

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
March 10, 2008

A meeting of Township Committee was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Princeton Township Municipal Complex, 400 Witherspoon Street.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Clerk read the following statement.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting.

Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of the 2008 Schedule of Regular Meetings. On January 6, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, and the Town Topics, and filed with the Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Township Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mayor Marchand and Mrs. Bergman and Messrs. Goerner, Liverman and Miller.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mrs. Monzo, and Messrs Kiser, Pascale, Schmierer and Lt. Henderson

MINUTES

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2008 as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bergman and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Contains items of a routine nature, which are approved by a single vote.

- a. Bills & Claims
- b. Maintenance/Performance Guarantees
 - * The Hun School, Athletic Field, Release of Cash Maintenance Guaranty in the amount of \$57,752.28 plus interest and any remaining cash escrows.
 - * Stuart Country Day School, Magnetti Field, Completion Time Extension to June 1, 2008.
 - * Jim Britt - Princeton University - Ellipse Dormitory, Release Performance Guaranty. No Maintenance Guaranty required.
- c. Professional Services Agreement:
 - American Emergency Notification ("AEN"), to continue to maintain the emergency notification system for Princeton Township residents, Not to Exceed \$9,500.
- d. Resolution: New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Loan Program, Federal Fiscal Year 2008/ State Fiscal Year 2009, Application for Financial Assistance for Sanitary Sewer Work.
- e. Resolution: Recognizing Karl Light Boulevard
- f. Change Order #1 and final, Top Line Construction, 2007 Resurfacing Project, Final Contract Amount \$1,385,391.57
- g. Resolution: Recycling Obsolete Computer Equipment

Mr. Miller offered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Goerner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

(Bills & Claims and Resolutions appended to this set of minutes.)

REPORTS

Spirit of Princeton

Ray Wadsworth, Spirit of Princeton thanked Township Committee for their continued support as well as that of Police and the Fire Department. Mr. Wadsworth noted the following dates for events to be held this year: the Memorial Day Parade, May 24; Flag Day, June 13; 4th of July Fireworks, July 2 and Veterans Day, November 11, 2008. It was the consensus of Township Committee to waive the fees for the fireworks displays and Flag Day.

Proposed Cell Tower, Great and Cherry Valley Roads, Status Report

Mayor Marchand said that the police and fire departments are experiencing dead spots in their communication systems in the northwest portion of the Township and that Verizon wireless customers are also experiencing lost calls in the northwest portion of the Township.

Mayor Marchand said that in an effort to address these issues the Township had recently authorized the receipt of bids to consider the construction of a cell tower on municipally owned land at the intersection of the Great Road and Cherry Valley Road, to service the northwest portion of the Township. She said that going out to bid does not obligate the Township to award a contract to construct a cell tower, rather it would help the Township evaluate whether or not a cell tower at this location would be appropriate for the Township. She said that the top priority is emergency services and if the Township can meet the communication requirements of our police and fire officers without constructing a cell tower we will do so.

Mayor Marchand also said that the bid specifications require that there be a public hearing before the Planning Board and that the Planning Board is required to seek input from the neighbors and other interested parties. No contract would be approved without Planning Board approval.

She said that we have received several inquires from residents in the neighborhood of the Great Road and Cherry Valley Road where this cell tower would be constructed who would like to have a neighborhood meeting to discuss this matter now. We have offered the neighbors there dates April 8, 10 and 22, 2008, here at Township Hall at 7:00 p.m. in the Main meeting room to discuss this matter and we are waiting to hear back from the neighbors to see which date they prefer.

Mr. Goerner thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting. He said that he has heard the neighbor's comments through emails and phone calls and that the comments have not fallen on deaf ears. Mr. Goerner said that Township Committee would be looking at all options.

Mayor Marchand said that they were very much aware of the feeling of the neighbors.

David Grey, 119 Heather Lane said that the fact that the Township went out to bid was a big concern and sounded like there was a plan in place. He said that all police and fire needs should be fulfilled. He said that the prospect of having a cell tower has already affected home values and some people cannot sell their homes until this is resolved.

Jim Kilgore asked if the Township would be looking at and evaluating other alternatives.

Mayor Marchand said that she couldn't say what other options might be. She said that the proposed site was used as a benchmark because the Township owns it.

It was the consensus of Township Committee to have a neighborhood meeting on April 8.

Mr. Miller said that he supported Mayor Marchand. He said that the process was open and that the objective was to resolve poor emergency services communications. The bid proposals would give the Township more information.

Mrs. Bergman said that she was looking forward to the information in the bid proposals and thanked the residents for their civility.

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Smoke Detectors

Mayor Marchand read by title an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SMOKE DETECTOR PROVISIONS AND ADDING CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE "CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968"

Mr. Schmierer said that Ron DiLapo, Fire Official has recommended amending Chapter 10 of the Township Code to specifically require not only the installation of smoke detectors but now carbon monoxide alarms. This would bring the Township into compliance with the Uniform Fire Safety Act.

