

May 18, 2010

A Neighborhood Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury was held on May 18, 2010 at 7:00p.m., in the meeting room of the Company No.3 Firehouse located on the corner of Berkshire Valley Road and Gordon Road. This meeting was held for the purpose of general discussion with Township residents.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was faxed to the Daily Record, the Newark Star Ledger and the Roxbury Register on December 18, 2009; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on December 18, 2009.

ROLL CALL (Present): Councilman Gary Behrens
Councilwoman Kathy DeFillippo
Deputy Mayor Fred Hall
Councilman Richard Zoschak
Mayor Jim Rilee

Absent: Councilman Martin Schmidt
Councilman Tim Smith

Also Present: Christopher Raths, Township Manager
Amy Rhead, Acting Township Clerk

OPENING REMARKS – Mayor Jim Rilee

Mayor Rilee introduced the Council and Staff to the public. The Mayor went over the format of the Neighborhood Meeting and welcomed the public.

Mayor Rilee introduced Assemblyman Anthony Bucco, Jr., Esq. and opened the meeting for questions from the public.

Residents asked Assemblyman Bucco various questions regarding:
New Jersey's current economic conditions
the proposed 2.5% cap on spending
Governor Chris Christie's stance on an income tax increase for residents earning at least \$1 million annually

Assemblyman Bucco stated that the spending cap strategy has proven effective in other states, but a constitutional amendment would be required in order for it to be implemented. He stated that passage of the proposed "Millionaire's Tax" would not only push companies out of New Jersey, but would keep potential companies from moving into the state. Assemblyman Bucco stated that the state needs to control taxes, have less spending and smaller government. Residents felt that the media is putting a negative spin on recent legislative initiatives while public opinion is actually very positive. Residents expressed appreciation for Governor Chris Christie having the courage to take a stand for what is in the best interest of the citizens of New Jersey.

New Fire Truck

Firefighter, William Ward III described the new Pumper fire truck that the Township purchased at a significant cost savings due to the combined efforts of many members. William Ward stated that Mr. Dave Ward deserved most of the credit for this accomplishment.

Berkshire Valley Paving Project

Rick Blood, Department of Public Works Director, updated the public on the status of the Berkshire Valley Road paving project.

Rt. 80 Overpass Timeline

Mr. Blood, Department of Public Works Director, explained that the project is more involved than originally anticipated due to the discovery of structural issues. He stated that the westbound side should be completed by September 2010 and the eastbound portion is scheduled to be finished by the summer of 2011. In response to a question from a resident, Mr. Blood stated that the bus that fell off the bridge last year was not a factor in the bridge's structural issues.

Mr. Blood answered various questions regarding truck traffic. Mayor Rilee detailed the plans to divert the routes that trucks will be traveling. Residents stated that there seems to be more police presence in the area, but that speeding is still an issue on Berkshire Valley Road. Mr. Rath suggested putting the digital speed radar sign on Berkshire Valley Road more often to remind people of the speed they are traveling at. Mr. Rath also mentioned that the Township would be purchasing an additional digital sign with H1N1 Grant money. One resident stated that young drivers tend to use those signs in a game to see how fast they can go.

A resident stated that sight distance is impaired at the one lane bridge due to a dip in the road surface. Mr. Blood stated that the base of the bridge was probably constructed that way to allow for proper drainage.

Gordon Road Grant Status

Chris Rath, Township Manager, stated that the Council actively seeks grant opportunities, but reported that Roxbury did not meet the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) eligibility requirements to receive \$80,000 to resurface Gordon Road.

Residents expressed concerns about poor road conditions. Mr. Blood stated that they will be patched as needed. Mr. Rath stated that the Council has been and continues to be committed to improving the roadways.

A resident claimed that trucks are backing up into her lawn and, although she has not witnessed it, she believes the damage is being caused by Township garbage trucks.

2010 "To Do" List

Chris Rath, Township Manager, stated that approximately seventy-six percent of the items from the 2009 list were completed. Mr. Rath informed residents that the list is kept updated and available for the public to view on the township website, at the 72 Eyland Avenue building (Recreation Department, Health Department and Senior Services/Nutrition Center) and at the Municipal Building.

Status of Open Items

Chris Rath, Township Manager, reviewed the status of the items in progress, but not yet completed on the current "To Do" list.

