

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2008

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Mayor Inscho at 6:33 p.m.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE read by Mayor Inscho.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Grover, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Inscho, Mr. Lavery and Ms. Reilly. Mr. Tibak arrived at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Petersen absent due to conflicting schedule.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Mr. Inscho, seconded by Mr. Grover with roll call unanimous to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual matter.

REGULAR SESSION: Motion made by Mr. Inscho, seconded by Mr. Grover with roll call unanimous to enter back into regular session.

It was stated that during executive session one contractual matter was discussed but no official action taken.

Mayor Inscho then stated that there was gentlemen in the audience who he forgot to acknowledge at the Reorganization Meeting. He then thanked former Deputy Mayor Ray Bolzan for all he did for our township and his assistance in the feasibility study issues. He then appointed Mr. Bolzan head of the Liberty Township Ad Hoc Feasibility Study. Mr. Bolzan accepted.

REPORTS:

ENGINEER QUINN – Please see report attached.

MUNICIPAL CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR REILLY – She noted that she received a copy of a letter Senator Lance wrote to the State Division of Youth and Family Services stating that the township is not responsible for tuition for the children from The Mentor Group Home. He asked Ms. Crummy from the State to condense this in writing to the Senator. Ms. Reilly also noted that she faxed a copy of this letter to Great Meadows Regional as well.

COMMITTEEMAN TIBAK – He stated that the Recreation Committee will be putting something in their budget for Open Space ideas. He also noted that Mr. Al Crisafulli is interested in serving on the Recreation Commission as an alternate.

COMMITTEEMAN GROVER – He noted the work being done at The Lodge with the upgrade to the septic and said that our DPW is doing a great job but that a special thanks goes to Ron Petersen and John Inscho who are taking care of the septic on their own. Many thanks to these folks!

He also noted that he received a proposal for the structural engineering review of the Casino – for a total of \$1,200 to determine how strong the structure is for the pavilion, etc. Since it is already in the budget no motion was needed to approve this.

He noted that the out door lighting for the Casino grounds has been installed and looks good. He noted that now we can cancel all but the new service line with JCPL.

COMMITTEEMAN FISHER – He noted that there was no school board meeting in December, 2007.

The new funding formula has passed but has not been signed into law as of yet. He noted that we are still being taxed more than our fair share.

RECYCLING COORDINATOR MS. RUTKOSKI – She asked permission to send out letters in reference to recycling and was directed to do so. She was also asked to prepare a budget for 2008 with her requests for recycling.

She then stated that she is stepping down after many years as Cub Scout Committee Chair and introduced Ed Lechner as Chair and Steve Egan as Cub master. Mayor Inscho then noted what a terrific job Lynn has done with the Cub Scouts and she is to be commended for this. The audience applauded her at this time.

DPW SUPERVISOR MR. ROMANOWITCH – He noted that the pumps were installed for the septic at The Lodge but not hooked up as yet. They started laying out pipes for the leech field.

The new truck should be here in about a week and a half.

At this time Mayor Inscho noted that a representation from the NJ State Police was present this evening and asked if they could conduct an extra watch on the area of The Lodge where the leech field is located to stop any vandalism (since there has been some episodes in the past week and a half).

MAYOR INSCHO: He noted that Mr. Petersen was not present this evening but he wants to thank Ron for donating five full work days in putting in the septic system at The Lodge! Mayor Inscho stated that he himself does not deserve thanks because he did not do anything – but the thanks goes to Mr. Petersen who donated his fuel, machinery and his time. He did well above his call of duty. He asked the public to please thank him when they see him.

He also thanked Frank Jalosky for volunteering his time at The Lodge also.

Mayor Inscho stated that the township got a \$100,000 septic system for approximately \$40,000 thanks to Mr. Petersen.

Discussion then ensued as to how they will get the word out to people who may be interested in purchasing the building. Mr. Lavery said he will work up a resolution for the next meeting.

Mayor Inscho also said that the new Highlands Master Plan is going to ask each municipality to do a Master Plan draft every three years which is going to be quite costly to municipalities affected by the Highlands.

