

## **Sandyston Township Committee**

### **MINUTES**

**June 9, 2009**

This meeting was opened and called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Harper who stated this meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, having been duly advertised.

#### **Roll Call**

The clerk was asked to call the roll. Present were: Committeeman Fred MacDonald, Deputy Mayor Leppert and Mayor George Harper.

Also in attendance: John and Eileen deJager; Jackie Waldron; Ron Allhands, Jr.; George and Judy Kaplan; Raj Sinha; Joseph Pinzone; Alan Delea; Brett and Anna Harper; Glenn Sumpman, Superintendent Sandyston-Walpack School; Carole Kylish; Doug and Julia Maull; Marc and Susan Cunico; Ed Ibsen, Doug Hull; John "Jay" Oliphant, Alan Shook, Carol Phillips, Dingmans Bridge; Mary Jo VanKirk, Kittatinny Regional High School Transportation; Mr. VanKirk; Scott House; Stanley Dutkus; Walter H. Cramp, County of Sussex Department of Engineering and Planning Administrator; Susan Delmar and John Risko, also of the County of Sussex, Department of Engineering; Christopher J. Nash, P.E., Boswell Engineering.

The Mayor invited all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session for May 12, 2009 were presented. Deputy Mayor Leppert requested a correction to the Executive Session minutes that reflect he was present. Deputy Mayor Leppert was not present at the meeting on May 12, 2009. Committeeman MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes with that correction, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

**Tax Collector Report:** The Tax Collector's report for the Month of May 2009 was presented with total receipts Month-to-Date of \$760,894. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's Report report, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried. Mayor Harper noted the collection rate is now up to 92%, as previously the collection rate slipped to 88% through the efforts of the tax collector.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report for the Month of May 2009 was presented with total receipts of \$786,637.61, total disbursements of \$651,831.16 and an ending balance of \$452,418.98. Mayor Harper noted General Capital Account with balance of \$1,009,489.37, of that portion of the General Capital Account is a Sinking Fund \$468,528.23 for the payment of this building to pay the bond issued on this building. Animal Control Escrow \$21,684.40, Public Assist Escrow \$3,503.46 and the Unemployment Escrow \$32,020.58. The Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried.

**Payment of Vouchers:** The Bill List for the month of May 2009 was submitted for approval in the amount of \$201,023.84. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve payment of the vouchers, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried.

**Departmental Reports:** No comment was made on departmental reports.

**Adoption of Budget:** Mayor Harper made a motion for the adoption of the 2009 Budget, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Leppert: yes; Deputy Mayor Leppert: yes; Mayor Harper: yes.

**Public Hearing:** Mayor Harper introduced Ms. Jessica Caldwell, Harold Pellow & Associates. Ms. Caldwell presented the Municipal Self Assessment Report. Ms. Caldwell explained that the Municipal Self Assessment Report was put together by the Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee who was appointed previously by the Township Committee and that included: George Harper, Jr., Mayor; Keith Utter, Planning-Zoning Board Chairperson; Lou Cherepy, Planning-Zoning Board Member; Marc Cunico, Citizen; Raj Sinha, Citizen. This report was prepared over a period of about three months and includes local and regional information; demographics, community inventory of facilities; status update on the master plan and other relevant planning activities; a statement of planning coordination between the township and the county and other adjacent municipalities; a list of recently approved and upcoming development activities; state programs, grants and capital projects which is a list of the grants the township has received over the last five years; a review of internal consistency in local planning in terms of how the master plan works in terms of the ordinances and whether they are consistent; a sustainability statement and the townships commitment to sustainable government and a review of the consistency of all the planning documents in the township with the state plan in terms of goals, policies and indicators, as well as Center criteria and planning area policy objectives. Ms. Caldwell stated the sum of this petition becomes your petition for Plan Endorsement with the Office of Smart Growth and the State Planning Commission. Once submitted and reviewed, this will put us on the path to reinstating the center designation for Layton and Hainesville. The Resolution is a statement of intent to pursue Plan Endorsement with the State Planning Commission and approving the Municipal Self Assessment Report to be sent to the State for review. Mayor Harper commended Ms. Caldwell on her work preparing Municipal Self Assessment Report, which was done in house with the Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee. Deputy Mayor Leppert also commended the committee for their hard work. Mayor Harper stated that when they went to the Office of Smart Growth they were informed that Sandyston Township is ahead of the curve in all of our planning and have been for many years and that is a credit to all the people on the Sandyston Township Planning Board and the professionals which we employ.

