

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor George Piazza called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Act" this is a Regular Meeting of the Township Committee as published in the Hunterdon Review, the agenda has been posted at the Municipal Building and distributed to the Hunterdon Review, Courier News, the Express Times, the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Star Ledger.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Piazza asked everyone to stand for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present - George Piazza, Patricia Schriver, Jay Weeks
Edward Post, Francis Morrison

Absent -

Also Present - Attorney Eric Bernstein and Clerk Karen Sandorse and 9 members of the public.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2008.

Motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the Executive Session of March 19, 2008.

ORDINANCE

Introduction

Ordinance No. 2008-05 - Amending the Land Use Ordinance – Specifically Chapter 45

Motion by Mr. Post seconded, by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee introduced Ordinance No. 2008-05. (as entitled below)

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
ORDINANCE NO. 2008-05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE FOR
THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AND MORE SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 45 (LAND USE PROCEDURES)

Public hearing will be held on May 7, 2008.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken Lockwood Gorge – Raritan River Road – Michele Pennucci

Mrs. Michele Pennucci sent a letter to the Township Committee stating concerns she has with parking and speeding in front of her home on Raritan River Road. This matter has been discussed in the past. The Township Committee would like the Police Chief to perform a survey for parking and speeding on both ends of the Gorge entrances. Warren Gabriel, DPW Assistant Supervisor, stated that the State opened the High Bridge end of the Gorge the day after the last Committee meeting. It is open up to the trestle and they graded the area. There is parking on the High Bridge end, however, the parking situation remains the same on the Califon side.

Motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee requested that the Police Chief perform a traffic and parking survey on both ends of the Gorge entrances to determine if an ordinance is warranted.

The Mayor stated to Mrs. Pennucci that the Township Committee is going to ask the Police Chief to perform a traffic survey of the area. If the survey indicates that there is an issue with the traffic the Township Committee will then take further action. Mrs. Pennucci asked if the survey will pertain to the speed limit or the parking problem. Mayor Piazza stated that both concerns will be looked at. Mrs. Pennucci asked if the Township Committee is aware that the State is closing the gorge and the High Bridge end is the side that will be closed off. That was her reason for writing the letter. Mr. Post stated that notwithstanding the changes, they would like the assessment done as things stand today. Mrs. Pennucci stated that previously the Califon end of the Gorge was getting more of the overflow but they will soon be able to continue into the Gorge where there is a turnaround by the trestle. Mrs. Pennucci said that the Califon end has very limited parking at this time. The residents at that end or inundated with cars parking all over the place. The High Bridge end has not been affected to a great degree by the overflow due to ample parking. Ms. Schriver stated that the State Fish and Game's original intent was to open the Gorge from both ends, however, you will not be able to park and drive through. There will be a walkway for pedestrians to walk through. Ms. Schriver said that she does not know if that was changed since Committee members met with the State to discuss the plan. Mr. Post asked Mrs.

Pennucci if that despite the proposed changes was her concern the parking and speeding on Raritan River Road. Mrs. Pennucci stated that yes it was her concern. Mr. Post stated that the Chief will be asked to look into the matter and will provide the Committee with his recommendations for an ordinance. Mrs. Pennucci stated that a fishing club posted “No Parking” signs. Mr. Post stated that unless the Committee adopts an ordinance the “No Parking” cannot be enforced. The Clerk will ask for Fish and Game to attend a meeting to inform the Committee of the proposed changes to the Gorge.

CWA 1040 Memorandum of Agreement – Approve-Authorize Mayor/Clerk to Sign

Attorney Bernstein asked the Township to authorized the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Agreement at such time that the parties have come to an agreement regarding such. If there is no agreement met relative to the language the Agreement is not to be signed. Warren Gabriel asked if it weren’t premature to make such an authorization when both parties have not completed their negotiations. Mr. Post stated that if the CWA and Township Committee come to an agreement prior to the next meeting, the MOA can be signed by both parties and the Attorney can prepare the Contract.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee authorized the Mayor and Clerk to execute the CWA 1040 Memorandum of Agreement upon concurrence to the language therein.

Township Garage

Mr. Post stated, that at the last meeting, the Committee talked about getting feedback from Engineer Risse relative to what was covered in the estimate he provided for the cost of the construction of a new DPW Garage. Mr. Post read the response letter aloud. The DEP Wetlands expert stated that the township has a good chance at securing the approval based upon his site visit. The application plan was filed with DEP to allow for the redevelopment of the site. The response has not been received to date. As far as the budget price, Engineer Risse did research on preengineered building for maintenance garages with minor office space and bathroom facilities and construction costs with these types of building fall under prevailing wage. He spoke with a general contractor who recently completed the construction of such a garage, constructed under the current stormwater regulations and included a wash bay and other typical maintenance garage features. The square ft. price included all site preparation, all stormwater collection, detention basins, paving, curbing and sidewalks. The building was smaller than the Township’s proposal so the unit cost per square ft. might be slightly higher than the Township’s because they did not included a septic system. Engineer Risse also stated that the Mayor asked him to ere on the high side to insure proper budgeting. Engineer Risse proposed a structure of 120’ by 200’ or 24,000 sq. ft. Mr. Post stated that he asked Engineer Risse if the Township had a punchlist of requirements so the Committee could compare redevelopment of the present location with any potential new sites. We do not have that at this time. The Clerk is to ask the

DPW Supervisor to inventory the requirements of a new construction, such as the number of bays, offices, stalls for salt storage, wash bays, etc. At that time, comparisons can be made based on the needs.

