

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 15, 2014

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on December 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, New Jersey.

The Clerk announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided according to law.

The following members of Council were present for roll call taken by the Clerk:

Councilmember Thomas Conrad
Councilmember Erik Simonsen
Deputy Mayor Clark
Mayor Michael Beck

Also present: Michael Voll, Township Manager, Ron Gelzunas, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Clerk's Office

Work Session

Relay for Life/Lower Township - Presentation

Kirby Reed introduced herself as a Relay for Life Specialist with the American Cancer Society and announced that Relay for Life is coming to Lower Township in May, 2015. Accompanying her was event leader, Buffi Hinker-Miller, who explained her role in the program. A short video was presented to give details about the program such as how funds are used locally. Ms. Hinker-Miller encouraged volunteers to form a team, become a sponsor or join the committee. Additional information was provided for anyone interested in participating.

Economic Development Advisory Committee Presentation

Deputy Mayor Clark gave a summation of the Economic Development Advisory Committee and presented their final report. He discussed some of the challenges for building our economy in Cape May County and he thanked a list of experienced participants. He also revealed the committees unanimous support to research the cost and benefits of changing the name of the Township with a referendum.

Ryan Krill, owner and cofounder of the Cape May Brewery advocated the idea of changing the name of Lower Township to something that blends with the brand of Cape May.

Ernie Utsch, owner of Utsch's Marina, informed that the history of the Township name was based upon religious lines. He validated the idea that a Township name is an essential ingredient to the success of any enterprise and gave examples of businesses in Lower Township that bear the Cape May name. In accord with the committee, he agrees with the idea of adopting a Township name that will identify our location.

Deputy Mayor Clark informed that several business owners offered to research the cost and benefit of changing the Township's name. He also assured that it would be done by referendum, allowing the voters to decide. He then invited Jeff Reichle, owner of Lund's Fisheries, to talk about aquaculture as it pertains to economic development.

Jeff Reichle spoke about maintaining our waters and harbors for commercial and recreational fishing. He discussed Cape May County's designation as Essential Fish Habitat for Winter Flounder Eggs and the significant problems it creates for channel dredging and beach replenishment activities. On behalf of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, he requested a letter from Council supporting their efforts to review and re-designate the County's waterways.

Chris Kobik, Superintendent of Lower Cape May Regional School District, stressed the importance of working together as a community to support future economy, culture and livelihoods. LCMR School District has adopted Career Ready Practices to further promote this idea (see handout attached).

Joe Castelucci, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at LCMR School District, elaborated on the Career and Technical Education Programs (CTE) at LCMR and their important role in economic development.

Chris Kobik also talked about community based instruction, structured learning experiences, individual projects and external initiatives. He informed of LCMR's partnerships with several business such as Cape Resorts Group, LCMR Education Foundation, Cape May Forum, Cape May Maritime Museum, and Historic Cold Spring Village.

Deputy Mayor Clark thanked everyone involved and discussed opportunity for economic development at the Cape May County Airport. He concluded with information about Senator Van Drew's Legislative District Economic Development Task Force.

Mayor Beck thanked the Economic Development Advisory Committee and commented on their report. He was reluctant to take a position on changing the Township name without further research and a possible referendum. Councilmember Conrad agreed that changing the Township name will require further discussion. He addressed Mr. Reichle about the dredging issue and offered Council's help with protecting the fishing industry. Mayor Beck commented in favor of the school programs and agreed to move forward with the dredging issue. Council consented to allow the committee to investigate the name change, providing there is no cost to the Township for the investigation.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes December 1, 2014
- Res. #2014-326 Payment of Vouchers \$ 812,049.45
- Res. #2014-327 A Resolution Urging Access 1 Communications and the FCC to Keep Local Channel NBC 40 on the Air
- Res. #2014-328 A Resolution Requesting Release of Maintenance Guarantee for Sea Bay Estates; Block 753.04, Lot 10; Escrow P04-04-13(Platzer & Remster)
- Res. #2014-329 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (5 properties \$4,205.83)
- Res. #2014-330 Authorization for the Payment of College Credits (K.DelVecchio \$460.)
- Res. #2014-331 Resolution Approving Settlement of Tax Appeal Litigation known as Storage Quest New Jersey LP V. Township of Lower (original assessment \$3,436,800 2013 assessment \$2,900,000)
- Res. #2014-332 Resolution Acknowledging the Award to Woodruff Energy US, LLC to Provide Natural Gas Services for Cape May County and Cooperative Members Participating through the South Jersey Power Cooperative Agreement
- Res. #2014-333 Transfer of 2014 Appropriations (\$167,500)
- Res. #2014-334 Cancellation of Current Appropriation Balances (\$60,417.32)

