

COUNCIL MINUTES - March 4, 2013

The regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on March 4, 2013 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 James Neville
Councilmember Glenn Douglass
Deputy Mayor Norris Clark
Mayor Michael Beck

Also present: Charles W. Sandman, III, Solicitor, Michael Voll, Manager and Karen Fournier, Clerk's Office

Work Session

Presentation - Department of Public Works - Gary Douglass, Superintendent
Linda Thomas, Recycling Coordinator

Gary Douglass thanked Council for the opportunity to clear up the misperception that Public Works is simply the "trash" department. The attached power point presentation was used to educate the public on the services provided by the Public Works Department.

Linda Thomas demonstrated single stream recycling and announced that it will be implemented on April 1, 2013.

Councilmember Conrad inquired about stickers to prevent non-residents from dropping off trash at the recycling center. Mr. Douglass implied that there is no fool-proof way to prevent it completely, but assured that they do require proof of residency for drop offs.

Councilmember Neville thanked Gary Douglass and Linda Thomas for their presentation offering public awareness and affirmed that the Public Works Department saves the Township a lot of money.

Councilmember Douglass stated that he has nothing but praises to say about Public Works.

Deputy Mayor Clark stated that he had an opportunity to see the great work that the fleet management team was doing and was impressed with their professionalism and pride in their work. He asked Gary Douglass what one message he would like to impress upon the public.

Mr. Douglass said that he would like to see the message about Public Works services put on the Township website. He would also like people to be more courteous about leaf disposal after scheduled pick-ups.

Mayor Beck expressed his concern about leaves being the root cause of flooding problems. He would like to see citations written for people putting leaves out after scheduled pick-ups. Due to complaints, he asked Mr. Douglass to explain why Public Works trucks are often seen at WaWa.

Mr. Douglass replied that from a supervisory standpoint, it is more efficient to have everyone take their breaks at the same time. He praised his Public Works team and compared them second to none. He added that he offers an open door policy if anyone wishes to make suggestions for improvements.

Mayor Beck commended our Public Works department, stating that they do much more than people realize.

Robert Rizzo of Mickel's Run addressed Mr. Douglass and Council about purchasing 32 gallon containers with lids.

Discussion ensued between Council, Manager Voll, Mr. Douglass and Mayor Beck. Manager Voll suggested we provide the information to the public on the type of containers to purchase if interested.

John Seronski, 607 Arctic Avenue, addressed Council regarding using the global connect system to alert residents of no trash pick-up on holiday Fridays to avoid trash blowing around the Township.

Joe Link of Crest Place thanked Gary and Linda for an informative presentation. He raised questions regarding quality of services on his unpaved road.

Mayor Beck stated that the issue he is referring to is being handled by the Township Solicitor, it is not a Public Works matter.

Joe Will addressed Council to comment on the safety issue involved in 32 gallon trash containers. He also expressed his opinion about black Friday and overtime.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Beck announced the attendance of the Township QPA, Margaret Vitelli, at the next Council meeting to discuss awarding of contracts.

- Approval of Minutes February 20, 2013
- Res. #2013- 81 Payment of Vouchers \$447,759.71
- Res. #2013-82 A Resolution Requesting Release of Revegetation and Restoration Guarantee for Dune Site Plan Block 512.14 Lot 17, Escrow #P09-06-06 (releasing \$1,000)
- Res. #2013-83 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (2 properties paid twice)
- Res. #2013-84 Appointment of Lindemon, Winckelmann, Deupree, Martin, Russel & Associates PC (LWDMR) Without Public Bidding (\$41,227. Small Cities Public Facilities ADA Improvements project)
- Res. #2013-85 Transfer of 2012 Appropriations (\$11,900. From Dispatch to Police & telephone)
- Res. #2013-86 Resolution Supporting the Annual Greater Cape May Elk's/Tom Beheler Youth Basketball Tournament (contribution to ALS Hope of Cape May and Lower Twp Traveling Team)

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

Regular Agenda

Council Comments

Councilmember Neville commended Gary Douglass and inferred that the Township would not get the same great services from privatized companies that our Public Works Department provides.

Councilmember Douglass expanded on Councilmember Neville's comment about Public Works, stating that we are fortunate to be able to do our work in-house. He has great respect for all the departments throughout the Township.

Deputy Mayor Clark stated that Public Works, like Lower Township, is much more than people realize. He discovered that Sunset Beach was voted one of the top beaches in the country based on a survey from Trip Advisor, but incorrectly identified as a Cape May beach, rather than Lower Township.

Mayor Beck announced the Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 23 and Genesis Health Fair, April 25 from 11:00-4:00.

Call to the Public

John Soranski, 607 Arctic Avenue, addressed Council to inquire about using construction debris for dune protection. After a brief discussion between Gary Douglass and Mayor Beck, it was ascertained that it is not permitted.

Joe Link, Crest Place, addressed Council regarding the hiring process of Township Manager and Solicitor.