Engineer Risse also stated that he spoke with the DPW Supervisor, Paul Jones, and he will be visiting the Mountain View site once they speak with Gary MacQueen.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Application for Social Affair Permit – St John Newman Church – June 7, 2008

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved an application for Social Affair Permit for St John Newman Church for an event to be held on June 7, 2008.

Approve Applications for Raffle Licenses – LTFAS – May 24, 2008

Motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved two (2) applications for Raffle Licenses for the LTFAS for events to be held on May 24, 2008.

Accept Library Clerk Resignation – Maria Taluba

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee accepted the resignation of the Library Clerk Maria Taluba.

Hunterdon County Shared Services – Mayor Piazza

Mayor Piazza stated that he received correspondence from the HC Freeholders regarding shared services for Wastewater Management. The letter stated that the NJDEP requests that Hunterdon County become the County Wastewater Management Planning Agency. They are seeking feedback from all of the municipalities to see if they are willing to let them lead the process with the towns working with them. Mr. Post asked if that if we were to relinquish that control, would it mean that they could determine that Lebanon Township should be a sewer community.

The Clerk will forward copies to the Township Committee for review and the Township Planner for his opinion.

Approve Lease Agreement for Police Firing Range – Melick Property

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the Lease Agreement for the Police Firing Range at

Melick Property for the 2008 year at a cost of \$1.00 and authorized the Mayor and Clerk to execute.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

Committee Members provided a description of vouchers exceeding \$1000.00.

Motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the April 2, 2008 bill list in the amount of \$ 246,209.68.

CORRESPONDENCE

Planning Board Clerk Memo - Fire Protection Ordinance
Lebanon Township Historians Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2008

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Mayor Piazza stated that he needed to apologize to Mr. Anthony Casale because Mr. Casale had asked earlier who owned 419 Penwell Road. Mayor Piazza stated that the Township does, however, he has since been informed that the Township does not, the County owns it.

Mr. Bill Raushenberger asked if there is an access road onto the Melick property where the police have their firing range. Mayor Piazza stated that there is a road leading to the property.

Mr. Anthony Casale asked if the Committee received any information on whether the Township filed insurance claims for the Fire Station No. 1 and Combe Fill Litigation. Mayor Piazza stated that he spoke to the insurance company and there was a claim filed and it was settled. The Township did not receive compensation. The agent is looking into the archives to see exactly what happened.

Mr. Casale also asked for clarification as to which Township Board relates to Ordinance 2008-05. Attorney Bernstein stated that that ordinance relates to the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment.

Motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 39-2008 and convened in executive session at 7:34.

**TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
RESOLUTION NO. 39A-2008**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, this meeting will be closed to the Public to discuss the following matters:

Collective Bargaining – PBA and CWA Negotiations
Police Department Personnel – Eric Rautenberg – Chief Mattson
Library Personnel

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee reconvened the Regular Committee meeting at 8:58 p.m. AYES: Schriver, Post, Piazza, Weeks NAYS: Morrison

Attorney Bernstein noted that all members of the Governing Body present at the commencement of the executive session were present at the recommencement of the open session as well as the Township Clerk and the Township Attorney. Attorney Bernstein noted that the Committee met in executive session and discussed a library position concept in which there was no formal action taken. The Chairman of the Library Committee was in attendance and will be making a recommendation prior to the close of the meeting for an acting Library Clerk. The Committee met with the Police Chief relative to Police Department manpower and requested that the Chief make certain inquiries regarding

Patrolman Eric Rautenberg and his present assignment as it relates to the Department. The Chief will get back to the appropriate parties once he acquires the necessary information which was supplemented by Officer Rautenberg. The Committee also discussed the revision to the proposed MOA for the CWA Contract and requested that Township Attorney go back and redo the MOA that was originally drafted and submitted at tonight's meeting. Relative to PBA; there was discussion as to the implementation of the proposed Police Pittman Schedule and in lieu of doing a MOA, followed by a Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Attorney's office will prepare a draft Collective Bargaining Agreement, showing the changes in the contract, for review prior to any action being taken by the Committee in terms of an authorization.

Mr. Art Gerlich stated that he would like to recommend that the Township Committee appoint Wendy Harding as Acting Library Clerk for the time in which it takes to hire someone permanently.

Appoint Acting Head Library Clerk

Motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee appointed Wendy Harding as Acting Library Clerk at a salary to be determined by the CWA 1040 Contract.

James Bolek Request

Detective Sergeant James Bolek, former member of the Township Police Department, has sent correspondence to the Township Committee requesting that the Township Committee postpone any further reimbursement of his health insurance coverage at this time.

Motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee accepted James Bolek's request pursuant to his April 1, 2008 letter and that any further requests to be reimbursed at a future time will have to be taken by a separate action by the Township Committee.

ADJOURN

Having no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Sandorse, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Approved: April 19, 2008

Edward Post III, Deputy Mayor