

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING – March 25, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor York calls the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Township Committee	Present/ Absent	Professionals	Present/ Absent
Keith Cafferty	<u>Absent</u>	Gina LaPlaca, Business Administrator	<u>Present</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>	Gabriella Siboni, Township Clerk	<u>Present</u>
Kevin McMillan	<u>Present</u>	Gene Anthony, Township Attorney	<u>Present</u>
Derel Stroud	<u>Arrived at 6:03PM</u>	Bob Purgatorio, Code Supervisor	<u>Present</u>
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>	Michele Narciso, Deputy Collector	<u>Present</u>

Mayor York announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2024, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN OPEN SESSION

1. Amendment to Parking Fines Ordinance

Mr. Anthony stated this was a suggestion from the Police Department and Police Oversight Committee. Mr. Anthony stated there was a suggestion to increase the fee for parking fines from \$31- \$78 and make consistent with the Fire Lane fees.

Mr. McMillan asked if the Mayor believes a stable amount throughout the Township would be advisable. Mayor York stated yes, she believes that would be acceptable. Mr. Stroud stated he reviewed the fines of other local towns, and the towns were mainly in the mid \$50 range with only one town at \$85. Mr. Stroud stated he was in support of a raise to \$55 rather than \$78. Mr. Anthony stated the amount was recommended by the Police Committee. Mr. Stroud stated the proposed amount exceeds the state fine amount. Mr. McMillan, Mr. Lane, and Mayor York stated they were in support of the increase as suggested by the Police Department.

2. Collection Of Shortfall On Fees Due From The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association On Seasonal Single-Family Rentals In 2023

Mr. Stroud stated that he is frustrated that the public has asked for Mr. Bascom to be present, and the questions are being posed to other employees.

Ms. Narciso stated that the forensic audit showed that when the applications were submitted, the fee was set at the date of application, not of the seasonal rental applicable. Ms. Narciso stated the parcels in question, the tents would not be approved in the winter season because they do not have a heating element. The inspections were completed for the summer season. The properties were not occupied or inspected for the winter season. Ms. Narciso stated there were multiple changes made to the software to ensure that the error with the application would not occur again. There have been other measures implemented to the program once the error was identified. The application was in its infancy during the short-term rentals which led to some errors. Mr.

Purgatorio stated there was no occupancy in the properties during the Winter Season. Mr. Purgatorio stated the answers provided by Mr. Ciccone were provided on a hypothetical situation. Mayor York stated that she was told by Mr. Ciccone that the fees for each season would apply. Ms. Narciso stated that Mr. Ciccone was answering on the information he had available to himself at the time. Ms. Narciso stated that the applicant did not occupy the tents or apply for the occupation of the property during the Winter season. Ms. Narciso stated the leases and applications state that the term of occupation will be only during the summer season. Mr. Purgatorio stated he was not sure if it was known at the time last year that the tents do not have heating elements.

Mr. McMillan confirmed with Ms. Narciso

Mr. Lane wanted to confirm the total amount of the shortfall was accurate to the resolution that was provided at the last meeting. Ms. Narciso confirmed this is accurate.

Mr. Anthony asked if there was any possibility that an occupant stayed past September 15. Mr. Purgatorio did not receive any complaints or have any information that would lead the Township to believe they were occupied past that date.

Mayor York asked to have Mr. Bascom and Mr. Ciccone attend the next meeting to continue the conversation.

3. Committee Calendars

Cafferty Absent
 Lane Mr. Lane stated that Vietnam Veterans Day is April 9th.
 McMillan Mr. McMillan stated Healthier Neptune will be May 25
 Stroud Ocean Grove Chamber of Commerce holding Ocean Grove Diaper Drive is being hosted over the next week by the Chamber of Commerce. June 1 is Hooked on Fishing, not on drugs. EMS will be hosting the Emergency services camp this summer and information is available to sign up.
 York No report

Res #24 - 160 Authorize An Executive Session As Authorized By The Open Public Meetings Act.