Questions

A resident complimented the beautiful path around the tennis courts. She stated that there should be a bench to rest. Mr. Rath stated that he would have a bench placed there.

A resident stated that signage is needed along the path to remind people to clean up after their dogs. Mr. Rath stated that he would explore the possibility.

There was a question about the plans for the building that previously housed the Nutrition Center. Mr. Rath stated that the non-profit agency that had planned on leasing from the township had to withdraw due to lack of funding. A resident asked why there was a dumpster at the site that previously housed the Nutrition Center. Mr. Rath stated that he would ensure its removal.

A suggestion was made to install a handball court.

A suggestion was made to re-surface the tennis court.

A resident complained that a driveway repair done by the Road Department was causing a neighbor's house to flood. Mr. Blood stated that he would look into the claim.

Residents stated that junk vehicles and boats are covering the property of Valley Auto Wreckers. They also expressed concern regarding dangerous traffic conditions caused by flatbed tractor-trailers pulling in and backing out of the hidden driveway that lies right by the bridge. It was mentioned that these are new tenants and there have been several incidences where the police have had to respond. Ms. Rhead, Acting Township Clerk, stated that Valley Auto Wreckers applied for a permit for the 2010 year, but that it has not been approved. Mr. Rath stated that the owners have applied to the Zoning Department requesting the proper zoning permits. Mr. Zoschak stated that residents would be notified by certified mail when the Zoning Board hearing on the application takes place. He encouraged residents to voice their concerns to the Zoning Board at that time.

Mr. Behrens asked Mr. Blood about the status of the new DPW facility. Mr. Blood reported that Recycling and Public Works will soon be located in one place and will be able to do repairs on site. There will also be indoor storage for Road Department materials, which Roxbury has not had previously. Mayor Rilee stated the money for this project had already been encumbered, as it has been in the works for at least twenty-seven years. Mayor Rilee stated that costs of materials and services cost less than expected due to the current economic conditions. Mr. Rath stated that a Grand Opening event will be scheduled.

A question was asked about the plans for the old DPW building on Main Street. Mayor Rilee explained that the Township's affordable housing plan has included the building which helped with COAH compliance.

A question was asked about the COAH property behind WalMart on Mary Louise Avenue. Mayor Rilee stated that Wellfleet would need to put up the money prior to moving forward.

A question was asked about the possibility of sewers in Berkshire Valley. Mr. Rath explained that a treatment plant and a stream that was large enough to accept discharge would be needed. Also, NJDEP regulations prohibit inter-basin transfers. The suggestion was made that to investigate tapping into Wharton's system. Mr. Rath stated that Roxbury would have nothing to give Wharton in return, but that he would look into it.

A resident asked what was happening on Mill Road where houses were removed and a sign has been erected with a block and lot number on it. Information was given about the company that owns the land wanting to put a well there.

Deputy Mayor Hall discussed the Township's recreational opportunities:

- ◆ Turf Field
- ◆ Dell Avenue
- ◆ Imagination Station project – volunteers welcome

A resident mentioned that the liners of the volleyball court at Horseshoe Lake are damaged and more courts are needed. Deputy Mayor Hall said that the Recreation Committee will keep that in mind as they update the Master Plan.

A resident stated that the amount of parking would need to be increased if non-residents are going to be permitted to join the lake.

A resident complained about ATV activity on Gordon Road, at approximately 6:00 PM each night and asked for increased police presence at that time.

A resident asked about the status of Roxbury's Dial-A Ride. Mayor Rilee explained that there had not been any formal communications in regard to outsourcing the program, but that the Council was asked for information so that the Board might put a

proposal together. Mayor Rilee stated that the Board has not presented any proposals and there have been no further discussions.

A resident asked about the status of the property on Hercules Road where the houses were demolished. Mr. Raths stated that Roxbury would like to see recreation facilities built, but that the property is privately owned by Ashton Chemical.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 PM, Mr. Smith made a motion to close the Neighborhood Meeting. Mr. Hall seconded the motion.

Roll Call: All in Favor – Yes

Motioned Carried 5 to 0.

Submitted By:

Amy E. Rhead
Acting Township Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DATE: November 30, 2010

ROLL CALL: Councilman Zoschak – Yes
Councilman Schmidt – Yes
Councilman Behrens – Yes
Councilwoman DeFillippo – Yes
Deputy Mayor Hall – Yes
Councilman Smith – Abstain
Mayor Rilee – Yes