

**BOROUGH OF MEDFORD LAKES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 26, 2001**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, New Jersey, was held on the above date in Oaks Hall Council Chambers beginning at 7:30pm. Mayor Casey presided. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Casey read the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This is to announce that adequate notice in the form of Notice of Meetings was (1) posted on the Administration Building bulletin board, (2) mailed to The Central Record, Medford, NJ, (3) mailed to the Burlington County Times, Willingboro, NJ, (4) mailed to the Courier Post, Cherry Hill, NJ, and (5) filed with the Municipal Clerk. Advance written notice of this meeting was mailed to all persons who requested such notice according to the Clerk of the Municipality.

Answering Roll Call were: Mayor Timothy S. Casey, Councilman Joseph A. Aromando, and Councilman Gary F. Woodend. Also present were Manager Julie Keizer and Solicitor Vogdes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Leslie La Port, 132 Indian Mills Road, Shamong, NJ. She is a member of the Medford Lakes Garden Club, and brought to Council a proposal for the Club's planned beautification of the Nokomis Circle. The Club would be using plants native to New Jersey and would dedicate the new garden to Jim Kassel, Medford Lakes resident who died in a plane crash. Mayor Casey asked the date of the work. Mrs. La Port stated as soon as possible, May or early June. Mayor Casey suggested she leave a copy with the manager, who could meet with Mr. McCorristan, and get the project underway. He suggested that she meet with Mrs. Keizer and go ahead unless further Council action was needed.

Mr. and Mrs. McCartney, 280 Chicagami Trail, reported they found three stray kittens on their property, which backs to Camp Ockanickon. They called Animal Control, who picked up the kittens, at a cost of \$150 to the Borough (\$50 for each trip on a weekend.) They stated the cats are all over their yard, jumping up on windows, etc. They were wondering about the proposed cat ordinance. Also, the empty house next to them had many cats and left food outside for the strays. Mayor Casey stated discussion of the cat ordinance would be on the agenda for the May 24<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Chief Scott added that no ordinance would help with the stray cat problem, especially those coming from the camp. Manager Keizer suggested they visit a hunting store, where they could purchase a product which would potentially keep the cats away.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Woodend had several questions about bills on the list concerning expenses, which were answered by Manager Keizer: Signal Master, \$3,774, which was for detailing for the new police car; V.E. Ralph, which is a medical supply company, which was to replenish equipment for the rescue squad; Matlack Electric, which was to replace a DPW radio which had blown up; and L&E, which maintains the computers in the police cars.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

Councilman Woodend made a motion, seconded by Councilman Aromando, to pay the bills on the Bill List.

**VOTE TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Ayes: Casey, Aromando, Woodend

Nays: None

Motion carries

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Woodend made a motion, seconded by Councilman Aromando, to approve the Minutes of the April 12, 2001, meeting.

**VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES**

Ayes: Casey, Aromando, Woodend

Nays: None

Motion carries

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mayor Casey introduced the following resolution, seconded by Councilman Aromando:

**RESOLUTION 65-01**

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AS POLICE WEEK**

**Whereas**, the Congress and the President of the United States have designated May 15, 2001, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15, 2001, falls as National Police Week; and

**Whereas**, the members of the law enforcement agency of the Borough of Medford Lakes play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the Borough of Medford Lakes; and

**Whereas**, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement agency, and that members of our law enforcement agency recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and

**Whereas**, the men and women of law enforcement in the Borough of Medford Lakes unceasingly provide a vital public service;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes that all citizens of the Borough to observe the week of May 13-19, 2001 as Police Week. Further, May 15, 2001 shall be dedicated as Peace Officers' Memorial Day to honor those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 65-01

Ayes: Casey, Aromando, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution passes

Mayor Casey introduced the following resolution, seconded by Councilman Aromando:

**RESOLUTION 66-01**  
**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL CLERK**

**Whereas**, the office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world; and

**Whereas**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

**Whereas**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels; and

**Whereas**, Municipal Clerk's have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all.

**Whereas**, the Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community.

**Whereas**, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops, and the annual meetings of their associations.

**Whereas**, it is most appropriate that we the Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes that the week of April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup> 2001 is recognized as Municipal Clerk's Week.

Mayor Casey stated Council appreciates all the work Manager Keizer does, as well as all the clerks in other municipalities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 66-01

Ayes: Casey, Aromando, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution passes

Mayor Casey introduced a resolution not on the agenda, seconded by Councilman Aromando:

**RESOLUTION 67-01**

**A RESOLUTION HONORING DOROTHY HOHNER FOR 40 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO OCEAN TOWNSHIP AS THE CLERK.**

Mayor Casey stated this is the mother of Medford Lakes Manager Julie Keizer, who taught her everything she knows! Mrs. Keizer advised Council that her mother was being honored tonight, and she was unable to be there due to the conflict of schedules. She appreciated having this resolution that was being read at her mother's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 67-01

Ayes: Casey, Aromando, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution passes

**ORDINANCES**

At this time, there are no ordinances for consideration.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Code Enforcement Officer Lou Potter has a concern with regard to drainage throughout the Borough. When residents pave their driveways, they pave over the Borough right-of-way, causing drainage problems. He advised there is a home on Onondago which paved to the macadam, which causes water to run onto the property backing up to it. Those residents took pictures of the problem and gave them to Mr. Potter, but he stated he is powerless to take any action without an ordinance in place. There is nothing in the BOCA code to help him. Councilman Aromando reminded Council of the 25% lot coverage requirement, but Mayor Casey advised him that owners could comply and still have a problem. Councilman Woodend stated he felt Council could not stop people from paving out to the street. He felt that, even if Council did restrict it, the problem of runoff would just start farther up the drive. Mayor Casey asked Manager Keizer to meet with Tom Heck to find out why driveways don't require a building permit. He also advised that a driveway issue had been presented before the Planning Board, but they had declined to examine the issue at that time.
2. Mr. Potter also stated he had received a letter complaining about residents who put trash and debris out too early for trash collection. He did not feel it was generally a problem in Medford Lakes, but he was concerned about leaf and brush collection. Many residents put leaves and brush out for pickup after the trail has been done, and sometimes they sit for weeks or months. Mayor Casey suggested a cutoff date and possible a fee for late collection. Solicitor Vogdes stated that Ordinance 153 already addresses the issue, and it can be amended and put into effect quickly if needed. Mayor Casey agreed there was a need for a timeframe.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Powers, 19 Onondago Trail, questioned the problem of how the weather can affect residents' ability to get their leaves ready for pickup. He stated many residents aren't aware that they can call DPW for a pickup, and he didn't believe the Borough should hold residents to a timeframe.

3. Diane Heck, architect at Ragan Design, contacted Manager Keizer about doing a comparison of renovating the Oaks Hall project with the Police Department where it is and the possibility of moving it to the DPW lot. She stated she needs more information on what comparisons Council wants, and that the fee for this work would be \$500. Councilman Aromando stated he wanted facts on the feasibility of moving the Police Department to that site, and suggested asking Mr. Adison, the architect who is doing the DPW project, for his input. He would like the Police Department to be at the site with the other public safety facilities, namely fire and squad. Councilman Woodend stated he had spoken to Rich Ragan, who advised him it would cost more to move the Police Department to the DPW complex. He added that new structures almost always end up costing more than originally budgeted for, and that \$125 per square foot is an average price.

Mayor Casey made a motion, seconded by Councilman Aromando, to appropriate \$500 to Ragan Design for a study.

VOTE TO APPROPRIATE \$500 FOR RAGAN DESIGN

Ayes: None

Nays: Casey, Aromando, Woodend

Motion fails

Paul Adison has advised Council there is not enough room at the DPW facility to put the police. He added he felt the residents wanted the Police Department at the Oaks Hall facility, as did he. Councilman Aromando disagreed, stating he felt the residents would support moving the Police Department. He added that he was thinking of one facility with shared areas, not a separate police building. Mayor Casey stated he would agree to investigate relocating the Police Department to the DPW facility, but added he thought it would be more expensive. Manager Keizer stated that, from a safety standpoint, she wanted the Police Department to remain at the Oaks Hall facility. Also, for court purposes, it would be more convenient. Chief Scott advised Council that, if the court was going to be in Oaks Hall, then they couldn't tear down the current police part of the building. He added the court has certain requirements for holding prisoners and for lawyers to use. Also, he was definitely not in favor of police officers sharing a locker room with DPW workers, due to the guns and other equipment the officers would be storing there.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dave Wasson, 97 Wabun Trail, stated he felt the architect should give an estimate without being paid an additional \$500. He added that he felt the Court and the Police Department should stay together.

Councilman Aromando made a motion, seconded by Mayor Casey, to have Manager Keizer negotiate with Mr. Adison to reconfigure the Police Department at the DPW site, at an amount not to exceed \$500.

VOTE TO APPROVE UP TO \$500 FOR ADISON

Ayes: Casey, Aromando

Nays: Woodend

Motion carries

4. Manager Keizer stated she had received a letter from Alaimo, concerning the Nahma Trail extension. They had previously submitted an estimate, which included a grinder pump, but Council was not in favor of this system. Mrs. Keizer met with Paul Hayden and Bruce Cooper from the Waste Water Department, who advised her they preferred a gravity feed line, which will be more expensive than the

grinder pump. This information was forwarded to Alaimo. Mrs. Keizer stated the gravity feed line needs little or no maintenance. Councilman Woodend asked why the price, \$90,000, was now so much more expensive. Manager Keizer will speak with Alaimo about the cost difference.

