

**Manchester Township Council  
Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2010**

The meeting of the Manchester Township Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Craig Wallis. The following statement was read by the Clerk:

“Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was advertised in the Asbury Park Press, Star Ledger and was posted in the lobby of the Municipal Building.”

This was followed by the salute to the flag and the following roll call:

Councilman Fred Trutkoff	-	present
Councilman Brendan Weiner	-	present
Councilman Warren Reiter	-	present
Councilman Kenneth Vanderziel	-	present (telephone)
Councilman Craig Wallis	-	present

Also present were Elena Zsoldos, Business Administrator; Steven Secare, Township Attorney; Diane Lapp, CFO and Andy Zabiega, Auditor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The regular meeting minutes of October 25, 2010, November 8, 2010 and November 22, 2010 and were adopted upon a motion made by Mr. Weiner, seconded by Mr. Trutkoff and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter, Vanderziel and Wallis; yea. Mr. Vanderziel abstained on the minutes of November 22, 2010.

**SUBMISSION OF BILLS:**

**Resolution #10-348**– Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$4,917,428.38 was offered by Mr. Reiter, seconded by Mr. Trutkoff and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter and Wallis; yea. Mr. Weiner abstained on invoice #13393 for the Public Defender.

**Resolution #10-349**- Authorizing payment of bills from the Water and Sewer Fund in the amount of \$699,817.54 was offered by Mr. Weiner, seconded by Mr. Reiter and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter, Vanderziel and Wallis; yea.

**Resolution #10-350** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Water and Sewer West Fund in the amount of \$467,765.05 was offered by Mr. Trutkoff seconded by Mr. Weiner and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter, Vanderziel and Wallis; yea.

**ORDINANCES: Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Action**

**#10-032 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A DEED OF EASEMENT (RIGHT-OF-WAY) TO THE COUNTY OF OCEAN WITH RESPECT TO BLOCK 100 PART OF LOT 20**

Mr. Wallis asked if any Council members had comments on the above ordinance. Seeing no Council members wishing to be heard, Mr. Wallis opened the hearing to the public.

Seeing no public comments, Mr. Wallis closed the public hearing.

The above ordinance was **adopted** upon a motion offered by Mr. Weiner seconded by Mr. Reiter and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter, Vanderziel and Wallis; yea.

### **ORDINANCES: Introduction and First Reading**

#### **#10-035 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 133 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER ENTITLED UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODES**

The above ordinance was offered upon a motion by Mr. Trutkoff , seconded by Mr. Reiter and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter, Vanderziel and Wallis; yea.

### **RESOLUTIONS: CONSENT AGENDA**

**The items listed below are considered to be routine by the Township of Manchester and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.**

Mr. Wallis asked if any member of Council had any comments on any item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Weiner asked if the Township was working on clear title on the land sale properties. Mr. Secare advised that Mr. Lynch and himself are working on it and do not see a problem with clearing it.

Seeing no further comments from the Council, Mr. Wallis opened this portion of the meeting to the public.

**Hank Glen – 29 Wycliffe:** Mr. Glen commented with regard to Lifetime Land Improvement and did not feel that they had fulfilled their commitment to landscaping the property. He provided Council with pictures of the property so they could see his concerns. Other concerns he had included improper storage of trucks on the property. Ms. Skibo spoke with the Engineer and he advised that Lifetime Land Improvement had met their site requirements and the bond should be released. Further, Ms. Skibo said she had spoken to Mr. Cain and he would be taking a ride out to the property to address Mr. Glen's other concerns.

**Dan Romando – Country Walk:** Mr. Romando commented on the Current Fund bill list.

Seeing no further comments from the public Mr. Wallis closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

**Resolutions #10-351 through #10-357** were considered routine by the Manchester Township Council and were enacted by one motion offered by Mr. Weiner seconded by Mr. Reiter and adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter, Vanderziel and Wallis; yea

**A. FINANCE**

**#10-351 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF OPEN TAXES FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY TOWNSHIP**

**#10-352 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR**

**B. LAND SALES**

**#10-353 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING BIDS AS A RESULT OF A PUBLIC LAND SALE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 ET SEQ REPORTS**

**#10-354 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REJECTING BIDS AS A RESULT OF A PUBLIC LAND SALE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 ET SEQ.**

**C. BONDS\ESCROW**

**#10-355 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING A MAINTENANCE BOND POSTED BY LIFETIME LAND IMPROVEMENTS, INC. FOR A PROJECT KNOWN AS BLOCK 72.01 LOT 14.03 (2400 Ridgeway Blvd)**

**D. PURCHASING**

**#10-356 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH ENCO INDUSTRIES FOR THE PURCHASE OF RANGE CONTAINMENT SAFETY BARRIERS**

**E. CONTRACTS\AGREEMENTS**

**#10-357 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND PREFERRED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSULTING GROUP, INC**

**Resolution #10-358 SFY 2011 Budget Adoption – Public Hearing and Adoption of the Budget**

Diane Lapp, CFO gave a brief synopsis of the budget. There was an increase in appropriations over last year of about 2 million dollars. This would cause an increase in the tax levy of 5.2 cents. This was due to the loss of state aid and an increase in pension costs. Operating costs were not increased.

Seeing no comments from Council, Mr. Wallis opened this portion of the meeting to the public.

**Fred Lund – LVW:** Mr. Lund read a prepared statement to Council. He felt that the budget adoption should be postponed. There has been no prior public discussion of this budget and no public input. He felt that due to the increase of the budget and increase in the tax levy this budget should not be adopted. Council would benefit from public input.

**Charles Walsh:** Mr. Walsh implored Council to pass the budget because there would be problems and ramifications if it was not passed especially to the police department.

**John Boyle – 5 Valencia Dr.:** Mr. Boyle did not feel that Council took a deep enough look to cut expenses. He asked Council to consider that before they voted on the budget.

**Pat Morgan – PBA President:** - Mr. Morgan was there to advise the public of the concessions the PBA has made to help Council with the budget issues. However, the passing of the budget did not guarantee the layoffs of three police personnel. He did feel the concessions the PBA made would help the Township save close to one million dollars over the next three years.

**Midge Schuck - 1133 Seventh Ave.:** Ms. Schuck asked if there were any other administrative salaries cut. Ms. Zsoldos said administrative salaries were not cut; however, administration took a pay freeze as well as contributing one and a half percent to their benefits. Ms. Lapp advised that administration has not received a pay increase in close to two years. Ms. Schuck felt that administrative salaries should be cut ten percent across the board and pay freezes implemented until further notice.

**John Kruysman – Pasadena Rd.:** Mr. Kruysman commented with regard to employee reimbursement monies as well as open space inventory.

**Sharon Eastwick – OPEIU Local 32:** Ms. Eastwick implored Council to pass this budget because township jobs were dependent on it. Over the years, people have retired and jobs have not been replaced. Employees are working harder to provide services. If the budget is passed, Local 32 is going to their membership to ask for pay freezes and healthcare contributions.

**Carol Weichel – 7 Housen St.:** Ms. Weichel was concerned with the reduction in the number of police officers in the past few years. She did not feel the Township could be run efficiently with the reduced number of police officers.

**Fred Lund - LVW:** Mr. Lund commented on how towns with similar budget problems have addressed their issues with layoffs and furloughs. Fiscal problems should not be passed onto the taxpayers in the form of a tax increase.

Seeing no further comments from the public, Mr. Wallis closed this portion of the meeting of the public. He asked council for their comments.

Mr. Reiter said he heard both sides of the story and that's the problem. The public sees it one way or the other; cutting taxes or reducing services. People want less government and lower taxes but when it comes to lowering the taxes they don't want certain items to be cut such as social security and Medicare. The Township has reduced expenses over the past years. The tax levy was originally at a 7.9 percent increase and it was reduced over a million dollars to 5.2 cents. The State has mandated so many things that do not help us. There is nowhere to cut expenses. That is the problem we are faced with.

