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A Work Session Meeting of the Manasquan Mayor and Council was held on March 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers of Borough Hall.

Mayor Dempsey related that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 and that notice was given to the Coast Star and the Asbury Park Press on December 22, 2009.

ROLL CALL: Present: Council Members Bossone, Connolly, Donovan, Grasso, Lee, Lucas .

Also present was Borough Attorney James Kinneally and Borough Administrator John Trengrove.

Absent: None.

Mayor Dempsey announced that Mr. Surenian is unable to attend the meeting this evening as scheduled.

APPOINTMENT: Carole Hart, Manasquan Environmental Commission presented a Fishing Line Recycling Container that the Manasquan Environmental Commission plans to install at the Manasquan Inlet. She related that the program is very successful in Florida and Georgia. She described the program to the members of the Governing Body. She related that they intend to install a container at Mac's Pond if the program is successful at the Inlet. She noted that they will need the assistance of the DPW to install the containers.

There was a brief discussion regarding this matter.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

Council Member Lee suggested installing a container near the eastern area of the Inlet to capture the lines from the individuals who fish on the Inlet rocks.

ITEM #1. Review of Ordinances and Resolutions for Consideration at the Regular Meeting.

Council Member Bossone read a prepared statement regarding ordinance #2066-10/Beach Equipment that is scheduled for approval at the regular meeting this evening. He related that he would like to clear up some misconceptions about this ordinance. He related that Tom Carroll of the Manasquan Beach Improvement Association supports the Storage Box Program. He related that he received a modified plan from Council Members Grasso, Lucas and Connolly which would reduce ordinance #2066-10 and leave the majority of the items off of it. He pointed out that none of these Council Members serve on the Beach Committee. He related that instead, they asked that closed circuit cameras be included in the bond ordinance instead of the playground equipment that is used by so many children. He related that by accepting the reduced bond, he would be accepting the political pressure of having to do it their way or no way at all. He related that this is not about politics and noted that the Governing Body are the financial executives of the Borough. He related that the Beach Committee's plan has been endorsed by the Beach Committee, the Beach Manager, the Borough Administrator and the Mayor. He related that this plan is intended to help run the beach more efficiently. He related that by buying the truck, the gator and the showers the beach will be run more efficiently and more economically and that revenue will be brought in by purchasing the storage bins. He related that the beach will be safer because of the repairs and more enjoyable by installing the children's playground. He related that if there is no playground this year it is because of the partisan votes that are dividing this Council. He related that he has heard repeatedly that this plan could have been done last year but didn't because it was an election year. He related that every year is an election year and noted that he was not running for office last year. He also pointed out that he chaired the Beach Committee last year. He related that it wasn't done last year because it didn't have to be. He related that the Borough had not been notified about the fuel transportation issue by the Borough's insurance company, the playground's condition was not as bad as it was in the Fall, shower parts were still available, funding could not be obtained for the storage bins and he did not want to make any changes to the Beach operations until he observed it's operation for a full year. He related that residents at the reorganization meeting asked the Governing Body not to engage in partisan politics. He related that he agrees. He related that money to pay for this bond comes out of the beach revenue and is not an added expense to the Borough's current budget. He related that the people who use the beach are the ones who should pay its bills and they should be provided with the amenities that the Borough has promised them.

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He related that to bond these items will cost the Borough \$25,000 annually for all of these items instead of paying for one item each year. He related that if the bond does not get passed, the items will have to be put back into the beach budget because they are needed. He related that this could impact the current budget if the season's numbers are not reached and the surplus isn't replaced.

Council Member Lucas related that it is not about democrats or republicans but it is about showing concern for the taxpayers. He related that in fact, he met with Mayor Dempsey to discuss this bond issue. He related that he is not against providing the necessary equipment to improve the safety and the welfare of the beach. He related that he will support two of the items that are included in the bond. He related that at no time did he indicate that it is a democrat to republican issue.

