

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 15, 2011  
Regular Meeting**

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Scott at 6:08 p.m. noting the meeting schedule was duly published in the New Jersey Herald and posted at the Town Hall and advised those present that this meeting was being held in compliance with provisions of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13. Roll Call was taken and the flag was saluted.

PRESENT: Mayor Scott, Deputy Mayor Fisher, Committeeman Gross, Committeeman Morrison, Committeewoman Straway, Municipal Clerk Judy Fisher and Attorney Howard Vex.

After the reading of the following Resolution to enter into Executive Session, a **motion** was made by Mrs. Straway, seconded by Mr. Morrison and unanimously carried by roll call vote to adopt the resolution permitting the Committee to go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Personnel; Litigation; Contracts
3. As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

There being no further business to attend to, a **motion** was made by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mrs. Straway to conclude the Executive Session at 7:05 p.m., unanimously carried by roll call vote.

**Regular Session:**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ALL MATTERS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE IN NATURE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THE ITEMS. IF ANY DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT PARTICULAR ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPERATELY ON THE REGULAR AGENDA.**

**Department Reports:**

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting: March 1, 2011

**Resolution:** 2011-19 Opposing COAH Reform Bill S1/A3477

**NJ Firemen's Association Membership Application:** Michael Davenport, James Sisco, Jack Sandau

Mr. Gross made a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Straway

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Fisher, abstain, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, abstain, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**Bill List Cycle #4:** \$646,783.62

Mr. Fisher made a **motion** to approve Bill Cycle #4 in the amount of \$646,783.62, seconded by Mr. Morrison.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**Amendments to the Agenda:**

Remove: Under Old Business: PB, EC, ZBA appointments from the agenda

Add: Under New Business: Blossom Trail road vacation

**Committeeperson Reports:**

**Mrs. Straway** reported the next Stillwater Board of Education meeting will be on March 28, 2011, at 7 p.m. in the school library and will include their public hearing on the budget. The public and the Township Committee are invited.

She reported the Environmental Commission (EC) held their meeting on March 14, 2011 and an Outdoor Wood Furnace ordinance has been drafted and revised, and is now before the Planning Board for their review.

An Amphibian Rescue was conducted on two dates: March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>. Members of the EC and community participated. 111 amphibians crossed on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 572 crossed on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The rescue was held on Route 619 in the area of Swartswood State Park and was covered by the New Jersey Herald.

A joint EC meeting including several local communities will be held at the Blairstown Municipal Building on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The main topic of discussion will be the Paulinskill River. The EC will be pursuing Sustainable Jersey certification, which is a program that will provide more accessible grant funding once certification is obtained. Keith Whitehead is currently pursuing a dumpster for e-waste disposal through the SCMUA for the Recycling Center. This Saturday, March 19, 2011, SCMUA will be holding a free waste disposal and more information is in today's NJH and also on the counter in the main office. Garbage disposal at VMP was discussed and it was determined that 55 gallon drums with liners would be used as receptacles, each painted and labeled for appropriate disposal. Pick up would be based on the level of usage at the fields. Mrs. Straway will meet with Brian Hendershot on the matter. Also discussed were the following topics: Surface water quality standards and new proposed regulations by the Delaware River Basin Commission allowing gas drilling within 500 feet of the Delaware. The EC opposed the regulations and will file a letter of objection with that Commission.

**Mr. Fisher** reported the following on the Recreation Commission: June 4, 2011 will be Stillwater Day; Clean Up Day will be held on April 30, 2011, with a rain date of May 1, 2011. The RC would like to conduct a second Clean Up Day in the fall. The Spring newsletter will be available in April. Mr. Fisher reported the following on the Rescue Squad: There were 22 calls during the month of February, and they need to replace one of the ambulances, which is 12 years old. Mr. Fisher reported the following on the fire departments: Stillwater Fire Department: Phone wires from Sparta dispatch to the DPW garage have been installed. Swartswood Fire Department passed a vote to allow the voting location to move from the Swartswood Courthouse to their firehouse. A fisherman's breakfast will be held on April 9, 2011 from 5-11 a.m.; and

a discussion was held on purchasing a new fire truck, but that matter has been tabled at this time. Mrs. Fisher requested a letter from the fire department indicating their approval on the voting location change.

**Mr. Morrison** reported the budget will be under cap with a 1.5% increase. An additional budget meeting was discussed, and Mr. Fisher made a **motion** to hold the budget meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 9 a.m. at the Municipal Building, seconded by Mr. Gross.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes  
**Mayor Scott** reported the Planning Board will meet on March 16, 2011.

### **Ordinances:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**Bond Ordinance providing for the Phase I Improvements to Middleville Road in and by the Township of Stillwater, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, appropriating \$363,000 therefore, including a Grant in the amount of \$200,000 expected to be received from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation and authorizing the issuance of \$155,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the cost thereof. 2011-04**  
Mr. Gross made a **motion** to introduce **Ordinance 2011-04**, seconded by Mr. Fisher.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes  
The public hearing will be held on April 5, 2011

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**Amending Ordinance 2011-02 Chapter 22 of the Stillwater Township Municipal Code Entitled "Court, Municipal," Abolishing the Stillwater Township Municipal Court and Authorizing Stillwater Township to become a Member of a Joint Municipal Court Known as the Municipal Court of the Township of Wantage, the Borough of Sussex and the Township of Stillwater. 2011-05**

Mr. Fisher made a **motion** to introduce **Ordinance 2011-05**, seconded by Mrs. Straway.