Bill Greenfield of Villas, addressed Council to inquire about the Clean Shores area. Mr. Douglass replied that they cleaned from the canal to Miami Avenue.

George Doherty of Erma addressed Council with concerns about the tax increase and recommended a 5% cut across the board for all departments. Gary Douglass stressed that 5% will result in loss of jobs. Deputy Mayor Clark assured Mr. Doherty that Mayor Beck carefully reviews the expenditure lists. Mayor Beck concluded that Council has laid the groundwork for the future but the savings are not going to be in this year's budget. He announced the budget hearing on April 1, 2013.

Johnny Walker, 116 W. Pacific Avenue, addressed Council with concerns about drug activity within the Township.

Mayor Beck replied that he is aware of the situation and that it is not specific to Lower Township, but all of South Jersey. He has a meeting tomorrow in Trenton to address the issue with the Governor's representatives. He assured Mr. Walker that the Township is being extremely proactive. He recognizes that we need to approach it from different angles including education and rehabilitation, not just police enforcement.

Joe Will, Fishing Creek, addressed Council regarding Township expenses including the Millman Center, Township Hall and the North Cape May Pool. Manager Voll invited Mr. Will to stop by his office anytime for a list of expenditures. Mayor Beck reported that the Millman Center improvements were mandated and utilize a combination of grant money and the capital program so they have no impact on the taxes this year.

He recognizes that the 2% contract increase is affecting the budget but it is also laying the groundwork for future savings.

Robert Rizzo, Mickel's Run, addressed Council to express his eagerness in seeing improvements to the Millman Center, stating that they are long overdue. He also pointed out that much of the increase in the tax rate is due to uncollected taxes. Mayor Beck confirmed that 75% of the increase is loss of revenue. Councilmember Conrad commented on the needed improvements at the Millman Center, stating that the facility is utilized by 20 different groups throughout the Township, not just seniors.

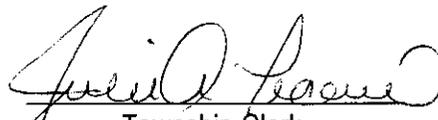
Joe Link addressed Council to express his disapproval of the Township's purchase of the beach from Sandman Blvd to Englewood because he feels that it has changed the quality of life in the Township.

George Doherty of Erma addressed Council to suggest they look more closely at the budget, specifically insurance and statutory expenditures such as pensions and social security.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Douglass, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm by verbal "ayes".


Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: 3/18/2013

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2  **WHAT IS PUBLIC WORKS?**

- Because of the ever-changing nature of public works, we may never arrive at a final definition but, for now, the following definition seems appropriate:
- *Public works is the combination of physical assets, management practices, policies, and personnel necessary for government to provide and sustain structures and services essential to the welfare and acceptable quality of life for its citizens.*

3  **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- Often referred to as the "trash department" or the "road department"

4  **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- But actually your public works is a lot more than that:
- Most residents don't know all the services that are provided by the township's public works department

5  **WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED**

- Curbside garbage collection
- Curbside recycling collection
- Fleet maintenance services
- Building maintenance services
- Roadway signage maintenance
- Recycling center
- Roadway construction and maintenance
- Storm debris cleanup

6  **PROVIDED SERVICES CONT.**

- Composting facility
- Snow removal
- Streetlight outage reporting
- Leaf and branch pickup
- Curbside grass collection (May through Oct)
- Roadside mowing
- Storm water management
- Electronics recycling

7  **CURBSIDE GARBAGE COLLECTION**

- Place garbage curbside before 7 am the morning of your collection day
- Place in plastic bags and place bags in cans

- Trash cans should be no larger than 35 gallon and not weighing more than 50 pounds
- We encourage not to place loose trash in cans
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8 **BULKY ITEMS**

- Bulky items such as (sofas, dressers, box spring & mattresses etc.) will be picked up upon scheduling
- Each residence is allowed two free items per year
- Additional items may be scheduled for pick up for a small fee
- Call public works at 609-884-0898 for details

9 **FLEET MAINTENANCE**

- Responsible for the maintenance and repair of all the township's 100+ vehicle and equipment fleet
- We perform a broad range from oil changes to engine rebuilding and major equipment upgrades
- Shared services agreement with Cape May County to service and repair their heavy truck and equipment

10 **FLEET MAINTENANCE**

11 **FLEET MAINTENANCE**

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17 **FLEET MAINTENANCE**

18 **BUILDING & SIGN MAINTENANCE**

- Responsible for maintaining and repairs of township buildings and structures
- Repairs to township grounds
- Monthly inspections of fire extinguishers
- Roadway signage fabrication and replacement
- Painting of roadway lines, crosswalks, handicap parking areas etc.

