

A special meeting of the Township of Liberty was held in the Municipal Building, 349 Mountain Lake Road, Great Meadows on 29 November 2012. The meeting was opened by Mayor John Inscho with Adequate Notice of Meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:13 p.m.

Present: Mayor John Inscho; Deputy Mayor John Fisher; Ronald Petersen, and Peter Karcher

Absent: Dan Grover

Also, Present: Roger Skoog, Municipal Attorney; and, Diane M Pflugfelder, Municipal Clerk/Administrator

## REPORTS

### COMMITTEEPERSON KARCHER

Committeeperson Karcher stated that he would coordinate with Committeeperson Dan Grover to prepare the specifications for a pavilion upon the beachfront property.

### COMMITTEEPERSON PETERSEN

Committeeperson Petersen reported on the DPW accomplishments with handling SuperStorm Sandy debris and destruction within Liberty Township. He suggested ComCast Media be contacted to address the many wires remaining upon the ground throughout the municipality.

Committeeperson reported that the paving project upon Lakeside Drives West and North has been completed and awaiting the line striping to complete the project.

Committeeperson Petersen asked that the DPW contact the paving contractor to address a low puddle spot upon Lakeside Drive West, by the former Casino site.

### COMMITTEEPERSON FISHER

Committeeperson Fisher commented on the commendable work of Liberty Township DPW and OEM Team having all municipal roads open for emergency and public access within 24 hours.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Steve Romanowitch, CPWM, presented the following verbal report:

- ✓ Denville Line will be scheduled next week to double stripe Lakeside Drives. Lakeside Drives North and West expense will be covered within the NJDOT Grant funds and the municipality will be responsible for the stripe painting upon Lakeside Drives East and South
- ✓ Road right-of-way cleanup and chipping continue on the debris from SuperStorm Sandy.
- ✓ An individual will begin working with the DPW on Monday, 3 December through the Warren County Community Service Program for a term of 180 hours.

## MAYOR INSCHO

Mayor Inscho read letters of gratitude and appreciation from the fire company and a resident within the Mountain Lake area regarding the support of the neighborhood to overcome the aftermath of SuperStorm Sandy.

## SUPERSTORM SANDY

Mayor Inscho reported that a volunteer roster was being created in preparedness of future SuperStorms. Mayor Inscho stated that Liberty Township would not be participating in a class action suit against JCP&L regarding their responsiveness to the storm conditions.

Following discussion, the DPW was asked to compose a listing of dangerous trees that remain leaning as a potential danger to motorists and pedestrians upon municipal roads.

**2012 NJ APWA PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR – STEPHEN ROMANOWITCH**

Mayor Inscho read a plaque containing the following text;

Each year the New Jersey Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) pays tribute to many Public Works professionals throughout the state. These awards are generally presented annual at the meeting held during the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, NJ. With the cancelation of the League Conference the APWA tributes are being distributed to the individuals via their Municipal Governments.

The following application was submitted recognizing Stephen Romanowitch, CPWM, of Liberty Township, Warren County for the Richard Rohrbach Public Works Leader of the Year Award. The object of this award is to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing The outstanding achievements of individual Public Works Officials.

It is with great honor that Liberty Township recommends Principle Public Works Manager, Stephen Romanowitch for the Richard Rohrbach Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

Mr. Romanowitch has proven his reliability, strong work ethic and dedication to Liberty Township since joining the Township of Liberty, Department of Public Works in 1994 as a laborer. He has since advanced to the position of Supervisor, receiving his CPWM Certification in 2005.

Not only is he an exemplary employee of Liberty Township, but Mr. Romanowitch is also a third generation resident of the area and a well-respected citizen and supervisor. His easy-going, yet conscientious demeanor creates a positive work environment bringing out the best in his staff and in turn a positive working relationship with the residents of Liberty Township.

Mr. Romanowitch demonstrated his dedication during the municipal mudslide of September, 2011. He would not leave the area each day, until the present danger was abated to the best of their ability. He was unconcerned with the day of the week, hours put in, or the pay to be earned during this emergency situation. His priority was to address the needs of the Liberty Township residents and secure a safe environment. His work included insight and knowledge of the area that would become the foundation of this devastated site cleanup.

In addition to his attention paid to major events in the town, Mr. Romanowitch makes outstanding and unique contributions that positively impact the municipality's operations, every day. Always watchful over his Township, Mr. Romanowitch conducts inspections of township roads and properties following storms, community events, and even on Sunday mornings following church services. On patriotic holidays, he personally drives to various municipal sites to raise American flags, returning in the evening hours to lower the flags. He never misses attending a Township Committee Meeting, not only as an employee of the town, but also as a concerned resident. This is all done on his personal time, in his personal vehicle which is a display of his allegiance to Liberty Township.

Ms. Romanowitch's fiscal responsibility cannot be underestimated. He is always conscious of the cost to the Township assuring that every bill is properly processed and addressed promptly. He is happy to save Township money by using and maintaining a 1988 International Dump truck, 1984 Ford dump truck, 1995 Ford F-800 dump truck and a 1997 Ford F-350 mason dump truck. He tends to the mechanics of all equipment as if it was his personal property all while sincerely enjoying the demands of his job.

His dedication extends into his vacation time, making himself available via his personal cell phone to his supervisors, staff, vendors and even Liberty Township residents. In his 18 plus years of employment with Liberty Township, Steve has used less than five sick days.

Mr. Romanowitch is the epitome of what a DPW Supervisor should be which is why he is considered the "Guardian Angel" of Liberty Township. His knowledge and work ethic alone could earn him many awards, but his dedication to his Township is why Stephen Romanowitch should receive the Richard Rohrbach Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

Thank you, on behalf of Liberty Township, for considering our "Guardian Angel" for this award.

On 4 October 2012, Liberty Township was notified that Stephen Romanowitch had been selected to receive the 2012 NJ Chapter APWA Richard Rohebach Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

Comments of accommodation and appreciation were heard from Township Committeepersons and the public.

#### BUDGET 2013

Reviews for preparation of the 2013 budget will begin in December 2012. Kevin Lifer, CFO, sated that Liberty Township is closing the 2012 Budget on a solid base.

PUBLIC COMMENT was opened at 7:44 pm.

No comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, a motion by Mayor Inscho to adjourn the meeting carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Diane M Pflugfelder RMC/MMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator  
Minutes Approved 6 December 2012