chathams (MACC) provided background on the Parents Who Host Lost the Most Campaign. He said that this is the 10th year of the campaign, and MACC will be posting posters, banners and lawn signs around the Chathams. There will also be a crash car on display at Chatham High School. Mr. Fiorito thanked the Township Committee for their support of the Parents Who Host Lost the Most Campaign.

Mayor Ritter thanked Mr. Fiorito for the service that MACC provides to the community. He also read the attached proclamation for Parents Who Host Lost the Most Month.

Reports

Committeeman Selen reported that the Department of Public Works has completed the pickup of tree debris from the March storms. This included County roads, and two contractors assisted in the work. Committeeman Selen noted that following the completion of the work, DPW sent crews around town to make sure that no houses were missed. He also noted that a tub grinder is being brought in to convert the storm debris to mulch, and mulch will be available from May 21st to May 25th. Anyone wanting mulch delivered should stop by the DPW Garage on Southern Boulevard to place an order. Committeeman Selen also reported that DPW is working on getting Colony Pool ready for the 2018 season. He further reported that paving was completed on Gibbons Place, Bridge Street, Henry Drive and Central Ave.

Committeeman Kelly thanked the Municipal Alliance for the work that they do for the community.

Deputy Mayor Swartz reported that the Senior Center held their annual Shred Event, and it was a successful event. She expects that the next Shred Event will be held in October. Deputy Mayor Swartz also reported that the Glorious Garden Tour will be the weekend of June 2nd, and tickets are available on the Senior Center's website. Deputy Mayor Swartz further reported that the Chatham Emergency Squad will be having a simulated mass casualty incident on Saturday, and they are seeking individuals to play the role of victims. The Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a Ladies Night on May 11th.

Mayor Ritter reported that Colony Pool registrations are available through the Colony website. He also reported that the EPA is holding public information sessions about the Rolling Knolls

Landfill on June 4th at the Municipal Building. Mayor Ritter further reported that the County is switching from the Everbridge Alert System to the RAVE System, and residents will need to re-register in order to receive alerts. He also noted that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the 3rd Annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk will be held in September. Deputy Mayor Swartz noted that the new alert system is very comprehensive. Mayor Ritter added that Lt. Miller will be assisting residents with the registration process at the Municipal Building on May 15th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Chief Hennelly reported that on April 28th the National Prescription Take Back Day was held, which was a huge success. He noted that there is a drop box available at Police Headquarters, and the hours of 10:00 to 6:00 are the preferred drop off times. Chief Hennelly also reported that the Police Department is up for reaccreditation, and Lt. Miller is overseeing the process. Chief said that there will be a call-in session on May 21st from 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM for residents to provide commentary about the Police Department. Residents can also provide feedback by email. Mayor Ritter asked about a recent news story about a bear sighting. Chief Hennelly said that he does not have any update on the incident.

Administrator Ciccarone acknowledged all the hard work that went into the recent storm debris cleanup, both by the Township DPW and the two contractors who assisted in the process, Leo Hinds and Chatham Disposal. He also reported that the recent paving also included Memorial Way and the Green Village Fire Department's parking lot. The Township will soon be going out to bid for improvements to the Municipal Building. The main focus will be improvements to the gymnasium side of the building. Regarding the Rolling Knolls Landfill, Administrator Ciccarone said that there is a link on the Township website to an EPA site regarding the site, and any information a person might want is posted there. The upcoming public information sessions on June 4th are intended to inform the public on where the remediation process stands now, and additional sessions will be held over the summer to present the EPA's remediation plan recommendations. Administrator Ciccarone said that over the past 20 years, the EPA and the principal responsible parties have been conducting an investigation on the site to see what needs to be done.

Committeeman Sullivan reported that the State OEM issued a warning about cyber threats and scams. He noted that the scams are intended to give the illusion of urgency to trick individuals into providing personal identifying information. Committeeman Sullivan also said that May is Military Appreciation Month, and May 19th is Armed Forces Day.

Hearing of Citizens

Mayor Ritter opened the Hearing of Citizens.

