

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES**

The Tewksbury Township Committee met in a regular/work session on the above date at the Municipal Building, Mountainville, NJ.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM, roll call held and a quorum established. Mayor Dana Desiderio presided.

Other officials in attendance were Township Committee members Peter Melick, Shaun Van Doren and William Voyce.

Committeeman Louis DiMare was absent.

Jesse Landon, Township Administrator and Roberta Brassard, Municipal Clerk were in attendance.

There were approximately ten members of the public in attendance.

1. Open Public Meetings Statement

The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by Mayor Desiderio.

2. Flag Salute

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

3. Actions to be taken

➤ **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Voyce requested that Resolution #56-2012 and the regular and executive session minutes of 5/8/12 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Melick moved adoption of the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Dr. Voyce. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Claims as submitted by the CFO

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Melick made a motion to adopt the regular and executive session minutes of 5/8/12, seconded by Mr. Van Doren. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

- Regular and executive session minutes of 05-08-12

Mayor Desiderio read Resolution #56-2012 into the minutes of the meeting and presented a framed document to Antoinette Metzler.

Dr. Voyce made a motion to adopt Resolution #56-2012, seconded by Mr. Melick. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION #56-2012
TO HONOR ANTOINETTE METZLER**

WHEREAS, Antoinette Metzler, Girl Scouts of America, Troop 898, has attained the designation of Gold Award Scout, Scouting's highest award; and

WHEREAS, Antoinette Metzler's Gold Award project created a Herbarium Field Guide at the farmhouse located at Voorhees High School. The Field Guide will allow visitors to the site to utilize the materials to correctly identify flora and fauna by use of the Plexiglas displays of leaves, flowers and accurate botanical illustrations; and

WHEREAS, Antoinette Metzler has been an active Scout since kindergarten demonstrating outstanding leadership and has contributed many service hours during her years of Scouting to Tewksbury citizens and organizations such as the Water Drive at St. Luke's Church and the Voorhees High School Varsity Club; and

WHEREAS, Antoinette Metzler is a member of the National Honor Society and a participant in varsity lacrosse and field hockey and will be attending Ohio State in the honors program in the autumn of 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby extends to Antoinette Metzler, individually, collectively and with great pride, sincere congratulations for achieving this highest of Scouting awards which symbolizes the American ideal of good citizenship and civic responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee wishes Antoinette Metzler much success in all her future endeavors.

Dana Desiderio
Mayor

Ordinance Public Hearing

Mr. Melick made a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #07-2012, seconded by Mr. Van Doren. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

Ms. Brassard provided proof of publication from the 5-01-12 Courier News and a letter from the Land Use Administrator noting the Land Use Board's review of the Ordinance and determination of it not being inconsistent with the Master Plan.

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Van Doren moved to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #07-2012, seconded by Dr. Voyce. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES**

Mr. Van Doren moved adoption of Ordinance #07-2012, seconded by Dr. Voyce. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

**TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
ORDINANCE # 07-2012**

AN ORDINANCE TO FUND FOX HILL ROAD RESTORATION

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that Fox Hill Road requires restoration work:

FOR	FROM	AMOUNT
Fox Hill Road Restoration	Capital Improvement Fund	\$100,000.00

There being no debt incurred for this purpose, the total sum of one hundred thousand dollars and no cents is hereby appropriated.

That this Ordinance shall take effect after final passage, adoption and publication according to law.

Dana Desiderio
Mayor

Mr. Melick made a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #08-2012, seconded by Mr. Van Doren. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

Ms. Brassard provided proof of publication from the 5-01-12 Courier News and a letter from the Land Use Administrator noting the Land Use Board's review of the Ordinance and determination of it not being inconsistent with the Master Plan.

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Van Doren moved to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #08-2012, seconded by Mr. Melick. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

Mr. Van Doren moved adoption of Ordinance #08-2012, seconded by Dr. Voyce. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

**TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES**

ORDINANCE # 08-2012

AN ORDINANCE TO FUND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that road improvements are needed

FOR	FROM	AMOUNT
road improvements	Capital Improvement Fund	\$300,000.00

There being no debt incurred for this purpose, the total sum of three hundred thousand dollars and no cents is hereby appropriated.

That this Ordinance shall take effect after final passage, adoption and publication according to law.

Dana Desiderio
Mayor

Mr. Melick made a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #09-2012, seconded by Mr. Van Doren. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

Ms. Brassard provided proof of publication from the 5-01-12 Courier News and a letter from the Land Use Administrator noting the Land Use Board's review of the Ordinance and determination of it not being inconsistent with the Master Plan.

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Van Doren moved to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #09-2012, seconded by Dr. Voyce. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

Mr. Van Doren moved adoption of Ordinance #09-2012, seconded by Dr. Voyce. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

**TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
ORDINANCE # 09-2012**

**AN ORDINANCE TO FUND FORCED MAIN REPAIRS AT THE HUNTERS GLEN SEWER
UTILITY**

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that forced main repairs at the Hunters Glen sewer utility are required.

