

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
October 26, 2009

A meeting of Township Committee was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Princeton Township Municipal Complex, 400 Witherspoon Street.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Clerk read the following statement.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting.

Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of the 2009 Schedule of Regular Meetings. On January 4, 2009 at 1:15 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, and the Town Topics, and filed with the Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Township Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mayor Miller and Mesdames Lempert and Nemeth and Messrs. Goerner (7:10 pm) and Liverman.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mrs. Monzo, and Messrs Kiser, Pascale, Schmierer and Lt. Henderson

SWEARING IN: Police Department Promotions

Mr. Liverman offered a motion authorizing the Police Department promotions of Geoffrey Maurer and Kim Hodges to the rank of sergeant. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nemeth and carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmierer swore in the new police sergeants.

ROLL CALL, Borough of Princeton

Present: Mayor Trotman, Mesdames Karcher (7:15 pm) and Trelstad, Messrs Goldfarb, Koontz, Martindell, and Wilkes.

**JOINT MEETING WITH BOROUGH OF PRINCETON
WORK SESSION**

- Joint Proclamation: Communities of Light 2009

Mayor Miller read a joint proclamation for “Communities of Light 2009”. The proclamation was adopted unanimously by both governing bodies.

- Robert Bruschi, Department of Health, H1N1 Update

Mr. Bruschi gave an update on H1N1 on behalf of the Department of Health.

- Joint Services and Consolidation

Mayor Miller commented on the process to begin examining consolidation and the proposed resolution authorizing the process on behalf of Princeton Township and Princeton Borough. Mayor Miller said that there will be two public hearings and one joint session. The Mayor said that the first meeting for residents of both municipalities would take place on December 3, 2009 at Township Hall. He said that financing for the study would come from the Local Finance Board, and the study would include further shared services and full municipal consolidation.

Mayor Trotman opened the floor to discussion of the proposed consolidation.

Mr. Goldfarb asked if everyone understood what consolidation meant, saying that we should not conclude that consolidation is beneficial.

Mr. Goerner said that the resolution is a template and could be modify however we want. Mr. Goerner said that we have an open mind regarding shared services, and that the goal was to make this a holistic process and to accommodate both trains of thought.

Mr. Martindell said that the spirit of the proposal is large enough to address concerns and that we shouldn't worry that there will be a rush toward consolidation. He said that he was concerned that this kind of effort would take the wind out of more practical efforts, and that the real danger is that we won't accomplish anything.

Mr. Wilkes said that he has full faith in the voters and that he is comfortable with trusting residents to vote.

Mayor Miller said that he thought that the resolution ought to be more neutral.

Mr. Goldfarb said that last time the process was damaging for the community and damaged relations between the two governing bodies.

Mr. Goerner said that there has been a better working relationship between the two governing bodies over the last 18 months. The proposal brings in an independent study, thereby taking some emotion away from the issues. Mr. Goerner said that there is value in having a voter referendum.

Mr. Liverman said that it seemed as if we were defeating the resolution before we even begin.

Ms. Lempert said that she agreed that the issue should go before the voters and that we should not be afraid of the past.

Mr. Koontz said that he thought that the resolution assumes a lot.

Ms. Karcher said that she was in favor of determining a timeline but asked to make sure that it did not go to the voters in a presidential year. She noted that she was a proponent of combining the two police departments.

Mayor Miller than opened the public comment portion of the discussion asking that comments be kept relative to the resolution at hand.

Laura Kahn, 14 Journeys End Lane, said that she fully supported the resolution. Sandra Persichetti, 22 Trewbridge Court said that she too support the resolution noting that the cost of maintaining two municipalities was unconscionable to the taxpayers. Casey Lambert, 115 North Road, said that she was very open minded during the last process and echoed Ms. Persichetti's thoughts. Wood Tate, Elm Road, said to stop quibbling and compromise. Grace Sinden noted that it was tough to work with two governing bodies. Sheldon Sturgis, Cameron Court, Princeton Future said that he was ready to hold conversations about consolidation, saying that the process does work. Dan Preston, 209 Moore Street said that it was important to look at the emotional issues equally and urged the study to move forward. Jenny Crumiller said that she supported the resolution. David Cohen, 135 Terhune Road, said that implementation is an important part of the study.

Dudley Supprell, 375 Nassau Street asked is it was possible that the study would show both options as worthy to be put to the voters. Ronald Neilson, Humbert Street said that it seemed as if the governing bodies were considering two resolutions. Ruth Sayer, Library Place said that she was in favor of the resolution.

There being no further comment, the public portion of this discussion was closed.

Mr. Martindell said that shared services are a pediment to the process. Mr. Koontz said that a lot of the motivation is savings to the taxpayers and there are things that can be done now.

Mr. Goerner said that the study commission would study shared services and/or full consolidation.

Mr. Liverman said that the Township has already spent money toward a police study and has put together one of the best police departments in the area.

Mr. Goldfarb said that if the issue is left open, it's rolling the dice on a perceived outcome with no benefit.

Ms. Lempert said that moving forward is the right thing to do.

Mr. Koontz said that consolidation is an issue that will not die. He said that the ink is not dry on the statutory framework and asked why here and why now?

Ms. Karcher said why not here and why not now? She said that she would support this issue 100% and that she was eager to see the outcome. Ms. Karcher said that we will all be better educated by this process.

