

**TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD
BURLINGTON COUNTY
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2013
Executive Session
6:30 PM**

The regular executive session meeting of the Mansfield Township Committee was held on the above shown date with the following in attendance: **Mayor Arthur Puglia, Deputy Mayor Robert Higgins, Committeeman Alfred Clark, Committeewoman Janice DiGiuseppe, Committeeman Sean Gable, Solicitor Michael Magee, and Clerk Linda Semus.**

Mayor Puglia called the meeting to order followed by the following opening statement.

Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act NJSA 10:4-6 to 10:4-21 has been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in the annual notice, which was adopted by the Mansfield Township Committee on January 3, 2013. Said Resolution was transmitted to the Burlington County Times and the Trenton Times, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Mansfield, posted on the official bulletin board at the Municipal Complex, filed with the members of this body and mailed to each person who has prepaid any charge fixed for such service. All of the mailing, posting, and filing having been accomplished as of January 7, 2013.

A motion was offered by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** and second by **Committeeman Clark** to go into executive session by adoption of the following Resolution. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2013-10-1

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 213, P.L. 1975 [NJSA 10:4-12(B)] 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey as follows: on-going contract negotiations, personnel, and potential litigation.

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of, action on and reviewing the Minutes of the hereinafter specified matters.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: personnel, contract negotiations and on-going litigation.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above subject matter will be made public when the matters have been resolved and approved for release by the Township Solicitor.

Regular Meeting
7:30PM

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Township Committee was held on the above shown date with the following in attendance **Mayor Arthur Puglia, Deputy Mayor Robert Higgins, Committeewoman Janice DiGiuseppe, Committeeman, Fred Clark, Committeeman Sean Gable, Tim Staszewski, CFO Joseph Monzo, Attorney Michael Magee, Clerk Linda Semus, and Deputy Clerk Barbara Crammer.**

A motion was offered by **Committeeman Clark** and second by **Committeeman Gable** to come out of executive session.

Attorney Magee explained that matters discussed in executive session were on-going contract negotiations, potential litigation and personnel issues.

The regular meeting was opened by **Mayor Puglia** followed by the flag salute and a moment of silence.

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 2013-9

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2005-8
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD TO ADDRESS
LIMITATIONS ON POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS
BY MUNICIPAL VENDORS; ADOPTING AN ANTI-NEPOTISM
POLICY; AND LIMITING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS
BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

WHEREAS, by enactment of the Local Government Ethics Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.1 et seq., in 1991, the New Jersey Legislature established a Code of Ethics to be honored and followed by local elected and appointed public officers and employees, and as a result of same, the Township of Mansfield enacted Ethics Regulations to regulate the conduct and affairs of public employees and officials in a fashion which would respect the integrity of the offices held, and allow the public to have confidence in the honor and integrity of the individuals holding said offices and positions; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield is intent upon making every effort to ensure that the public has confidence in the honor and integrity of the individuals holding public office and positions, and that elected and appointed officials maintain the highest ethical standards in the conduct of public business on behalf of the residents and taxpayers of the Township of Mansfield; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has also determined to initiate prohibitions against the hiring of employees related to Elected Officials, Department Heads, Managerial Executives and Supervisory Employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington and the State of New Jersey that the Township's Code of Ethics be the same and is hereby amended to add the following additional standards and criteria:

ARTICLE I. RENUMBERED SECTION. Section 17B-6, entitled, "Enforcement", is hereby amended to renumber said Section as 17B-10.

ARTICLE II. NEW SECTIONS. The following new Sections are hereby added to the Code of Ethics of the Township of Mansfield:

§ 17B-8. ANTI-NEPOTISM POLICY.