Mayor Dempsey asked Council Member Lucas if he said that he would go back to discuss the items in the bond after they met.

Council Member Lucas related that he did but that he also talked to democrat Council Member Bossone.

Mr. Trengrove related that the money to pay for the bond comes out of the beach budget and that the Borough most likely will borrow against the beach surplus.

Mayor Dempsey related that the Borough had shower parts last year but that they do not have them this year.

Council Member Lucas related that the problems came up in the past and nothing was done about it. He related that everything is now going to be dumped into one ordinance. He related that he is concerned about the cost factor and the citizens of Manasquan. He related that he is not playing politics and is just trying to do the right thing.

Mayor Dempsey pointed out that the beach utility is a fee based operation but that enough income is generated to pay off the bonds year after year and that there is enough surplus but the items are needed. He related that it makes good business sense to purchase these items this way.

Council Member Lucas related that it is upsetting to him that he is being accused of being political.

There was continued discussion about whether or not the republicans and democrats are treating this issue politically.

Council Member Grasso asked why he and Council Member Connolly were not consulted directly by Council Member Bossone instead of going through Council Member Lucas. He also stated that he and Council Member Connolly stated that they would be willing to purchase surveillance equipment instead of the showers and not the playground equipment.

Mayor Dempsey asked if they want to sacrifice cleanliness and safety for a surveillance camera.

There was some discussion regarding the purchase of shower equipment.

Council Member Connolly asked what message is being sent to the taxpayers by purchasing these items.

Mayor Dempsey related that it has nothing to do with the taxpayers since the items are paid for by a user fee.

Council Member Lee related that the Beach is a competitive and the Borough is competing with our neighbors for tourist. He related that the Borough needs to put out a good quality product and not to tackle some of the liabilities that are addressed in this ordinance would be a huge mistake that can open the Borough up to lawsuits. He related that he would hate to

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see if the Borough doesn't make this wise decision how it may fall back on the taxpayers. He related that if the surplus isn't replaced then this will fall on the backs of the taxpayers which is why he is in favor of the bond ordinance instead of rolling the dice.

Council Member Lucas reiterated that he supports the maintenance aspects of the bond ordinance along with the truck purchase. He related that he has concerns about the safety and well being of the citizens and visitors of Manasquan.

Mayor Dempsey related that he recalls that Council Member Lucas told him what Council Member Connolly and Grasso supported.

Council Member Connolly related that no one speaks for her and that if the Mayor wants to speak to her that he should do so directly.

Council Member Bossone asked Council Member Connolly if she supports the purchase of the new playground equipment for the beach.

Council Member Connolly related that she doesn't support the bond issue this year and does not support any part of it. She reiterated her comment's that were made at the budget meeting of January 30, 2010 regarding the playground equipment.

There was some discussion regarding the beach playground equipment.

Council Member Connolly related that the beach department operations will not be impacted if the playground equipment isn't replaced. She asked who is going to maintain the storage boxes.

Council Member Bossone related that the beach department will. He related that it is good customer service that has been discussed at recent Council meetings.

Council Member Connolly related that they will maintain them like they maintain the playground equipment. She asked about the utility truck and where it will be stored.

Council Member Bossone related that it is needed to transport fuel for the beach department non-roadworthy vehicles because of new insurance regulations.

Council Member Bossone related that it will be stored by the fourth Ave Garage.

Council Member Grasso asked what is the capacity of the fuel tank on the utility vehicle.

Council Member Bossone related that he does not have that information available.

Council Member Grasso related that he believe the people who live there should know if there is a bomb sitting there.

Council Member Bossone related that it is required by insurance regulations and that it is an acceptable way to transport fuel.

Council Member Grasso asked if Council Member Bossone could show him the information.

Council Member Bossone related that he does not have the specifications with him but that they are available.

There was continued discussion regarding the fuel storage truck.

Council Member Connolly asked why a fuel storage truck is needed.

