

**MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 23, 2010

**MINUTES**

Mayor Barbagallo called the session to order at 7:04 p.m. and indicated that adequate notice has been provided to the New Jersey Herald and The Sunday New Jersey Herald for publication in which notice was given of the date, time, place and general agenda of meetings in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, c. 231.

**FLAG SALUTE:** All present were asked to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Acting Clerk Picinich was asked to call the roll.

**Present were:** Committeemen Brislin, Ponce, Zitone and Mayor Barbagallo.

**Excused:** Mr. Teufert

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

**Meg Snyder** requested the agenda be amended to include Recreation.

Mr. Brislin amended the agenda to include discussion on the Salary Ordinance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Ponce motioned to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of March 2, the Budget Meeting Minutes of March 8 and March 22, and the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of March 9, 2010. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

There was no written report.

**RESOLUTIONS**

R 2010-34 CANCELLATION OF PRIOR YEAR  
UNCOLLECTIBLE TAXES

Mr. Brislin motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Ponce seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

R 2010-35 OUTSIDE LIEN REDEMPTION

Mr. Zitone motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Teufert seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

R 2010-36 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL CLERK/  
BOARD OF HEALTH SECRETARY

Mr. Brislin motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Ponce seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**ORDINANCES** (First Reading)

ORD 2010-06 ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL SALARY  
OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK/BOARD OF HEALTH  
SECRETARY

Mr. Brislin motioned to approve the ordinance. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced by the Township Committee of the Township of Montague on March 23, 2010. It will be further considered for final adoption at a Regular Meeting of the Township Committee on April 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m at the Municipal Building, 277 Clove Road, Montague, NJ. All interested parties may be heard.

ORD 2010-07

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 76 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ENTITLED "ZONING" FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES TO REGULATE BULK REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.

Mr. Brislin motioned to approve the ordinance. Mr. Ponce seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced by the Township Committee of the Township of Montague on March 23, 2010. It will be further considered for final adoption at a Regular Meeting of the Township Committee on April 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 277 Clove Road, Montague, NJ. All interested parties may be heard,

**GOLF COURSE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Zitone expressed his concern about whether the golf course at Highpoint Country Club would remain open and that if not, it would be a detriment to the Township. Mayor Barbagallo stated that he had heard there was a company called Focal Solutions that bid \$3.3 million for the golf course, the bank turned it down for a planned auction that never occurred, and Focal Solutions withdrew their bid. He added that the Oritani Bank had also been interested in it, but nothing materialized with that either.

**REPORTS**

Tax Report acknowledged.

Recreation - Meg Snyder and Glen Goodyear requested funds for the Easter Egg Hunt, Teen Social, and clay for the ballfield on Rt. 206. Mayor Barbagallo advised Mr. Goodyear to consult with Darren Ponce, George Zitone and Dave Behrman to get the best pricing for the clay. Mr. Brislin motioned to approve up to \$250 for Easter Candy, up to \$400 for the Teen Social, and up to \$1670 for the clay. Mayor Barbagallo seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Saint James the Greater Church - thanked Dave Berhman and the DPW crew for keeping their driveway and parking areas clear during the recent snowstorms.

Lori Coss - requested that funds for the Miss Montague Pageant come out of the Township's Celebration budget rather than the Recreation budget.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Brislin motioned to open to the public. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

**Jim Guimes** - inquired as to the revaluation and was told that tax maps were being prepared and revaluation would follow shortly thereafter.

**John Donovan** - stated that allocation of monies for recreation should be granted automatically each year. He encouraged the community get behind each other to make things happen.

Mr. Teufert motioned to close Public Session. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

**SALARY ORDINANCE**

Regarding increases in salary, Mr. Brislin suggested Vital Statistics 2%, Mayor and Council, 0%, Finance and Administration 2%, Tax Collector 2%, Tax Assessor 2%, Construction Official 0%, Construction Secretary 2%, Fire Sub Code Official 2%, Code Enforcement 2%, Plumbing Inspector 2%, Electrical Inspector 2%, Housing Inspector to be revisited, Constables to be revisited, Emergency Management to be revisited, DPW employees - 2% unless hired six or less months ago, Recycling 2%, Buildings and Grounds 2%. The committee discussed one DPW employee who is making \$14.00 that should be raised to \$16.00. Returning to the Constable salaries, there was a discussion regarding on what basis they would be paid. Several members of the public voiced their support for the use of the Constables. Returning to Housing Inspector, Mr. Brislin suggested the elimination of the Assistant Housing Inspector position, which when combined with another salary, is close to \$20.00 per hour. Mayor Barbagallo suggested the title was not needed and a cut of \$2.20 per hour was suggested..

Regarding the Deputy Clerk, Mayor Barbagallo suggested she be brought up to the same standard as Deputy Clerks in other municipalities, which average roughly \$20.00 per hour, explaining that the employee has been shortchanged for five years. A member of the public questioned the percentage increase for this position. Mr. Brislin answered that it would be 38.3%, or \$5.54. Mr. Zitone stated that the average in Sussex County is about \$17.00 per hour. Mayor Barbagallo added that the Deputy is also the Registrar. Another member of the public asked if the part time Deputy receives health insurance. Mayor Barbagallo answered yes, that she is entitled as an appointed official as Deputy and also as Registrar. Mr. Brislin stated he would support the \$20.00 per hour because the Deputy is qualified, has completed all courses and examinations necessary for the position of Registered Municipal Clerk except for the final exam, and is a Certified Registrar.

Mayor Barbagallo suggested the employee handling dog licensing also receive a 2% increase.

Mr. Brislin suggested changing the Construction Secretary position from annual to part time hourly. Mayor Barbagallo suggested that the employee be allowed to continue receiving health benefits. Mr. Brislin suggested an hourly rate of \$17.67 per hour including a 2% increase.

Mr. Garofalo suggested each employee be served a Rice notice prior to the introduction of the Salary Ordinance.

Mr. Brislin made a motion to authorize the attorney to prepare a Salary Ordinance encompassing the suggestions made during this meeting. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Zitone motioned to re-open to the public. Mr. Brislin seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Rosemarie Bohinek** asked how the committee could justify cutting some people's salaries when another's is being increased by 38%. Mayor Barbagallo replied that there is no building going on in the township, and that the annual salary for that position is being converted to hourly; while the Deputy Clerk is being brought up to a salary in keeping with County standards.

**Virginia Van Wagner** asked how many new homes were built during the past year. Mayor Barbagallo responded there were one or two.

**Louanne Cular** asked if a County average was taken of each salary, would the committee be willing to raise the salaries of those under the average by more than 2%. She added that the reason she asked was that she felt employees will be pitted against each other. Mr. Barbagallo stated that most municipalities are cutting back, and perhaps the committee should be cutting back more.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Mr. Brislin motioned to close public session. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Barbagallo announced that the In Rem foreclosures are supposed to be done by the end of this month. Mr. Brislin asked Mr. Garofalo for advice on using his firm for foreclosures and labor negotiations. Mr. Garofalo replied that the committee's decision to utilize the attorneys who started the procedures was a good one, but if for any reason they are dissatisfied with their work, his firm is equipped to handle both.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Brislin motioned to close public session and adjourn. Mr. Ponce seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

**DESRIE W. PICINICH, CMR**  
**Acting Municipal Clerk**