

**LAKWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2006**

The Lakewood Township Committee held a meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2006 in the Lakewood Municipal Building, at 5:30 PM for the Executive Session and 7:30 P.M. for the Public Meeting, with the following present:

Mayor.....	Meir Lichtenstein
Deputy Mayor.....	Raymond Coles
Committee Members.....	Senator Robert Singer
	Menashe Miller
	Charles Cunliffe
Municipal Manager.....	Frank Edwards
Municipal Attorney.....	Steven Secare
Municipal Clerk.....	Bernadette Standowski

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller.
Resolution No. 2006-397 – Adopted.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PRAYER

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, by Resolution of the Township Committee adopted January 1, 2006 and published in the Ocean County Observer on September 20, 2006.

ROLL CALL

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller, and carried, to open the meeting.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF: 9/28/06

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Senator Singer, to approve the above Minutes.
On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Cunliffe, and Mayor Lichtenstein.
Abstain: Mr. Miller and Deputy Mayor Coles.

Minutes approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: None

PUBLIC LAND SALE: BLOCK 340, LOT 1

Mr. Secare asked anyone who has an interest in Block 340, Lot 1, to come to the microphone and give their name and address so the Clerk can record it. The minimum bid is \$155,500.00. The successful bidder must have on his or her person this evening, ten percent of that amount in the form of a certified check or cash.

Shlomo Katz, 1415 Cedarview Avenue – Offered a bid in the amount of \$155,500.00.

As Mr. Katz was the sole bidder, Mr. Secare declared him to be the successful bidder, and asked him to give the Clerk \$15,550.00.

PRESENTATIONS: Bernie Gindoff

Bernard Gindoff, Chairman of the Transportation Board, offered a presentation with regard to unsafe traffic conditions and parking problems in the downtown area. Mr. Gindoff also spoke on the matter of Ocean County having the highest amount of fatal accidents in the State of New Jersey. He recommended to the Township to create a task force through the Police Department, with the assistance of Director Peters, to attack the problem.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked Mr. Gindoff if he was suggesting a task force to start in Lakewood, for Lakewood, or does he want to get together with the other municipalities in the County, and take a look at the County.

Mr. Gindoff answered that his big vision would be County. But he would like to see Lakewood start their own, to start it here, and let the other towns follow.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked Director Peters to meet with Mr. Gindoff to discuss this matter.

Mr. Cunliffe stated that he had previously suggested that they hire additional officers and expand the Traffic & Safety Division.

Director Peters answered that they would welcome it, because it would give them the ability to split those duties and have basically a detective side of the uniformed division in Traffic & Safety as well as an enforcement side. But they could target specific areas, and as has been pointed out, there are a lot of patterns that emerge, such as accidents in the same area. You can take many proactive measures. Of course, the downside that no one likes to hear is that means enforcement, and unfortunately, sometimes the enforcement is what changes the behavior.

Mr. Cunliffe asked the Committee that when it comes time for the preparation of next years' Budget that they talk about approving additional hires for a larger Traffic & Safety Division.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked Director Peters to look into funding sources on the state and federal levels to help pay for some additional officers.

ORDINANCES FOR DISCUSSION: None

Mayor Lichtenstein reviewed quality of life items from the previous meeting.

As to the tree trimming issue on Route 9, Mr. Miller advised he was to go to Public Works to meet with Mr. Franklin to point out the areas in question. He will meet with Mr. Franklin in the near future.

As to the issue of the turn-around at the entrance at Leisure Village, Mr. Mignella advised there has been no change with the DOT status. The last he heard was that DOT was to provide him with a schedule, and as of this date, he still does not have that schedule.

Senator Singer advised that as to the traffic light at the Pontiac dealer on Route 9, it appears that the Engineer left the State, but they are putting the project out to bid within the next thirty (30) days. He asked Mr. Mignella to follow up on that issue.