Mr. Trengrove related that fuel is needed for all the non-licensed vehicles.

Council Member Connolly asked what is being done now to refuel the vehicles.

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Mr. Trengrove related that 5 gallon drums are being used but that the Borough's insurance company no longer allows this practice. He related that the governing body was informed of this at the Borough's budget meeting.

Council Member Grasso related that more information is needed. He asked again if a bomb is going to be sitting there next to a person's house. He related that these things have to be looked at before the money is spent.

Mr. Trengrove related that the information can be obtained from the DPW. He related that he believes that the tank does not have much more fuel than what is stored in a vehicle.

Council Member Grasso related that you have to tell me because I don't know.

Mr. Trengrove related that this is the first time that you have asked for this information. He related that if you would have asked for the information we most likely could have had it available.

Council Member Grasso related that he should not have to ask for this type of information.

Council Member Bossone asked Council Member Grasso if he is not supporting the truck because the fuel tank size is not readily available.

Council Member Grasso replied affirmatively.

There was continued discussion regarding this matter.

Council Member Lucas related that for the record he supported those two items but that he has concerns about the other items. He related that one is a safety concern and the other is an insurance item.

Council Member Lee asked which two items are Council Member Lucas referring to.

Council Member Lucas related that they are the repair of the inlet stairs.

Council Member Bossone related that the Gator is needed to pick up recycling on the beach and keep it out of the trash stream in accordance with the new mandatory recycling laws.

Council Member Grasso related that the final version of ordinance #2063-10 will only include the following fees: garage sales, certificate of occupancies for 2010 & 2011 and encumbrances. He related that it has been reviewed and that other than the encumbrance fee, they look good. He related that the encumbrance fee should have been \$100.00 and not \$50.00.

The Borough Attorney related that he will make the change and it can be voted on at the regular meeting.

Council Member Lee related that he did not get a copy of the final 2063-10.

ITEM #2. Use of Borough Property – Annual Little League Parade and Dedication Ceremony.

Council Member Connolly asked who pays for the traffic control costs for the Little League Parade.

Mayor Dempsey related that it is paid for by the Borough as it has been for the last 25 or 30 years. He related that other community events are also paid for by the Borough but noted that no new events are being paid for.

Council Member Connolly asked if the taxpayers pay for this even though the Little League is a 501 C3 like the Elks and the VFW. She asked if we charge any of them.

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Mayor Dempsey related that no new events have been added but that the Borough pays for the events that have been on going for many years. He related that if the Pop Warner wanted to have a parade, they would have to pay for the police costs.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to approve the event, seconded by Council Member Lee. Roll Call was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works Committee – Council Member Donovan related that the Recreation Commission would like to form an advisory committee of community based organizations to study the proposed community center. He related that they would like to advertise for volunteers on the Borough's website.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding this matter.

Beach Committee – Council Member Bossone had no report.

Public Property and Parks Committee – Council Member Lee related that the Borough Hall painting contract is under review and should be signed and returned to the Borough. He stated that the Stockton Lake Park Basketball Repair Project is underway. He related that the DPW is looking at the erosion issue there also. He related that N.J. Transit is showing signs of a better relationship going forward for the property maintenance at the station. He related that their property upkeep has been horrible and at least there are some improvements forthcoming. He briefly discussed the energy audit resolution that was passed this evening.

Public Safety and Recycling Committee – Council Member Lucas had no report.

Administration and Finance Committee – Council Member Connolly related that her committee reviewed and approved the payment of bills that was approved by the Governing Body this evening. She related that the U.S. Census report will be mailed to the residents in about one week. She encouraged all the residents to mail the census report back. She related that a group of the members of the Governing Body participated in Read Across America on March 2nd and that it was a wonderful and worthwhile experience. She also related that she along with Council Members Grasso and Lucas marched behind the Manasquan High School marching band in the annual Belmar Saint Patrick's Day Parade this past weekend.

