
TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Workshop
Date of Meeting: September 6, 2006
Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
Minute Page No: Page 1 of 8

The Workshop Meeting of the West Milford Township Council was called to order by Mayor Joseph DiDonato.

Adequate Notice Statement

Mayor DiDonato read the following statement:

Please note that in accordance with Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975 of New Jersey, adequate advance notice of this Regular meeting was advertised in the Herald News in its issues of December 26, 2005 and January 8, 2006; copies were provided to the Suburban Trends, the Record, Star Ledger, and Greenwood Lake News and posted continuously on the bulletin board in the main corridor of the Town Hall and on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor DiDonato led all in attendance in a salute to the flag.

Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Philip Weisbecker, Joseph Smolinski, William Gervens, Robert Nolan, James Warden (arrived at 7:37 p.m.), Carmelo Scangarello, Mayor Joseph DiDonato.

Absent:

Also Present: Township Administrator Richard Kunze, Township Clerk Antoinette Battaglia, Township Attorney Frederick Semrau

Reading of or Approval of Unapproved Minutes

None.

Meetings

Mayor DiDonato noted the future meeting schedule:

September 13, 2006 Regular Meeting
September 27, 2006 Workshop Meeting
October 4, 2006 Regular Meeting
October 11, 2006 Workshop Meeting

Proclamations

None.

Public Comments

Mayor DiDonato opened the meeting to the public after advising that there is a five-minute limit for each speaker. He invited interested parties to raise their hand and come forward when called upon.

Renee Alessio, Upper Greenwood Lake thanked the Council for passing a resolution two weeks ago supporting the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. She spoke with the Township Clerk earlier and has learned that the Clerk spoke with Seattle officials today and we are registered. She advised that she has attended Energy Committee meetings and they are busy assessing municipal buildings and vehicles. She has also attended Recycling and Environmental Commission meetings. She applauded their work. She expressed approval that the Council is working on septic systems and assessing the MUA, noting that it is important to look at all potential pollution sources of Greenwood Lake. She advised that she recently toured the gardens at Rutgers University which are robust and where the gardeners do not use fertilizers to attain those results. She opined that organic gardening is better and the educational initiatives being recommended by Councilman Smolinski are to be applauded. She stated that the Environmental Commission has a great website but many residents do not use the web. Therefore, we must determine how to educate the entire populace because those actions may influence other people and will ultimately help the environment.

Eleanor Decker and Georgina Rothenberg, Lincoln Hill Village asked for an update of requested sidewalks from Lincoln Hill Village to the Shop Rite in town. They advised that the [Passaic County] Freeholders had responded to a letter they had directed to them requesting their assistance in getting a sidewalk for this area. The letter advised that the County does not construct sidewalks and that they should take their case to the Mayor and Council. Therefore, they are again requesting that the Council consider installation of sidewalks from the back gate of Lincoln Hill to the Shop Rite, noting that it is very dangerous to walk that route at this time. They provided copies of both their letter and the response from the County to Mayor DiDonato. They noted that many people would like to walk from Lincoln Hill to the Shop Rite and that seniors need this as much as the kids in town need all the resources being provided them.

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Workshop
Date of Meeting: September 6, 2006
Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
Minute Page No: Page 2 of 8

Jim Aiello, Dehart Avenue, West Milford noted that the format for discussion at Council meetings has changed in recent times. He lamented that there is no allowance for a give-and-take conversation on any subject. He advised that he owns Greenwood Lakes Discount Liquors. West Milford does not currently offer distribution licenses in town and he noticed that there is to be a discussion tonight about possibly doing so in the near future. Currently, all licenses in town are consumption licenses. He would like to hear, in the upcoming discussion, about distribution licenses, how those licenses would affect current laws, and how such a license in town would affect his business. It was previously understood that everyone was on an even par and distribution licenses would bring a new dynamic to the businesses in town. It would raise the potential for large chain stores to come into town and that would certainly have a negative impact on his business which is structured around the current process.

Wayne Gottlieb, 20 South Richfield Road, West Milford expressed his pleasure that the West Milford Sunshine Act was withdrawn. He said that he was surprised to read Councilman Nolan quoted in the paper as saying that this would apply to volunteer groups and that he does not wish to see them burdened. Councilman Nolan has also indicated that he would like to have a bi-partisan group formulated to review the issues addressed in the Act. Mr. Gottlieb suggested that if this were to happen, the Committee should insist that they be allowed to consult with licensed attorneys who have a background in municipal laws, OPRA, and OPMA. The group should be large in number and include people with experience in various fields. Any proposed law should then be discussed and debated in detail. There were many provisions in the proposed Act that would have had caused future damage to the Township of West Milford. He expressed disappointment that the Township's professionals rendered opinions that were challenged by uneducated people. He opined that the Committee of Petitioners owes all those who signed the petition an apology for selling them a bill of goods that could have caused a lot of harm.