- A. Elected Officials, Department Heads, Managerial Executives and Supervisory Employees. Any person who is a member of the immediate family of an Elected Official, Department Head, Managerial Executive and Supervisory Employee shall not be appointed, hired, employed or permitted to work for the municipality in any position.
- B. Existing Employees. If any existing employee of the Township becomes subject to this policy as a result of the election of a relative, or because of changes in marital, domestic partner/cohabitant or relationship status, one of the related persons must resign their position within ninety (90) days. During the 90-day period, non-related supervisory person(s) shall be assigned to supervise the related employee. It shall be the affirmative duty of a related Elected Official, Department Head, Managerial Executive, or Supervisory Employee to immediately disclose any circumstances which may constitute a violation of this policy. Failure to do so will result in appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action.
- C. Definitions. "Immediate Family" means the spouse and/or dependent child of a local government officer or employee residing in the same household, (NJSA40A:9-22.4i); any relative residing in the same household; and/or any living arrangement among unmarried persons substantially similar to that of a marital relationship, regardless of either person's gender.

§ 17B-9. SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS. No candidate for office, appointment or employment and no officer, appointee, or employee in any municipality shall directly or indirectly give or promise any person any office, position, employment benefit or anything of value for the purpose of influencing or obtaining the political support, aid, or vote of any person, under the penalty of being disqualified to hold the office or employment to which he or she may be or may have been elected or appointed.

ARTICLE III. REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

- A. Repealer. Any and all Ordinances inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistencies.
- B. Severability. In the event that any clause, section, paragraph or sentence of this Ordinance is deemed to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, then the Township Committee hereby declares its intent that the balance of the Ordinance not affected by said invalidity shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that it allows the Township to meet the goals of the Ordinance.
- C. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon proper passage in accordance with the law.

Mayor Puglia opened the Public Hearing. With no comments or questions, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was offered by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** and second by **Committeeman Clark** to adopt Ordinance 2013-9. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: DIGIUSEPPE, CLARK, GABLE, HIGGINS, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

ORDINANCE 2013-10

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD, IN
THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING
FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD AND
APPROPRIATING \$90,000 THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING
FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$85,500 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD TO FINANCE THE SAME**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
MANSFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY** (not less than two-thirds of all
members thereof affirmatively concurring), **AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Mansfield, in the County of Burlington, New Jersey (the "Township"), as a general improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 3 hereof, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$90,000 including the sum of \$4,500 as the down payment for the improvement or purpose pursuant to the Local Bond Law. The down payment has been made available by virtue of the provision in the capital improvement fund in one or more previously adopted budgets.

Section 2. In order to finance the cost of the improvement or purpose not covered by application of the down payment or otherwise provided for hereunder, negotiable bonds or notes are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$85,500 pursuant to the Local Bond Law. In anticipation of the issuance of the bonds or notes, negotiable bond anticipation notes are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

Section 3. (a) The improvement hereby authorized and the purpose for which the bonds or notes are to be issued is the acquisition of two (2) sport utility vehicles for the Police Department, including all work and materials necessary therefor or incidental thereto.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for the improvement or purpose is as stated in Section 2 hereof.

(c) The estimated cost of the improvement or purpose is equal to the amount of the appropriation herein made therefor.

Section 4. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer; provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the chief financial officer. The chief financial officer shall determine all matters in connection with notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the chief financial officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of the Local Bond Law. The chief financial officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 5. The capital budget or temporary capital budget (as applicable) of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this bond ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. In the event of any such inconsistency and amendment, the resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget or amended temporary capital budget (as applicable) and capital program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for public inspection.

Section 6. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is not a current expense. No part of the costs thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of the improvement or purpose, within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is 5 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Clerk, and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey. Such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided in this bond ordinance by \$85,500, and the obligations authorized herein will be within all debt limitations prescribed by that Law.

(d) An amount not exceeding \$2,000 for items of expense listed in and permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20 is included in the estimated cost indicated herein for the improvement or purpose.

Section 7. Any grant moneys received for the purposes described in Section 3 hereof shall be applied either to direct payment of the cost of the improvement or to payment of the obligations issued pursuant to this bond ordinance. The amount of obligations authorized hereunder shall be reduced to the extent that such funds are so used.

