

Township of Mantua  
April 5, 2021  
Mantua Township Municipal Building  
6:00 P.M.

On the above date the Township Committee of the Township of Mantua held a Committee Meeting in the Mantua Township Municipal Building, 401 Main Street, Mantua, New Jersey 08051.

Mayor Scirrotto called the meeting to order. The time was 6:00 p.m. Mayor Scirrotto asked everyone to rise for the Flag Salute and remain standing to observe a moment of silence.

Mayor Scirrotto delivered the Sunshine Notice as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

Mr. Shawn Layton, Mr. John Legge, Mrs. Eileen Lukens – Absent, Mr. Robert Zimmerman, Mr. Peter Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk, Mr. Jeff Daniels, Solicitor, Jon Bryson, Engineer, Glenn deMers, Superintendent of Public Works, Chief White

**Engineering Report:**

Mr. Bryson explained that the 2021 Road program estimates will be sent to the Administrator shortly. Mr. Bryson also noted that the NJDOT for West Warren punch list has been completed. Mr. Bryson also stated that the demolition of the dugouts at the Little League has been completed that the contractor was ready to work on the drainage, fencing and concrete work.

Committeeman Legge inquired about the cleanup of the tennis courts. Mr. Bryson stated that that there is still more to do, and that the contractor will be out there.

Mayor Scirrotto asked that when we begin the road program, we could add an additional 10 feet to pave the intersection of Mantua Blvd and the street that the Sewell Fire house is on. Mr. Bryson noted that this could be done.

**Department of Public Works Report:**

Mr. deMers mentioned that public works just completed their first auction with Govdeals. The auction gave them a chance to get rid of some equipment that has not been in use and cleanup the yard all at the same time.

Glenn discussed that they have begun the crack sealing program to preserve as many roads as they can. In addition, he noted that they have started the sweeper program and that he would like to get through the town twice this year.

Glen mentioned that the department continues to work on our Stormwater program and will continue to do so through the spring and summer manpower permitting.

Glenn also noted that mowing season is fast approaching, and the department will begin mowing operations the week of April 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a Spring Leaf Pick Up during the week of April 19, 2021.

Mr. deMers noted that Pam LeVine has been notified by the State that the Townships Recycling grant for this year is a little over \$116,000. This means that the residents are recycling a lot more which in turn helps the Township.

Mr. deMers reminded everyone that the Public Works has a Convenience Center drop off set up for Saturday the 24th from 10 am to 2pm and today begins the bulk trash pick up on your regularly scheduled trash day.

**Police Department Report:**

The Chief mentioned that the speed signs have been consistently out and are on various streets within the Township.

The Chief also noted that the interview with the previously mentioned class 1 applicant went well and he is currently progressing through his background packet.

Chief White mentioned that the Department of Corrections inspection went well. He also discussed that the spring range qualifications are all complete and all officers are carrying their new handguns.

Chief White reminded everyone that the Distracted Driving grant began on April 1<sup>st</sup> and officers will be out enforcing these types of driving violations throughout the month. He also stated that the safety seat checkpoint will be back up this month at the Sewell Fire Department.

The Chief discussed that the new program Straight to Treatment and Road to Recovery is all worked out and will be up-and-running soon. It will be every Thursday from 3-6 PM, My Friend's House Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services will have a counselor at the police department so that anybody can stop in who wishes to obtain treatment for a substance abuse disorder. Also, the Autism Registry is ready to go.

Pursuant to Resolution R-32-2020, there is a time limit of five (5) minutes per person.

**Public Participation:** Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to open; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

**Deb Baldassare – 522 Main Street** – Ms. Baldassare asked if the Township could erect signage along Main Street advising people to curb their dogs.

Ms. Baldassare thanked everyone for the senior diners that are being delivered, she inquired if there was a chance that there could be a senior picnic of some sort in order for the seniors to get together with their peers.

Ms. Baldassare also inquired to Chief White if the officers are still patrolling the streets. Chief White noted that they have not stopped doing that and they continue to patrol all the streets of the township.

**Ryan Campbell - 223 Hunterdon** – Mr. Campbell followed up on his question to the Township Committee about implementing a public poll on the GCL line. Mayor Scirrotto asked Solicitor Jeff Daniels respond on the issue of a survey.

Solicitor Daniels noted that he had done some research regarding public opinion surveys and his research indicated that these types of surveys are limited to municipal types of projects since there is a cost that goes with a survey. Mr. Daniels stated that he thought Mr. Campbell was questioning an online survey. Mr. Campbell noted that he did not request any specific type of survey.

Mr. Daniels discussed his research on the survey and the amount of people who live in the Township and how the Township would need to create a scientific and unbiased survey where it's a random sampling. He further commented that he does not think that any staff member has the qualifications to set up that survey and a firm would need to be hired to determine the parameters of the survey and the types of questions .

Mr. Daniels stated that it would require an expense and municipalities that typically conduct those public opinion surveys, when they expend that money, its typically done with regard to municipal projects where they are funding the project and/or controlling the money, or they are allocating budget resources to various projects to try and determine based upon these public opinion surveys how to best allocate those resources.