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: McMillan
Vote: Cafferty Absent Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – March 25, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor York calls the meeting to order and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Township Committee	Present/ Absent	Professionals	Present/ Absent
Keith Cafferty	<u>Absent</u>	Gina LaPlaca, Business Administrator	<u>Present</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>	Gabriella Siboni, Township Clerk	<u>Present</u>
Kevin McMillan	<u>Present</u>	Gene Anthony, Township Attorney	<u>Present</u>
Derel Stroud	<u>Present</u>		
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>		

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

The Clerk states, "Fire exits are located in the rear of the room and to my right. In the event of a fire, you will be notified by fire alarm and/or public address system, then proceed to the nearest smoke-free exit."

Mayor York announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2024, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion offered by Committeeman Lane, seconded by, Committeeman McMillan, to approve the minutes of meetings of March 11, 2024. All present in favor.

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE POLICE OFFICERS

- The candidates who are recommended for promotion will be announced.

Good evening and thank you all for coming out tonight.

Before I present to you my recommendation, I would like to thank Mayor York, Deputy Mayor Lane, Committeeman McMillan, Committeeman Cafferty, Committeeman Stroud and Business Administrator LaPlaca for their support. I also want to thank my command staff, Deputy Chief McGhee, Captain D’Amico and Captain O’Donnell for their assistance.

I present you the following candidate for Sergeant:

Detective Michael Adam: Det. Adam is a 22-year veteran of the Neptune Township Police Department. He was hired in 2002 where he attended the Monmouth County Police Academy.

Upon graduating the police academy, he worked in patrol until 2014 where he was assigned to the Identification Bureau as a Detective. For the past ten years, Det. Adam was responsible for processing crime scenes, firearms permit, evidence management and registering and verifying Megan’s law.

Det. Adam earned his associate degree from Brookdale Community College and a bachelor’s degree from Thomas Edison State University.

Det. Adam has received numerous commendations throughout his 22-year career, including a Monmouth County 200 Club Award and in 2003 receiving the MOCIB Merit Award for apprehending a murder suspect in Ocean Grove.

Det. Adam is also one of our Community Outreach Officers assigned to the Winding Ridge Tenants Association.

Det. Adam was an athlete in high school and college and has coached Football, Basketball, Baseball and Soccer.

Det. Adam is married to his wife Lisa, and they have 3 children; Riley, 22 who is attending the University of Alabama, Jackson, 20 who is attending Rowan University and Mason, 17 who is a Junior in High School.

I am confident Det. Adam will ensure we maintain the highest level of service to our community. I recommend Det. Adam be promoted to Sergeant.

- Public comments regarding Resolution #24-161 only. The public will be permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

Name and Address Comment

There were no public comments

Res #24- 161 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune To Promote Officers In The Police Department

Offered by:	<u>Stroud</u>	Seconded by:	<u>McMillan</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>Cafferty</u> <u>Absent</u> Lane <u>Yes</u> McMillan	<u>Yes</u> Stroud	<u>Yes</u> York <u>Yes</u>

Mayor York swore in Michael Adam as Sergeant.

PRESENTATION

Recognizing Shane S. Johnson

**RECOGNIZING SHANE S. JOHNSON
FOR DEDICATED VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

WHEREAS, volunteer service is integral in addressing local and national issues and is an effective strategy to unite communities while meeting critical needs, and;

WHEREAS, It is important to honor those who generously give their time, talent and resources for the betterment of their communities, and;

WHEREAS, Shane S. Johnson is a lifelong resident of Neptune Township who has been a committed volunteer for more than thirty years, and;

WHEREAS, Shane has dedicated his time throughout town by volunteering at parades, Easter Egg Hunts, Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs, Neptune Day and National Night Out, and;

WHEREAS, Shane also assists with the Neptune Township Fire Department with Fire Prevention and has played the role of “Sparky” the Fire Dog, and;

WHEREAS, William Jones, an American Philosopher, once said “Act as if what you do makes a difference.... It Does.”

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Reverend Tassie D. York, Mayor of the Township of Neptune, along with the entire Township Committee, do hereby recognize and honor Shane S. Johnson’s devotion and service to the Township of Neptune and desire that there should be a permanent record of gratitude for his community service.

COMMENTS FROM THE DAIS

Comments from the Dais regarding business on this agenda or any reports on recent events in their respective departments.

- Cafferty Absent
- Lane Mr. Lane attended the cops v. kids’ basketball game. The kids did a great job, but the Neptune Police did win.
Neptune High School Strategic Planning those in attendance were broken into groups to make suggestions for how to make things better. There is another meeting April 16.

March 29 the VFW is hosting a Vietnam Veterans event.
Neptune Senior Center will be planting wildflowers and herbs this summer. May is Older American Month which the theme is powered by connection.
- McMillan Mr. Lane stated there will be another Easter Egg Hunt at Liberty Park on March 30.
Mr. McMillan stated he was able to visit residents on the bird streets regarding the homeless encampment. Mr. McMillan stated he would like to look at the 2901 West Bangs Ave there have been multiple accidents, but we may want to consider a light at the intersection.
- Stroud Mr. Stroud stated he received an e-mail from a resident who was dealing with struggling due to Lake Alberta. Ms. LaPlaca notified the Township Committee that the lakes were lowered, and sandbags provided to assist with any potential flooding.
Mr. Stroud stated that 45 Broadway had a fire escape fall, and the fire escape was removed, but requested that the code department review the property to make sure all necessary precautions are being taken care of. Mr. Lane stated that Code has already reviewed the property and will be following up about the damage caused.
- York Ms. York stated she attended a dinner for the beautification of Ocean Grove with Camp Meeting Association. Mayor York went to the ROTC Awards and believed it was a great showcase of what the youth is capable of. Ms. York stated she attended an event about Women’s History. Ms. York stated the Memorial Day Parade planning is occurring and if there is anyone interested in participating, they should reach to the parade committee. Ms. York also attended the strategic planning meeting with the school board. Ms. York attended a conference in Washington DC with the Urban Mayors Association. On Saturday, there was a “Meet the Mayor” event at the VFW.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The Business Administrator will report on capital projects and matters of general interest.

- **DPW Yard Improvements Phase II – Pole Barn Construction:** A pre-construction meeting was held last week in conjunction with Phase II of the various improvements being made to the Public Works Yard; specifically, the construction of a new pole barn. This project will include the construction of several engineered wood-framed structures along with a vehicle wash station, the renovation of an existing restroom, the construction of a 40’x40’ classroom and the replacement and installation of several overhead garage doors. At present, the project is anticipated to begin in late April/early May and take approximately 180 days for final completion.
- **Regional Flood Mitigation Meetings:** In my February 12th report, I advised the Committee about efforts to develop a multijurisdictional hazard mitigation plan to address regional flooding issues in conjunction with our Federal, State and County representatives, as well as representatives from Neptune City and Bradley Beach. A follow up meeting – attended by the relevant OEM, Engineering and Public Works representatives from all jurisdictions – was held on February 28th. Items discussed included a review of available funding options, the need for each participating municipality to update or complete their Hazard Mitigation Plan for inclusion in the 2024 County Plan, identification of so-called “hot spot” projects, and the need for a Regional Stormwater Management Study. The next meeting of this group, which will include a broader range of participants inclusive of Administration, is currently being scheduled for early April.
- **Homeless Encampment Issues:** The Township held a meeting of our internal stakeholders last Thursday, along with our legal counsel, to discuss our legal options and potential next steps in our collaboration with the owner of the encampment property. As a result, our Special Counsel issued a communication to the property owner last Friday requesting that the deteriorating conditions at the encampment be remediated as soon as possible. The next Case Conference of the Monmouth County Continuum of Care is scheduled for April 10th.
- **Rescheduled Egg Hunt and Egg Hunt at Dusk:** The Neptune Recreation Egg Hunt previously scheduled for March 23rd will now be held tomorrow March 26th at 6pm sharp at Bert Willis Fields. This event is for children in pre-K through 5th grade. That event will be immediately followed by the Egg Hunt at Dusk, which begins at 7:45pm, also at Bert Willis Fields, and is for children in 6th through 9th grade.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk will announce additional information regarding Separated Resolutions if necessary.

Resolution 24-188

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Sean Marelli	Public Works	Class A CDL Driver	\$35,000.00	3/26/2024

Public comments regarding resolutions presented on this agenda only. The public will be permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Comment</u>
No public comments	

ORDINANCES - For each ordinance with a public hearing, the public is permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION ORDINANCES

Ordinance 24-09 An Ordinance To Amend Volume I, Chapter Vi Of The Code Of The Township Of Neptune “Alcoholic Beverage Control” By Amending §6-3 “Licenses.”

Explanatory Statement: This ordinance amends the fees due annually for liquor licenses to increase the fee amount for Plenary Retail Consumption License, Plenary Retail Distribution and Club License in Neptune Township.

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Comment</u>
No public comment	

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: McMillan
 Vote: Cafferty Absent Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

Ordinance 24-11 An Ordinance Creating And Setting The Salary Range For New Job Titles And Amending The Salary Ranges For All Other Existing Job Titles Of The Township Of Neptune And Repealing All Parts Of Previous Ordinances Inconsistent Herewith

Explanatory Statement: This ordinance amends the salary ordinance to include the positions Police Chaplain and Special Law Enforcement Officer (Class III SRO) and set the salary or stipend range for each.

Name and Address **Comment**
 No Public Comment

Offered by: McMillan Seconded by: Stroud
 Vote: Cafferty Absent Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

Ordinance 24-12 Ordinance To Rescind Chapter Iii, Section 3-1 Of The Code Of The Township Of Neptune Entitled “Unnecessary And Disturbing Noise” And Adopting New Ordinance Entitled, Section 3-1, “Prohibited Nuisances – Noise”

Explanatory Statement: This ordinance amends the existing nuisance ordinance and modifies the definitions of types of nuisances, times of enforceability and distance from noise when a nuisance is established.

Name and Address **Comment**

Bill Borge, Duran Rd.	Mr. Borge asked if the police are called because of this ordinance the officer should be writing a ticket immediately and a violation from code should follow up. The issue is causing issues in the neighborhood and Mr. Borge stated that other issues may arise from the types of events that are occurring in short term rentals such as DUIs.
Rich Robinson Hillside Dr.	Mr. Robinson asked if the ordinance is available online. Mr. Anthony stated yes.
Gary Brown Cardinal Rd.	Mr. Brown asked if the nuisance ordinance would address properties that do not have buildings on them. Mr. Anthony confirmed the ordinance would apply
Janet Studoff Hillside Dr.	Ms. Studoff asked if this ordinance addresses Short Term Rentals and Mr. Anthony stated this ordinance would apply to short term rentals but is not the ordinance that specifically addresses short term rentals.
Susan Harris Seaview Ave.	Ms. Harris stated the nuisance ordinance allows work to continue until 8pm through the week. Ms. Harris stated this is an issue in Ocean Grove because of the close proximity of properties. Ms. Harris stated it is unfair the times that contractors are showing up to work and working until. Ms. Harris suggested a landscaping ordinance similar to Maywood.

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: McMillan
 Vote: Cafferty Absent Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

Ordinance 24-13 An Ordinance To Amend Volume I, Chapter VII Of The Code Of The Township Of Neptune By Adding A Resident Only Handicapped Parking Zone On Atlantic Ave., Main Ave., Heck Ave. And Ocean Ave. And Removing Heck Ave. And Broadway

Explanatory Statement: This ordinance amends the ordinance to add resident handicap parking spaces at 130 Heck Ave., 120 Main Ave., 1 Ocean Ave., and 35 Atlantic Ave. and removes resident handicap spaces at 127 1/2 Broadway and 131 Heck Ave.

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: McMillan
 Vote: Cafferty Absent Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

- Res#24- 162** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions-Police Department
- Res#24- 163** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Co-Sponsoring The Jersey Shore Disc Golf Club Tournament

- Res#24- 164** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Waiving Municipal Portion Of Construction Permit Fees And Dumpster Fees For World Changers Rehabilitation Projects
- Res#24- 165** Authorize Temporary Street Closing In Connection With World Changer's Beach Party On July 17, 2024
- Res#24- 166** Authorize Execution Of A Treatment Works Application For RHM At Country Woods, LLC To Provide Service To Country Woods At Neptune
- Res#24- 167** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Appointing Members To The Housing Authority
- Res#24- 168** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Endorsing RevolutionNJ And The Commemoration Of The 250th Anniversary Of The Founding Of The United States Of America
- Res#24- 169** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Co-Sponsoring The VFW 10th Annual Community Festival
- Res#24- 170** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune To Amend Professional Services Agreement To With Fox Rothschild For Legal Services Related To Case 3:17-CV-04428-MAS-LHG
- Res#24- 171** Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Public Safety And Emergency Preparedness And Equipment Maintenance And Support Contract Traffic Safety Cameras With Safeware Under Omnia Partners Public Sector, Contract #4400008468 #080922-Saf For \$36,000.00
- Res#24- 172** Resolution Authorizing Purchase Of Three (3) Powerpro 2 Load Stretchers, Accessories And Extended Warranty From Stryker Medical Under Savvik Buying Group Cooperative Contract #2019-05 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$99,434.52
- Res#24- 173** Authorizing The Purchase Of SS11M Triple Axel Aluminum Trailer From Shilver Ships In An Amount Not To Exceed \$20,000.00
- Res#24- 174** Resolution Authorizing Agreement For Purchase Of Two (2) 2024 Chevy 5500 Mason Dump From Pellegrino Chevrolet Under New Jersey State Co-Op #65mcesccps, Contract # Escnj 23/24-04 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$176,000.00
- Res#24- 175** Resolution Authorizing Purchase Of Two (2) 2025 Kenworth T480 Chassis From Gabrielli Truck Sales Under Sourcewell National Cooperative Contract 060920-Ktc, In The Amount Not To Exceed \$343,028.34
- Res#24- 176** Resolution Authorizing Agreement For Purchase Of Two (2) Gallon 533t-15 Stainless Steel Dump Body From Cliffside Body Corp Under New Jersey State Co-Op #65mcesccps, Contract # Escnj 23/24-04 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$267,832.00
- Res#24- 177** Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Awarding Onsite Landscape Management Contract "Grounds Maintenance"
- Res#24- 178** Resolution Authorizing Agreement For Purchase Of 2023 Chevy 5500 Mason Dump From Pellegrino Chevrolet Under New Jersey State Co-Op #65mcesccps, Contract # ESCNJ 23/24-04 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$88,000.00
- Res#24- 179** Resolution Authorizing Agreement For Purchase Of 2024 Chevrolet 3500 HD Utility Body From Pellegrino Chevrolet Under New Jersey State Co-Op #65mcesccps, Contract # ESCNJ 23/24-11 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$69,114.00
- Res#24- 180** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Rescinding Resolution 24-441
- Res#24- 181** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Rescinding Resolution 24-443
- Res#24- 182** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Rescinding Resolution 24-135

Resolution 24-178 failed.

SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

Res#24- 188 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Public Works

Offered by: McMillan Seconded by: Stroud
Note: Cafferty Absent Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

Res#24- 189 Introduction of the Municipal Budget

Mayor York reads the following statement:

Tonight, the Township Committee is considering for introduction our 2024 Municipal Budget.

At a time where the township and our residents are dealing with significant inflation, the Township has continually worked to hold down costs and build financial stability to protect our community from the impacts of the economy while maintaining reserves sufficient meet the needs to our residents on good days and bad.

This budget is introduced with a tax rate decrease of 10.4%, reducing the municipal tax rate from 58.6 cents to a projected 52.5 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value. Based upon this, a homeowner with a value of \$500,000.00 for 2023 and 2024 would see a decrease in municipal taxes of \$304.00.

We recognize that under the annual assessment program, a good number of homes have seen significant increases in assessed value as a result of changes in the housing market and new construction. As such, homes that have increased in assessed value will see lesser reductions or even increased taxes dependent upon their percentage assessed value increase. Regardless, the reduction in the tax rate will reduce the impact on our taxpayers.

Overall, the amount to be raised by taxation has increased from \$33,359,000.00 to \$34,250,000.00, an increase of 2.67%

This governing body has continued to work hard to provide our residents and businesses with the services they expect, while holding the line on budget and tax increases wherever possible. Our focus remains on maintaining a strong financial position while continually investing in the community and supporting all departments to maintain the highest possible quality of life within our communities.

Neptune continues to be a full-service community, providing the most comprehensive sanitation and recycling program in the region. We maintain desirable parks and playgrounds and invest millions in repairing and reconstructing our sewer lines, drainage, and roadways.

Our staff is second to none. Every department works hard to support our community in any way possible.

All of our residents, from children to seniors, will benefit from improved recreational facilities, enhanced recreational opportunities and supportive services.

For the first time, we will be anticipating revenue from cannabis sales. A portion of these revenues will be directed to playground improvements and public safety improvements. In addition, funds from our opioid settlement will be utilized to provide additional assistance and support to overdose victims in an effort to reduce death and addiction in our community.

Taxpayers should be aware that our budget makes up approximately one-third of the overall tax bill, with the balance being paid to the schools, county, fire districts and the library. So, in reality, as a Township Committee, we control just 1/3 of your total property tax bill. The budget hearing that will be held in April will be limited to the municipal budget and our 1/3 of the tax bill. And although we have no control over the school budget, I feel obligated to speak out regarding our concerns about the state school funding formula that has stripped Neptune taxpayers of more than \$20 million dollars in aid over the past few years, including another \$4,000,000.00 loss this year. While I appreciate the efforts of Senator Gopal and Governor Murphy to create a fair school funding formula, I do not feel that all elements of fairness are being considered when calculating the distribution of state aid. Neptune Township needs to have our school aid restored. We are all concerned about the short-term and long-term impacts on our taxpayers and students. While I am sure that the elected

members of the Board of Education are doing everything within their power to address this problem, I would like to add our voices of support for a better plan and to offer our cooperation and assistance of the township in pursuing such a plan.

The budget hearing will be held at the regular Township Committee meeting of April 29, 2024.

Offered by: McMillan Seconded by: Lane
Vote: Cafferty Absent Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address any concern relating to the Township. The public will be permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

Name and Address

Comment

Dr. James Brown
Lakewood Rd.

Dr. Brown stated he loves Neptune Township. Dr. Brown praised Senior Center in an article on Linked In. Dr. Brown stated the programs and bussing available through the Senior Center is wonderful.

Joan Venezia
Mt. Hermon Way

Dr. Brown stated he would like to voice concern about the Ocean Grove North End Development and expressed issue with the proposed underground parking. Dr. Brown stated that Global Warming is going to lead to more flooding and will deteriorate Wesley Lake further with the runoff.

Ms. Venezia thanked Committeeman Lane and Stroud for their presence at 45 Broadway but hope to see they continue their follow up.
Ms. Venezia stated she does not understand the CMA fees and asked if Camp Meeting has paid their fees.
Ms. Venezia stated the Township needs to answer questions about assessments that have been posed by the public.
Ms. Venezia asked if 63 Cookman has shown up to court and is the unsafe porch being addressed.
Ms. Venezia asked if people could speak at the Planning Board meeting on Wednesday. Ms. Venezia confirmed that the comments at the Planning Board must be related to the discussion at hand.
Ms. Venezia stated she does not believe the Ocean Grove North End Development Plan is not consistent with the Master plan and will follow up with the committee of her specific concerns.

Shane Martin
Mt. Hermon Way

Mr. Anthony stated Cookman Ave. was at court last week. The property indicated that repairs were made, but an inspector was not able to inspect the property. An inspector went out on Friday and all aspects were not corrected. Mr. Anthony will be seeking a trial with the judge. Mr. Anthony stated on the zoning aspect, a zoning plan was to be submitted. At this time, the application to zoning has not been submitted.