Mr. Wallis said that he has heard at so many meetings that the Township has to be run like a business. We are not a business. It is government. There are certain services that have to be provided. If someone gets hurt because a police officer is laid off Mr. Wallis has to live with it. That is the decision he has to make tonight.

Mr. Vanderziel said a great deal of work has been put into the budget. There is still work to be done. The Mayor is working very hard to reduce expenses and cut property taxes. Work is being done to try and remove the property taxes from supporting the schools by bringing in revenue from other areas. Cooperation between the Mayor and all departments in preparing the budget has been good.

Mr. Wallis said Ms. Zsoldos, Ms. Lapp and all department heads have worked hard to keep this budget at a minimum. All the Unions have offered to make concessions. Everyone has cooperated.

Mr. Weiner said Council works hard for what they feel is the best thing for Township residents. They are never going to make everyone happy. Over the course of the year, they have worked hard to keep the taxes low. There has been reduction in numbers due to attrition in not only the Police Department but throughout the Township. Positions have not been filled because they realize the tough economic times. We all have to work closely to get through these times. He hoped that everyone would respect his decision tonight.

Mr. Trutkoff said he supports this budget and has worked closely with Ms. Lapp to go over the budget. Council has done everything they could to keep the budget stable and keep taxes down. He said this budget would keep everything status quo for a year.

The above resolution was offered upon a motion by Mr. Vanderziel seconded by Mr. Reiter and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter, Vanderziel and Wallis; yea.

### **Resolution #10-359 – Final Tax Levy**

The above resolution was offered upon a motion by Mr. Weiner seconded by Mr. Trutkoff and **approved** by the following roll call vote: Councilmen Trutkoff, Weiner, Reiter, Vanderziel and Wallis; yea.

### **Reports**

**Mr. Reiter:** Mr. Reiter attended the Mayor's meeting where they discussed problems in Barnegat Bay. The Nuclear Power Plant will be closing in 2019; ten years sooner than expected. This is a good thing for everyone. He also attended a meeting with the Mayor and Diane Lapp at Village 5 to discuss the budget. Ms. Lapp answered all questions and concerns of the residents.

**Mr. Vanderziel:** none

**Mr. Weiner:** Mr. Weiner thanked Township employees for all of their hard work. They make him proud to serve up on the dais. Lastly he would work hard to keep everyone onboard and give the best possible services at the lowest possible price.

**Mr. Trutkoff:** Mr. Trutkoff attended the Holiday Tree lighting and Department of Public Works did a nice job. He also announced several events that will be held at the Ocean County Connection in 2011.

**Mr. Wallis:** Mr. Wallis announced that the high school was able to raise over \$2300 for Kevin's Kids. He thanked all employees for their hard work in budget preparation.

**Ms. Zsoldos:** Ms. Zsoldos thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget.

**Ms. Lapp:** Ms. Lapp thanked Council for passing the budget.

**Ms. Skibo:** Ms. Skibo wished everyone a good holiday season and hoped everyone could work together to get through the coming year.

**Public Comment:**

**Mike Lynch – Whiting:** Mr. Lynch thanked the police department for all of their hard work and asked Council to consider a resolution opposing Assembly A2095.

**Richard Work – Whiting:** Mr. Work proposed changing municipal elections to November. This would save the Township close to \$70,000.00.

**Robert McCartney – Whiting:** Mr. McCartney commented with regard to the possibility of billing insurance companies for the use of EMT's who are also police officers. They are the first responders and they provide life saving support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business at this time on motion by Mr. Trutkoff and seconded by Mr. Reiter and unanimous voice vote of Council, the meeting was hereby adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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**Sabina T. Skibo, RMC**  
**Township Clerk**

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**Craig Wallis**  
**Council President**

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**Date Approved**