

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
September 20, 2010

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 2010 Schedule of Regular Meetings. On January 3, 2010 at 1:25 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, the Town Topics, and filed with the Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Township Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mayor Miller and Mesdames Lempert and Nemeth and Messrs. Goerner, and Liverman.

Absent: None.

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

MINUTES

May 24, June 1 & 14, 2010

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the minutes of May 24, 2010. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nemeth and carried by four affirmative votes. Mr. Goerner was absent from the May 24, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2010. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert and carried unanimously.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2010. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nemeth and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Bills & Claims

- b. Music Amplification Requests:
 - Sara Segal, Bar Mitzvah party, 880 Lawrenceville Road, September 24, 2010, 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 - Princeton University Athletics, Strubing field, Jadwin Gym, Pregame concert, September 25, 2010, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 - Jules Magder, International Folkdance Gathering, Mountain Lakes, September 24, 2010, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 - 2nd Annual ARTbox Derby at Greenway Meadows, Greenway Meadows, September 25, 2010, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Raindate September 26, 2010)
 - James Craigie, Bar Mitzvah, 225 Arretton Road, October 2, 2010, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- c. Street Closing Request:
 - John Witherspoon Middle School, Walnut Lane between Franklin and Guyot Avenues, Saturday, October 2, 2010, (raindate October 9, 2010) 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- d. Professional Services Agreement: Louis Rago, Esq., Legal Counsel, Princeton Regional Planning Board, Not to Exceed \$180. per hour.
- e. Liquor License Renewal, JL Ivy Bar LLC, 2010-2011
- f. Resolution & Memorandum of Understanding: NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry, Quaker Road Path Memorandum of Agreement
- g. Resolution: 2011 Municipal Alliance Grant, \$28,020.
- h. Resolution and Agreement: All Saints Acquisition, To Apply for County Funds to Acquire Land Along the Base of Princeton Ridge.
- i. Request for Helicopter Landing: New Jersey Army National Guard, October 25, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Jasna Polana Golf Course, 8 Lawrenceville Road, to benefit six military charities.
- j. Bid Award: 2010/2011 Maintenance Contract Extension for Municipal Facilities; Eastco Building Services, Inc.
- k. Resolution Accepting Consolidation Grant, \$37,500.
- l. Resolution, Chapter 159, Consolidation Grant, \$37,500.
- m. Resolution: Application to FEMA

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Lempert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously by those present.

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

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Bond Ordinance, Sewer Laterals, Hilltop Drive, Mansgrove Road and Woodland Drive

Mayor Miller read by title an ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AS A LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SEWER LATERAL REPAIRS BY THE PRINCETON SEWER OPERATING COMMITTEE OF DEFECTIVE SEWER LATERALS INVOLVING PROPERTIES ALONG HILLTOP DRIVE, MANSGROVE ROAD AND WOODLAND DRIVE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$213,780.00 THEREFOR, PROVIDING FOR THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE MAKING OF A DOWN PAYMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES OF SAID TOWNSHIP AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF 100% OF THE COST THEREOF UPON THE BENEFITED PROPERTY OWNERS.

Mayor Miller opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance as amended on second reading. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert and carried unanimously.

Historic Preservation Commission, Trees

Mayor Miller read by title an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING “THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968”, REGARDING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND THE PROTECTION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES FROM DAMAGE FROM TREES AND VEGETATION

Mayor Miller opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Nemeth offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance as amended on second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goerner and carried unanimously.

Vacation of Existing Sanitary Sewer Easement

Mayor Miller read by title an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF AN EXISTING SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT ON BLOCK 5403, LOT 13, PRINCETON TOWNSHIP TAX MAP.

Mayor Miller opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance as amended on second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liverman and carried unanimously.

Refunding Bond Ordinance

Mayor Miller read by title an ordinance entitled REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE ADVANCE REFUNDING OF ALL OR A PORTION OF GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2004, APPROPRIATING \$6,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF REFUNDING BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$6,000,000 FOR FINANCING THE COST THEREOF.

Mayor Miller opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance as amended on second reading. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert and carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Henry J. Frank, 126 Valley Road, discussed with Township Committee the Township Open Space Tax and the Valley Road sidewalks.

REPORTS

Mr. Liverman reported that the Police Department will hold a “medication collection” on September 25, 2010 for residents to safely dispose of out of date prescriptions.

Mr. Goerner said that the Transportation Initiative has begun fundraising.

Ms. Lempert said that fundraising has begun for the Ricciardi Tract.

WORK SESSION

- Revaluation, Report
 - Frequently asked questions
 - Government Initiatives
 - 101 Compliance
 - Annual Reassessment
 - Property Cards
 - Resolution: Funding Senior Freeze Program
 - Private Initiatives

Township Committee discussed the revaluation project in three parts: frequently asked questions; government initiatives; and private initiatives.

Ms. Lempert thanked staff for putting together the list of frequently asked questions.

Martin Guhl, Mercer County Tax Administrator, said that the revaluation for 2010 is finished and said that you can't throw out the revaluation.

Mr. Guhl explained that Chapter 101 compliance allows for continual reassessment and inspection. He said that most of the cost of revaluation is manpower and that the key to a compliance plan is that there are parameters, not spot assessing. Mr. Guhl also discussed annual reassessment which helps keep property values in line and prevents spiking.

Mr. Goerner said that he was more comfortable with compliance. Ms. Nemeth said that she was not as comfortable as she was not sure that there was a benefit in the short term.

Ms. Lempert asked that property cards be mailed out to all residents to check for errors. Mr. Guhl strongly suggested that people come in to meet with the assessor because the cards are often misread. Mailing them out could cause more harm than good. It was the consensus of Township Committee to mail out the property cards.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the resolution regarding funding of the Homestead Rebate Program. Mr. Liverman seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmierer discussed private tax relief initiatives. Ms. Lempert suggested that a citizen's task force be set up to look into the initiatives. Mr. Goerner said that he agreed and asked that applications be advertised for. Mr. Goerner offered a motion on an oral resolution to set up a citizen's task force on revaluation. Mr. Liverman seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Jim Floyd said that the Princeton Fair Tax Committee has made some conclusions and would like to meet with the Mayor.

Dale Meade said that he was glad Township Committee was taking responsibility. He asked that they get a copy of the ASI contract and read it to see if ASI has held up their end. He said that he was not a strong supporter of task forces and that he did not think that this was the answer.

Jim Firestone said that he felt that the problem was already being shoved in the background and that Township Committee is pretty content with the outcome. And are not interested. He said that he was not content.

Alan Hegedus said that he has attended three meetings and noted that the issue is still aflame. He applauded Township Committee for what they've done but said that iron door closing is not the answer for 2010. He said that the people in the audience were the task force and that there was not a need for another one.

Mr. Guhl said that the Township has gone over and beyond what they can do and that their hands are tied.

Mr. Firestone said that he was disappointed that Township Committee has done nothing.

Kip Cherry said that the argument was that ASI did not do their job. She asked that Township Committee keep their minds open to the legalities as people are being hurt.

Mayor Miller thanked the audience for their comments saying that this was not the end and that we will work our way through it.

Mr. Floyd said that he felt emancipated and thanked everyone for what they were doing.

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:

Litigation/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

- **Revaluation Contract with ASI**
- **People for Princeton Ridge, Status Report**
- **Cost Sharing – Shared Services/Consolidation Study Commission**

The above referenced issues were discussed by Township Committee.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott
Township Clerk