1. Tracy Ness, 31 Geoffrey Court, said that she wanted to follow up on the request from Moms Demand Action about a proclamation for Gun Violence Awareness Day. They also asked for Mayor Ritter to sign on to the Mayors Against Illegal Guns campaign. Mrs. Ness provided statistics regarding gun violence. She also noted that Chatham is not immune to gun violence, and over 400 students participated in a recent walk-out to raise attention for gun violence. Mrs. Ness said that there is a desire in the community to address gun violence in a non-partisan way. Mayor Ritter said that he will be making a mayoral proclamation on this issue at the next Township Committee meeting.
2. Danielle McDavit, 126 Highland Ave, thanked the Township Committee for considering the traffic pattern issue on Highland Avenue. She said that a lot of young families are moving into the neighborhood, and there have been a lot of close calls with speeding cars. Mrs. McDavit suspects that drivers are using the neighborhood as a cut-through, and she thinks that stop signs will help mitigate the issue.
3. Christina Mott, 22 Nicholson Drive, asked if the upcoming EPA public information sessions about Rolling Knolls are the first public discussions of the remediation plans, or if they will be reporting only on their findings and discussing the remediation at a later time. Administrator Ciccarone said that the June 4th session is a preliminary report, and the remediation plan will be released later in the summer. Mrs. Mott asked if there is a liaison to the EPA so that the Township can provide input on the remediation plan.

Administrator Ciccarone said that he has been involved in this process since he started working for the Township, and he is unsure how much input the Township will have in the plan. He also said that the plan will be based on the scientific analysis of the data collected. Administrator Ciccarone also said that the Township has conveyed concerns about not wanting the neighborhood to be unnecessarily disrupted.

Seeing no further public comment, Mayor Ritter closed the Hearing of Citizens.

Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION 2018-094

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLLS, SCHOOL TAXES AND COUNTY TAXES

BE IT RESOLVED that bills in the total amount of \$796,840.85 and the prior month's payroll of \$420,092.07 Current Fund, \$43,393.24 Sewer No. 1, \$10,472.21 Sewer No. 2, and \$38,157.74 Police Private Employment be paid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that taxes due to the School District of the Chathams, for the month of May 2018, in the amount of \$3,036,967.00 be paid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that taxes due to the County of Morris, for the Second Quarter of 2018, in the amount of \$2,282,666.67 be paid.

RESOLUTION 2018-095

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM APPROVING MINUTES OF MEETINGS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham acknowledges receipt of and approves the minutes of the Township Committee meeting held on April 26, 2018.

RESOLUTION 2018-096

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM APPROVING EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF MEETINGS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham acknowledges receipt of and approves Executive Session minutes of the Township Committee meeting held on April 26, 2018.

RESOLUTION 2018-097

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REFUNDING SEWER LIEN

WHEREAS, due to payment by property owner of the lien amount, a redemption of a sewer lien is appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the refund of such sewer lien

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that the following refund be made as indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>LIEN HOLDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
64.05	3.01	CHRISTIANA T. c/f C&E1/First PO BOX 5021 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111-5021 Certificate #16-00002 De Jesus, Brunilda & Perez, Gabriel 21G Heritage Drive	\$ 1,650.45-Certificate \$ 1,100.00 -Premium \$ 2,750.45 -Total

Committeeman Kelly moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Committeeman Selen seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeeman Selen, Aye; Committeeman Kelly, Aye; Committeeman Sullivan, Aye; Deputy Mayor Swartz, Aye; Mayor Ritter, Aye.

Discussion

Traffic Concerns about Highland/Hall/Longwood Area

Chief Hennelly said that correspondence had been received back in September about speeding vehicles in the Highland Ave area, and it was discussed by the Public Safety Committee. The resident recently asked for an update, and the Police Department installed a traffic counter to obtain statistics about speed and traffic counts. Chief Hennelly said that the average speed is 24 MPH, however some cars travelled as fast as 38 MPH. He also addressed how the Police Department has addressed speeding complaints in other neighborhoods.