Section 8. The full faith and credit of the Township is hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. The obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Township for the payment of the obligations and the interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 9. To the extent that any previous ordinance or resolution is inconsistent herewith or contradictory hereto, said ordinance or resolution is hereby repealed or amended to the extent necessary to make it consistent herewith.

Section 10. This bond ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Mayor Puglia opened the public hearing. With no comments or questions, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was offered by **Deputy Mayor Higgins** and second by **Committeeman Gable** to adopt Ordinance 2013-10. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: HIGGINS, GABLE, CLARK, DIGIUSEPPE, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Staszewski said a conference call had been held with NJ American Water who informed him that, although we have the Wastewater Management Plan in place, it would give us relief from the NJ DEP Settlement Agreement but a formal request to the DEP is required for relief of that agreement. This is done by first appealing to the County to insure that we are consistent with County planning which we believe we are. Then it would be referred to State Planning which we believe we are consistent with. Once that is done, the DEP will look at it for relief of the agreement. It is hopeful we will go to the DEP within a month. **Mayor Puglia** asked **Engineer Staszewski** to speak to the County Board of Health.

Engineer Staszewski said he spoke to the NJ Turnpike who will be planting trees along the turnpike corridor around the vicinity of Florence-Columbus Road. Hopefully this will take some of the noise complaints away from the Homestead Development.

Engineer Staszewski noted that **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** has already drafted the letter to be sent to the County regarding the agreement appeal for water. This would be the first step. **Engineer Staszewski** will review the letter before it is sent out tomorrow.

A motion was offered by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** and second by **Committeeman Clark** to accept the Engineer's report. Motion carried.

BILL LIST

A motion was offered by **Committeeman Gable** and second by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** to pay the bills. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: GABLE, DIGIUSEPPE, CLARK, HIGGINS, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

MINUTES

Regular Meeting: September 25, 2014

**Executive Minutes: March 27, 2013, April 10, 2013, May 22, 2013,
June 13, 2013, July 24, 2013, August 28, 2013**

A motion was offered by **Committeeman Clark** and second by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** to approve the minutes of the meetings as listed above. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: CLARK, DIGIUSEPPE, GABLE, HIGGINS, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT; NONE ABSTAIN; NONE

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2013-10-2

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING A CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR 2012 AUDIT

WHEREAS, the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey received its 2012 Audit, dated April 15, 2013 and submitted to the Township for review on July 24, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Township will implement the 2012 Corrective Action Plan for the findings therein as follows:

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN - 2012 AUDIT
TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD
BURLINGTON COUNTY**

Recommendation Number -1 – Over expenditures

It was noted that there were several current year and one prior year over expenditure during the audit year,

Corrective Action:

The finance staff will more closely monitor those accounts that may not have sufficient funds so that transfers may be done in the proper time frame.

Recommendation Number -2 –Supplemental Debt Statement

It was noted that a bond ordinance was introduced without a SDS being filed with the DLGS.

Corrective Action:

SDS's are now filed electronically with the State of NJ .

Recommendation Number-3-Purchasing and Contracts

It was noted that a professional service contract for legal services was not awarded through the fair and open process in accordance with ordinance 2005-08

Corrective Action:

All professional service contracts for the upcoming year are under review. All awards for 2104 will be in accordance with our local ordinance.

Recommendation Number-4-Payroll

It was noted that an employee was paid an hourly rate for overtime, not in accordance with the salary ordinance.

Corrective Action:

The salary ordinances have been amended to reflect the actual working and pay conditions of the township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, implement the Corrective Action Plan as outlined above by the Chief Financial Officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk of the Township of Mansfield, be directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the New Jersey Division of Local Government Affairs, in compliance with State statute.

CFO Monzo explained that the Committee adopted a Resolution which was signed by all members of the Committee. The resolution stated that each Committee Person had read the findings and recommendations of the audit. In addition to the resolution, the CFO is required to send a corrective action plan to the State of NJ. This plan has to be memorialized by the governing body.