Councilman Weisbecker moved to close the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Moved: Weisbecker Seconded: Scangarello
Voted Aye: Weisbecker, Smolinski, Gervens, Nolan, Warden, Scangarello.
Voted Nay: None.
Motion carried.

Council Comments

Mayor DiDonato stated that the Council will discuss for the first time tonight the potential for distribution liquor licenses in West Milford. The Council is simply exploring the concept and the process will allow for more discussion.

Administrator Kunze stated that, a couple of years ago, the Township was unsuccessful in an application they made for grant monies for a sidewalk on Lincoln Avenue. Our staff continues to explore grant opportunities for this and, if the Council wishes, we can add it to the capital program for next year.

Councilman Nolan wanted the seniors to know that next year's capital budget would not pass until the Spring 2007 and construction on the proposed sidewalk would be much later in the year. Administrator Kunze interjected that the earliest construction could begin would be the fall of 2007.

Councilman Smolinski noting that government moves slowly, encouraged the proponents of the sidewalk not to give up the fight.

Presentations

None.

Action Items

The Township Council took action on the following items:

Agenda No. VIII 1

**~ Resolution 2006-293 ~
Highcrest Drainage Improvements**

Mayor DiDonato and Councilman Warden recused themselves from discussion of this topic because they reside in this area. Councilman Nolan stated that there was no information in his packet. The Township Attorney, Mr. Semrau, advised that he is still engaging in discussion with Highcrest and their attorney on the agreement which is in reference to drainage improvements at Highcrest. The agreement will provide that the Township will supply materials for this project and Highcrest will provide the labor. Thus far, the estimate for materials is approximately \$8,700. The Township is seeking a certification of labor costs because in no event should our costs exceed 50% of the entire project. Mr. Semrau also noted that he is also researching some dated easements obtained from the Clerk's office and he expects to have the agreement ready for the

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Workshop
Date of Meeting: September 6, 2006
Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
Minute Page No: Page 3 of 8

next meeting if everything is found to be in order. Council President Gervens stressed that all easements and old deeds should be researched thoroughly.

Agenda No. VIII 2

~ Resolution 2006-305 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY RECONFIRMING RESOLUTION NO. 2006-268 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN LANDS AND PROPERTIES WHICH ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE BY THE TOWNSHIP WITH DELETIONS AND ADDITIONS

WHEREAS, the Township of West Milford is the owner of certain lands and premises within the Township of West Milford; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of West Milford does hereby determine that the lands and properties set forth in Schedule A are no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Township of West Milford desires to make available for public sale said lands, with the right of prior refusal to be afforded to adjacent property owners pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of West Milford as follows:

1. The Township of West Milford hereby declares that the lands and premises set forth in Schedule A are no longer needed for public use and should be sold in accordance with appropriate statutes of the State of New Jersey.

2. The Township Council of the Township of West Milford hereby authorizes the Township Clerk to offer for sale to the highest bidder by open public sale at auction the property set forth in Schedule A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

3. The public sale shall take place at the West Milford Township Municipal Building, 1480 Union Valley Road, West Milford, New Jersey, on September 27, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard and publicly announced, provided the sale is not cancelled.

4. The public sale, if not cancelled, shall take place by open public sale at auction to the highest bidder.

5. The successful bidder at the time of the sale must present cash or a certified check or money order, payable to themselves (to be endorsed to the Township of West Milford, or its designee if successful), in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the minimum bid and the balance of the purchase price no later than sixty (60) days following the acceptance by the Township and the tender of marketable title to the purchaser and submitted to the Township. The purchaser shall be entitled to possession immediately following closing of title.

6. The Township makes no representation as to the title or any other aspects of the land to be sold.

7. At closing of title, purchaser shall also pay to the Township a buyer's premium in the amount of ten (10%) percent of the bid amount.

8. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids at the public sale and not to award to the highest bidder.

9. In the event the Township of West Milford is unable to convey clear and marketable title, insurable at regular rates by a title insurance company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey, the Township shall forthwith return to the purchaser the deposit and neither party shall have any further rights against the other. The acceptance of a deed by the purchaser from the Township shall extinguish any claims the said purchaser may have against the Township of West Milford in connection with the quality of title conveyed.

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Workshop
 Date of Meeting: September 6, 2006
 Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
 Minute Page No: Page 4 of 8

10. All conveyances by the Township shall be made by way of a Quit Claim Deed, unless an adequate title binder prepared at the expense of the purchaser is forwarded to the Township prior to the conveyance and discloses that the Township holds marketable title in which case a Bargain and Sale Deed with Covenants Against Grantor's Acts will be the form of conveyance. The Township will include within its deed a metes and bounds description based upon a survey if a survey and metes and bounds description is obtained by the purchaser.

