

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Township of Liberty was held in the Municipal Building, 349 Mountain Lake Road, Great Meadows on 7 March 2013. The meeting was opened by Mayor John Inscho with Adequate Notice of Meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

REPORTS

COMMITTEEPERSON PETERSEN

Ron Petersen reported that Liberty Township DPW was in possession of a demo backhoe.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Steve Romanowitch, CPWM, presented the following verbal report:

- ✓ The Fire inspection follow-up was conducted and passed this week
- ✓ An overall municipal pot-hole repair program was addressed last week
- ✓ Tree chipping has taken place along Lake Just-It Road
- ✓ Next week the DPW will begin installation of the pipe and drainage along Lake Just-It Road

LANDUSE

A pre-printed report was received from the LandUse Board for January-February 2013 and presented to members of the Township Committee for review

MUNICIPAL ZONING

A pre-printed report was received from the Municipal Zoning Official for February 2013 and presented to members of the Township Committee for review

MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR

Pre-printed reports was received from the Municipal Tax Collector for January and February 2013 and presented to members of the Township Committee for review

MUNICIPAL CLERK/ADMINISTATOR

A pre-printed report was received from the Municipal Clerk/Administrator for February 2013 and presented to members of the Township Committee for review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Ron Petersen to adopt the public and executive session minutes of 7 February 2013 carried. John Fisher abstained.

A motion by Ron Petersen to adopt the budget workshop, public and executive session minutes of 28 February 2013 carried. John Fisher abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

ORD. #2013.001 - PUBLIC HEARING - A motion by John Fisher to open public hearing carried. A motion by John Fisher to adopt the following resolution carried

Resolution #2013.025
Adoption of ORD. # 2013.001

WHEREAS, said Ordinance entitled “ An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank” was passed on first reading on 7 February 2013 and

WHEREAS, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

BE IT RESOLVED By the township committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Karcher
aye - Petersen
aye - Grover
aye - Fisher
aye - Inscho

John Inscho,
Mayor

ORD. #2013.002 - PUBLIC HEARING - A motion by John Fisher to open public hearing carried. A motion by John Fisher to adopt the following resolution carried

Resolution #2013.026
Adoption of ORD. # 2013.002

WHEREAS, said Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 3 of the Code of the Township of Liberty, Warren County, New Jersey” was passed on first reading on 7 February 2013 and

WHEREAS, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

BE IT RESOLVED By the township committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 3 of the Code of the Township of Liberty, Warren County, New Jersey” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Karcher
aye - Petersen
aye - Grover
aye - Fisher
aye - Inscho

John Inscho,
Mayor

NEW BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET 2013

Mayor Inscho gave a brief overview of the proposed 2013 Budget. At the end of 2013 Liberty Township will only have \$19,375.35 of outstanding debt. It is a Green Acres loan that will be paid off in 2015. In 1998 the municipal debt was \$1,359,939.86. Following discussion, a motion by Ron Petersen to introduce the 2013 Municipal Budget carried. The budget will be published 15 March 2013 and scheduled for public hearing and considered of adoption on 4 April 2013.

Vote: aye - Karcher
aye - Petersen
aye - Grover
aye - Fisher
aye – Inscho

ORDINANCE #2013.003_- Following discussion, a motion by John Fisher to introduce Ordinance #2013.003 on First Reading carried. Public Hearing and Adoption are scheduled for 4 April 2013.

Ordinance #2013.003

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 7 of the Code of the
Township of Liberty, Warren County, New Jersey

Whereas the Committee of the Township of Liberty does desire to revise the Liberty Township Code Book to be in conformity with the laws of the State of New Jersey, and

Whereas the Committee does also desire to revise the Liberty Township Code to be consistent with the present practices and procedures in the payment of claims made as well as to clarify the role and duties of the Chief Financial Officer and Municipal Clerk, and

Whereas the committee of Liberty does desire to modify Chapter Seven of the aforesaid Code Book in furtherance of the objectives previously recited, and

It is now and be it Ordained by the Committee of Liberty Township that Chapter Seven of the Code Book shall be modified as specifically recited herein but in all other respects it shall remain and continue the same and be given full force and effect:

In the index to Chapter 7 Section 7-2 delete the word Clerk and substitute therein the words Chief Financial Officer.

In Article I, Section 7-1 delete the words Township Clerk and substitute therein the words Chief Financial Officer.

In Article I, Section 7-2 delete the word Clerk in the heading and substitute therein the words Chief Financial Officer. Also, in subsection A delete the words Municipal Clerk and substitute therein the words Chief Financial Officer as well as delete the word Clerk as subsequently recited therein and substitute therein the words Chief Financial Officer.

In Article I, Section 7-3 delete the word Municipal Clerk and substitute therein the words Chief Financial Officer.

In Article I, Section 7-5, subsection A, delete the word Municipal Clerk in two separate lines and substitute therein the words Chief Financial Officer.

In Article I, Section 7-5, subsection A, delete the phrasing “which checks shall be signed by the Mayor and thereafter signed by the Treasurer and the Clerk” and substitute therein the words All Township checks (including payroll checks) require three (3) manual signatures from the following

- a. Mayor
- b. Chief Financial Officer
- c. Municipal Clerk

In Article I, Section 7-5, subsection B, delete the word Municipal Clerk and substitute therein the words Chief Financial Officer.