A motion was offered by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** and second by **Deputy Mayor Higgins** to adopt the foregoing Resolution 2013-10-2. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: DIGIUSEPPE, HIGGINS, CLARK GABLE, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

**RESOLUTION 2013-10-3
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PART-TIME MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP LAND USE
COORDINATOR**

WHEREAS, the Mansfield Township Land Use Office is in need of a part-time Land Use Coordinator at this time; and

WHEREAS, said part-time position is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for seven (7) hours each day;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds that it is in the Township's best interests that there be some type of continuity after a Holiday, and thus should a work day fall on a holiday, the Employee will be entitled to work the following non-holiday day, regardless of whether it is a normal work day;

WHEREAS, the compensation for the position is Twenty (\$20) Dollars an Hour;

WHEREAS, an application for said position was received from **MICHELLE SOUTH**; and

WHEREAS, **MICHELLE SOUTH** was interviewed, and was found to meet the qualifications that best meet the needs of the department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey at their regular meeting held on September 25, 2013 at the Municipal Complex at 7:30 PM that **MICHELLE SOUTH** is hereby appointed as a part time Land Use Coordinator at the rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective October 9, 2013, with a work schedule of three work day, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Said position is without health benefits, vacation, sick or holidays. Should a work day fall on a holiday, Employee will be permitted to recoup those hours on the following non-holiday day, regardless of whether it is one of Employee's normal work days.

A motion was offered by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** and second by **Committeeman Clark** to adopt Resolution 2013-10-3. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: DIGIUSEPPE, CLARK, GABLE, HIGGINS, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

RESOLUTION 2013-10-4
REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

WHEREAS, Property Taxes were overpaid on the properties listed below; and
WHEREAS, this overpayment was due to a payment by Lereta Corp, LLC, and they are requesting a refund;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey at their regular meeting held on October 9, 2013 hereby authorizes the refunding of the following to **Lereta Corp, LLC** by the Tax Collector.

| Block | Lot | Property Owner | Amount |
|-------|-----|-----------------|----------|
| 10.10 | 19 | Mahmood Chaudry | \$787.62 |

A motion was offered by **Committeeman Gable** and second by **Committeeman Clark** to adopt Resolution 2013-10-4. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: GABLE, CLARK, DIGIUSEPPE, HIGGINS, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

RESOLUTION 2013-10-5
REDEMPTION OF TAX LIEN

WHEREAS, at the Mansfield Township Tax Sale held on October 5, 2012, a lien was sold on Block 26, Lot 2.03, also known as 372 New York Avenue, for 2011 delinquent taxes; and,

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate # 12-00005 was sold to US Bank Cust/Pro Capital I LLC, in the amount of \$2,336.50, with a premium paid of \$6,200.00; and,

WHEREAS, HSBC Mortgage, has effected redemption of Certificate # 12-00005.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, authorizes that a check be issued to US Bank Cust/Pro Capital I LLC, for the redemption of this lien.

| Lien Holder | Lien # | Amount |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| US Bank Cust/Pro Capital I LLC | 12-00005 | \$17,861.41 |

A motion was offered by **Committeeman Gable** and second by **Committeeman Clark** to adopt Resolution 2013-10-5. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: GABLE, CLARK, DIGIUSEPPE, HIGGINS, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

RESOLUTION 2013-10-6
RESOLUTION TO LEGALLY ESTABLISH THE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TRO)
ENTITLED "NO PASSING ZONES" WITHIN MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP, BURLINGTON
COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) recently completed a traffic investigation on Route 206 in Mansfield Township; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT investigation revealed the current centerline pavement markings on Route 206 meet and conform to the current design standards; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT will update existing records to reflect current No Passing Zone conditions along US Route 206;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that it supports the use of a "No Passing Zone" on Route 206 in Mansfield Township as recommended by the NJDOT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to NJDOT as requested.