Mr. Daniels reiterated that the Township does not have the authority with regard to the GCL project and cannot approve and /or disapprove project. He explained that it is a state level project. Mr. Daniels stated this his recommendation is not to conduct a survey because of the expense associated with it even assuming that everyone at the municipality opposed it or the alternative everyone supported it, that is clearly not the facts here, there's clearly nothing that the Township can do they don't have the authority to approve or disapprove the project.

Mr. Campbell stated that he knows it is a state funded project and feel that a Resolution would speak volumes. Mr. Campbell stated that Pitman did do a survey although it is unclear who conducted that survey.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman stated that he spoke with a member of Council who conducted the survey independently not by the governing body or municipality. He stated that she took the initiative and prepared the survey posted it on social media, and the results were shared.

Mr. Campbell stated that he is not clear on what a resolution is and asked the Solicitor if the Township Committee can make a resolution on any subject matter?

Solicitor Daniels responded that the governing body could prepare a resolution and take action. Mr. Campbell asked if it was possible to get this question on the ballot?

Mr. Daniels noted that in order to pass a resolution, that is not something you would do by way of referendum, therefore it is not for a resolution.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman asked Mr. Daniels if it was standard or the norm, for other municipalities and these types of survey's for anything?

Mr. Daniels responded he went to the municipal websites for the (8) total municipalities in Gloucester County that are involved in the project. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman asked if any of them done an official survey? He stated that Deptford Township was conducting a public opinion survey on line for specific municipal services by Deptford Township. Mr. Daniels stated that none of the municipalities are conducting any kind of online survey regarding the GCL.

Mr. Campbell made a reference to a group in 1996-1997 that was started against the train and asked if a resolution could be found.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman mentioned that this portion of the public was over 10 minutes and there is a 5-minute rule so that other people could speak.

**Gregg Shast – 39 Silvercreek Drive:**

Mr. Shasts commented that it would be possible to get Rowan University to create projects for their graduate and/or their undergraduate students to run surveys on the topics that are being discussed without any cost. He commented on his time living in Wenonah and when the issue was first brought up and what they wanted to do with the center of Wenonah at the time. He stated that the residents were very successful in defeating all their ideas and countering their proposals for a walk up station.

**Kevin Howarth – 55 Sussex Ave –**

Mr. Howarth thanked the Township Committee for everything that they do and commented on how great of a job the Public Works Superintendent is doing maintaining the roads. Mr. Howarth stated that listening to the opposition for the train clearly it appears that the Township Committee cannot do anything one way or another.

**George Houston – 11 Woodmont Court –**

Mr. Houston stated that the decision on this project is going to be made at the state level and not by anyone in this room and he just wanted to make that statement.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

ORDINANCE O3-2021: ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, CHAPTER 466 AND CHAPTER 230 TO PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to open to the public; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close to the public; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt to the public; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

ORDINANCE O-4- 2021: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AMENDING CHAPTER 69, ARTICLE II, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, "POLICE DEPARTMENT, OFF DUTY COMPENSATION

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. Committeeman Layton Abstained. All in Favor

ORDINANCE O-5-2021: ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, CHAPTER 466, TO IMPOSE A STATUTORILY AUTHORIZED TWO PERCENT (2%) MUNICIPAL TRANSFER TAX ON CANNABIS SALES RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE LAWFUL PRE-EXISTING AND NON-CONFORMING CULTIVATION FACILITY LICENSED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R- 63-2021: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS RECONSTRUCTION OF WEST WARREN AVENUE IN THE DECREASED AMOUNT OF \$11,941.00

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-64-2021: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-65-2020: A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAXES FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN JOHN COLEMAN III LOCATED AT BLOCK 28 LOT 3, FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 249 COLUMBUS DR, MANTUA NJ EFFECTIVE MARCH 5, 2021, AND REFUNDING \$451.62. IN ADDITION, CANCELLING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,615.58 AND THEREAFTER AND CANCELLING TAXES

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-66-2021: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO EUROFINQS QC INC FOR THE 2021 SAMPLING, TESTING AND REPORTING OF THE MANTUA LANDFILL MONITORING WELL AND CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK POTABLE WELL SAMPLING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,187.50

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

**Remarks from the Township Committee:**

Committeeman Layton noted that there are people dumping Trash on one of the old cemeteries. He is in contact with the Chief to see what can be done about this.

Committeeman Legge noted that they are working on the Memorial Day event and would like to ensure that they have the people mover, the microphone and everything else that his needed for the ceremony.

Mayor Scirrotto noted that the bid opening for the Edelman Fossil park is scheduled for April 6, 2021 and they are hopeful that it will be awarded by April 15, 2021 and a completion date of October 2022.

**Remarks from the Township Solicitor:**

Mr. Daniels noted that Ordinance O-3-2021 is to prohibit delivery service of cannabis items. However, it does not include delivery to a resident.

**Approval of the Bill List:**

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to pay the bills; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela LeVine, Deputy Clerk