HIGHLANDS - LAKE MANAMGENE PLAN PROPOSAL

Eric Snyder, Municipal Planner, came before the Township Committee to explain the municipal benefits of the Highlands Lake Management Plan and the proposed revised Highlands Checklist Ordinance tailored to the Township. This draft Township Highlands Implementation Plan and Schedule would

include an allocation of \$20,000.00 for preparation of a Lake Management Plan. Discussion ensued on the understanding of exemptions and the customizations of the plans to Liberty Township.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion by Dan Grover to adopt the following Resolution carried.

Resolution #2013.027
Payment of Bills

RESOLVED, That the township committee of the Township of Liberty, does hereby authorize the Finance Department to pay all vouchers when properly endorsed and approved by at least 3/5 majority of the township committee in the amount of \$573,000.18.

Vote: aye - Karcher
aye - Petersen
aye - Grover
aye - Fisher
aye - Inscho

John Inscho,
Mayor

RESOLUTIONS

A motion by Ron Petersen to adopt the following resolution carried.

Resolution #2013.028
Tax Lien Refund

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends to the Township Committee that the necessary administrative actions be taken to authorize a refund to the following lienholder.

Block	Lot	Lien #	Name/Address	Amount	Interest	Premium	Total
<u>Refund</u>							
10	27	2012-02	US Bank Cust for Pro Capital US Bank TLSSG 50 S 16 th St Suite 1950 Philadelphia PA 19102	\$ 7,051.09	\$ 279.96	\$ 6,600.00	\$13,931.05
1	11.01	603	Crusader Servicing Corp 179 Washington Lane Jenkintown PA 19046	\$31,592.57	\$11,370.61	\$ 8,000.00	\$50,963.18

BE IT RESOLVED, By a majority of the members of the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the refund on the above list shall be returned to the parties designated.

Vote: aye - Karcher
aye - Petersen
aye - Grover
aye - Fisher
aye - Inscho

John Inscho,
Mayor

A motion by Ron Petersen to adopt the following resolution carried.

Resolution #2013.029

Opposing S2364/A3553

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S-2364 and Assembly Bill A3553 propose to create a system of early voting in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the goal of accommodating voters in pursuit of greater participation in the democratic process is a worthy goal; and

WHEREAS, these bills would in reality increase workloads, add more costs to the election process, and ultimately serve to confuse voters more than it would accommodate their needs; and

WHEREAS, these bills would require for each primary and general election a public facility, except a public school, located in each municipality in an area of a high concentration of population to be open and available to registered voters starting 15 days before an election for early polling, possibly conflicting with if not pushing out other important uses for these buildings, causing inconvenience to residents; and

WHEREAS, these bills require retraining of poll workers and dramatically increased hours, as well as chain of custody requirements to protect the voting process, despite the fact that recruiting and training polls workers is already a difficult process; and

WHEREAS, these bills would increase costs to municipalities, including overtime pay for workers; and

WHEREAS, although these bills allow municipalities to request reimbursement for extra costs and provide an appropriation, the appropriation does not outline a specific amount nor dedicated funding, only that which the State Treasurer and the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting deem necessary, and they do not outline the procedure for a municipality whose reimbursement request is denied; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity for “Early Voting” already exists in the State of New Jersey through the Vote by Mail ballot process.

BE IT RESOLVED, That governing body of the Township of Liberty in the County of Warren does hereby oppose S2364 and A3553; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The governing body of the Township of Liberty does hereby call upon its representatives in the State Legislature to oppose the adoption of this bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Office of the Governor, Senate President Sweeney, Senators Gill and Whelan, sponsors of S2364, Speaker Oliver, Assemblymen Wisniewski, Diegnan, Benson, Conaway, and Coughlin, sponsors of A3553, our State Senator and Assembly representatives, the County Board of Elections, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Vote: aye - Karcher
aye - Petersen
aye - Grover
aye - Fisher
aye - Inscho

John Inscho,
Mayor

FIEDLER ACCELERATED REAL ESTATE MARKETING
Jeff Fiedler, Professional Auction Real Estate Broker, presented comment on the specialization of the “Lodge” property and some options for consideration of auction activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Phil Wooldridge, Environmental Commission Chairperson, reported that the Commission would be coordinating a Bear Education session in April 2013 and that the amphibian crossing program was awaiting an increase in the weather conditions.

PUBLIC COMMENT was opened at 7:30 pm.

Lisa Thomas – Ms. Thomas encouraged the Township Committee to sell the Lodge without restraints and expressed gratitude that a professional auction company was in attendance.

Alice Bechok – Ms Bechok inquired if the Mountain Lake Community Association would work with the Municipal Planner and the municipality in the Lake Management Plan. She also informed the Township Committee that she and her husband were addressing the legal issues regarding the donation of 12 Lewis Lane in the settlement of Henry Bechok’s estate.

At 7:32 pm a motion by John Inscho to adopt the following Resolution carried.

Resolution #2013.030

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

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exists; and

WHEREAS, the governing body may wish to discuss any of the following conditions; confidential provisions of Federal Law or State Statute; information that may impair receipt of federal funding; invasion of individual privacy; collective bargaining agreement; real property negotiations; litigation; and, personnel and personnel policy. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

- ✓ Collective Bargaining Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, That the public be excluded from this meeting.

Vote: aye - Karcher
 aye - Petersen
 aye - Grover
 aye - Fisher
 aye - Inscho

 John Inscho,
 Mayor

At 8:03 pm, a motion by Mayor Inscho to reconvene the public meeting carried.

Mayor Inscho stated that during executive session matters of contractual agreement were discussed. Following discussion, it was agreed to delay the consideration of auctioning the “Lodge” upon the advice of Jeff Fiedler, Professional Auction Real Estate Broker.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Diane M Pflugfelder RMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator
Minutes Approved 4 April 2013