19 **BUILDING & SIGN MAINTENANCE**

20 **BUILDING & SIGN MAINTENANCE**

21 **RECYCLING CENTER**

- Located at our public works facility at 771 Seashore Road
- Open to residents from 7 am to 2:45 pm Thursday through Monday
- Closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Holidays

22 **RECYCLING CENTER ITEMS ACCEPTED**

- Household trash
- Household recycling

- Leaves, grass and branches
- White goods and light metal
- Electronics (i.e. computers, TV's, stereo's etc.)
- Rigid plastics

23  **RECYCLING CENTER
ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED**

- Building materials
- Propane cylinders
- Car batteries
- Construction debris
- Bulky items (i.e. Sofas, dressers etc.)

24  **RECYCLING CENTER
ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED**

- Tires
- These type items can be taken to the Cape May County Landfill or Transfer Station

25  **ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE
PROGRAM**

- Responsible for approx. 135 miles of roadway
- Includes pothole repair, drainage & reconstruction
- Maintenance & repair of 25 outfall structures along the Delaware Bay front and back watershed areas

26  **ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE**

- Public Works has reconstructed over half of the outfalls in house which is a big savings to the township

27  **ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE**

- Also most road repaving is done with our own work force
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28  **ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE**

- Construction of parking area in front of town hall done with our employees

29  **ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE**

- Over 1200 storm water inlets along with numerous miles of underground storm water pipes that need to be cleaned and flushed yearly
- One storm water pump station
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30  **ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE**

- Roadside mowing

31  **ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE**

- Snow plowing
- Street sweeping
- Inter local agreement with LTMUA to share equipment and manpower if necessary
- Shared equipment purchases with MUA

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32  **STORM DEBRIS CLEANUP**

- Debris cleanup from recent storm Sandy was done entirely in house
- Benefits:
 - Money savings
 - Clean up completed sooner

33  **STORM DEBRIS CLEANUP**

- Damage to township property from Sandy being repaired in house
- Costs for labor, benefits and equipment use reimbursed to the township

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35  **COMPOSTING FACILITY**

- Leaves/grass composted here in the township
- Branches/tree parts collected are chipped at this site
- Finished products available for pickup free of charge to our residents at our recycling center

36  **COMPOSTING FACILITY**

- WITH OUT OUR OWN FACILITY

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- Leaves & grass would have to be transported to the landfill in Woodbine
- Tree parts would be subject to a disposal fee at an outside facility

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37  **STREET LIGHTING**

- Street light request and outage reporting
- Public works has a direct online program with Atlantic City Electric

38  **STREET LIGHTING**

- Residents can report street light outages by calling public works or through the township website at townshipoflower.org by clicking on contact us
- Very helpful when reporting to give nearest address and pole number

39  **LEAF AND BRANCH PICK UP**

- Scheduled in spring and fall
- Schedules available mid-March & mid-October
- Leaves must be placed curbside (NOT IN ROADWAY) and separate from branches, twigs and debris

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41  **LEAF AND BRANCH PICK UP**

- Once schedule is completed we will come through a second time
- We will make every effort to keep the public informed of our schedule
- Schedules are subject to change due to weather conditions

42  **GRASS CLIPPINGS**

- Picked up curbside May Through October

- Must be in can or bagged
- Stickers available to be placed on bags
- Loose clipping will not be picked up

43 **LIGHT METAL AND WHITE GOODS**

- Picked up curbside once a month
- Must be scheduled by calling public works
- Any metal items including washing machines, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners etc.

44 **RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING**

- Place curbside by 7am the morning of your collection day
- Place recycling container(s) separate from trash
- Stickers for cans available at public works to help distinguish from trash

45 **STARTING APRIL 1,2013 SINGLESTREAM RECYCLING**

46 **What is Single Stream Recycling?**

- "Single Stream Recycling is a system that takes two recycling "streams" – Newspaper and commingled containers – and puts them together in one bin.

47 **In Other Words**

- All items that are acceptable for recycling can now be put together in one recycling container that you can place at the curb for your regular assigned pickup days

48 **Town To Receive Part of the Profit**

- These commingled materials will then be hauled to a processing plant specifically designed to mechanically separate the mixed materials so they may be sold and re-processed.

49 **SINGLE STREAM**

50 **Important Recycling Tips ps**

- Empty and lightly rinse all containers
- DO NOT tie up newspapers and cardboard – just throw in the can
- Use a container with a lid to ensure that papers do not blow away
- Containers should not be larger than 32 gallons or over 50 lbs
- DO NOT put recyclables in plastic bags

51 **2nd Reminder: All in One Can Yes, Yes**

1. • Cardboard
- Newspaper
- Junk Mail
- Bottles
2. • Cans

- Glass Bottles
- Cereal Boxes
- More

** Loose, mixed, and untied

52 

**Advantages to
Single Stream Recycling 1**

- No Tipping Fees. Saves money & encourages more recycling
- Lower Township receives part of the profit on selling recycled materials and for re-processing
- Recycling reduces the emissions of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants

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**Advantages to
Single Stream Recycling 2**

- Recycling saves energy
- Recycling supplies valuable raw materials to industry
- Recycling creates jobs and stimulates the development of greener technologies
- Recycling generates less solid waste and conserves resources for future generations
- Recycling reduces the need for new landfills and combustors
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