

MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Meeting Center
40 Livingston Avenue; New Brunswick, NJ

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Those Present:

Ms. Olga Sgambettera, Chairman
Mr. Gerald Tamburro, Vice-Chairman
Freholder Director Ronald G. Rios
Freholder Charles E. Tomaro
Mr. Richard Wallner, County Engineer
Mr. Vincent R. Martino
Mr. Thomas Pollando
Mr. William Thomas
Mr. Matthew M. Vaughn
Mr. Erik Wong, Alternate
Barry Goldstein, Esq., for Steven D. Cahn, Esq., Counsel
Mrs. Dorothy K. Power, Secretary

Also Present

Mr. George M. Ververides, Director, Office of Planning
Ms. Mirah Becker, Supervisor, Comprehensive Planning, and The Environment
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation
Mr. Stanley Olszewski, Supervisor, Development Review

Chairman Sgambettera called the meeting of the Planning Board to order at 3:30 p.m. in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. She invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Secretary called the roll and declared that there was a quorum. At this point, Ms. Sgambettera noted that the previous meeting, the Land Development Review, had additional matters to be considered. Therefore, upon advice of Counsel, the regular meeting was adjourned temporarily for the Land Development meeting to conclude its business. The regular Planning Board meeting commenced at 4:45 p.m.

I. Administration, Data Management & Technical Services: Mr. Gerald Tamburro

Minutes - June 10, 2014: Mr. Tamburro moved, seconded by Mr. Wallner, to accept the Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Ververides stated that the Financial reports for June through August are within the budget guidelines. Mr. Tamburro moved, seconded by Mr. Thomas, to accept the reports. Carried.

Committee Report: None.

Communications: Mrs. Power reported action taken by the New Jersey State Legislature concerning Alternate members of County Planning Boards: The Assembly Bill, A1471, passed on May 22, 2014, and the Senate Bill, S1689, passed on June 30, 2014, "permits alternate members of county planning boards to vote in place of any absent public member." Thanks to the efforts of 18th Legislative District Assemblyman, Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., and 17th Legislative District Senator Robert G. Smith, both Houses voted unanimously in favor of the Bill. The Planning Board was pleased to learn about the unanimous approval of this legislation by both Houses of the Legislature. Hallelujah!!

II. Environment: Mr. Vincent R. Martino

Committee Report: Ms. Becker stated that the Work Program Progress Reports for June through

August were contained in the folder. In connection with the Wastewater Management Plan work, the Division sent the draft Middlesex County Sewer Service Map to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for evaluation. In that regard, a telephone conference meeting is scheduled for September 10. If the NJDEP accepts the Map, a special Planning Board meeting may be held to finalize plans for a public hearing by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. A special meeting may also be required for the Water Resources Association to recommend the Map be adopted by the Planning Board. In other matters, Ms. Becker presented a Resolution for the Board's consideration to support "in concept, the Lower Raritan watershed Partnership." The Partnership is a cooperative effort of community volunteers from government agencies and academic entities working together to conserve, enhance, and restore the natural resources of the Lower Raritan Watershed. Mr. Tamburro moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Wallner. On roll call, Freeholders Rios and Tomaro, Messrs. Martino, Pollando, Tamburro, Thomas, Vaughn, Wallner, Wong, and Ms. Sgambettera voted Aye. Resolution adopted. Mr. Tamburro moved to accept the Committee reports, seconded by Mr. Wallner. Motion carried.

III. Transportation: Mr. Richard Wallner

Committee Report: Mr. Gambilonghi stated that the Committee Reports for June through August were contained in the folder. He reported on a meeting of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, and a discussion concerning the depletion of the federal Highway Trust Fund, and the need for an increase in revenue sources. It was noted that the federal gas tax which funds the national Highway Trust Fund has remained the same at 18.4 cents a gallon since 1993; and since 2008 some \$65 billion was transferred from the general fund into the Highway Trust Fund in order to keep it afloat. It was pointed out that, in order to maintain an uninterrupted flow of federal funding for needed transportation projects, new options for increasing Highway Trust Fund revenues, such as an increase in the federal gas tax, need to be examined and given more serious consideration in order to avoid continuing extensions of the federal transportation bill and siphoning of money from the general fund. Mr. Tamburro moved to accept the reports, seconded by Mr. Wallner. Motion carried.

IV. Development Review: Ms. Olga Sgambettera

Committee Report: Mr. Olszewski stated that the Committee Reports for June through August were contained in the folder. In addition to the monthly reports, Mr. Olszewski presented comparison reports with activity between May, 2013 and May 2014, and also Development Review activity for the year 2013. For May, 2013 to May, 2014, the committee acted on 467 development requests; for the year 2013, there were 432 requests. For May to May, staff collected \$3,270,345.80; for 2013, the total was \$4,413,815.62. Mr. Tamburro moved to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Mr. Wallner. Motion carried.

V. Comprehensive Planning: Mr. William Thomas

Committee Report: Ms. Becker stated that the Work Program Progress Reports for June through August were contained in the folder. She reported on the six current farmland applications, and stated that they are in various stages of the farmland preservation process. The Indyk Farm, located on Spotswood-Englishtown Road became the tenth farm in Monroe Township, and the 52nd Farm preserved in Middlesex County. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Martino moved to accept the reports. Motion carried.

VI. Other Matters: None VII. Public Comments: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. on motions by Messrs. Wallner and Thomas.

Dorothy K. Power, Secretary



Dated: October 4, 2014