## **SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP**

### **R-31-2009**

#### **STATEMENT OF INTENT TO PURSUE PLAN ENDORSEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT THE MUNICIPAL SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT TO THE OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, the State Planning Act recognizes that New Jersey requires sound and integrated land use planning and coordination of planning at all levels of government in

order to conserve the state's natural resources, revitalize the urban centers, protect the quality of the environment, and provide needed housing and adequate public services at a reasonable cost while promoting beneficial economic growth, development and renewal; and

**WHEREAS**, Plan Endorsement is a voluntary review process developed by the State Planning Commission to provide the technical assistance and coordination of the State for municipalities, counties, and regional agencies to meet the goals of the State Planning Act and State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan); and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Plan Endorsement process is to increase the degree of consistency among municipal, county, regional and state agency plans with each other and with the State Plan and to facilitate the implementation of these plans and guide where and how development and redevelopment can be accommodated in accordance with the State Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines incorporate, and expand upon, the principles of the Municipal Land Use Law in order to help towns plan for a sustainable future; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines require the preparation and submission of a Municipal Self-Assessment Report as the means by which a municipality assesses the consistency of its existing community vision and planning documents with the State Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Committee of Sandyston Township desire to obtain Plan Endorsement from the State Planning Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Sandyston Township has prepared a Municipal Self-Assessment Report pursuant to the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee has reviewed the Municipal Self-Assessment Report and recommends that the Mayor and Township Committee approve it for submission to the State Planning Commission and the Office of Smart Growth towards Sandyston's pursuit of Plan Endorsement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Committee of Sandyston Township hereby expressly state the intention of Sandyston Township to pursue Plan Endorsement by the State Planning Commission; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Committee of Sandyston Township approves the Municipal Self-Assessment Report and authorizes it to be submitted to the Office of Smart Growth for consideration and review as part of the effort to pursue Plan Endorsement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of Sandyston Township shall transmit a copy of this Resolution and the Notice as required by the State Planning Rules to the State Planning Commission and the Office of Smart Growth.

Mayor Harper made a motion to approve Resolution R-31-2009, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert, and unanimously carried.

**Petitioner:** Mayor Harper thanked both the County of Sussex, Division of Engineering as well as the public for attending the meeting. Mayor Harper explained that a committee met with the County Engineers about three weeks ago to discuss this P-13 Bridge Project and the Warning Light in Layton. Regarding the P-13 Bridge Project, two options were presented. One option is to have Route 560 in Layton reduced to one lane with two traffic signals for several months. The second option would be to close Route 560 for a week and build this bridge off-site and install the bridge. Mayor Harper turned the meeting over to Mr. Walter Cramp, Department Administrator for the County of Sussex, Department of Engineering and Planning. Mr. Cramp introduced Ms. Susan Delmar and Mr. John Risko with the County of Sussex, as well as Christopher Nash of Boswell Engineering. Mr. Nash began discussing the two options available for the replacement of the bridge and compared the single lane closure verses the one week closure. Mr. Nash displayed diagrams of the area and explained the problems with the bridge being reduced to one lane (traffic back up and possible diversion to other roads, pedestrian access, monthly process) and showed diagrams of the process of the bridge being constructed off-site, delivered and put in place with a crane. Mr. Cramp explained when the bridge is closed they remove the existing bridge, check the existing supports and repair and prepare the bridge for the new panels. The bridge is delivered and the panels are set using a crane. They continue to work on the bridge restoring abutments and install prefabricated railings that lock to the deck of the bridge. Finally, they stain the concrete to blend with the buildings that sit around the bridge. Mayor Harper stated that letters were sent to everyone that would be affected by this bridge replacement. Mayor Harper stated that the Committee has thought about the issues with this bridge replacement like detouring on Ridge Road, Old Mine Road, Jager Road, and felt that those options would cause problems. Closing the bridge down to one lane for several months would also create a continuous nightmare as well. Mayor Harper invited the members of the public to come forward and ask any questions of the County and professionals present.

**Glenn Sumpman, Administrator of Sandyston-Walpack School** came forward and stated that a summertime closing of the bridge would be optimum for the school district, but understands that choice also has some ramifications as well. Mr. Sumpman stated the length of time of the closure would certainly be of concern and asked if the 8 and 9 days is realistic numbers. Mr. Sumpman added that one bus route would be affected for Sandyston-Walpack School and would add 12 miles to each run, 24 miles per day. The bus that crosses the bridge also does the run to Walpack which is a 25 mile trip round trip which would make each run 37 miles. Sandyston-Walpack School would have to pay for the additional miles and the cost to the school district would run about \$400-\$450. If this project was for eight or 9 days, this would not severely impact the school district; however, if this project lasted longer than the projected time it could cost the school district more money.

Walter Cramp responded that this contract is designed with bonus incentives and penalties for on time construction which worked well with the bridge replacement in Montague.