

Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, February 2, 2016 - 4pm

A meeting of the Senior Advisory Committee was held Tuesday February 2, 2016 at 4pm. Present were Sylvia Ormando, Jean Lotito, Michael W. Hale, Nathan A. Abbe, Brady Palmer, Al Molinaro and Council Liaison Noonan. Also present were Secretary for the committee Karen Stallings. Absent were Gilbert Wels and Jay Glasgow.

The Committee rose for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Ormando, Lotito, Hale, Palmer, Ristaino, Molinaro, Abbe,

Absent: Wels, Glasgow

1. Approval of Minutes Of October 6, 2015

Mrs. Lotito asks that a sentence on page three, fourth paragraph be removed from the minutes because it is out of context.

On motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mrs. Lotito with the revision to approve the minutes of October 6, 2015.

AYE: Ormando, Lotito, Hale, Palmer, Ristaino, Molinaro, Abbe

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Wels, Glasgow

2. Old Business Review

Councilwoman Noonan updates the Committee regarding the Comcast lawsuit. Comcast attorney contacted her and wanted to negotiate a settlement because they don't want to go to court, she told them she would have to contact her lawyer and when she mentioned her lawyer they ended the conversation. Comcast wants the case moved to the Federal Court there would be a monetary resolution, but we don't want money we are looking for regulation. The Governor's aid received a copy of the lawsuit along with a copy that was sent to the Lt Governor.

After some research she came across a complaint that was filed in 2003 against Comcast and the suit referenced the Board of Public Utilities. The newspapers have called regarding the suit and a reporter named Willis did an article regarding Comcast as well.

Councilwoman Noonan introduces the new Administrator, John Camera.

Administrator Camera explains he is going to sit in to get himself familiar with the committees.

Councilwoman Noonan continues speaking on Comcast and adds that a lot of people are still calling trying to get involved with the suit including Monmouth County. The attorney that is handling the case for her has advised not to speak to the press just yet regarding the case. The attorney she has representing them is trying to get the case back into New Jersey Courts, I have a request in with the Tax Assessor to see how many people are from Pennsylvania. If the case gets picked up there will be a story in the Philadelphia Inquirer & the New York Times. What we are looking for is someone to oversee Comcast and regulate them.

Chairman Abbe adds they moved the headquarters to a new building.

Councilwoman Noonan explains they said the Senior citizens were harassing them however not just seniors went there.

Mr. Hale comments that Comcast's low rating should feed right into the lawsuit and asks if she could provide the Committee with a copy of what she was showing them.

Councilwoman Noonan explains it is the letter that her attorney provided to the Lieutenant Governor, the copy of the actual complaint is over 100 pages. If we win Comcast will have to pay all attorney fees.

Councilwoman Noonan added that if the Lieutenant Governor didn't want to get involved in the suit against Comcast she would involve the Democrats.

Chairman Abbe asked for a copy so he could bring it up at his homeowner's association meeting.

Councilwoman Noonan explains the statement was in the community paper and adds that the Asbury Park Press is very interested in this suit and went to the courthouse to read the entire suit that was filed.

3. New Business

Mrs. Lotito complimented the County on the paving they did on Mule Road.

Councilwoman Noonan adds that during the past snowstorm the County did a terrible job plowing and they couldn't get to the main roads. She understands that every community had issues this time, but the DPW had a contractor that they had problems with. We have spoken to a few associations that have plows do the residents driveway and we are going to try to work it out where that contractor will also do the streets in that area as long as they can meet the Township's specifications. They plow the streets first and when they finish they can do the driveways. This will allow the DPW to better handle the rest of the Township roadways during a snow storm.

Mrs. Palmer explains they blocked her in with 3 feet of snow.

Councilwoman Noonan explains that the snow was so heavy and wet that it froze and it broke some of the Township equipment as well. The Township is also aware of the mail situation because of the plowing and the snow piled in front of the mailboxes the mailman wouldn't deliver.

Mrs. Orlando explains the storm was last Monday and she still can't get her mail delivered. I called the DPW yesterday and they supervisor said they would look at it.

Councilwoman Noonan asks Administrator Camera if he will take down the information and look into it.

