

MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE AUGUST, 2015

RE-DESIGN OF TOWNSHIP WEBSITE UPDATE

The township website development is nearing completion. JKO Consulting has started adding content received and is working on each page's presentation. They are also testing the website's functionality. We will be launching the new website before the end of October, 2015.

BUDGET UPDATE

The township finances many capital projects through the issuance of bonds and bond anticipation notes. Capital projects include the construction and reconstruction of municipal buildings and facilities, road improvements, water mains, sewers, etc. Such debt offerings must be authorized by the township council and comply with New Jersey local finance law.

The township usually issues bond anticipation notes, which must have a term of one year or less, during the construction phase of projects. The township recently refinanced \$1,795,000 of bond anticipation notes with TD Bank, N.A. at a rate of 0.5200% for one year from June 3, 2015 through June 3, 2016. This low rate will result in a significant savings for the township.

GRANT WRITER UPDATE

Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico and I met with township grant writer, Bruno & Associates on Tuesday, August 18th. We discussed available grants that the township is eligible to receive. Our main focus and discussion of the meeting was on reducing energy costs and Bruno & Associates is going to submit a proposal for the implementation of municipal solar energy projects within the township.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Access For All

The Access For All members has been selected. Members include representatives from the Police Department, Emergency Management, Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Ambulance Corps., Department of Public Works, Planning Board, Board of Education, Chamber of Commerce and public at large. The Chairperson of the committee is Councilman Andrew Cimiluca.

The purpose of the Access for All Committee is to foster equal access to community life and activities for people with disabilities. This would be accomplished by educating the public to raise awareness about the needs and rights of people with disabilities and the importance of increased accessibility, housing and facilities in our township.

300th Anniversary

The 300th Anniversary Committee held its first meeting on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 pm at town hall. I will provide a summary of the meeting in my September Mayor's Update.

Flood Advisory Committee

The Flood Advisory Committee will hold its second meeting on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm at Senior Citizen Center.

SECOND READING OF AMENDED TOWING ORDINANCE

Chief of Police Robert Kugler was assigned to review the existing tow ordinance (Chapter 191), which had not been revised in over 15 years and submit a report with his findings and recommendations for amendments. The Chief inspected ordinances and policies from other local municipalities and also sought input from our township towing companies to determine what needed to be amended. The Chief's recommendations were discussed and passed on first reading at the August 6th regular meeting. Some minor revisions were made, which did not require reintroduction of the ordinance, and was adopted on second reading at the September 3rd regular council meeting.

UPDATE ON SPECIAL PROJECTS

Department of Public Works (DPW) Roof

The project went out to a competitive bid and the contractor with the lowest bid will be awarded the contract to complete the project.

DPW Salt Shed

The project went out to a competitive bid, but the township only received one bid. As a result, the township council decided to reject this initial bid and rebid the project in hope of getting additional proposals and a lower price.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliant Handicap Ramps

The township engineer is proceeding with curb ramp designs for the Bergen County paving projects on Midland Avenue, Market Street and Outwater Lane. The township will receive reimbursement upon completion of the ramps from Bergen County under a grant program.

Veterans Field Bathrooms and Concession Stand

The cost estimate for the construction of a new building containing bathrooms and a concession stand came in way over budget and the township council decided not to go out for competitive bids for the project. Council President Mazzer and I are hoping to schedule a meeting before the October council meetings to discuss and consider all available options. We're disappointed that this project will not be completed this year, but we must be fiscally responsible.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE (UPDATE)

On September 4th, New Jersey Superior Court Judge, Menelaos W. Toskos determined that "the Township of Saddle Brook has demonstrated through prima facia documentation its good faith effort to comply with the fair share obligation" and ordered that the Township is "granted temporary immunity from exclusionary zoning suits for a period of five months commencing from the date of the complaint."

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOWN HALL STYLE BUSINESS MEETING

Council President Mazzer and I attended a local Chamber of Commerce meeting on Thursday, August 27th at the Marriott Hotel. The primary focus was discussion about holding a town hall style meeting for the business community on Wednesday, October 28th. This town hall meeting is a great opportunity to discuss what the business community is looking for from their elected officials. Council President Mazzer and I will be present along with the heads of each department to answer questions they have about local government and policy. There will be no charge to attend and refreshments will be served. The cost of the event would be underwritten by the Hackensack Regional Chamber of Commerce.

FREEHOLDER MEETING IN TOWN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH

For what is believed to be the first time ever, The Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders held one of their regular meetings in Saddle Brook. The meeting, which took place at our municipal building on Wednesday, August 19th, was part of the Board's "on the road" series. The meeting provided Saddle Brook residents and town officials the opportunity to observe the seven-member body in action and address the public on a range of municipal issues including flooding and infrastructure. The meeting was a great opportunity for residents to learn more about the purpose of county government and what it does for municipalities. It allowed the freeholders to listen to the concerns of our residents, while also informing them about the important issues that Bergen County is currently working on.

RECREATION

Video Surveillance System for Veterans Field

The township is getting quotes for installing a video surveillance system for the newly renovated Veterans Field. We are in the process of getting price quotes from different vendors. We are looking for a state of the art system where the surveillance cameras can be monitored remotely by the police department. The system will be paid for using funds from the Veterans Field bond ordinance.

Non-Mandatory Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training for Coaches

Recreation Director Joe Setticase, in conjunction with The Saddle Brook High School Supervisor of Athletics Chris Ianeillo, have made it possible for recreation coaches to become certified in CPR. The training, which is non-mandatory, has been made available to all coaches who wish to participate.

Consideration for Obtaining Defibrillators for Township Fields

The township council and I will be considering the purchase of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for all township playing fields. There is strong support from the American Heart Association and others for legislation requiring the installation of AEDs on all playing fields, indoor and outdoor. Before purchasing, we must conduct a needs assessment, develop a project plan and identify funding needs and options. Funds can typically be raised through a combination of grants, discounts and local fund raising efforts. Lastly, a written response plan would be required and operators would need to be properly trained.

Review of Policies and Rules of Conduct

Recreation Director Setticase, the Commissioners and I plan to conduct a review of all current recreation policies, procedures, rules and regulations and revise, update and adopt new ones as necessary.