Law and Code Committee – Council Member Grasso read the Law and Code Department's Monthly report that is on file in the Office of the Code/Building Department Supervisor. He related that the Law and Code Committee intends to review each chapter of the Borough's code book. He related that there are opportunities for additional revenues there. He related that it is critical that the money coming in support the town's budget.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Caren Bauer, 18 Allen Avenue related that she supports the replacement of the playground equipment at the Ocean Ave beach for the taxpayers, young moms and the tourist. She related that her children have enjoyed having playground equipment there and there is nothing better than being able to read a book on the beach while your children play on the playground equipment.

Jim O'Neill, 45 McLean Ave related that he has lived in Manasquan for 16 years and that he fully supports the beach equipment bond ordinance, especially the purchase of the playground equipment for the beach at Ocean Avenue. He asked the Governing Body how can they take a playground away from the children that can't swim in the ocean. He related that the beach is a playground which is the way it should be. He asked that the Governing Body reconsider passing the bond ordinance. He related that the playground equipment has been there for 16 years and that it should continue to be.

Council Member Lucas related that he is not against purchasing the playground equipment but that he is against purchasing it this year.

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Mr. O'Neill pointed out that revenue could be lost because people may not go to that beach if the playground equipment is not there. He related that it encourages people to use the Manasquan beach. He related that we all understand what is going on with the economy but that it should be left in the budget.

Council Member Bossone related that he never anticipated that he would get any opposition to replacing the playground equipment that was removed instead of being restored. He related that the intention was to replace the equipment. He also noted for the record that if it doesn't get replaced he has tried his hardest to replace it.

Council Member Connolly related that the playground equipment has been there since 2003 and little did they know that maintenance would be a problem. She related that she doesn't want to take stuff away from children but that they have to show the taxpayers and the children that in bad economic times we all have to give a little and make sacrifices.

Mr. O'Neill related that we are all giving a little which was already done with the budget.

Council Member Connolly related that she doesn't know where we are going to get the money.

Mayor Dempsey related that user fees and not taxes support the beach operation.

Council Member Donovan related that the Borough saved money by installing the equipment in 2003. He related that it could be the reason why it didn't last as long as it should have.

Michael Mangan, 115 Curtis Ave directed his question and comments to the members of the Governing Body that do not support the Beach Equipment Bond Ordinance. He pointed out that the members of the Governing Body that do not support the Beach Equipment Bond Ordinance also supported the Squan Beach Restoration Project Bond Ordinance. He asked for the aforementioned members of the Governing Body to reconcile these two issues. He related that the beach is supported by user fees and is a utility that will pay the bond ordinance off at some point with fees and not tax dollars. He related that there are home foreclosures, economy problems and job losses but that the beach is supported by user fees and not tax dollars. He asked how a member of the Council who thinks the economy and taxes are so important can suggest raising building fees or support a massive bond ordinance for the Squan Beach Lifesaving Station Restoration Project but will not support a bond ordinance that will improve the quality of life at the beach, attract more residents there and bring in revenue for the beach utility.

Council Member Connolly related that the beach budget is weather dependent and that if enough revenue isn't collected then the taxpayers will be paying for the bond ordinance. She related that the Life Saving Station has over \$700,000 in grant funding.

Mr. Mangan related that \$300,000 in taxpayer's dollars are being spent on the Squan Beach Life Saving Station.

Council Member Connolly related that it is a National Historical Site. She asked how many towns have a National Site in it.

Mayor Dempsey related that in this economy it is still taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Mangan related that it is a matter of priorities. He related that Council Member Connolly voted to put \$300,000 into the Squan Beach Lifesaving Station, a building that is currently unoccupied and unused.

Council Member Connolly related that Mr. Mangan is making an assumption that the tax payers used will be \$300,000 and that more grant funding may be obtained. She related that in the past the Borough said it would restore it when it was purchased for one dollar.

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Mr. Mangan noted that those economic times were different. He related that he doesn't see how Council Member Connolly can support spending taxpayer's dollars on the SBLSS Project but not on beach equipment.