Mayor Inscho then appointed Al Crisafulli to Recreation Commission as Alternate #1.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Michael Kudlak – Marble Hill Road – spoke up about all the junk and garbage on the property of Wooded Valley. He said it as horrible!

Gary Hart – Marble Hill Road – He noted that this problem has been going on for years and it gets worse instead of better. He said it is bringing their property values down.

Mayor Inscho noted that the Zoning Official wrote a letter to Bennett giving him 21 days to remedy the problem or he would send him a Notice of Violation. Mayor Inscho said he will call Mr. Snyder to ask why he did not follow up on this matter and why Bennett did not get a fine.

Lisa Thomas – Lakeside Drive – She noted that she is hearing the same complaints year after year about this property and that something has to be done.

Mr. Hart and several other residents asked why the Zoning Official did not follow up on this. Mayor Inscho said he will call Mr. Snyder about this.

Ms. Thomas asked if the appeal with the school is going forward and was told yes.

Anita Schmidt – Spring Hill Road – She informed the Committee that her neighbor re-routed the water and now she has a brook on her property and she cannot tolerate this. Discussion ensued with the Engineer. It was decided that Mayor Inscho and Mr. Quinn will meet with Ms. Schmidt at the property to review the situation.

Ms. Schmidt then asked the status of the Podlas property and was informed that the township received a summary judgment and the township will foreclose on this property.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items with an (*) are considered to be routine by the Members of the Township Committee and will be enacted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee Member or Citizen so requests in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in it's normal sequence on the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

*MT. LAKE RAFFLE – for Super Bowl on 2/2/08.

RESOLUTIONS

* 08-01 Noting times and dates of meetings and workshop

08-02 Contracts for professional services

- *08-03 Resolution authorizing legal counsel to file and prosecute roll back tax complaints to correct errors in assessments and complaints for added, omitted and added/omitted assessments; defend, settle or stipulate to resolve all 2008 local property tax appeals
- *08-04 Authorizing the legal depositories for the Township of Liberty
- *08-05 Designating Official newspapers
- *08-06 2007 tonnage Grant Application
- *08-07 Fixing rate of interest
- *08-08 Cancel taxes
- *08-09 Hold tax sale
- *08-10 Insufficient checks
- *08-11 Refund tax overpayment
- *08-12 Liquor License transfer
- *08-13 Transfers

Motion made by Mr. Tibak, seconded by Mr. Grover with roll call as follows to approve all items on Consent Agenda:

ROLL CALL	Tibak	yes
	Grover	yes
	Fisher	yes
	Inscho	yes to all except abstaining from Raffle Permit for Mt. Lake Fire Company.

ORDINANCES:

08-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENT THE LIBERTY LAND DEVELOPMENT FEE SCHEDULE. Motion made by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Inscho with roll call unanimous to adopt at 1st reading. Second reading and public discussion will take place on February 7, 2008.

08-02 AN ORDINANCE KNOWN AS THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LIBERTY, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. Motion made by Mr. Inscho, seconded by Mr. Tibak with roll call unanimous to adopt at first reading. Second reading and public discussion will take place on February 7, 2008.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion made by Mr. Tibak, seconded by Mr. Inscho with roll call unanimous to pay all bills on bills list.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Mr. Inscho, seconded by Tibak with roll call unanimous to enter into executive session to discuss two contractual matters and one pending litigation matter.

REGULAR SESSION: Motion made by Mr. Inscho, seconded by Mr. Grove with roll call unanimous to enter back into regular session.

During executive session Mr. Lavery stated that the following was discussed but no official action taken:

The Lodge Survey
Pending Litigation
Contractual Purchase of Property

Ms. Reilly was directed to invite the Environmental Commission, Recreation Commission. Open Space Commission and the Land Use Board members to the workshop session on January 24, 2008 at 7:00 in order to discuss utilization of township property. She was directed to notice the Express Times about this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Mr. Inscho, seconded by Mr. Tibak with roll call unanimous to adjourn said meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Willa L. Reilly, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator