

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

WORK SESSION NOTES – MARCH 11, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Heymann convened the Work Session at 9:55 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

The following persons were present:

Mayor Sophie Heymann

Councilpersons John C. Glidden, Jr., Thomas Hennessey, John Kashwick,

David Barad, Cynthia L. Tutoli, Victoria Amitai

Borough Attorney, Edward T. Rogan

Borough Engineer, Nick DeNicola

Zoning Board Secretary, Paul Demarest

Municipal Court Administrator, Bonnie Switzer

The following persons were absent:

Borough Clerk, Loretta Castano

2. PROVISIONS OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Heymann declared that the meeting was being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

3. PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

A. BOROUGH ATTORNEY

1) REPORT – Mr. Rogan reported that he had two items for discussion in Closed Session: an item for the DPW Committee and the need for an expert for a pending tax appeal.

B. BOROUGH ENGINEER

1) STATUS REPORT RE WEST STREET PROJECT (Bid Awarded to Arnold's Roads 2/25/09 for \$115,000) - Mr. DeNicola reported that the work would be extended south on West Street towards Closter Dock Road to utilize the entire grant amount.

2) REPORT – The quarterly status report had been distributed to the Council.

4. REPORTS

A. ACTING BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

1) STATUS REPORT RE PREPARATIONS FOR 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

2) STATUS REPORT RE BOROUGH WEBSITE

3) STATUS REPORT RE FOLLOW UP WITH FILE BANK FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS (Requested by John DiStefano at WS 10/6/08) – Mayor Heymann explained she wished to discuss this matter in closed session.

4) STATUS REPORT RE INSURANCE ITEM(S) FOR FOLLOW UP: (none)

5) REPORT

B. BOROUGH CLERK

In the absence of the Borough Clerk, no report was made for the following items:

1) STATUS REPORT RE 2009 APPOINTMENTS

2) STATUS REPORT RE 2009 OATHS OF OFFICE

CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION NOTES – MARCH 11, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.

- 3) STATUS REPORT RE 2009 LICENSES
- 4) REPORT RE 2009 MEETING DATES
- 5) REPORT RE PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS

C. CHIEF OF POLICE

1) REPORT – In the absence of the Chief, of Police, Councilman Glidden had no report.

D. MAYOR

1) STATUS REPORT RE FOLLOWING GRANT APPLICATIONS:

a. GRANTS FILED

1. FY 2007 NATIONAL TRAIL RECREATION GRANT - \$25,000 - \$10,000 MATCH FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE (Extension requested???)
2. GREEN COMMUNITIES 2008 APPLICATION FOR \$4,500 WITH A MATCHING SUM FROM CLOSTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1500 (Requested by Mayor Heymann 11/7/07)
4. 3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF ~~\$110,000~~ \$205,000.00 FOR A.D. ACCESSIBLE BATHROOMS IN TWO PUBLIC PARKS (SHAUBLE AND MOLLICONE) RM 9/24/08 - Mayor requested at WS 10/6/08 that this addition be made to her Report in the amount of \$210,000

b. GRANTS AWARDED

1. BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FARMLAND & HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND; DUE 7/7/06; FILED BY COUNCILMAN KASHWICK - 50% LOCAL MATCH REQUIRED- ACQUISITION OF FLAMM PROPERTY END OF RUCKMAN ROAD/HOMANS AVENUE- \$500,000 AWARDED 7/11/07 FOR BLOCK 1308, LOTS 3 AND 4, 37 HOMANS AVENUE (8.M.L.7/26/07)
2. BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND - 2004 FUNDING ROUND FOR MUNICIPAL PARK IMPROVEMENT AND LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM (50% local match); APPLICATION DEADLINE: 10/29/04 (8.M.L.8/26/04) (~~\$190,000.00~~ \$120,000.00 for Recreational Trails Program/RM10/27/04 - \$120,000 Recommended Award - County Public Hearing 5/26/05)
3. NATIONAL TRAILS RECREATION PROGRAM - \$25,000 (local match of \$10,000 required) filed 12/15/05
4. ANJEC GRANT - \$20,000 requested/\$6,000 received
5. 2008 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM FOR WEST STREET (SECTION 3) \$150,000 awarded (5. M.L. 12/27/07)
6. FY2008 ENHANCED 9-1-1 GENERAL ASSISTANCE GRANT- \$28,019.00 awarded (5. M.L. 04/24/08)

CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION NOTES – MARCH 11, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.