Senator Singer further advised that he was asked to contact the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission regarding the inspection station on Route 70. He received a letter from Sharon Harrington, Chief Administrator, thanking him for his letter regarding the landscaping of the Lakewood Inspection Station, and updating him on the issue since their last conversation. They have reviewed the property and have formulated plans to enhance the site. The plans call for major construction and site work which includes landscaping design. The staff has been instructed to prepare a comprehensive site evaluation which includes addressing the landscape issues. Quotations to install fencing, as suggested, were obtained, but unfortunately prices came in greater than the original estimates to replace the dead trees. They estimate the completion of this project in Spring 2007.

As to other DOT issues, Senator Singer advised that if the Engineer does not receive a response by next week, to please contact his office and he will reach out to DOT.

As to the issue of unsafe conditions in the areas of the private schools on New Hampshire Avenue and Cross Street, Director Peters advised he has tasked the community affairs people with handling this matter.

As to the issue of the Hearthstone neighborhood meeting, Mayor Lichtenstein asked that this matter be brought back to the meeting of October 26th.

Comments from Committee members:

Mr. Cunliffe advised he received a letter from the Chairman of the Zoning Board, and attached to that letter, were letters from the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the State of New Jersey, and a Resolution from the Ocean County Planning Board, all regarding the Route 9 corridor. Quite a few years ago, he participated in at least two meetings regarding Route 9, and the whole concept of improving and widening Route 9. The Planning and Zoning Boards need to know what the plans are because they are trying to enforce the UDO and HD-6 and HD-7 Ordinances, but the Developers keep saying that they are getting the documentation from the State, and they say just to withhold the DTS.

You can't have it both ways; you can't have the State chastise the Township and then have the Township enact a UDO and specific Ordinances at the State's request, and then they document that all they want is the DTS. The Township needs to get a straight answer on this. The Committee did those Ordinances at the request of the State of New Jersey, DOT, and then the Ocean County Engineer. But the Boards need direction.

Mayor Lichtenstein answered that he was recently at a meeting with Mayor Brush, the Ocean County Engineer, members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board, and other people, in Toms River. Basically, they were looking at the stretch of Route 9 from Lakewood to Toms River, and they received a letter from the Commissioner of DOT, stating he would encourage the town to hold the DTS, and that the town should, through the Engineering Department, pass that information on to the Planning and Zoning Boards. They are also being told there is no money to do Route 9. The town has some properties along Route 9 that if they would not allow people to build within that 100' setback, it actually gets zoned out of use. And there have been some cases. And that is very weak case law for the town to stand on. If the Planning or Zoning Board denies something based on the possibility of Route 9 getting done, if you go in front of a Judge, Mr. Cunliffe is absolutely right, they need to know what the State wants the town to do, and what the follow up is going to be.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked Senator Singer what the results of the recent meeting regarding the Route 9 project were.

Senator Singer advised that the meeting was with the County Engineer, and they have all been asked to hold that line. It was agreed that the first stage of this project would start in Lakewood, and the least amount of disruption would be the dualization through Lakewood into the northern part of Dover Township. The point that you have to be realistic about is that the Commissioner can not commit to say they have the money to do the project. He said he wants to ease some of the difficulties, and they discussed some of the areas of concern in Lakewood. If you are holding that line, he does not believe you will be overturned in Court. The Commissioner has reaffirmed that, and the County has that on record, he just can not say at this time that they have the money to do the project. It does not mean the project is dead; he just does not have the money right at this minute to do the project.

Mike Sernotti, Chairman of the Zoning Board – Outlined the concerns of the Zoning Board. He asked for some direction so they support what the Township wants, so they can help the matter, and not hurt it.

Mr. Mignella advised that Jim Priola, the Zoning Board Engineer, will write an official letter in response to the correspondence.

With regard to the parking problems around the Municipal Building, Mayor Lichtenstein stated that usually when they have the most parking problems, is when there is Court. In order to solve the problem, and possibly to accommodate the working people, he was wondering if they could consider night Court. The parking lot is not as full at night. Maybe they can take a quick look at this suggestion and see if they can move some of the activity in the Building to the evenings.