Mr. Martin stated that Neptune United released a press release regarding possible discrepancies in assessment. At this time, a response to the questions has not been released to Neptune United and Mr. Martins asked if the Township Committee has received a response. Mr. Martin asked if the statement was made on behalf of the Township Committee made by Gina LaPlaca in the Asbury Park Press. Mr. Martin asked why the committee has not received responses to the question and a statement was released. Mr. Martin stated there is an issue with the discrepancy with the payment process of the short-term rentals

Eliza Greenblatt
Franklin Ave.

Mr. Stroud clarified that the “running out of money” comment was related specifically to a professional agreement for legal representation on a case.

Ms. Greenblatt stated she had spoken to Joseph Ciccone about feedback he received to determine that the tents and cottages were subject to inspection. Ms. Greenblatt stated that Mr. Ciccone had spoken to her and indicated the tents and cottages would be required to get COs and would be required to get short term seasonals for Winter and Summer Season due to the lease agreement. Ms. Greenblatt stated there were tenants allowed to move in May 15 which would make them subject them to the Winter Season. Ms. Greenblatt does not agree with the amount addressed as missing and believes the Township Committee is not interested in collecting the shortfall.

Ms. Narciso stated the tents are not habitable in the winter season and the Township cannot issue a CI for the winter season. Ms. Narciso stated the COs are considered for new construction or rehabilitation, so the tents and cottages would not be subject to COs. Mr. Purgatorio stated the inspections were completed on the same date and the tents and cottages were not occupied.

Paul Martin
Franklin Ave.

Mr. Martin stated he does not understand how a statement is released without the Township Committee being aware of the comment. Mr. McMillan stated the Township Committee is made aware of the comments being submitted to the paper. Mr. Martin stated Neptune United submitted the questions to the Tax Assessor in November and has not been in receipt of answers. Mr. Martin asked if the Township Committee has reached out to the County to determine some of the necessary responses.

Ms. LaPlaca stated that the PR firm that the Township Committee hired, and Ms. LaPlaca was not comfortable assign her name to a statement that would be blessed by members of the committee. The PR professional stated he had the permission of the Mayor to move forward with the statement. Ms. LaPlaca stated that she would never have assigned her name to a statement that the Township Committee was not comfortable.

Mayor York stated she had not approved the first statement and had sent an amendment to the PR firm. Mayor York did not approve the statement that was released.

Cynthia Kleibart
Broadway

Ms. Kleibart stated that to a reasonable person, the elected officials are not following up on important matters. Ms. Kleibart stated there have been issues with CIs and discrepancy on assessments have not been followed up on.

Mayor York stated all the information that is brought to the Township Committee is reviewed with their professionals. Mayor York stated with the pier, the Township did their diligence to determine jurisdiction and were advised that the municipality does not have say. Mayor York also spoke to the CFO regarding the assessment matter and stated the Township has limited oversight.

Barbara Burns
Ocean Ave.

Ms. Burns suggested firing the public relations guy and allow Gina to represent the Township because she has been doing a fantastic job.

Ms. Burns stated the letter from Neptune United was sent in November, so even if he is currently out, Mr. Haney should still respond to the questions posed.

Ms. Burns stated the CI ordinance is confusing by requiring the seasons and 2 inspections.

Rich Robinson
Hillside Dr.

Mr. Robinson asked for an update on the Short-Term Rental ordinance.

Mr. Robinson stated the property owner indicates that he lives at 401 Overlook 50% of the year and wanted to ask if primary residence will be required.

Mr. Robinson also indicated that other towns have an "Animal House" ordinance and asked for it to be included in a new draft of the ordinance.

Mr. Robinson also questioned the assessment of the property 401 Overlook.

Senator Gopal is reaching out directly to VRBO and AirBNB to have the property removed due to the issues being created by the property.

Mr. Anthony stated there was drafts of the ordinance he has created to consider inclusion for the issues that Mr. Robinson made.

Eileen Michaels
Seaview Ave.

Ms. Michaels said there is difficulty hearing the stream on Town Hall Streams.