5. Manager Keizer received a letter from Mr. Leggoe of 274 Chicagami Trail. The Planning Board turned down his request for the construction of a garage on his property. He wanted Council to overturn the Board's decision. Mayor Casey stated he had spoken with Solicitor Vogdes, who advised Council has no authority to overturn a Planning Board decision and Mr. Leggoe will have to take his complaint to Superior Court. Mr. Vogdes will send Mr. Leggoe a letter advising him of this.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Salaries – Further discussion ensued concerning several employees' salaries. The ordinance is ready and reflects the new salaries, with the exception of the police lieutenant, the superintendent of Public Works and the superintendent of Waste Water, which will be amended. Council discussed the pros and cons of having salary ranges for employees, which would be flexible for new employees. Chief Scott stated he had budgeted 3% for the police officers. There was discussion of the salary breakdown for the new tax collector, who receives a portion of her salary as the collector and a portion to perform other duties. Council also discussed Nancy Rodgers' salary, and any bonus or benefit for her certification. It was decided she would receive a 5% raise instead of the 3% across the board. Incentive pay for clerical workers was also discussed.

Health Benefits Waiver – Manager Keizer explained the waiver incentive, which allows an employee, who has a spouse with coverage, to opt out of Borough coverage, and receive a % savings of the cost to the Borough. The % could be up to 50%, Councilman Woodend stated he felt 35% would be more appropriate. Mrs. Keizer also explained that the funds could be earmarked for deferred comp, and she will further investigate the program.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Presentations - Mayor Casey confirmed that the next council meeting would be held at Vaughan Hall on May 10, 2001. At that time, the architects for the DPW and Oaks Hall projects will give presentations to the public.

School resource Officer – Mayor Casey has spoken with Superintendent Vanalesti and School Board member Marie Hall. He stated he is really not interested in the program, unless the school will provide financial assistance to reduce the cost to the Borough. Chief Scott advised Council having an officer assigned to the school could potentially cause a manpower shortage when that officer was out for illness or vacation. . He stated he does not see a reason to go forward with the program. He explained that, after accounting for holiday and vacation time, the Department really only has 7 1/2 officers able to work, not the nine which are on the books. Councilman Aromando asked Chief Scott if the Police Department worked with the schools on any type of violence education. Chief Scott explained the program the Department already participates in, and also that Sgt. Dogostino has been working on a program personalized for Borough schools, which is almost ready to implement. He added that officers already do foot patrols through both schools during each shift worked.

Whelihans - Allen Barnes of the Planning Board questioned Council about parking, and if there was a need for an ordinance. He asked specifically about the alley behind the old Settler's Inn, and if it is a Borough Road. Mr. Woodend replied that the Borough could vacate the property. He added that he would like the Planning Board to approve the project, and added that Council would do whatever it takes to make the project happen. Mayor Casey added he wanted the Planning Board to know that Council was ready to go when the project was given the go ahead by the Planning Board. It was decided that Solicitor Vogdes would speak with Mr. Prime

with regard to easements. He has already sent them a letter stating the Borough's intention to go ahead with the project. Mr. Barnes stated he was under the impression that Whelihan's was planning to use the spaces in the Borough lot and was counting them in their calculations. He wondered if the Borough was willing to give up the spaces. Mayor Casey stated the Borough lot presently at the site would remain the Borough's property, and would be maintained as usual. Solicitor Vogdes added that it would be considered "Simultaneous Use", with the merchants using the spaces during the day and Whelihan's customers using them at night. The idea is not to make the spaces look like they belong exclusively to Whelihan's. Manager Keizer added that Whelihan's has come up with some unique ideas for making it evident that these are Borough spaces.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Vogdes had nothing to report at the current time.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Sewer Extension Update – Manager Keizer reminded Council she had given them an update.

Whelihan's - Mrs. Keizer has received an application for a liquor license transfer for Whelihan's. It has been given to the Police Department for investigation, which is a long, involved process. Also, she met with Mark Shourds, the architect for the proposed building. They discussed parking. Solicitor Prime, Whelihan's attorney, and Borough Solicitor Vogdes will meet with regard to easements. Councilman Woodend advised the plans had been approved by the Historic Commission.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Casey made a motion, seconded by Councilman Woodend, to adjourn to executive session.

### **RESOLUTION 68-01**

#### **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 in 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 is as follows:

**Insurance Negotiations  
Borough Manager's Review  
Police Negotiations**

2. That the Borough Council hereby declares that it's discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Borough Solicitor advised 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO ADJOURN

Ayes: Casey, Aromando, Woodend

Nays: None

Motion carries

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Keizer, RMC  
Borough Clerk