Mr. Edwards answered this has already been suggested and they are trying to get a handle on if there are any union issues, and hours, and what would be the potential costs. They are still looking into it and evaluating the matter, and will provide any new information.

Mayor Lichtenstein thanked Mr. Franklin for his assistance in keeping the downtown area clean. He asked if there was any schedule for street sweeping in the town.

Mr. Franklin advised they what they do with some of the smaller communities is that they have a leader, and the leader will call and they will set up a time for street sweeping, and they come through and clean the streets. They have all the cars out by 10:00. There is approximately a six to eight week period in which they try to do all the public streets in town. They work with the leaders of each community for garbage collection, recycling and street sweeping.

Mayor Lichtenstein further complimented Director Peters, and the Police Department, for their work in targeting the issues of gang activity and gun violence.

Senator Singer voiced his concerns with regard to the safety of the many private schools in Lakewood. He asked that they consider holding a symposium, inviting representatives from all of the private schools, and public schools, and offering to go out to each school to do a walk-through, to provide a list of safety measures they can do to correct possible problems.

Director Peters agreed. They will be going out to all the schools with a joint task force in early November, with members of the State Police, members of the County Prosecutors Office, and members of the Lakewood Police Department, in order to do school safety surveys for all of the schools in Lakewood.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC WILL BE HEARD for a limit of one (1) hour. Each speaker will have four (4) minutes and shall be limited to one time at the Podium.

Mayor Lichtenstein opened the meeting to the public.

Bernard Williams, Clifton Avenue – Advised he attended a meeting in Lawrenceville with regard to school safety.

Noreen Gill, 192 Coventry Drive – Commented with regard to an environmental consultant.

Larry Simons, Schoolhouse Court – Commented with regard to the opening of the Employment Center, and the strict enforcement of traffic regulations in the downtown area.

Gerry Ballwanz, Governors Road – Commented on rezoning issues in the UDO and on the current zoning map. Also commented that the current zoning map is not available on the website.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked Mr. Mignella to look into making a map available on the website.

Bill Hobday - Commented on cablevision issues.

Alice Kelsey, Original Leisure Village – Commented with regard to the opening of the Employment Center.

James Waters, 1275 Old County Line Road – Commented on school safety issues. Also asked that the Committee reach out to the Commissioner of Education as he would like to see the State take over the fiscal responsibilities of the Lakewood School District.

Mr. Cunliffe offered a Motion to enable the Mayor to send a letter to the School Board President and for Senator Singer to see if they can get legislation, that forty-eight hours before any Board of Education meeting, the Agenda is published on their website. Not only that, but to keep them under control, the Board Secretary's report and Treasurer's report should be posted forty-eight hours before. If that is done, there would be no possible way for them to go five or six months without seeing a Board Secretary's report or Treasurer's report, and not know they had a 2.1 million dollar deficit.

Senator Singer advised that he received a telephone call this date from someone requesting that the Board Minutes be posted on the website for people to view. He further advised that OLS is drafting legislation requiring a public comment session at all meetings. He will provide a copy of that legislation before it is introduced. The Committee can add any additional information they wish before it is introduced.

Samuel Kennedy, 390 Cedarbridge Avenue – Complained about racial remarks being directed at him, from children on a school bus, while walking on Cedarbridge Avenue.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked that the times and school bus information be given to Director Peters for him to look into it.

Christine Abrams, Coral Avenue – Read from the NJ statutes regarding notice of hearing on amendment to zoning ordinance. She asked that Senator Singer consider sponsoring a Bill that would require governing bodies to alert their residents when zoning changes occur during a six year master plan update. Also commented on the issues of identification cards for immigrants and the proposal to extend Oak Street and the amount of traffic in the neighborhood.

Mr. Cunliffe asked that Birdsall Engineering take all appropriate measures to put Phase II and Phase III of the Vine Street Project on the front burner, to try to get that construction started, because that will give the residents an alternate route to get either north to Howell, or south to Toms River and Dover Township, once that connects all the way through to Vermont Avenue and crosses Route 70.