Council Member Connolly pointed out that \$700,000 in grants will be lost.

Mr. Mangan related that \$300,000 is a lot in these tough economic times. He related that if \$300,000 is okay with Council Member Connolly as long as there is \$700,000 in grants.

Mayor Dempsey related that the asbestos clean up of the building cost of \$190,000 was paid for by tax dollars.

Council Member Lucas related that for one dollar the Borough got one acre of land and a large storage building. He related that when talking about the financing of the SBLSS Project, the fact that the Borough got a piece of land worth millions and a storage building that the Borough has been using for 10 years should be mentioned.

Council Member Grasso related that he gave the Governing Body a three-scenario spread sheet for increasing the code fees because they are low. He asked Mr. Mangan if he was head of the Law and Code Committee when he served on Council.

Mr. Mangan related that he was in 2006.

Council Member Grasso related that just to get even with the surrounding towns the Borough would have to raise its rates to \$120.00 or more – to be self sufficient.

Mr. Mangan asked if Council Member Grasso had a concern about the user fee that was made for the beach.

Council Member Grasso related that is a separate subject.

Mr. Mangan reiterated his original statement and question.

Council Member Grasso related that the Code Department has to look at how it maintains and supports its department. He related that it is a salaried and insured functioning part of the town. He related that it has a budget. He related that if they run in the red either the fees have to be raised or spending has to be cut or both – that's business. He related that there are a lot of other fees in the code book that should be raised and should have been raised. He related that he is going on the record to say that these things have to be done to support the department and the taxpayers. He related that if these things were done three years ago we wouldn't be having this conversation. He related that perhaps no one cared or looked into the details and called other municipalities, such as Lake Como and Point Pleasant, but that he did. He related that we are looking at all the ordinances to see how we can get our money back to support our taxpayers. He related that he is not going to be chastised because someone didn't do this in the past. Understood he asked.

Mr. Mangan stated that he understands that Council Member Grasso did not answer his question on how he can reconcile the two positions. He related that the reason why Council Member Grasso referred to Lake Como and Point Pleasant is because all of the other municipalities entered into a interlocal agreement. He related that for 3 years he personally studied this Interlocal and that Manasquan was running cheaper than the interlocal. He related that Manasquan had positive revenue until the construction climate dropped off this year. He suggested looking at the interlocal again before an ordinance to raise fees is introduced.

Council Member Grasso related that if fees were raised in 2006 when the economy was good Mr. Hamilton's department would have surplus.

Mr. Mangan stated that what he is hearing is now it is okay to take from surplus.

Council Member Grasso related that it is a business.

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Mr. Mangan stated that he was finished.

Council Member Grasso stated that Mr. Mangan was done.

Valerie Minton, 89 McLean Ave related that she supports replacing the playground equipment at the Ocean Ave Beach. She related that it is great for the kids and it is valuable to the community. She related that she believes that revenue is greater because people go to that beach because of the playground equipment.

Ed Hyer, 56 Second Ave related that the problem is that all the equipment was packaged and put into one ordinance. He related that he supports the playground equipment but not the lockers.

Mayor Dempsey related that is often how it is done.

Mr. Hyer related that if that is the case then the decision to make the purchases should be made before the bond ordinance is prepared.

Council Member Bossone reiterated his comments that it is cheaper to make the purchases by bundling them into a bond ordinance. He noted that the lockers produce revenue and in three years pay for themselves.

Mr. Hyer related that he is against the lockers and that if he wanted to live in Belmar he would have bought there.

Council Member Connolly made a motion to adjourn the work session to the regular meeting at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Council Member Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

The Borough Attorney presented a resolution authorizing the Governing Body to meet in closed session following the regular meeting.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Member Donovan. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was reconvened to the closed session at 9:02 p.m. following the regular meeting.

The Closed Session portion of the meeting along with the signature block and approval date is on the next page.