FOR	FROM	AMOUNT
forced main repairs at the Hunters Glen sewer utility	Capital Improvement Fund	\$75,000.00

There being no debt incurred for this purpose, the total sum of seventy five thousand dollars and no cents is hereby appropriated.

That this Ordinance shall take effect after final passage, adoption and publication according to law.

Dana Desiderio
Mayor

Mr. Melick made a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #20-2012, seconded by Mr. Van Doren. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

Ms. Brassard provided proof of publication from the 5-01-12 Courier News and a letter from the Land Use Administrator noting the Land Use Board's review of the Ordinance and determination of it not being inconsistent with the Master Plan.

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Van Doren moved to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #20-2012, seconded by Dr. Voyce. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

Mr. Van Doren moved adoption of Ordinance #20-2012, seconded by Dr. Voyce. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Absent: DiMare.

**TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
ORDINANCE # 10-2012**

**AN ORDINANCE TO FUND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT
ACQUISITION**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that DPW equipment acquisition is required:

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES**

FOR	FROM	AMOUNT
DPW equipment acquisition	Capital Improvement Fund	\$60,000.00

There being no debt incurred for this purpose, the total sum of sixty thousand dollars and no cents is hereby appropriated.

That this Ordinance shall take effect after final passage, adoption and publication according to law.

Dana Desiderio
Mayor

4. Work Session Topics

➤ **Board of Education**

Dr. James Gamble, Acting Superintendent of Tewksbury Schools was present to discuss the 2012-2013 school budget which will be included on the general election ballot in November. He stated that he has been presenting the budget to many local groups because he wants the public to be aware of and understand the budget even though it will not be voted on as it is remaining within the 2% cap.

Dr. Gamble presented a high level view of the budget reviewing equal revenues and expenditures of \$12,803,473 which represents a flat tax rate. He noted that this budget will allow programs to be maintained, adding the enormous support of the BOE, TEF and PTA and help from the State in the form of additional grant monies totaling \$83,000.

He noted that there will be a professional development session from June 18-22 which will help with teacher training in the fields of technology, reading and math to increase the knowledge and skill of teachers.

It was noted that a pilot program for early intervention for reading skills has been developed and 12 students at TES are benefitting from it. This program is working well and should keep the children out of needing special education.

Dr. Gamble noted that 75% of the budget goes towards salary and benefits and the remaining 25% can be “worked with”. Fixed costs remain buildings and transportation.

In response to a question from Mr. Melick, Dr. Gamble stated that salaries and benefits are all listed in one line item and benefits are listed separately. He added that the line item for general/school administration is generally lower because of his status and pay as an interim superintendent, adding that the line item for the OTS principal is higher.

Discussion followed regarding projected enrollment for the coming 5 years. Dr. Gamble noted that between 2012-2017 the number of students is project to decrease by 130 students: in 2013, the number may be down by 12 or 13. Dr. Gamble noted that there are fewer children in area pre schools, and the board is reaching out to the parents of children in private schools to let them know exactly what Tewksbury schools offer.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES

Discussion followed regarding the application being submitted regarding School Choice. Dr. Gamble explained that the program has been in existence for 10 years and many school districts in Hunterdon County are participating. Parents from any participating school district can have their child attend school in another participating district and the receiving/choice district receives approximately \$12,000.00 per student in State funds. It was added that the receiving school can accept or reject a student based on the individuals' needs or discipline record. The receiving school can also decide on the number of seats per grade level.

Additional discussion followed regarding the budgeting procedure if the School Choice program is accepted.

Further discussion followed regarding staff reduction moving forward. Dr. Gamble surmised that between 2013 and 2014, staff may be reduced by a "few teachers" and in the coming 5-6 years, there may be a reduction of 8-9 teachers.

In response to a question from Mr. Melick, Dr. Gamble stated that the Township may opt out of School Choice after one year, but if there are children in the program, they will be permitted to stay through the conclusion of their elementary school term. It was additionally noted that transportation to the receiving school is the responsibility of the sending district and the allowable distance is 20 miles.

Additional comments were made regarding a School Choice program at South Hunterdon High School and the fact that they were able to purchase a bus for transporting students from Hamilton Township in Mercer County.

Dr. Gamble noted that there is a BOE meeting scheduled for 5/23/12 at which the school budget and school choice will be discussed.

➤ **Equestrian Committee**

Patty Clucas current Chair of the Equestrian Committee (EC) has been a member for five years. She stated that she thought the EC was created to act as a liaison between the Township and the horse community, but feels there is no communication and would like direction from the Township Committee as to what they wish the EC to do.

Mayor Desiderio noted that she was on the first EC created by former Mayor George Tauber. She noted that Tewksbury has a huge horse community and it is one of the things that makes the Township so unique. She mentioned that the EC formerly distributed welcome baskets to new residents, held welcome teas and advertised the equestrian community through local businesses and realtors.

She stated that the EC should be consulted when there is a horse related event in the Township, adding that information should be available to all residents regarding horse trails.