Mr. Miller asked which phase includes putting Vine Street through from Pine Street to Cedarbridge Avenue.

Mr. Cunliffe answered that would be Phase II, and Phase III connects Vine Street across Route 70 to Vermont Avenue.

Mike Sernotti, 672 Vine Street – Complained about speeding on Vine Street; suggested the installation of a four-way stop at the end of Vine Street by Oak Street. He also asked for enforcement of speeding regulations, and review of the speed limit.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked Director Peters to look into the enforcement of traffic regulations in this area, and report back at the next meeting. He also asked the Engineering Department to look into the four-way stop suggestion as well as a change in speed limit.

Dina Spinelli, 645 Sterling Avenue – Advised there is no street lighting on her block, between Somerset and North Oakland. Due to the increase in vandalism and crime in the area, she requested help from the Township in getting a street light installed.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked Director Peters to look into it to see if the installation of a street light is warranted, and to report back at the next meeting. He asked Mr. Edwards to check into the cost for the installation, as the utilities are underground in this area.

Mr. Miller also advised that the Committee previously approved the installation of a street light at the corner of Spruce Street, at the cul-de-sac, and it has yet to be installed. He asked Mr. Edwards to check into when that street light will be installed.

Mike McNeill, 201 Lincoln Street – Commented on the application process for affordable housing.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Lichtenstein closed the meeting to the public.

At this time, the professionals left the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The below listed items are considered to be routine by the Township of Lakewood and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

1. Resolution authorizing Bingo and Raffle Applications: Temple Beth Am
Resolution No. 2006-398
2. Resolution authorizing the renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License to Ebony Maze Productions for the 2006- 2007 License Year.
Resolution 2006-399
3. Resolution canceling various grant receivable and grant appropriated reserve balances.
Resolution No. 2006-400

4. Resolution awarding a contract to Spillman Technologies, Inc. for the purchase of Records Management Software, sum not to exceed \$461,054.00.
Resolution No. 2006-401
5. Resolution authorizing the execution of a Schedule "C" Agreement with the County of Ocean.
Resolution No. 2006-402
6. Resolution approving the Bylaws of the Central Jersey Health Insurance Fund.
Resolution No. 2006-403
7. Resolution supporting NJ Hand Inc.'s application for funds from the NJ DCA Balanced Housing Program.
Resolution No. 2006-404

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Coles, to approve Resolutions 1 through 7 on the Consent Agenda.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,
Deputy Mayor Coles and Mayor Lichtenstein.

Resolution Nos. 2006-398 through 2006-404 – Adopted.

ORDINANCES SECOND READING - None

ORDINANCES FIRST READING (2nd Reading and Public Hearing 10/26/06)

- **An Ordinance amending the Code of the Township of Lakewood, Chapter 18, Unified Development Ordinance, to delete multi-family and townhouse uses in the ROP Residential Office Park Zone District in the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey.**

Read by title only for first reading.

In order to allow Deputy Mayor Coles and Mr. Miller the time to review this Ordinance, Mr. Cunliffe asked that it be carried to the first meeting in November, and that a copy be provided to the Planning Board for their review.

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Coles, to carry the first reading of the above Ordinance to the meeting of November 9, 2006.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,
Deputy Mayor Coles and Mayor Lichtenstein.

First reading of the above Ordinance carried to the meeting of November 9, 2006.

• **An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, renaming a portion of a street name within the Township of Lakewood in order to eliminate a duplicate street name pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-1k et. seq. (Roosevelt to Fillmore between the terminus of Roosevelt & Ford)**

Read by title only for first reading.

The above Ordinance was offered by Deputy Mayor Coles, second by Mr. Cunliffe.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,
Deputy Mayor Coles and Mayor Lichtenstein.

Ordinance No. 2006-68 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on October 26, 2006.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST OF: 10/3/06

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Coles, to approve the above Bill List.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe, Deputy Mayor Coles and Mayor Lichtenstein.

Negative: Senator Singer

Bill List approved.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Senator Singer, second by Mr. Cunliffe, and carried, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.