

BOROUGH OF MEDFORD LAKES, NEW JERSEY

EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING (3:00pm)

February 17, 2012

An Emergency Special Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, New Jersey, was held on the above date in Oaks Hall at Municipal Cabin, 1 Cabin Circle, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055 beginning at 3:00pm. Following the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence (Council and the public observed a moment of silence to honor service men and women defending our country). Clerk Mark McIntosh read the Open Public Meetings Act: pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice was not provided and that the nature of the urgency and importance of the meeting and the nature of the substantial harm to the public interest in delaying holding of this meeting is Emergency Medical Service coverage. This meeting will be limited to discussion of and acting with respect to such matters of urgency and importance. The Central Record and Burlington County Times were notified via email on February 16, 2012 at 3:53pm. The need for this meeting could not have been reasonably foreseen. Those wishing to be notified for changes to scheduled meetings were notified via email or regular mail.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Mark McIntosh called roll. Mayor Gregory C. Lackey, Deputy Mayor Thomas J. Cranston, Councilman Jeffrey Fitzpatrick and Councilman Robert D. Hanold, Sr. answered in attendance. Councilman Gary A. Miller and Solicitor Peter C. Lange, Jr., Esq. had notified the Clerk prior that they would be late. Also present were Manager Horner – Keizer and Clerk Mark J. McIntosh.

Councilman Fitzpatrick motioned to enter an Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Hanold.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 47E-12

A RESOLUTION EXCLUDING THE PUBLIC FROM A PUBLIC MEETING

WHEREAS, Section 7.a of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, otherwise known as the "Open Public Meetings Act" states that except as provided by Section 7.a, all meetings of a public body, such as the Borough Council, shall be open to the public at all times: and,

WHEREAS, Section 7.b provides that the Borough Council may exclude the public only from the portion of a meeting at which Borough Council discusses certain subjects which are listed in the aforementioned Section; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to discuss certain subject(s) which are listed in the aforementioned section and desires to exclude the public from the portion of the meeting at which the Borough Council will discuss said subject(s); and,

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 states that no public body shall exclude the public from any meeting to discuss any matter described in Section 7.b until the public body shall, at a meeting to which the public shall be admitted, first adopt a resolution making certain statements with respect to the subject(s) to be discussed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Borough Council hereby declares that the general nature of the subject(s) to be discussed by the Borough Council in closed session as follows:

- *Emergency Medical Services – Public Safety*

2. That the Borough Council hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at time when the Borough Solicitor advises the Borough Council that the disclosure will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Borough or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

3. That the Borough Council for the aforementioned reasons hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Borough Clerk to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

VOTE TO ADOPT

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Mayor Gregory C. Lackey			X			
Deputy Mayor Thomas J. Cranston			X			
Councilman Gary A. Miller					X	
Councilman Robert D. Hanold, Sr.		X	X			
Councilman Jeffrey Fitzpatrick	X		X			

REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Mayor Lackey explained that Council has concluded the Executive Session and reopened the Public Meeting. He further stated that Deputy Mayor Cranston had to leave due to prior work commitments.

Solicitor Lange explained the nature for calling the Emergency Session and need to enter an Executive Session.

Councilman Fitzpatrick explained to the public that Council and Management were concerned with a recent email received by the Borough which stated that all members of the Medford Lakes Emergency Squad were being disallowed by their attorney to not speak with Council.

Council collectively expressed concern that stopping communication between the contracted provider of EMS Services and the Borough would affect the public health and safety.

Chief Rosemary Countess of the Medford Lakes Emergency Squad stated that she was told directly by the attorney for the MLEMS to have no contact with the Borough Council.

Solicitor Lange attempted to clarify this statement by stating that the Mr. Warren didn't mean the operational arm of the squad but possibly meant the administrative arm.

During this attempt at clarification Chief Countess exited the meeting visibly upset.

President Sandy Wasson of the MLEMS stated that EMS Operations would continue as normal with communication to Borough Officials.

Trustee Ron Kane stated that the MLEMS would be having their own emergency meeting to discuss these concerns and recommended creation of a committee with the Council Public Safety Committee to ease the transformation into the EMS Department.

Hearing no further comment, Mayor Lackey closed public comment.

Councilman Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Lackey.

Vote to adjourn

Yeas – Lackey, Miller, Fitzpatrick, Hanold

Nays – None

Absent – Cranston

Meeting Adjourned