Mr. Schmierer said that when inspections are performed, Mr. DiLapo and his inspectors will then check to make sure that not only the smoke alarm but the carbon monoxide alarm is working properly.

Mr. DiLapo has also recommended a reduced fee for inspections to units defined as affordable housing. Instead of charging sixty dollars for the fire inspection, affordable units upon resale will be charged thirty five dollars.

Mayor Marchand opened the public hearing. There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mrs. Bergman offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goerner and carried four affirmative votes. Mr. Miller voted in the negative.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

Bunn Drive Parking

Mayor Marchand read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PARKING ON BUNN DRIVE AND AMENDING THE “CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968”

Mr. Kiser said that the Princeton Township Traffic Safety Committee has recommended prohibiting parking on both sides of Bunn Drive, along its entire length. Both the Traffic Safety Committee and the Police Department have studied Bunn Drive and since it is only 26’ wide, both have concluded that there is not sufficient distance to allow two cars to pass one another safely going in opposite directions when there is a car parked on either side of the roadway. He said that the proposed ordinance would amend Section 11-12 of the Princeton Township Code.

Mr. Miller offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on first reading. Mr. Liverman seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The public hearing was set for April 7, 2008.

Witherspoon Street Parking

Mayor Marchand read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING PARKING REGULATIONS ON WITHERSPOON STREET AND AMENDING THE “CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968”

Mr. Kiser said at the Township Committee meeting of January 14, 2008 the proposed ordinance was discussed and tabled.

Thereafter, Mr. Liverman discussed the proposed parking regulations with the Princeton Regional School Board. Due to the continued concern about adequate parking for school buses and recognizing the proposed summer school schedule, it is recommended that Township Committee proceed with the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Kiser said that the ordinance prohibits parking in the bus drop-off and pick-up area immediately adjacent to Community Park School.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on first reading. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The public hearing was set for April 7, 2008.

Braeburn Drive Sidewalks

Mayor Marchand read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AS A LOCAL IMPROVEMENT THE REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS ALONG A PORTION OF BRAEBURN DRIVE AND MEADOWBROOK DRIVE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$13,500.00 THEREFOR, PROVIDING FOR THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE MAKING OF A DOWN PAYMENT AND ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES OF SAID TOWNSHIP AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF FIFTY (50%) PERCENT OF THE COST THEREOF.

Mr. Kiser said that in conjunction with the Township's 2008 Road Resurfacing Project the Engineering Department is recommending that sidewalks for a number of properties on Braeburn Drive and Meadowbrook Drive be replaced. The replacement would take place as both streets are being resurfaced. The benefited property owners would pay fifty percent of the cost with the Township absorbing fifty percent of the cost.

Mrs. Bergman offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on first reading. Mr. Goerner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The public hearing was set for April 7, 2008.

Battle Road Sidewalks

Mayor Marchand read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AS A LOCAL IMPROVEMENT THE REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS ALONG A PORTION OF BATTLE ROAD, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$3,800.00 THEREFOR, PROVIDING FOR THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE MAKING OF A DOWN PAYMENT AND ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES OF SAID TOWNSHIP AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF FIFTY (50%) PERCENT OF THE COST THEREOF.

Mr. Kiser said that with repairs to Battle Road which are scheduled during the summer of 2008, the Engineering Department has identified sidewalks which are in need of replacement. The proposed ordinance would replace sidewalks on ten properties along Battle Road and have the Township share in fifty percent of the cost.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on first reading. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The public hearing was set for April 7, 2008.

Franklin Avenue Sidewalks

Mayor Marchand read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AS A LOCAL IMPROVEMENT THE REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS ALONG A PORTION OF FRANKLIN AVENUE, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$20,100.00 THEREFOR, PROVIDING

FOR THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE MAKING OF A DOWN PAYMENT AND ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES OF SAID TOWNSHIP AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF FIFTY (50%) PERCENT OF THE COST THEREOF.

Mr. Kiser said that as part of the reconstruction of Franklin Avenue, the Engineering Department has identified defective sidewalks and has recommended that these sidewalks be replaced at the same time the road is resurfaced. He said that fifty percent of the cost of that replacement be assessed to the benefited property owners.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on first reading. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The public hearing was set for April 7, 2008.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION

**TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION
(Open Public Meetings Act Sec.3)**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton:

- 1. This body will now convene into a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of an item or items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.
- 2. The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed in said session is as follows:

Negotiations

- 3. Stated as precisely as presently possible, the following are the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted at said session can be disclosed to the public:

Within 90 days or upon settlement of litigation, if applicable

PBA Negotiations

Mr. Pascale provided Township Committee with a status report on PBA negotiations.

Princeton University – Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT)

Mr. Pascale and Mayor Marchand provided Township Committee with a status report on Princeton University and the PILOT program.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott
Township Clerk