

**BOROUGH OF MEDFORD LAKES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, New Jersey, was held on the above date in the Denby Annex of the Medford Lakes Colony beginning at 7:30pm. Mayor Wasson presided. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Wasson 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 for Borough Council were Mayor Dave Wasson, Councilman Timothy Casey and Councilman Gary Woodend. Also present were Manager Rich Knight, Deputy Clerk Mark McIntosh, Solicitor Jim Vogdes, Squad representative Sandy Wasson, and Colony representative Paul Weiss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ned Steel, 125 Lenape Trail, reported the Cub Mobil Derby is scheduled for Sunday, May 15, 2005. It will be held on Nantucket Trail this year instead of Lenape Trail. Mr. Steel will meet with Police Chief Martine prior to that date to schedule police coverage and with Superintendent McCorristan concerning the barriers.

Jeanie Watters, 269 Chicagami Trail, asked about the concrete barriers that had been on Stokes Road in the area of Beach Drive. They have not been there for several weeks and have been replaced by cones, which are constantly not in the correct location. Manager Knight advised Ms. Waters that the Burlington County Highway Department had removed the barriers to allow for snow plowing, but they will be put back very soon.

ORDINANCES

Councilman Casey introduced Ordinance 506, seconded by Mayor Wasson. However, Councilman Woodend has not been able to review the ordinance to his satisfaction.

Councilman Woodend made a motion, seconded by Councilman Casey, to table Ordinance 503 to the Regular Council Meeting on March 24, 2005.

VOTE TO TABLE ORDINANCE 503

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Motion carries

RESOLUTIONS

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

RESOLUTION 20-05

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A PROPERTY TAX REFORM CONVENTION

WHEREAS, all political power is inherent in the people and government exists for the protection, security and benefit of the people; and

WHEREAS, the people of this State have reserved to themselves, as part of their intrinsic sovereignty, the right to alter or reform the State Constitution and the statutes when the public good may require it; and

WHEREAS, the current system of property taxation in this state is unfair because it is not based on the ability to pay and is applied in an inequitable and non-uniform manner; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to revise and amend the State Constitution and the statutes to lessen the dependence of local government on property taxes, reduce property taxes as a share of overall public revenue, and find alternative means of funding local government services; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature, when considering proposals for broad restructuring of revenue sources, recognizes that there is great political risk in making recommendations which the general public might perceive as increasing taxes; and

WHEREAS, it is, therefore, essential that the citizens of New Jersey are fully engaged in the effort to restructure taxes; and

WHEREAS, the most effective way to have maximum participation is a vote on whether or not to proceed with a tax reform process and, if this question is approved, another vote by the public to ratify the recommendations for tax reform; and

WHEREAS, the convening of a special convention for the purpose of recommending amendments to the New Jersey Constitution and changes to the statutes is the most appropriate method for building a consensus for, and implementing reform;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of Medford Lakes of Burlington County, State of New Jersey does, hereby express its strong support for the convening of such convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we do call upon State Senator Martha Bark and our representatives in the General Assembly, Francis L. Bodine and Larry Chatzidakis, that they support, with voice and vote, legislation that would empower the people to express their will concerning the convening of such a convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copy of this resolution is forwarded to Senator Bark, to Assembly Members Bodine and Chatzidakis, to Acting Governor Codey, and to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-05

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution 20-05 is approved

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

RESOLUTION 21-05

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING TRADING POST TRAIL BETWEEN STOKES ROAD AND TABERNACLE ROAD AND TABERNACLE ROAD BETWEEN TRADING POST TRAIL AND POWHATAN TRAIL AS SCHOOL COURTESY ROUTES

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation identifies certain roadways as school courtesy routes; and

WHEREAS, a major flood on July 12, 2004, caused significant damage to the infrastructure of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the damage has resulted in the Borough rerouting school traffic from Aetna Way to Trading Post Trail and Tabernacle Road;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey that the governing body officially recognizes Trading Post Trail between Stokes Road and Tabernacle Road and Tabernacle Road between Trading Post Trail and Powhatan Trail as School Courtesy Routes.

