

**SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 AT 8:00 P.M.**

The Regular meeting of the Southampton Township Committee was held on September 15, 2015 at the Robert L. Thompson Building, 5 Retreat Road, Southampton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mayor James Young Sr. at 8:00 PM and followed by a salute to the Flag of the United State of America.

A roll call confirmed those Committee members who were present, which included Committeeman Ronald Heston, Committeeman William Raftery, Committeewoman Elizabeth Rossell, Deputy Mayor Latham Tiver. And Mayor James F. Young, Sr

Professionals: George Morris, Esquire, Kathleen D. Hoffman, RMC

The Municipal Clerk/Administrator read the following statement: Public Notice of the meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Township in the following manner: Posting a copy of the agenda on the bulletin board in the municipal building. Filing a copy of the agenda with the Central Record and the Burlington County Times. Filing a copy of the agenda in the office of the Municipal Clerk. Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule.

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting & Executive Session– August 18, 2015
Motion: Heston, Seconded: Tiver
Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver, Young - Ayes

Communication

DEP/Forestry- Wharton State Forestry Plan

Parks & Forestry Service gave a presentation to the Mayor, Committee and the public on the State motorized access plan for the Wharton State Forest and map outlining the purposed road closures and the preservation and protecting efforts for endangered wildlife and precious and irreplaceable natural environment. Input from Parks & Forestry, Fire Wardens, and OEM was received for the map.

The plan included a detailed map that showed 225 miles of open roads with the forest and will inform both first-time and long-time visitors to the park and forest of the many opportunities to enjoy the beautiful and unique environment.

Mayor Young established the guidelines and manner in which the Committee would conduct meeting for the public to express their concerns and ask questions they may have. There will be a three (3) minute time limit for each individual.

The public's general concerns were with the emergency service providers such as the Fire Department and the EMS whereby the closure of access roads will present a public safety concern with response time to an emergency. In addition, there was no consultation or input from the Emergency service providers who have the responsibility of accessing the park and forest when responding to an emergency situation and/or rescue. Going forward the Chiefs of the Departments

should be consulted and be given an opportunity to discuss and offer their suggestions and opinions. One solution offered to the State was to utilize the gravel pits and make their own gravel for road restoration. Another suggestion was to put up gates and give the Emergency Service providers a key in lieu of cutting down trees to block access points.

The public expressed their opinions with the proposed motorized access plan of which were the forest and park is paid for by tax dollars and are the peoples forest and park, not the States, the roads and forest should remain open to the people. The State received grant funding for the maintenance of the roads, not to close the roads. Were the procedures and guidelines of the grant being followed? The closing of the roads would deny access to those of us who have utilized those roads for recreation such as Enduro riders, 4 wheelers, hunters, hikers, etc. for years. The State's denying access to hunters would create another problem with over population of coyotes and deer who would destroy and take over the forest. This plan gave no consideration to the impact on others. The destruction of the roads and areas caused by illegal vehicles and public dumping throughout the forest is a law enforcement problem. Park Rangers should be in the forest enforcing the laws not on major County Roads and State Highways. The access is a maintenance issue that hasn't been addressed by the State Park and Forestry. The State should cease the illegal motorized vehicles and sell them, fine and arrest the violators and use those funds collected from selling the ceased vehicles and the fines collected to maintain the access areas and forest.

Another public requested the Committee to take action and adopt a resolution like Medford and Medford Lakes did. In addition family memories have been created in the forest and park. Denying access would deny generations of memories. Hunters have their locations where they go each year and hunt. Some of the access points being closed would deny or limit hunter's access to these areas. The senior hunters or those retired hunters would have to park their vehicles so far away from their locations they could have a health issue creating an emergency situation with no way for the EMS providers to reach them. There are two (2) concerns with this, EMS providers reaching individuals would increase their response time and could mean the difference between a life and death situation. Shutting down access points would prohibit from the Fire Departments responding to properties that are on fire.

All were concerned the plan was being implemented without any input from anyone; it was just being done because that is what they wanted to do. Now because of the outcry from the clubs, organizations and communities the State is trying to back pedal and say the plan is in draft form. The original map that was put on the DEP website did not say draft. The State agreed they did not proceed in the correct manner and are trying to correct that. They are setting up meetings and listening to everyone on the draft plan. Emergency Services will be addressed in the first phase. Organized Clubs and Groups and hunters will be addressed in second phase.

The State requests patience, the plan is a work in progress. Wharton State Forest is the largest State park being maintained with nine (9) people. We are listening to you. Stakeholder meetings will be held in October at the Wharton State Park auditorium. Stakeholders and leaders of interested organizations can contact the State Park Service at (609) 704-1964 to be sure they are included in future meetings. Currently a location that could host a much larger crowd is being considered and tentatively scheduled for November 5 at Hammonton High School. The meeting dates and locations would be posted on the State DEP website for the public.