Mr. Hale explains that in Sonata Bay in addition to the contractor making sure that the driveways are clear they also require that the mailboxes are accessible because the post office requires that the homeowner is responsible to make sure the mailboxes aren't snowed in if they want to receive mail. This is a part of the contract the association makes with the contractor and suggests other associations do it as well.

Mr. Molinaro explains that it is the Townships responsibility to plow curb to curb and not the homeowners.

Councilwoman Noonan explains that she is the Chair to the Townships DPW committee and they are going to have a meeting to discuss this. Carefree is very interested in having their contractor plow the streets as long as the contractor has the appropriate equipment.

Mr. Hale explains their contractor had suggested this but they weren't able to move on it because there may be a bias regarding public bidding giving an unfair advantage to bidders.

Councilwoman Noonan disagrees because the DPW sends certain contractors to specific areas now.

Chairman Abbe agrees with Councilwoman Noonan that they have contractor now going to specific sections.

Mrs. Ristaino explains that her community Holiday City at Berkeley doesn't do driveways and that is 3236 driveways.

Mr. Molinaro adds another 2359 in the South.

Mrs. Ristaino explains that she watched on Monday & Tuesday garbage trucks and yellow trucks going down her street with the plows up when there was still a lot of

snow on the street. Barbados was terrible and was thick with snow & ice, and texted the Mayor to let him know.

Mrs. Palmer explains in the West there were more than 475 homes that didn't get their driveways cleared because the driveways are pavers and plows can move the pavers as well as the snow so the contractors won't touch driveways with pavers. She contacted a contractor who said if she could get three more homes in addition to hers they would come and they came strictly for the driveways.

Councilwoman Noonan understands and the county roads as well as local roads were a mess snow on corners was piled too high to be able to see to make a turn, ambulances and police cars were getting stuck and this is why she is asking for any other issues so going forward we will try to rectify this.

Chairman Abbe concludes that what the town is doing is good to investigate where the problems are so going forward they can do better. He had a conversation with CFO Ebenau and was told there are no large companies in the area that have the equipment to clear the roads.

Councilwoman Noonan reiterates if this committee has any suggestions to allow them to do a better job at plowing she is happy to hear them.

Mrs. Orlando explains that there was one garbage truck that was stuck on Freeport and took 15 minutes to get out only to get stuck on the corner of Davenport and Freeport he had to wait for a backhoe to get out and that took over 20 minutes and suggests that if he was careful that would not have happened.

Councilwoman Noonan adds that on most roads they only made one pass where last year they did the whole road.

Mrs. Ristaino adds that on Jamaica which is a main road they only plowed one side of the street.

Councilwoman explains a lot of the complaints she received were for people who did not prepare ahead of time for the storm and people who were out that should have stayed home that caused problems for the plows and emergency services.

Mrs. Orlando suggests that with all the wooded areas and open areas in her area that it would make more sense to pile the snow in those areas rather than in the middle of the Courts.

Mr. Molinaro explains that there are environmental concerns to doing that.

Mrs. Ristaino adds that it takes more time to do that and extra overtime means our taxes will go up.

Mr. Molinaro explains the situation with this snow storm has not been good for any of the communities, but the Mayor's office did warn us about the storm. I have worked with heavy equipment all my life and have done snow removal since 2003 in his community and it's difficult to get driveways and mailboxes done if the roads aren't done properly. When he plowed roads there was always one cut down the middle of the street for emergency vehicles there are a lot of complaints no matter what. They did the best they could with what they had. But they should have prepared a little better by pre-salting the roads.

Mrs. Lotito adds we are fortunate the weather has been warm and the snow is melting fast.

Councilwoman Noonan explains preparation is the best make sure your residents who are on dialysis get the forms into the Police Department. Township Administration did want to hear your concerns so they could address them and we will have the DPW meeting next week some time. If anyone comes up with something else that wasn't discussed please call.

Mrs. Orlando asks if they can put salt instead of sand on the roads after a storm.

Councilwoman Noonan explains that DPW feels the mixture is better.

Mrs. Lotito explains there are a lot of snow left at the intersections making it hard to see cross traffic like at the intersection of Davenport and Prince Charles and asks if they do something about it.