A motion was offered by **Committeeman Clark** and second by **Deputy Mayor Higgins** to adopt Resolution 2013-10-6. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: CLARK, HIGGINS, GABLE, DIGIUSEPPE, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

DISCUSSION

a. Hold Harmless-Contract for Volunteer Positions for School Programs.

Clerk Semus said our Jif Coordinator and the State Risk Manager forwarded information to our attorney who revised and reviewed the form. **Attorney Magee** said he

created a Mansfield Township Volunteer Affidavit and Release form. Our Risk Manager had attended the last meeting and indicated he would provide a sample. This was done and Attorney Magee looked it over and made minor adjustments for everyone to review. He did caution the Committee that many times, these releases might not be considered worth the paper it is written on by some attorney down the road. While it is something the insurance companies recommend that municipalities use but he cautioned it may be viewed differently when it winds up in front of a judge.

A motion was offered by **Committeeman Clark** and second by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** to approve the form. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: CLARK, DIGIUSEPPE, GABLE, HIGGINS, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

b. Application for blue Light Permit for Volunteer Fireman Jarrod Foster

A motion was offered by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** and second by **Committeeman Clark** to approve this application. Motion carried.

c. Jaime C. Devereaux appearing on behalf of the concerned residents of the Mapleton Development

Jaime C. Devereaux, 1 Jasper Drive, said he was present to speak of concerns and ideas for the betterment of the Mapleton Community. He first complimented the township maintenance and sanitation staff. Mr. Devereaux referred to his list of concerns noting that he was representing about 500 homes in Mapleton. The homeowners have come together with a list of complaints as well as requests.

He first commented on the Georgetown Park, also known as Mapleton Park. He referred to an unsafe playground as it is outdated and inappropriate for the size of the community. The swings are not appropriate for the number of children that play there. The bigger children play on the swings which constantly break. The slides are shocking the children when they slide down. The mulch is inappropriate as it carries germs and is not soft enough to protect the children from injuries. The people are requesting a new playground for the park.

The tennis courts are uneven and have slopes and cracks. He felt it needs to be resurfaced.

Mr. Devereaux asked if one or two lights from the field are turned around for the basketball courts so they can be utilized into the evening hours. Although the park closes a certain time, many children and many parents like to play basketball. It gets too dark too quickly so, if lights can shine on the courts for a certain amount of time so our children as well as people not living in Mapleton can utilize them.

Mr. Devereaux said the concession stand in the park is not utilized as it is closed most of the time. The bathrooms are closed all of the time. They are asking to utilize the concession stand as a community building instead for park toys or sports tools such as hula hoops, balls, etc. Volunteers can stay in there during the day to maintain it and hand out items. He also asked the bathrooms to be open during park hours.

The residents are also requesting a dog park in an area of the park that is not used for sports. He felt the people would pick up after their dogs as they are usually proud of such an area for the dogs. **Committeeman Clark** asked what it takes to make a dog park. Mr. Devereaux said he would look into the requirements although it would have to be fenced in. **Mayor Puglia** said this had come up before and it was determined not to have a dog park because of liability. **Mayor Puglia** felt many of these items should go to the Recreation Committee for review. **Committeeman Gable** said he was concerned over the playground area and the safety for the children. This would be more of an immediate need. He said he wants to call the representative from the insurance company and, if authorized by the Committee, to have him come out and do an inspection of the

property to make sure that, if there is an immediate safety concern, we can take care of it. Everyone agreed to this.

Mayor Puglia referred to the streets. Some work had been done in Four Seasons. He felt that they had gone through Mapleton to address their concerns.

Mayor Puglia referred to abandoned houses and felt this is something the Township can not deal with. If we get a call about high grass, we can deal with this. He said the Committee will look into Mr. Devereaux's concerns. In regard to the traffic light, we will contact the DOT. **Committeeman Gable** will speak to the insurance agent and will also bring some items to the Recreation Committee.

Mr. Devereaux referred to abandoned houses. However, the lack of maintenance of the homes such as siding falling off and fences that are down can be addressed by the township by pressuring the banks. **Mayor Puglia** said we need to know the specific houses after which we can send our property maintenance official out to investigate and then issue summons can be issued if it comes under our authority.