After meetings are conducted the State will be putting out a new draft map on the website sometime in December. The draft map plan will stay on the site for 60 days and then a public meeting will be held. They are hopeful they will have a final map plan in the spring or summer of 2016.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard on the motorized access plan Mayor Young closed this portion of the meeting at 9:37 PM.

State Police gave their community report for Southampton Township.

Mayor Young recessed the meeting for 10 minutes allowing the State officials to pack up and gather their materials and equipment. Those that were in attendance for this portion of the meeting would also have time to exit the meeting.

ORDINANCES

First Reading

Ordinance No. 2015-12

An Ordinance of the Township of Southampton, County of Burlington, New Jersey, By Which The Township Becomes A Member of the Burlington County Energy Aggregation Program

Motion: Heston; Seconded: Rossell

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

Ordinance No. 2015-13

An Ordinance of the Township of Southampton, County of Burlington, New Jersey, Cancelling Certain Funded Appropriation Balances Heretofore provided for Various Capital Projects Totaling \$915,569.28 and Reappropriating Such Funded Appropriation Balances for the Relocation/Demolition/Construction of the Public Works Facility Block 1502, Lot 1.01; 16 Buddtown Road, Southampton, NJ

Motion: Rossell; Seconded: Raftery

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2015-106

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Accepting Performance Bond for Alloway Associates Realtors

Motion: Tiver; Seconded: Raftery

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

Resolution 2015-107

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Authorizing a Leave of Absence for James G. Rodgers

Motion: Tiver; Seconded: Raftery

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

Resolution 2015-108

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Granting Preliminary Approval for a Property That Requires No Municipal Cost Share-409 & 410 Ongs Hat Road

Motion: Rossell; Seconded: Raftery

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

Resolution 2015-109

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for Stagecoach Road Sidewalk Improvements (\$20.00)

Motion: Heston; Seconded: Raftery

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

Resolution 2015-110

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Authorizing Shared Services Agreement between the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington for Central Communications/911 calls

Motion: Tiver; Seconded: Raftery

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

Consent of Resolutions No. 2015-111, 2015-112, 2015-113 & 2015-114

Resolution 2015-111

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Making Certain Further Adjustments in the Tax Collector's Records and Accounts

Resolution 2015-112

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Making Certain Further Adjustments in the Tax Collector's Records and Accounts

Resolution 2015-113

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Making Certain Further Adjustments in the Tax Collector's Records and Accounts

Resolution 2015-114

Resolution of the Township of Southampton Making Certain Further Adjustments in the Tax Collector's Records and Accounts

Motion: Tiver; Seconded: Rossell

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

Motion: Heston; Seconded: Rossell

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver & Young

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committeewoman Rossell thanked Mayor Young for the Summer Concert Series. In addition Ms. Rossell stated the Martinez Family candlelight service was held, and reported her participation in community activities for the month. Also, stated the various events and activities being held throughout the Township.

Committeeman Heston inquired about the status of the traffic light on Route 206 and Retreat/Main Street intersection. Ms. Hoffman stated an estimated cost share for Southampton Township would be approximately \$25,000. Thanked Mayor Young for making the arrangements for the candlelight service for the Martinez family.

Deputy Mayor Tiver stated it has not been a good month for pedestrian this month. The Committee will be looking for places for residents to walk and go and be safe.

Mayor Young stated the amount of funds in the account for the Martinez Family and the account will remain open until the end of the month.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Evie Dougherty, Leisuretwn, thanked the tax collector for assistance with the property tax freeze program. She inquired about the brush pick up. She handed Ms. Hoffman booklets and the Committee information on research she conducted in reference to the covenants in Leisuretwn. She requested the information be shared with the planning board attorney. In addition concerns were expressed with the Township taking over property and the increase in rentals being proposed in Leisuretwn. She informed the Committee on the process that needs to take place according to the covenants. Mr. Morris, Esq., stated there are items that have to be addressed before the Township can receive the property from Leisuretwn. Mayor Young stated she should take her concerns and present them to Leisuretwn.

She thanked the Committee for their time and hopefully the Committee would take the time to read the information provided.

Doug Melegari, Burrs Mill Road, stated he felt that there is a concern for pedestrian safety and recommended a Public Safety Committee be formed. He expressed his concerns with the website and capacity. He stated there has been added to the website a lot of valuable information under the Shade Tree Commission recently and was informed with others about the capacity. He informed the Committee on the progress made by the Shade Tree Commission and invited the Committee to attend the Shade Tree meetings and the CORE training in Atlantic City.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard the public portion was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 10:08 PM

Resolution No. 2015-115, no formal action will be taken.

Motion: Raftery, Seconded: Rossell.

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver voted in the affirmative.

Let the record reflect the Committee has returned to the regularly scheduled meeting after discussing potential litigation, personnel, land negotiations, contracts and related topics from which the public would be excluded under the law.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:55 PM

Motion: Heston, Seconded: Rossell.

Roll Call: Heston, Raftery, Rossell, Tiver voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen D. Hoffman, RMC
Township Administrator/Clerk