Councilwoman Noonan asks Administrator Camera if the DPW can go back and take a look at that.

Chairman Abbe reviews the meeting schedule, the first Tuesday in April, the first Tuesday in May, off for the summer and then the first Tuesday in October.

Councilwoman Noonan explains Connors, Rumpf & Gove will present a Bill regarding the Death Tax and Inheritance tax and when she gets the Bill number she will get it to everyone. A lot of people leave New Jersey because of these taxes. This is a Bi-partisan issue. They don't want me to do a petition until they get the Bill number so I will be updating everyone on this.

Mr. Hale asks if the Governor put a statement on his veto.

Councilwoman Noonan says he did not. The one he vetoed unconditionally was allowing people to work to get money off their taxes.

Councilwoman Noonan explains that we get taxed on everything in New Jersey and everything is going up and this is her biggest beef with Comcast. We are a captive audience because there are no alternatives and they don't seem to care that it's getting to expensive and it's not just seniors. The BPU doesn't do their job when it comes to these issues, they pass rate increases all the time and never deny them.

Administrator Camera thanked the Committee for letting him sit in and looks forward to working with everyone.

Mrs. Ristaino comments about Comcast billing about how it's goes and you call and complain and it goes back down again and how do they come up with their prices.

Councilwoman Noonan explains that's what they are trying to rectify with the lawsuit, they are looking for an ombudsman paid by Comcast that oversees them. If you have a serious complaint this is the person that should handle it and take care of the situation. Comcast is nervous and they do not want this to go to court.

Mrs. Ristaino asks if there is anything they can do.

Councilwoman Noonan explains that more signatures would help but get the complaint as well. They wrote on a separate piece of paper what their complaint was and I attached every one of them to the lawsuit. I wanted to go on the radio about the complaint but the attorney advised against it until we find out what court will hear the complaint. We need validation for the complaint and the Governor's office could give that to us.

Mr. Hale asks for clarification on bill number 469 the legislature ended the beginning of January was it reintroduced and will the bill stay the same.

Councilwoman Noonan explains it was re-introduced S 2070 and I think it is still the same and you can look it up under the old number. This passed almost unanimously. They are going to ask in the new bill for at least one person on the Board to be certified. We don't know when the hearing will be but Senator Connor usually gives her 3 days' notice.

Mr. Molinaro apologizes but he has a previous appointment and has to leave.

Councilwoman Noonan thanks him for making the time to be at the meeting.

Mrs. Ristaino asks if the College will be holding any more classes for homeowners associations.

Councilwoman Noonan explains she will be happy to help you set it up and if you are going to serve on a board it only makes the board better. The President only oversees, they don't get a vote and any money matters have to go through the board.

Mrs. Ristaino asks if they took the classes would they be certified.

Councilwoman Noonan says that if you take the class you will be certified and you will get a certificate. Pat Fenn of Ocean County College gives the class. The price was right \$30.00 and you don't have to go to the college they will come to you. They went over a lot of things including the ADR because we all have problems and it helps to figure out how to handle those problems

Mrs. Ristaino feels that any class should go into depth concerning the ADR. Councilwoman Noonan agrees because this stops going to court and mediation.

Mrs. Palmer asks which associations have the Robo Calling for information. She would like to get more information on it to bring it back to her association. They were considering Robo Dial out of Virginia but you can never get a "live" person on the phone to answer questions.

Mr. Hale gives Mrs. Palmer the number to the person in the Sonata Bay association that handles the robo call program for them.

Mrs. Ormando asks Mr. Hale to email the number to the Committee.

Mr. Hale explains his name is Bob Laird and his phone number is 732-269-2020. There are a lot of companies out there but theirs is pretty good, effective and inexpensive.

Councilwoman Noonan explains he is the resident in the Sonata Bay community that set is up and runs it.

Mrs. Palmer explains a lot of people in her community only have a cell phone, and it is a number from out of state from a previous address.

Mr. Hale explains that if 90% of the community gets the important message the system is working, you'll never get everyone.

Mrs. Ormando explains her association is looking into it.

On motion by Mrs. Palmer seconded by Mrs. Lotito to adjourn the meeting. Ayes carried with a voice vote. No nays heard.