Mayor Miller said that he fully supports the resolution as amended.

On behalf of Princeton Township, Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the resolution as amended. Mr. Liverman seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On behalf of Princeton Borough, Mr. Wilkes offered a motion to approve the resolution as amended. Ms. Trelstad seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Contains items of a routine nature, which are approved by a single vote.

- a. Bills & Claims
- b. Maintenance/Performance Guarantees
 - Commerce Bank/Route 206 & Princeton Ave, Construction of two additional parking spaces, Completion time extension to October 31, 2010.
 - Top Line Construction Corp., Reconstruction of Mountain Avenue, Release of Maintenance Guaranty.
 - Top Line Construction Corp., Improvements of Guyot Pathway and Carnahan Place, Release of Maintenance Guaranty.
- c. Music Amplification Request – Mark Boulding, for a party at Mountain Lakes, November 14, 2009, 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- d. Affordable Housing Resolutions:

- Subsidy Payment Approvals, 223 Brickhouse Road, \$34,582.
 - Down Payment Loan #47, Not to Exceed \$5000.
- e. Resolution and Agreement: Shared Services with the Borough of Princeton Regarding Crossing Guards.
- f. Resolution: Endorsing the Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009.
- g. Professional Services Agreement: Community Grants & Planning, Small Cities Grant Application, Not to Exceed \$6,000.
- h. Professional Services Agreement: VOIP Networks Inc, Cherry Hill, NJ, Telephone Equipment maintenance agreement, Not to Exceed \$56,741.
- i. Appointment – Citizen Finance Advisory Committee, Anne Burns
- j. Bid Award: Andy Matt Landscaping, Inc., Mine Hill, NJ, Gallup Road Tree Planting, Not to Exceed \$3000.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Nemeth seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

(Bills & Claims and Resolutions appended to this set of minutes.)

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Accepting Various Streets

Mayor Miller read by title an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING VARIOUS STREETS OR PARTS OF STREETS AS A PART OF THE PUBLIC ROAD SYSTEM OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Kiser explained that this past summer the Engineering Department reviewed a number of recorded land development plats which had been approved complete. All roadways within the subdivisions were inspected to insure that they were constructed to Township standards. After this review the Engineering Department has recommended that these roads formally be accepted as part of the municipal road system.

Mayor Miller opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on second reading. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lempert and carried unanimously.

Speed Limits on Various Roads

Mayor Miller read by title an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON CONCERNING THE SPEED LIMIT ON VARIOUS ROADS, AMENDING THE “CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968”.

Mr. Kiser said that with the above referenced ordinance accepting streets, it is also necessary to set the authorized speed limit thereon. The proposed ordinance recommends that a 25 mile per hour speed limit be set on the streets listed.

Mayor Miller opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Goerner offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on second reading. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nemeth and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

Flooding of Rental Dwellings

Mayor Miller read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CONCERNING FLOODING OF RENTAL DWELLINGS AND AMENDING THE “CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968”.

Mr. Schmierer said that the proposed ordinance continues to require written notification by a landlord to potential tenants in the event that the rental dwelling which is the subject of the lease has been determined to be located in a flood zone or flood hazard area as defined by State statute. He said that other events which trigger notification include if the dwelling has sustained flood damage and repairs necessitated the issuance of a construction permit by the Township; if either the landlord or prior tenants, to the landlord’s knowledge, have submitted flood loss claims under the National Flood Insurance Program; and if the rental dwelling has been proposed for

participation in the FEMA Mitigation Grant Funding Program operated through the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance as amended on first reading. Ms. Nemeth seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The public hearing was set for November 9, 2009

Tree Removal

Mayor Miller read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-24.1, CONCERNING THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION, AND AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968, REGARDING TREE REMOVAL, PRESERVATION, AND MITIGATION.

Mr. Solow, Planning Director outlined the three components of the proposed ordinance. The main component is to maintain trees in their natural environment while allowing for the development of land. The ordinance charges a developer to work with the Township Engineer and the Township Arborist to craft a development plan to minimize the removal of, and the impact of the development on healthy trees. The ordinance establishes a set of Standards that must be met by the developer during construction to ensure that the trees and their root systems are not damaged.

The second component requires a more detailed tree survey be submitted with minor site plan, major site plan, and major subdivision applications. The last component adds new duties for the Shade Tree Commission. The proposed ordinance authorizes the Shade Tree Commission to review and provide recommendations on applications for minor site plans, major site plans and major site divisions filed with the Township that have been deemed complete. Mr. Solow said that this oversight furthers the purpose of the ordinance by allowing development applications to be vetted through the Commission established specifically to protect the trees in the Township.

Ms. Lempert offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on first reading. Mr. Liverman seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The public hearing was set for November 23, 2009

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION

TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION
(Open Public Meetings Act Sec.3)

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton:

1. This body will now convene into a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of an item or items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed in said session is as follows:

Negotiations

3. Stated as precisely as presently possible, the following are the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted at said session can be disclosed to the public:

Within 90 days or upon settlement of litigation, if applicable

Princeton Borough

Joint Services and Consolidation
Human Services Commission
Valley Road Building
Revaluation
Synturf

Princeton University

PILOT
Alexander Street in the Township

Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad

The above referenced issues were discussed by Township Committee.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott
Township Clerk