

**BOROUGH OF MEDFORD LAKES
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 16, 2004**

An Emergency Council Meeting was held on July 16, 2004, at 6:00pm, in the meeting room of the Medford Lakes Fire Department. Mayor Wasson presided. The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council discussed public notice. The Emergency Meeting did not allow for adequate time to notice the public. Notice will be published after the fact.

Answering Roll Call for the Borough were Mayor Dave Wasson and Councilman Gary Woodend. Councilman Tim Casey did not attend the meeting, but contributed via speaker phone. Also present were Solicitor Jim Vogdes, Manager Rich Knight, Deputy Clerk Mark McIntosh, Fire Chief Frank Martine, Wastewater Superintendent Paul Hayden, Emergency Management Coordinator Dave Matos, Project Manager Jack Kaczur, Borough Auditor Bob Stewart, and Borough Engineers Wayne Simpson and Brian Lafferty.

Mayor Wasson thanked Emergency Management Coordinator Dave Matos for his tireless and continuing work during the flood. Mr. Matos accepted the thanks on behalf of everyone working on all the recovery projects.

DAVE MATOS ADDRESSED COUNCIL. The State of Emergency is still in effect. He complimented the Borough employees and all the volunteers.

The sewer plant is back online, using temporary equipment. It was restored to power within 15 hours, thanks to the effort of Superintendent Hayden, Engineer Simpson, and the crew.

Drinking water should still not be consumed without boiling. Residents should contact State or County agencies to have their wells tested. Bottled water is also available.

Tabernacle Road is passable for emergency vehicles only. Lenape Trail is still closed. The New Jersey Department of Transportation is working to restore both roads.

COUNCIL DISCUSSED REPAIRS AT THE SEWER PLANT. The plant is working well on the temporary equipment; however, the yard is devastated. The bottom of the power distribution center was destroyed and needs new parts to bring the plant into compliance, which will be extremely expensive. The State wants the plant to be back online as soon as possible.

Mr. Kaczuk would like to have Superintendent Hayden order new equipment to replace the damaged items. Solicitor Vogdes agreed the money could be spent, due to the emergency situation. Council discussed the potential costs of the parts needed, most important of which are a generator and a transfer switch.

Auditor Stewart advised there is no need to go out for bids; funding can be borrowed from the Borough's surplus funds and paid back over a five-year period. Federal and State aid can be used to pay off the debt. FEMA reimburses 75% of the pro-rated value of the item based on the age of the equipment. The Borough would be responsible for the remaining 25% of the cost. The Department of Community Affairs will provide up to \$5,000,000 to match FEMA funds.

It is possible the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) will pay for repairs at the Department of Public Works. A representative from Scibel Insurance Company will be asked to attend the Regular Council Meeting on July 22, 2004, to answer questions concerning Borough property.

Mr. Simpson estimated it would cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to bring the sewer plant on line permanently. He suggested orders for equipment be placed immediately.

Councilman Casey made a motion, seconded by Councilman Woodend, to authorize the purchase of a hospital-grade generator, at a price not to exceed \$20,000, which includes delivery and installation.

Wayne Simpson will write the Purchase Order on Alaimo stationary.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF GENERATOR

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Motion carries

Superintendent Hayden asked Council to also consider the purchase of a transfer switch to interface between the generator and Public Service Gas & Electric. He estimated he could purchase an adequate one for \$16,500. He and Mr. Kaczur will determine the exact amount.

Mayor Wasson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Casey, to authorize the purchase of a transfer switch, at a price not to exceed \$16,500, which includes installation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF TRANSFER SWITCH

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Motion carries

COUNCIL DISCUSSED ROAD REPAIR. Mr. Kaczur advised that additional fencing would be arriving to secure the Tabernacle Road work site. Giberson will do work on Saturday to shore up the road to prevent it's collapse from traffic. A natural spring under the road is washing away the roadbed and another heavy storm could wash out the road at Beach One. The State will permanently repair the road; this is only a temporary fix. Also on Saturday, a contractor will remove debris from the area.

The estimated cost for repairs to the roadways and dams is \$13,000,000. Auditor Stewart suggested that the Borough estimate the total amount of repairs before submitting the application to Federal or State agencies. He also suggested erring on the high side of the amount, so as not to run short.

Solicitor Vogdes will prepare a "special emergency resolution" to cover expenses since the night of the flood, which now stand at approximately \$250,000.

COUNCIL DISCUSSED HOW TO HANDLE MONETARY DONATIONS: Per State regulations, monetary donations may be used to reimburse only those losses incurred by volunteers, not Borough employees. The money collected must be put into a special account and distributed from it.

QUESTIONS: Police Chief Martine asked about the possibility of the Mishemokwa Dam washing out. It appears to be sinking. He suggested including the cost of repair for the dam in the anticipated total cost of repairs. Greg Lackey advised the dam was repaired two years ago; he will investigate for the Colony.

Chief Martine asked if fencing could be erected around the sinkhole on Lenape Trail, at the two sides to Beach Drive, and also on Aetna Way.

Fire Chief (Deputy Clerk) McIntosh asked if the sewer plant should be raised to higher ground when repairs are made, to prohibit another wash out. Mr. Simpson advised that FEMA might refuse to pay for an entire new building.

Councilman Woodend made a motion, seconded by Mayor Wasson, to adjourn the meeting. Following a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Knight
Borough Manager