Committeeman Clark said there is a crew now at Four Seasons working on the streets. When they are finished, they will move to the Mapleton development.

Mr. Devereaux said there is excessive speeding throughout the community. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour although it is not obeyed. Children are in the area which leads them to a request for speed bumps in certain areas such as Arlington Avenue, Greenbrook Drive, Lincoln Avenue. **Mayor Puglia** said he will speak to the Chief tomorrow and ask for patrol in the area to see what we can come up with.

Deputy Mayor Higgins thanked Mr. Devereaux to bring the issues to the attention of the Committee. He felt a lot of the issues can be handled through the Recreation Committee. He encouraged him to speak to **Committeeman Gable** who is working diligently with the Recreation Committee. **Deputy Mayor Higgins** suggested basketball lights as it could be relatively easy. In regard to the dog park, **Deputy Mayor Higgins** said he was interested in finding out the potential liability and the cost. He said he has seen dog parks work in other communities.

Committeewoman DiGiuseppe said the county offers park improvement grants every year and suggested that, if they offer one next year, this could be a potential application for the Mapleton park.

d. Rescind Norcross Electric Proposal

A motion was offered by **Deputy Mayor Higgins** and second by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** to amend the agenda. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by **Deputy Mayor Higgins** and second by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** to rescind the Norcross proposal. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

AYE: HIGGINS, DIGIUSEPPE, CLARK, GABLE, PUGLIA
NAY: NONE ABSENT: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

Deputy Mayor Higgins explained that we had an initial proposal from Norcross. However, when we got the written proposal, it was different than the quoted proposal. **CFO Monzo** explained the verbal was different than the written proposal. However, in the mean time, Jef Jones went to two other electricians and got two prices which were less expensive than Norcross and below the quote threshold. He directed Mr. Jones to do a purchase order for the low bidder after the Norcross proposal is rescinded.

e. Peddler's, Hawker's, Solicitor's Ordinance Amendment

Attorney Magee explained that he looked at some cases and is comfortable to recommend an amendment to our ordinance to allow residents to be placed on a "No Knock" list which is a no solicitation list. He said he is comfortable that the township wouldn't be stepping on anyone's constitutional toes with that requirement. Usually, a

majority of those permits are issued in the beginning of the year. Therefore, we should plan to have the Ordinance in place by January 1, 2014. He suggested having the ordinance placed on the website and forwarded to the adult communities for their announcements. When people ask to be on the “No Knock” list and they are solicited anyway, the one with the solicitors permit would be subject to having his license revoked with a possible fine. **Attorney Mage** said he would prepare the ordinance for the next meeting.

f. No Net Loss Grant – Phase II update

Committeeman Clark, Jef Jones and Mayor Puglia met with the county today about possible placement of trees at the Civic Field. There is also money available for equipment. The County has provided a proposal for their requests. They are looking for \$177,000. We would like to apply for as much and give Jef Jones the authority to pick out what equipment he needs. A motion was offered by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** and second by **Committeeman Clerk** to authorize Jef Jones to select equipment. Motion carried.

CFO Monzo said we received our first check for the No Net Loss a couple of years ago in the amount of \$799,000. The second check, \$1,114,000 was mailed yesterday. We are waiting to pay the county as they installed all of the trees. Once we get the check, we will pay the county. **Mayor Puglia** said the schools are going to take a lot of the trees.

A motion was offered by **Deputy Mayor Higgins** and second by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** to amend the agenda to speak of layoffs. Motion carried.

Mayor Puglia explained that, since we have decided to privatize our trash, we will be laying half of our work force off which amounts to two employees. They are to be provided notice tomorrow. We will be changing over on November 4th. Their last day will be November 1st.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Harrison, Mansfield Road West commented that, when you come to Route 206 from Mansfield Road East at the traffic signal, the trees and bushes obstruct your view of traffic. He felt there may be an accident. **Clerk Semus** is to contact the state.