Chief Hennelly also commented that over 48 hours, 650 cars travelled down Highland Ave, and it often gets used as a cut-through. Administrator Ciccarone opined that people use Highland to avoid the light at Fairmount Ave and Southern Blvd, and GPS may direct drivers to use that route to avoid traffic.

Chief Hennelly further noted that stop signs on Highland Ave would not likely impact residents' ability to park on the street by their houses, as there are side streets available. Deputy Mayor Swartz opined that even if drivers roll through the stop sign, they will at least slow down before the intersection. Chief Hennelly said that the Township cannot go wrong by installing a stop sign.

Committeeman Sullivan said that the intersection is such that a car would need to come to a stop anyway due to the steepness of the hill. Chief Hennelly said that he is concerned about drivers who are unfamiliar with the area, as well as drivers who are too comfortable with particular intersections. Committeeman Sullivan cautioned against too many signs around the Township, and questioned if the proposed stop sign will solve the speeding issue.

Mayor Ritter asked if a No Thru Street sign would require an ordinance, as GPS apps will send drivers through neighborhoods. Administrator Ciccarone said that an ordinance would be required in order for the Police to enforce the signs.

Committeeman Selen asked if there is any potential detriment to a stop sign on Highland Ave. Chief Hennelly said that there is not a detriment. Committeeman Sullivan said that an overly aggressive police officer could write a ticket when a driver rolls through a stop sign, which could put residents at odds with the Police Department.

Committeeman Kelly said he would like to hear from additional residents in the affected area. Committeeman Kelly also suggested that the traffic backups at the intersection of Southern Boulevard and Fairmount Ave, as well as the intersection of River Road and Southern Boulevard, should be addressed to help mitigate the amount of traffic using side streets as a cut-through.

Chief Hennelly said that he and Lieutenant Miller have discussed ways to try to lessen through-traffic on side streets during rush hour.

The consensus of the Township Committee was to have an ordinance on the next agenda for introduction.

Committeeman Kelly encouraged residents to share their opinions on this matter with the Township Committee.

Hearing of Citizens/Petitions

Mayor Ritter opened the Hearing of Citizens. Seeing no public comment, Mayor Ritter closed the Hearing of Citizens.

Executive Session

**RESOLUTION 2018-P-06
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
CHATHAM IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AUTHORIZING CONFERENCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WITH THE
PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 of the Open Public Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - a. Litigation: In the Matter of the Township of Chatham for a Judgment of Compliance of its Third Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan Docket No. MRS-L-1659-15
 - b. Litigation: Fair Share Housing Center v. Township of Chatham Docket No. MRS-L-000234-18
3. It is anticipated that the minutes on the subject matter of the Executive Session will be made public upon conclusion of the matter under discussion; and in any event, when appropriate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-7 and 4-13.
4. The Committee will come back into Regular Session and may take further action.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Deputy Mayor Swartz moved to pass Resolution 2018-P-06 to enter Executive Session at 8:46 PM. Committeeman Kelly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeeman Selen, Aye; Committeeman Kelly, Aye; Committeeman Sullivan, Aye; Deputy Mayor Swartz, Aye; Mayor Ritter, Aye.

The Township Committee returned to Public Session at 10:15 PM.

Attorney Cruz explained that during Executive Session, he updated the Township Committee regarding the affordable housing litigation. As Judge Neergard approved the continuation of affordable controls at Vernon Grove, the Township now owes payments to the Vernon Grove Condominium Association in accordance with an agreement between the Association and the Township for the continuation of the affordable controls. Two payments of \$29,000 are owed, and Attorney Cruz has manual checks payable to the Vernon Grove Condominium Association, which did not appear on the bill list. As such, the Township Committee need to approve the payments by motion.

Committeeman Selen moved approve the payments to the Vernon Grove Condominium Association. Committeeman Kelly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeeman Selen, Aye; Committeeman Kelly, Aye; Committeeman Sullivan, Aye; Deputy Mayor Swartz, Aye; Mayor Ritter, Absent.

Committeeman Selen moved to adjourn at 10:17 PM. Committeeman Kelly seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Municipal Clerk