The public hearing will be held on April 5, 2011. Mrs. Fisher explained the amendment included changing the effective date of abolishing the court from April 1, 2011 to May 1, 2011.

### **Old Business:**

**Kittatinny Youth Lacrosse:** April 2, 2011, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Requesting permission to provide coffee and/or hot cocoa at the Recycling Center for donations

Mr. Scott stated he had met at the Recycling Center with Mr. Fisher and Mr. Morville, the Risk Manager, to locate an appropriate and safe area to hold the fundraiser. An area was designated and cones will be installed around that area. Mayor Scott made a **motion** granting the Youth Lacrosse Program permission to provide coffee and/or hot cocoa at the Recycling Center for donations, seconded by Mr. Gross.

Mrs. Straway was concerned with setting a precedent and safety issues with future groups. She agreed this leader and group are very responsible but that does not guarantee that future groups will be.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mr. Morrison, yes, Mrs. Straway, no, Mayor Scott, yes

### **Presentation of 2011-12 Kittatinny Regional High School Budget:** Craig Hutcheson, Superintendent

Mr. Hutcheson provided an overview of the Kittatinny Regional High School 2011 proposed budget and the process followed from the beginning review to the final budget document. The health plan was changed from Cigna to State Health Benefits at a savings of \$440,000. Some programs were reduced from full-time to part-time resulting in \$78,000 in cost savings. Paid lead teacher mentor programs were eliminated at a savings of \$33,000, and the administration will assume those responsibilities. An out of district tuition was cut at a savings of \$50,000 due to a graduation. An additional \$50,000 was cut from retirement contractual obligations. The school was bound to a 2% levy cap, which equated to \$250,000. There was an increase in State aid of \$200,000 this year, the overall budget is \$19,500,000, and the budget is available for review on the KRHS website. There is one question on the ballot this year asking if a resident is in favor of the 5:30 p.m. courtesy busing or not, at a cost of \$68,175. A brief question and answer period followed the presentation, and the Committee thanked Mr. Hutcheson for his time.

### **New Business:**

#### **Discussion:** Land Sales

Mr. Morrison provided the list of properties for the land sale for review by the Committee and Tax Assessor. There are 11 lots included on the list.

#### **Blossom Trail Road Vacation:**

Mr. Morrison referred to a letter that was received by the Committee regarding Blossom Trail, Block 502, Lot 12. The homeowners have asked the Committee to vacate Blossom Trail because they would like to purchase the lot across the street. Blossom Trail is a non-existing road. Mr. Morrison asked the Committee to visit the site to determine whether or not it should be vacated. The cost to vacate the road would be less than \$1,000 and the property could then be sold.

### **Open Public Session:**

**Carol Fredericks, 913 Middleville Road** announced that a breakfast would be held on opening day for fishing, Saturday, April 9, 2011 at the Swartwood Firehouse. Mrs. Fredericks stated she had submitted a letter regarding establishing a food bank at the Municipal Building. She informed the Committee that she has since received an email from Mr. Steckowich indicating the local churches would be forming an ecumenical food pantry. She withdrew her request for a food bank at town hall and thanked them for their consideration of the project.

**Ed Szabo, 978 Route 521** announced that Senator Oroho would be at the Stillwater Taxpayers' Association meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m. and all are invited. He noted the STTA meeting date has been changed from the third Friday to the third Thursday of each month.

**Anthony Norod, Duck Pond Road, President of KRHS Board of Education**, thanked the Committee for having the presentation by Mr. Hutcheson. He referred to a question proposed to Mr. Hutcheson regarding regionalizing the superintendent position, and he noted that 30 years ago K-12 school system was proposed and it was defeated overall, with Stillwater being one of the districts voting against it.

**Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road** stated he sent a letter to the Township regarding an ecumenical food bank. He stated the Presbyterian Church fed 19 families last week; and the Baptist Church and Family Services of Sussex County

have joined the food bank. He would like to ask the people attending the sports games in Stillwater to donate food for the bank, noting arrangements can be made for pick up.

**Dave GaNung, 901 Wildwood Terrace** thanked the teachers of KRHS, and stated his daughter was a runner up as both Miss Stillwater and as Queen of the Fair and he felt that was due in part to the excellent teaching at KRHS. He referred to the lacrosse program fundraiser to be held at the Recycling Center and asked that it be encouraged for other groups as long as there are no negative incidents as fundraising is essential in today's economy.

**There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed to the public.**

**Attorney Report:** None

**Correspondence:**

- Mayor's Advisory Correspondence is available for review in the Correspondence Binder.
- Letter received from Harmony Hill Methodist Church, re: Courthouse Building
- Memo re: New Keys for Access Gate to Veteran's Memorial Park – receipt of key form to be required

**Executive Session:**

After the reading of the following Resolution to enter into Executive Session, a **motion** was made by Mrs. Straway, seconded by Mr. Morrison and unanimously carried by roll call vote to adopt the resolution permitting the Committee to go into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting.
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3. As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

There being no further business to attend to, a **motion** was made by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Fisher to conclude the Executive Session at 8:38 p.m., unanimously carried by roll call vote.

There being no further business, Mr. Morrison made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fisher. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder