

APPROVED: March 17, 2014

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

WORK SESSION

January 27, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: President Maher called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m. after the close of the Business Session.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

This is to advise that the notice requirement provided for in the "Open Public Meetings Act" has been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given and transmitted to The Times and Princeton Packet; filed with the Clerk of the Municipality; and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building at North Post and Clarksville Roads on January 7, 2014. Notice of rescheduling the meeting to January 27, 2014 due to snow storm was done on January 21, 2014.

ATTENDEES: President: Maher; Vice President: Geevers; Council: Borek; Mendonez, Jr.; Samonte; Business Administrator: Schmid; Township Attorney: Herbert; Township Engineer: Guzik (arrived 9:00 p.m.); Director of Community Development: Ward (arrived 9:00 p.m.); Deputy Township Clerk: Huber

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Alison Miller, 41 Windsor Drive, asked when the Cranbury Road RFP will be available.

President Maher advised Ms. Miller that the documents distributed were stamped "Confidential, Consultative, and Deliberative".

Mr. Donald Watrous, 131 Cranbury Road, requested a status update for the Cranbury Road project.

Mr. Jerry Foster, 15 Suffolk Lane, thanked Public Works for fixing the potholes along Alexander Road. He addressed the need for a connection from Mercer County Park soccer fields to Mercer County Community College. Mr. Foster advised that the primary problem with Cranbury Road is the excessive speed that motorists use along the roadway.

Ms. Silvia Ascarelli, 27 Melville Road, thanked everyone for the work being done for Cranbury Road to date. She noted the

roadway should be a safe place to walk and that traffic calming measures need to be addressed.

Ms. Sarah Thomson, 113 Cranbury Road, thanked Council and Administration for the work done to date and requested that the project keep the esthetics of the neighborhood intact.

Mr. Edward Picco, 95 Cranbury Road, noted there is no shoulder along the roadway making it hard to walk; the bridge area needs to be addressed especially during snowstorms; and safe passage along the roadway is necessary.

Ms. Ilene Watrous, 131 Cranbury Road, has lived in the Township for the past 28 years and the need for sidewalks is necessary to keep the children safe in the area. She requested Police presence to ensure that motorists are obeying the speed limits.

Ms. Kattrina Schmitzer, 85 Cranbury Road, appreciates the time and attention being given to this project and she expressed how important it is for the residents of this neighborhood to feel safe walking along their roadway.

Ms. Virginia Manzari, 28 Berkshire Drive, noted that in her opinion the one-way option is not viable for the area. She suggested pulling that option out of the RFP process. She thanked Council for her appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, asked what the process is for changing the roadway from a County road to a Township road.

Mr. Herbert addressed the steps needed to accomplish this task.

FOR DISCUSSION:

Performing Arts Center Stage Located at Mercer County Park

Mr. Kevin Bannon, Executive Director of the Mercer County Park Commission reported that this project has been part of the County master plan for the last five years. He noted that public meetings were held by the Park Commission and the County Freeholders. He advised that the project was publicly bid.

President Maher inquired as to why residents and the Township Council are just hearing about this project. He asked why the stage is being placed where it is in eye sight of residents along South Post Road.

Mr. Bannon advised that he received no opposition to the project and that the stage is being placed in the same spot as the temporary stage was located for years.

President Maher inquired as to why there is no communication between the Township Council and the County.

Ms. Ward advised that the County projects follow the same process as other developers/property owners in the Township.

Mr. Bannon advised that the County has closed South Post Road to park traffic, and finances the cost for personnel to direct traffic at the end of the roadway during major events. He advised that he can look into additional berming and shields for the lights.

Mr. Mendonez inquired about the County's master plan for the park and the improvements to the boat house area .

Mr. Bannon advised that the County has parks throughout the County and that they do not notify each municipality of their plans for improvements.

Ms. Geevers inquired whether a resident of West Windsor is on the Mercer County Park Commission and if not suggested that a West Windsor resident be appointed.

Mr. Bannon explained that the positions are advertised in the local newspaper. He advised that there are only two events held in the park that go past 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Borek thanked Mr. Bannon and his staff for participating in the meeting and for addressing the residents concerns.

Brief Discussion and Distribution of Schenck Barn Use and Fee
Schedule - Multi-Session Dialogue

Ms. Ward handed out a memorandum and backup documents from Mr. Surtees for further discussion at the February 3, 2014 Council meeting.

Distribution of Grover Memorial Plans - Multi-Session Dialogue

Ms. Ward advised that the documents were made part of the work session packet and that further discussion is scheduled for the February 3, 2014 Work Session.

Cranbury Road RFP Discussion

Ms. Schmid advised that this evening's discussion is informational only and that the Township Engineer will also address the guardrail issue. She noted that the Township Engineer is ready to make a recommendation to start the process for Cranbury Road sidewalk improvements.

President Maher clarified that there are no plans regarding the construction of sidewalks along Cranbury Road. He advised that the action before Council is to select an engineering firm to develop several options for the improvements along Cranbury Road.

Mr. Guzik, Township Engineer, reported that four firms were sent the RFP for Cranbury Road, and three firms returned proposals. A spreadsheet has been presented to Council ranking the three firms. He advised that after review his recommendation would be to hire the Louis Berger Group. Mr. Guzik reviewed the spreadsheet with Council.

President Maher advised there is no support to make Cranbury Road one way.

Ms. Ward advised that option has already been removed.

Discussion continued with members of Council asking the Engineer and Administration several questions, to include: deliverables, agendas, minutes of meetings being sent in digital form, and funding sources available for the project. There were concerns

noted about residents along the roadway that were not in favor of the sidewalk project. Concerns were also raised regarding the County's participation and the phasing process for the project.

President Maher requested that Administration provide a list of funding sources for this project.

Mr. Guzik advised Council that the RFPs received range from just under six figures to over \$350,000.00 for the study. He reviewed the process which starts with an engineering study phase, then to a concept/engineering plan phase, and lastly the construction phase.

Mr. Mendonez advised that according to his calculations, the construction phase is approximately a year out for this project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Jones, 252 Cranbury Road, voiced his concerns with the challenges of installing sidewalks along Cranbury Road.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, inquired if the County has given permission to make the improvements wanted on the roadway.

Mr. Guzik advised that the County is participating in the survey.

Ms. Ward advised that communication has taken place between the Township and County Executive Hughes' Office.

Ms. Teresa Lourenco, 408 South Post Road, voiced her concerns again with improvements taking place at the Mercer County Park. She requested assistance with light shields, trees, and buffering.

Ms. Geevers suggested there be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Park Commission and the residents.

Ms. Marilyn Stoddard, 404 South Post Road, thanked Council for their continued support and assistance, and requested that a letter be sent again to the County regarding the installation of light shields on the park lights.

Mr. Herbert advised that a letter was sent to the County and that the Township was advised that trees were planted.

President Maher requested that Ms. Ward send a letter to the Park Commission addressing the residents' concerns.

Ms. Janet Shaw, 384 South Post Road, advised that she had a problem during one of the events with her home health aide not able to have access to her home. She advised that Mr. Bannon was very responsive to her situation.

Ms. Virginia Manzari, 28 Berkshire Drive, advised she is in favor of a study for pedestrian improvements for the full length of Cranbury Road.

Ms. Alison Miller, 41 Windsor Drive, noted she is in favor of studying the entire roadway and then a decision can be made on how to phase in the project.

Mr. Donald Watrous, 131 Cranbury Road, supports studying the entire length of the roadway.

Ms. Sarah Thomson, 113 Cranbury Road, supports the need for a guardrail at the Jones' property. She advised that the list of residents who are in favor of improvements will need to be updated.

Mr. Ed Picco, 95 Cranbury Road, supports including the entire roadway from Route 571 to the Township line with Plainsboro.

Mr. Gerry Foster, 15 Suffolk Lane, supports a study for the entire roadway, and expressed his pleasure that the one-way road option has been removed.

Ms. Kattrina Schmitzer, 85 Cranbury Road, supports the study for the entire roadway.

Mr. Borek voiced his agreement that the study should include the entire roadway.

Mr. Mendonez thanked everyone for their ideas and support.

Ms. Samonte agreed that the entire roadway should be studied.

Ms. Geevers noted that she also agrees with studying the entire roadway and that action to award the contract for the Cranbury Road study should be placed on the February 3, 2014 meeting.

President Maher advised that the entire roadway should be studied and that this contract will be prepared for the February 3, 2014 Council meeting. He advised that the study could take up to six months to complete. President Maher requested to see the correspondence from the County as to why the guardrail at the Jones' property is unnecessary.

Ms. Ward advised that since minor improvements have been made by the County there has been a decrease in accidents on one side of Cranbury Road.

Ms. Schmid suggested that the firm selected this evening could also review Mr. Jones' issue as part of the study.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Borek

Second: Mendonez

VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Sharon L. Young
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township