7. SUPER VALUE, INC./PUBLIC ENTITY GRANT - \$6,600.00 awarded for Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation – 121 Schraalenburgh Road, Block 502 Lot 3 (14. M.L. 7/3/08)
8. PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION RE BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND/\$68,100.00 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BOROUGH PARKS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLOSTER; CASH-FOR-CASH MATCH – Approved RM 6/25/08 (Requested by Mayor 7/2/08) – \$68,100 awarded; Mayor reported at WS 9/10/08
9. RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES GRANT AWARD \$10,000 (for all persons with varying Disabilities in the NVRS District (7. M.L. 9/11/08)

c. GRANTS TO BE FILED

- 2) STATUS REPORT RE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CHANGES TO OPRA APPROVED BY NJS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES
- 3) REPORT – At this time, Mayor Heymann announced that the Borough received a County Open Space grant in the amount of \$68,000 for park improvements. She referred to the results of a workshop on ethics and public records contained in the packet and a shared services article listing items that we have discussed. A centralized purchase order process is being established that has been recommended by the Auditor and would be e-mailed to the Council. In answer to the Borough Engineer, Mayor Heymann said that it was her understanding that the purchase order for the ADA ramps had been completed but she would check on same.

Mayor Heymann referred to the recommendation of Michael Hakim for the affordable housing which has been reviewed by the Planning Board. This is a draft proposal and a few negotiable issues were underlined including the COAH housing overlay district for the entire commercial and business sector. The Planning Board decided to remove that overlay and increase properties on Closter Dock Road/Main Street area for multiple housing; and with the other existing affordable housing, would take care of our COAH obligation. The incentives to be offered have not been fully discussed but those listed in the draft deal primarily with denser units and tax rebates. She felt that the COAH funds could be used to encourage property owners to make improvements on properties that could be converted into COAH units in the future; and this item could be discussed at the joint meeting. The Borough has until April 10th to reply to the COAH request for the necessary documentation. She reviewed the remainder of the recommendations and noted that included in the page of expenses was \$80,000 spent on COAH administration since its inception but the actual figure is \$57,000. Mayor Heymann indicated that acceptance of the draft proposal for the Housing Element and administration of expenses, with further corrections, could be acted upon in open session.

5. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. STATUS REPORT RE KIDDIE SOCCER/POSSIBLE POLICY ESTABLISHED BY RECREATION COMMISSION RE USE OF BOROUGH PARKS
(Discussed at W.S. 11/12/08)
6. NEW BUSINESS
Councilman Kashwick referred to the communication from Doug Radick on Cox's Municipal Land Use Law book at a cost of \$28 that the Historic Preservation Commission

CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION NOTES – MARCH 11, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.

wished to purchase and the rejection of the purchase which has caused dissension. Mayor Heymann explained the Borough procedure to obtain past year booklets from the Borough's professional attorneys. She noted that she has the 2006 edition; and when Jennifer Rothschild requested a copy, she provided her with the 2007 edition. Borough Attorney explained that very few changes are made and would be those due to a change in the zoning law; but for the most part, the book is fairly consistent. Mayor Heymann indicated that this is a method of not wasting money; and Councilman Kashwick said by not allowing boards and commissions to make small purchases within their own budgets is sending the wrong message to our volunteers that we are not trusting them and causing negativity. Mayor Heymann said that volunteers may not have understood what was being done; and if it is felt they need a new copy, one will be provided.

Councilman Amitai referred to a discussion at the Planning Board relative to signage on the Mary Crain property and that the Building Department advised that they are not allowed to enforce the signage regulations because it is the purview of the Agricultural Board. Borough Attorney explained that the Agricultural Board determined the number and size of the permitted signs. He had notified the Building Department approximately 8 months ago to do an inspection of the property and that he would provide a copy of the agreement. Mayor Heymann advised that Joel Flagler, extension service director, had indicated that there are limitations on the property and he would conduct an inspection of the property if necessary. Borough Attorney said that Closter officials have the right to enforce the regulations, that it would be the responsibility of the Zoning Officer and he would contact him the next day.

7. ANY OTHER MATTER WHICH MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY
8. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC
9. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS, IF APPROPRIATE
10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Work Session at 10:21 P.M. was made by Councilman Glidden, seconded by Councilman Barad and declared unanimously carried by Mayor Heymann.

Provided to the Mayor and Council
on April 16, 2009 for approval at
the Regular Meeting to be held
April 22, 2009

Loretta Castano, RMC
Borough Clerk

Prepared by Carol A. Kroepke, RMC
utilizing recording and the Borough
Clerk's notes

Approved at the Regular Meeting held April 22, 2009
Consent Agenda Item No. 23b1)

CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION NOTES – MARCH 11, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.