Ms. Michaels stated she was impressed with the Township Committee responding to the residents tonight.

Ms. Michaels stated she is upset Mr. Cafferty is not here because she wanted to address that Mr. Cafferty stated he has to listen to the advice of "my attorneys" and Ms. Michaels stated that the residents pay for the attorney.

Ms. Michaels stated she has realized the Township Committee is not reading the information they are voting on. Ms. Michaels requested that the Township Committee abstain from votes that they have not read or prepared for.

Sandra McKinley

Ms. McKinley has concerns about the climate is impacting the community. Ms. McKinley stated there have been Townships that adopt resolutions that support a lower carbon emissions or different level of preparations. Ms. McKinley has a draft resolution for the Township committee to consider having a 0 Carbon footprint.

Mr. McMillan stated that Committeeman Cafferty has been working with the Green Team and he said he would be happy to include him on this matter to consider for energy saving protocols.

Bill Borge

Mr. Borge asked what will be placed on the Chassis. Ms. LaPlaca stated the resolution 24-

Duran Rd 175 and 24-176 are connected for the body and chassis. Mr. Borge asked what happened to the green buckets for landscaping refuse. Mr. Borge stated the streets look dirty because the claw that is picking up the debris is not being swept after. Mr. Borge was not satisfied with the performance of Public Works.

Cindy Nelson Highland Ave. Ms. Nelson stated the PR and marketing contract should be fired as Ms. LaPlaca has done a wonderful job representing the Township and the Township Committee Ms. Nelson stated the two employees are the top performers. Ms. Nelson stated that Ms. Narciso and Mr. Purgatorio do a wonderful job and are more organized than ever before. Ms. Nelson expressed gratitude that a violation was issued to 401 Overlook. Ms. Nelson stated that garbage cans are dilapidated and wanted to know if residents will be charged to replace the garbage cans. If the resident brings a garbage can that is no longer operable, can it be replaced.

Sara Orourke Overlook Ms. Orourke stated she lives next to 401 Overlook dr. and there is a lot of abuse of the property and the neighbors. Ms. Orourke stated she is concerned that the ordinance that is being drafted will not be enough to curb the issues. Ms. Orourke asked if there could be an addition of prohibition of short-term rentals cannot host events or parties.

Jeniah Anderson Drummond Ave. Ms. Anderson stated a public works employee had an arm down on the garbage truck was down and her vehicle was totaled. Ms. LaPlaca stated that there was a meeting on Friday regarding this matter. Ms. LaPlaca stated a tort claim was filed with the Township and the JIF is currently working on processing the claim.

Ms. Anderson was frustrated with the attitude of the employee who totaled the vehicle. Ms. Anderson stated the manager instructed the employee on what is to be said.

Mr. Anthony stated there is a claim with the insurance carrier and they will get back to you.

Joyce Klein Mt. Herman Way Ms. Klein thanked Committeeman Lane and Stroud about being so responsive about 45 Broadway. Ms. Klein stated there have been numerous complaints on the property, but the only time it has received attention is when a structure falls. There have been complaints about falling debris, bricks falling out of windows, etc.

Ms. Klein asked that the Township Committee consider the short-term rental ordinance at the next meeting.

Rich Williams Abbott Ave. Mr. Williams thanked everyone for their well wishes sent to him during his recovery. Mr. Williams stated he was concerned why the Township has hired a PR and Marketing professional.

Gary Brown Cardinal Rd Mr. Brown thanked Mr. McMillan and Mr. Stroud for stopping by the area to see the issues that have arisen with the homeless encampment. Mr. Brown expressed concern about waste at the land. There is a contributory to Deal Lake and there is gasoline, human waste and trash and has concerns about what effect they will have. Mr. Brown has reached out to the NJDEP about the issue, but every time it is mentioned the property is a homeless encampment, the departments do not want to engage. Mr. Brown was seeking assistance to find the proper avenues to address the hazards at the property.

ADJOURNMENT

Offered by: McMillan Seconded by: Lane

Time adjourned: 9:40

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Siboni
Township Clerk