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
NEVILLE						X
SIMONSEN	X		X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Regular Agenda

- Res. #2014-335 Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers – Engineering Design Associates – \$729.00 - site work DPS

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
NEVILLE						X
SIMONSEN				X		
CLARK	X		X			
BECK			X			

Administrative Reports

- Personnel Action Report
- Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Fire, Tax, Treasurer, Vital Statistics

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad thanked Lower Township residents for their votes at the Special Election. He gave recognition to Melissa O'Donnell for creating an event on Facebook reminding people to vote. He gave kudos to the Chamber of Commerce for a successful Hospitality Day and commented on the Township's missed opportunity for circulating important information. He discussed details of the FEMA meeting and encouraged residents to work together with the professionals regarding the flood maps.

Mayor Beck pointed out the problem with the "v zone" and how it pertains to homeowners. He reminded that Stu Farrell is working with the Township on this matter. He discussed funding coming from the federal government.

Councilmember Conrad wished everyone a Merry Christmas and God's blessings in the New Year.

Councilmember Simonsen thanked Michael DeLeon, founder of Steered Straight, Inc., an educational and prevention/intervention organization, for his involvement with our schools. He also wished everyone a safe and healthy holiday.

Deputy Mayor Clark expressed a desire for Cape May City to surrender their pursuit to change or withdrawal from the Regional School District. He thanked the Lower Township Taxpayer's Association for spreading the word about voting. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Mayor Beck announced the following: Ferry Merry Christmas, and the New Year's Eve Event. He thanked the Lower Township Rotary for the Tree Lighting/ Veterans Ceremony and the Christmas Parade. He commented on the FEMA meeting, Wreaths across America, Hospitality Day, and the referendum question. He thanked the Lower Township Taxpayer's Association, namely Janet Pitts, Ed Butler and Kathy Louderback for encouraging residents to vote "no" at the Special Election. He asked politely for Cape May Officials to stop this attack on our school system. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Call to Public

Janet Pitts, Villas, thanked everyone involved in the campaign for the Special Election. She asked the residents of Cape May to reevaluate the school funding issue to see if it's worth the cost.

Dan Anderson, Townbank Road, reminded residents that Cape May Beach tags are free to all veterans and military personnel.

Luke Gegan, North Cape May, thanked Manager Voll for his dedication and service to Lower Township. Manager Voll responded with gratitude.

Closed Session

Res. #2014-336

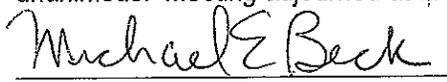
Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

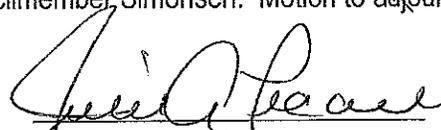
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
NEVILLE						X
SIMONSEN		X	X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:15 pm.

Council returned to open session at 7:45 pm. There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Simonsen. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



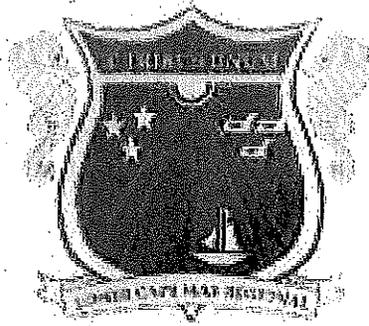
Mayor



Township Clerk

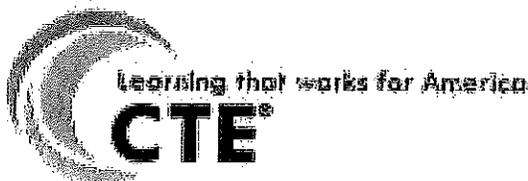
Approved: 1/5/2015

LCMR wants you to be Career Ready!



The Career Ready Practices:

1. Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
2. Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
3. Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
4. Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
5. Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
6. Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
7. Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
8. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
9. Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
10. Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
11. Use technology to enhance productivity.
12. Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.



***Lower Cape May Regional School District - Future Workforce
Initiatives.....***

December 12, 2014

"You are here because you are going somewhere"

Career Ready Practices - Handout

Program Designs

College Credit and Advanced Placement Programs – more than 800 credits earned last year

Career and Technical Education Programs – Engineering, Business Management, Administrative Assisting, Culinary Arts, TV Media Production. Developing programs in Law Enforcement, Child Development, Fashion Design, Education, Marine Science, Horticulture and Greenhouse Science, Fine and Performing Arts

Partnerships

Future Entrepreneurs Program – Cape Resorts Group

Lower Cape May Regional Education Foundation – “Change a Life over Lunch”

Cape May Forum – Aquaculture, Agriculture

Cape May Maritime Museum

Structured Learning Experiences & Community Based Instruction

Projects

Senior Interview Day – Hour of Code