Ann Rotunno, EC member stated that she is new to Tewksbury and the equestrian community. She stated that she liked the fact that trails in the Township are not public information and information has to be garnered through involvement with a local group.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES

Discussion followed regarding the jumps at the Christie Hoffman Farm (CHF) and the need to properly maintain them.

Dr. Voyce noted that when he was Mayor, he asked all Township boards, committees and commissions to come up with five tangible goals and remembered that the EC was working on having information available regarding an animal medic situation. Discussion followed regarding this topic and it was noted that it would be helpful to have information available for Hunterdon County dispatch to disseminate to residents in the event of an emergency.

Mrs. Clucas stated that she would like the members of the EC to be apprised of any equestrian related application pertaining to the LUB or the Scenic Roads and Bridges Commission or the Agricultural Advisory Committee and to be allowed to attend the meetings. She added that she hopes to maintain a good relationship between the horse vs non-horse community.

Discussion followed regarding holding other equestrian related activities in Township parks.

Mr. Van Doren questioned if the EC is satisfied with the condition of the current jumps at CHF. He also questioned if the EC has a desire for additional road signage.

He suggested compiling a list or brochure of all boarding operations and lesson facilities in the Township as an informative document. He also suggested using with CHF or Pascale as an area to sponsor an afternoon ride or area for an educational program.

Dr. Voyce noted that Scouting does have badges available for working with horses.

Additional discussion dealt with the need to create awareness of the equestrian community in a positive light, to connect with the community and to be certain that the jumps at CHF are maintained safely.

Final discussion followed regarding signage and the need to have roads safely marked for equestrian activity.

5. Township Committee Comments

Dr. Voyce noted the recent OEM meeting at which the Chiefs of Tewksbury and Whitehouse Rescue were present. Two letters were discussed regarding coverage changes that would allow Clinton Rescue to cover specific Tewksbury territory from 6:00 am – 6:00 pm Monday – Friday.

It was noted that funding will be reallocated and the locator information will be changed although the area will remain in dual alert.

Mr. Melick made a motion to make the recommended changes to the coverage as outlined in the aforementioned letters and to notify Harry Heller at the County Offices of Emergency Management, seconded by Mr. Van Doren.

Mr. Van Doren explained that the approved changes will give Clinton Rescue coverage to certain Township roads from 6a-6pm Monday – Friday.

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES**

The above noted motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren. Absent: DiMare. Abstain: Voyce.

Mr. Melick made a motion to reallocate \$5000.00 from the Tewksbury Rescue Squad 2012 budget to Whitehouse Rescue, seconded by Mr. Melick. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, Melick, Van Doren. Absent: DiMare. Abstain: Voyce.

He wished everyone present a Happy Memorial Day.

Mr. Melick noted that the topic of School Choice is attracting a lot of attention and the public should attend BOE meetings and keep informed of the matter.

Mr. Van Doren questioned if the memo from Randy Benson dated 4-19-12 regarding the utility assessment at the Bartles house had been resolved.

Mr. Landon explained that the person making the request is the sole person who utilizes the hallway, and the heat has since been turned off so she is no longer paying for heating the common hall access. He added that the Township cannot reimburse her, but the cost could be split up between the three residents.

It was added that the lease specifically states that snow shoveling is the responsibility of the tenant.

In response to a question from Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Landon stated that the bill for \$2000.00 is to replace the two signs at the PAB and the one in Mountainville.

The draft Grading and Surface Water Management ordinance will be introduced at the 6-12-12 meeting. This amendment is easier to follow than the existing Ordinance and complies with Highlands regulations.

Mr. Van Doren noted that he feel there is no need to rush through review of the various Highlands ordinances prior to receiving the requisite training from the Highlands Council. He added that he did not feel there is a need to schedule a Land Use subcommittee meeting next week.

A calendar for upcoming LUB meetings was noted.

The LUB approved the JCP&L application for driveway work pending County approval. Any major changes would require approval from the LUB. He noted that JCP&L gave up access to the Fox Hill Road driveway servicing the Hernick and Kalb residences. Additional landscaping to shield the area will be maintained by JCP&L forever.

It was added that the substation is scheduled to be activated in September of 2012.

Mayor Desiderio noted the following items.

- She attended the OTS concert.
- She threw out the first pitch at the Oldwick fields on Baseball Day.
- She met with John Anderson from JCP&L regarding Fox Hill Road restoration. The discussion is ongoing.

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2012 MINUTES**

Mayor Desiderio noted that the Parks Committee has requested resurrecting the Street Dance in Oldwick. Discussion followed regarding the history of the event and how it “died a slow death.” It was noted that the Harvest Festival has essentially replaced the Street Dance and there was not an overwhelming interest from the Committee to hold the event.

6. Administrator’s Comments

Mr. Landon noted that the Senior Picnic is scheduled for 6/1/12 and the Bond Sale is scheduled for 6/6/12 with a final closing on 6/19/12.

Mr. Van Doren stated that he would be late coming to the meeting on 6/12/12 as he has a County Committee meeting.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Roberta A. Brassard
Municipal Clerk