The Borough's engineer asked that this designation be made by resolution to enable grant applications to be made.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-05

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution 21-05 is approved

Councilman Woodend introduced the following resolution, seconded by Mayor Wasson:

RESOLUTION 22-05

A RESOLUTION AWARDED A SERVICE CONTRACT NOT TO EXCEED \$450.00 FOR THE YEAR 2005, FOR SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S NFIRS 5.0 REPORTING, FOR PERSONNEL TRAINING RECORDS, AND FOR INVENTORY MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS, the Fire Department of the Borough of Medford Lakes is in need of a maintenance service for its NFIRS 5.0 reporting, Personnel Training Records and Inventory Maintenance Manager Software Programs; and

WHEREAS, the software being used by the Fire Department is Copyrighted to Emergency Software Products, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Contract Attached shall be active for the period of January 1, 2005 until January 1, 2006; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes that a service contract for “Fire Department Software Maintenance” is awarded to:

1. Emergency Software Products, Inc., 2504 New Albany Road, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
2. The agreed to contract attached shall be for the period of 1/1/05 to 1/1/06.
3. The contract amount shall not exceed \$450.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-05

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution 22-05 is approved

Councilman Woodend introduced the following resolution, seconded by Councilman Casey:

RESOLUTION 23-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF MEDFORD LAKES AND MEDFORD EMERGENCY SQUAD INC., t/a MEDFORD LAKES EMERGENCY SQUAD, INC., REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes adopted Ordinance Number 285 entitled: An Ordinance Authorizing an agreement and lease between the Borough of Medford Lakes and Medford Emergency Squad, Inc.” on March 14, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Ordinance provides that the lease authorized therein be renewed annually by the mutual agreement of the two parties; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes to renew the aforementioned agreement for a period of one year from the date of the expiration of the current agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes as follows:

1. The lease agreement, which is attached hereto and made part hereof, by and between the Borough of Medford Lakes and Medford Emergency Squad be and is hereby authorized to be renewed for the one year period from March 10, 2005 until March 10, 2006.
2. The mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to affix their signatures and seal to any and all documents necessary as evidence of this approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-05

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution 23-05 is approved

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

RESOLUTION 24-05
A RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE 2005 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Municipal Budget of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington for the year 2005 is hereby introduced; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget be published in the Burlington County Times in the issue of March 24, 2005; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey:

1. Does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the Year 2005.
2. Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, County of Burlington, on March 10, 2005.
3. A hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at Vaughan Hall, in Demby Annex on April 14, 2005, at 7:30PM, at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2005 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

A 2005 Municipal Budget Message was prepared for the public and presented at this meeting. The message reads:

The 2005 Budget for the Borough of Medford Lakes is \$3.9 million dollars, or approximately \$700,000 more than the 2004 Budget. This year, the Borough is challenged with the financial implications of last summer's devastating flood. While the Borough incurred nearly \$1 million dollars in emergency expenses to "clean up" immediately following the flood, the financial impact to restore three dams must now be planned for in this budget and in future budgets.

The budget reflects a \$375,000 reserve, which will enable the Borough Council to put in place the necessary financing to restore the dams. This amount translates into a \$240.00 increase in local purpose tax to the average property owner whose home is assessed at \$150,000. The Borough will continue to pursue every source possible to seek out grants and reimbursements to offset this financial burden.

Further, the budget reflects additional operating expenses including employee salaries (\$52,000), insurance costs (\$34,000), pension payments (\$20,000), and increased costs for fuel (\$20,000.) The effect of these costs will impact the average taxpayer \$90.00 in 2005.

It is important to acknowledge the contributions of Borough personnel for their ongoing efforts to provide services to our residents at a reasonable cost and continuing to look for ways to operate more efficiently. This budget reflects no reduction in services despite the challenges facing municipalities on a daily basis.

A Public Hearing on the 2005 Budget is scheduled for April 14, 2005, at 7:30pm, to be held at Demby Annex, Medford Lakes, NJ.

Councilman Casey complimented the Police Department for presenting a 2005 Budget that is less than in 2004.

Councilman Woodend advised the public that the Borough had held down capital spending on several much needed items, because of the expense of flood recovery.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-05

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution 24-05 is approved

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

RESOLUTION 25-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AND REGULATIONS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated Storm water Management Regulations, which apply to all Municipalities: and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Medford Lakes is required to develop a Municipal Storm water Management Plan, a Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan and appropriate Ordinances by April 1, 2005; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Medford Lakes has been designated as a “Tier A” municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Medford Lakes, New Jersey that the Borough Engineer, Alaimo Group, is hereby authorized to develop the necessary Plans to create a storm water Compliance Plan and apply for the required permits. The costs associated with these services are not to exceed \$15,000.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-05

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Resolution 25-05 is approved

OLD BUSINESS

REPAIR OF DAMS - Carl Pellegrino, 242 Chippewa Trail, previously forwarded a letter to Council, which he asked to read in this public forum. Mr. Pellegrino outlined the entire dam rebuilding process as he understands it, and questioned why the Borough’s projection was for such a long time period. Mr. Pellegrino discussed the Camp Ockanickon dam, which could possibly be in use by the end of the summer. Mr. Pellegrino stressed that, according to everyone he had spoken to regarding rebuilding the dam, the Borough Council should “be the owner” and push for a speedy project. Council addressed Mr. Pellegrino’s questions and suggestions. He reiterated that Council needs to be persistent and show urgency when applying for permits and funding.

Gina Kelchner, 212 Chippewa Trail, was adamant that she wanted answers about the disparity in Mr. Pellegrino's time line of two years and the Borough's time line of four years. Council assured her they would continue to push to have the dams rebuilt as quickly as possible. Ms. Kelchner asked Council to get as much preliminary work done as possible; Council assured her everything that can be done is being done.

Sue Mattio, 246 Chippewa Trail, advised Council that, if the Oaks Hall project is an indication of the pace with which Council would move to rebuild the dams, she is afraid of a lengthy timeline. Council agreed the Oaks Hall project has dragged on far too long.

Peggy Gartlan, 30 Kiowa Trail, asked why the Oaks Hall project is taking so long. Council agreed there are many issues concerning the project; the Borough has hired Jim Madden as project manager and Council expects things to move along. Currently, Mr. Madden is waiting for the DEP approval of soil tests surrounding the underground oil tank that was removed.

Jim Walker, 251 Chicagami Trail, advised Council he feels the empty lakebeds are dangerous. He asked Council to rebuild the dams in lieu of the Oaks Hall project. Council advised residents that the conditions under which Borough employees work are deplorable and unhealthy, making the Oaks Hall project necessary.

Carl Pellegrino, 242 Chippewa Trail, suggested purchasing a \$200,000 residence in the Borough and using it as an administration building, rather than building Oaks Hall.

Rich Ringen, 29 Shawnee Trail, asked Council to address the selection of the engineer for the dam project; to date, he has not been impressed with them.

Doug White, 120 McKendimen Road, asked Council when the funding would be in place so the schedule could move forward. The funding has little to do with the schedule to build the dams. Currently, a bill is in the New Jersey Assembly to allocate \$92,000,000 for failing and destroyed dams in the state.

Bob Hanold, 45 Natchez Trail, reminded those present that the building of Oaks Hall and the re-building of the dams are two separate projects, having nothing to do with each other. He commended Council for the work they have done.

Chris Myles, 16 Tahtepay Trail, thanked Council for allowing the public to talk at length, without regard to the three-minute advisory.

Susan Ansberry, 183 Comanche Trail, asked for volunteers to assist Manager Knight and Colony representative Weiss. (Mayor Wasson reminded residents that the Medford Lakes Fire Department and the Medford Lakes Emergency Squad also need volunteers.)

Paul Weiss, 167 Comanche Trail, reminded residents that the Colony is run by volunteers. He appreciates those who volunteer to help, but asked that all volunteers stay with each project until it is completed.

Sue Mattio, 246 Chippewa Trail, asked Council if a plan was in the making to reassess Borough properties. A reassessment shifts the tax burden to lake front owners, as they are under assessed at the current time.

Council recessed for ten minutes.

LIONS CLUB BUILDING – Department of Public Works architect Paul Adison presented a preliminary site plan to Council and the public. He explained the plans for the Lions food storage building and the Cabulance building.

The Lions Club would like to know the cost of their share of the Public Works building and how the Borough is proceeding. They discussed putting a second story on the Lions building, to use as a small meeting room and storage area.

Emergency Squad member Sandy Wasson offered the use of a bay at their route 70 facility for storage.

Council directed Paul Adison to put together a cost estimate of the building, the cost of the Lions share of the building, the cost of adding a second story, and a copy of the plans.

On April 11, 2005, is the Lions Club is meeting with the Lions District Governor for the state. At that time, members of the Medford Lakes' Lions Club hope to obtain a promise of funding for use in building the Lions share of the building.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING – Mr. Adison reported he had completed soil borings under the fire house, which showed some compromise of the foundation. The Borough's engineer recommended patching the cracks and monitoring the progress of the foundation as it settles.

Council asked for an engineer's estimate of the cost for submission to AIG, who will determine how much of the cost would be reimbursed.

Councilman Woodend made a motion, seconded by Councilman Casey, to direct Michael Beach to prepare a preliminary drawing and cost estimate for submission as a claim to the Borough's insurance company.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bud Wingert, 152 Askoran Trail, suggested that Council treat the DPW building and the fire house as one building. This would lower the deductible.

VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Motion carries

Councilman Casey made a motion, seconded by Councilman Woodend, to obtain cost quotes for re-survey of the DPW and current administration areas, with a 50-foot stream encroachment, to be outbound and as-built surveys. The area would not include the Wastewater facility.

VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Motion carries

Paul Adison will obtain the quotes and forward them to Manager Knight.

OAKS HALL PROJECT – Manager Knight reported that project manager Jim Madden is in the process of obtaining bid packets. Also, a log provider is sending a profile of his company’s logs for consideration.

BEACH DRIVE PUMPING STATION – the pumping station is fully operational; the area still needs to be landscaped. Wastewater Superintendent Paul Hayden is in the process of obtaining quotes for a portable generator.

CODIFICATION – General Code wants to print the results of the codification process, with the exception of the sign ordinance, the traffic ordinance, and the historic ordinance, all three of which are still incomplete.

Council directed Manager Knight to advertise the introduction of the sign ordinance for the Regular Council meeting on April 28, 2005.

Council also directed Mr. Knight to prepare a notice about the sign ordinance for the Colony news, the Borough’s web site, and for the public.

Council directed Manager Knight to prepare a budget overview, detailing and explaining the decisions Council made on it. The overview will be available for future years to understand why decisions were made and why funds were allocated or denied.

PROPOSED SUB-DIVISION – Councilman Woodend explained to those present that he is negotiating with Bob Meyer Communities, who are building a sub-division on the Medford land behind Nokomis School. If they are able to hook into the Medford Lakes sewer system, they would be able to build 110 homes. Council discussed the possibility of annexing the area into the Borough, and how that would impact various services. The school system would be impacted, but other service providers would not be adversely affected.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received a response from Public Works Superintendent Pat McCorristan, concerning leaf collection costs. He is not optimistic about being able to have the brush truck rebuilt.

REPORTS

MANAGER – Mr. Knight’s had nothing additional to discuss.

SOLICITOR – Mr. Vogdes has not been able to set a new meeting date with representatives of Sparta Township, to discuss their flood and rebuilding projects.

Council directed Manager Knight to obtain a contract proposal from the Medford Lakes Police Officers Association and set a date for discussion.

COUNCIL – The Emergency Squad Banquet was very successful. Squad representative Sandy Wasson reported the squad had responded to 19 calls and one standby assignment during February. Three new members have joined the organization; they are already certified.

Fire Chief McIntosh reported his department responded to 30 calls in February, including one working fire. The Fire Company Banquet is being held on Saturday, March 12, 2005.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Wasson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Casey, to pay the bills on the Bill List.

VOTE TO PAY BILLS

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Bill List is approved for payment

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Woodend made a motion, seconded by Councilman Casey, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE TO ADJOURN

Ayes: Wasson, Casey, Woodend

Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 10:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Knight
Borough Manager