Mr. Harrison also felt that Mansfield Road West is a nice highway but, as narrow as it is, anyone walking or riding a bicycle is in danger. He has seen a tractor trailer as well as a school bus clipped a sign as there is no place for anyone to go. There is no shoulder. Mr. Harrison felt it should be reviewed as there are many animals and children. **Deputy Mayor Higgins** said we have asked the police department to look at it again. He hopes to have the speed reduced to an appropriate level.

Jim Soden, 4 Lantern Lane, thanked the Committee for the two lights at the entrance to the municipal building. He said now he can see where the driveway is. However, he feels the intersection is still not safe. He respectfully requested street lights on both the north and southbound lane.

With no further comments, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

MAYOR AND COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Chairperson DiGiuseppe thanked everyone for coming.

Deputy Mayor Higgins commented on the number of people concerned about their assessments and resulting tax bills. He met, with another committee person, with a certain group of residents after meeting with the Township Attorney to determine the type of questions they could ask. **Attorney Magee** verified that this was done. A letter had been received from the Tax Administrator of the Burlington County Board of Taxation on October 8th which did disappoint him. This letter was read into the record by **Clerk Semus** and said letter is attached hereto and made a part thereof of (see attached). **Deputy Mayor Higgins** asked if he and the other committee person had done anything

wrong in his opinion. **Attorney Magee** said no. **Deputy Mayor Higgins** said he was disappointed with the letter as we have people who are concerned about their assessments and they were trying to understand the methodology and values that were used for the properties in the development. Unfortunately, he felt this was part of his job. If someone asks him a question, he will speak with the attorney and try to stay within the framework of the law. **Deputy Mayor Higgins** said property appraisers, the county to come to the township. He felt the committee is taking the bullets and they don't have all of the answers. All they were trying to do was to help the taxpayers. He apologized he wasn't able to get the answers. **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** said she was the other committee person that met with the two gentlemen and **Deputy Mayor Higgins** and she felt the letter, in her view from the County Tax Administrator was unnecessary and wrong.

Committeeman Gable asked if there has been any progress on the RFP's for the police and Public Works portion of this building. He felt we were supposed to go out for RFP for the design phase last month. He was told this has not been completed. **Committeeman Gable** felt this was approved at the last meeting so we could start the project.

Committeeman Gable said we were awarded another county grant that we were going to utilize for the Civic Club property to renovate the old concession stand. In order to proceed, he said he would like to go out for RFP's for the design phase of that project. We were going to utilize some funding that was available in an old bond. **Deputy Mayor Higgins** suggested we look at the Recreation Budget for this. He felt it would be between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for engineering services. **Committeeman Gable** questioned whether there was an old recreation bond with \$9,000 that could be reallocated. **CFO Monzo** said he would check. **Deputy Mayor Higgins** commended the Recreation Committee for using their fees to pay for their programs. Many times, the money we appropriate doesn't get used. We can use that money for capital projects which we have done. He felt there was money in Recreation for engineering services which can be moved forward. **CFO Monzo** will contact **Committeeman Gable** tomorrow.

Committeeman Gable said we have tried many times to rent the island Road property for farming. The last time, we advertised for incorrect acreage. He felt we need someone to determine the correct amount of acreage as now is the time to move forward and put out to bid. **Mayor Puglia** said he would go to Soil Conservation to get the acreage as trees have been planted there which interferes with the ground that can be farmed. **Deputy Mayor Higgins** agreed that we should move forward as it is getting overgrown which will make it more difficult to farm.

Committeeman Clark said he and the Mayor are in charge of roads and he told Mr. Harrison they will look at the 50mph on that road. He said he wants to take care of this and noted the number of animals on the road. He also said he would look into speed bumps at Mapleton.

Mayor Puglia thanked all for coming out to the meeting.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by **Committeeman Clark** and second by **Committeeman Gable** to adjourn. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Barbara A. Crammer
Deputy Clerk

Linda Semus, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Approved: October 23, 2013