11. The Township Council of the Township of West Milford reserves the right to waive any and all defects and informalities in any proposal and to accept or reject the highest responsible and responsive bidder deemed to be in the best interests of the Township.

12. Adjoining property owners shall be given the first right to bid. If no adjoining property owners bids, the bidding will be opened to the public.

13. The deed of conveyance shall contain a restriction that the lot cannot be built upon and if purchased by an adjoining property owner, the property shall merge into the purchaser's current lot. Furthermore, the property shall not be further subdivided as the conveyance is being made to accommodate the adjoining property owner as to his/her current residence, not for subdivision purposes.

14. A public notice of sale shall be published in the Township's official newspaper at least once a week for two consecutive weeks, the last publication being no earlier than seven (7) days prior to the date set forth for the public sale, which notice shall contain the conditions of this sale in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a).

15. In the event the successful bidder fails to close on the property, he shall forfeit the ten percent (10%) deposit.

16. The resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of West Milford hereby reaffirms Resolution No. 2006-268 Authorizing The Sale Of Certain Lands And Properties Which Is No Longer Needed For Public Use By The Township with the deletion of three lots and the addition of the Tax Assessor's Suggested Minimum Bid amounts.

Adopted: September 6, 2006

SCHEDULE A					
BLOCK	LOT	ACREAGE	ZONE	LOCATION	ASSESSOR'S SUGGESTED MINIMUM BID
101	6	18,100 sf	R-4	County Road	\$ 4,000.00
207	9	5,500 sf	LR	Lookover Drive	\$ 750.00
906	2	5,500 sf	LR	Florence Road	\$ 600.00
906	14	10,100 sf	LR	Florence Road	\$ 1,200.00
906	15	9,500 sf	LR	Florence Road	\$ 1,250.00
1001	39	10,600 sf	LR	Warwick Tpk.	\$ 2,000.00
1003	6	11,000 sf	LR	Princeton Road	\$ 1,000.00
1701	43	13,000 sf	LR	Fairview Drive	\$ 1,400.00
2606	16	4,000 sf	LR	Pt. Breeze Drive	\$ 1,000.00
8509	21	5,600 sf	R-4	Tom Lane	\$ 750.00
8510	7	5,900 sf	R-4	Diane Lane	\$ 750.00
11001	3	118,000 sf	LR	Joseph Place	\$ 10,000.00
11202	1.01	32,500 sf	LR	Joseph Place	\$ 3,000.00
11202	1.02	10,200 sf	LR	Larsen Road	\$ 1,000.00
11202	1.03	13,600 sf	LR	Joseph Place	\$ 1,000.00
11202	11	10,300 sf	LR	Larsen Road	\$ 1,000.00
11302	41	129,300 sf	LR	Joseph Place	\$ 10,000.00
12304	10	9,100 sf	LR	32 East Park Drive	\$ 40,000.00
13810	7	4,600 sf	LR	Walker Avenue	\$ 1,600.00

 Moved: Weisbecker Seconded: Gervens
 Voted Aye: Weisbecker, Smolinski, Gervens, Nolan, Warden, Scangarello

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Workshop
Date of Meeting: September 6, 2006
Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
Minute Page No: Page 5 of 8

Voted Nay: None.
Motion carried.

Items For Discussion

The Township Council discussed the following items:

1)	Retail Distribution Liquor Licenses – Administrator Kunze advised that a question arose from a current licensee during the renewal process this year about distribution licenses. This licensee stated that he would be better served if he had a distribution license rather than a consumption license. Distribution licenses would be sought by entities that wish to operate a liquor store and not a bar. The Township Attorney looked into this matter and, after determining the feasibility for West Milford, issued a memo to Council. The Council is being asked tonight if they would like to consider offering one or two distribution liquor licenses to the business community. Mr. Semrau advised that an entity owning a distribution license could sell packaged liquor for carryout and there would be no consumption on the premises. Councilman Weisbecker asked, with 33-34 licenses in town right now, why we would want to consider more licenses. Council President Gervens stated that he does not agree with the prospect of selling distribution licenses to make money. Councilman Smolinski opined that we would be promoting alcohol abuse in town to our kids for the sake of a few dollars and Councilman Warden stated that it would be unfair to current licensees. He said that a distribution license would take business away from existing businesses. Councilman Scangarello stated that he does not wish to see another liquor establishment in West Milford. The Council stated that they have no interest in pursuing this matter any further.
2)	Lawn Fertilizer Ordinance – Mayor DiDonato directed the Council to the draft ordinance prepared by Mr. Semrau. Mr. Semrau stated that this draft includes a licensing program for commercial entities. Non-compliance could result in a fine or the revocation of a license. In the draft version, there is no violation provision for non-commercial entities. He reviewed some of the specifics which were based on the model recommended by the Environmental Commission. His primary focus, while drafting this ordinance, was how to address enforcement issues. Councilman Nolan stated that, if we enact this ordinance, individual homeowners may not know about it. He asked if we could get local hardware stores to encourage customers to purchase non-phosphorous fertilizers, noting that we can monitor commercial entities but not individuals. Councilman Warden stated that the Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission had suggested that the Administrator contact Home Depot and Lowe’s requesting that they stock non-phosphorous fertilizers and then we could spread the word to residents. Council President affirmed that the Township must make every effort to stop the use of phosphorous fertilizers. Councilman Weisbecker stated that the hardware stores currently sell non-phosphorous fertilizers and we should focus on education. Noting that surrounding municipalities have either adopted or are considering adopting similar ordinances, he said that we could ultimately join forces to reach all the residents of these communities. Administrator Kunze affirmed that the educational component of this endeavor will be critical to the success of this ordinance. He envisions the Environmental and Lakes Committees doing an educational campaign. He asked everyone to read the draft carefully and advised that he will send it to both the Environmental Commission and the Bi-State Commission for comments. Mr. Semrau asked the Council for guidance on the penalty provision. Mayor DiDonato stated that phosphorous is bad for our lakes regardless of who is doing it. Education is important but if everyone is subject to penalties they will join in the educational process with the commercial entities. The Council concurred and instructed the Attorney to make that change before sending the ordinance to the various committees and commissions.
3)	MUA Water Testing – Administrator Kunze recalled that, in advance of the last meeting, the Health Officer gave a list of costs for testing of the MUA facilities. The quotes included two samples on two dates for a total of four samples of each facility. In that memo, the Health Officer laid out the methodology for the Council. The tests would be for fecal coliform and phosphorous levels and would cost about \$179 per plant. The lowest quote came from Accurate Analytical which is the company we currently use for water samples and there are sufficient funds to cover the costs in the Health Department budget. Council President Gervens stated that the tests should be random and controlled by the Council. They should include testing during heavy rain, after rainstorms, and in every kind of weather condition. He stated that it is not beneficial to test in the same routine as is currently being used. Councilman Nolan concurred and stated that the tests must be taken at the discharge pipes because that is where the substances empty into the Creek. Councilman Warden echoed agreement with Council President Gervens, noting that the tests should not be announced and they should be random in nature. He advised that DEP standards require that the samples be taken at the outflow, not 10’ above or below. The Council instructed the Administrator to check the reputation of the company that submitted the lowest quote. Councilman Smolinski agreed with all the Council’s statements and urged the Council to determine that, when the results come in, this will bring a conclusion

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Workshop
 Date of Meeting: September 6, 2006
 Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
 Minute Page No: Page 6 of 8

	<p>to this matter. Whatever the result, we must initiate a better working relationship with the MUA. Council President Gervens agreed stating that whatever the problem we must address it as a team and cease the practice of making accusations which is not fair to anyone. Councilman Warden stated that the Bi-State Commission has grant money and we should explore getting them involved, perhaps in consulting on what the parameters should be. Councilman Smolinski noted that such action would take the matter outside of the Council. Councilman Scangarello stated that he has done testing of a similar nature for years for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority (PVSC). He described their methodology and offered his assistance in determining the parameters. Administrator Kunze advised that he will speak directly with representatives from Princeton Hydro. They have an excellent reputation and have worked successfully in the past with both West Milford and the Bi-State Commission. He will ask them to opine on a full testing methodology and will obtain a cost estimate from them. Councilman Weisbecker asked if the Township would incur any liability as a result of this testing. Mr. Semrau answered in the negative, noting that we would notify whatever parties we have to, and the facilities being tested are the responsibility of the MUA.</p>
<p>4)</p>	<p>Board of Adjustment Attorney Contract – Councilman Nolan stated that he had requested that this subject be placed on the agenda for discussion. He referenced correspondence he sent to the Administrator in July and the Administrator’s subsequent response which was copied to the Zoning Board. He stated that the Zoning Board’s response is that they will not comply with the suggestions. He stated that the substitute attorney who was appointed by Stephen Glatt should not be paid by this Council because he/she has not complied with laws and local ordinances, and if this Council pays any of those bills, he will report the Council to the Department of Community Affairs. Councilman Warden expressed shock that the Zoning Board has no regard for the Council and he suggested that the Council should be taking legal action against them because of their actions. Mr. Semrau interjected that the concern is about going forward and attorneys appointed in the future. Councilman Weisbecker stated that he understands that there is a problem to be addressed but enough is enough. He stressed that the Zoning Board members are volunteers who are appointed but are autonomous from the Council. He recommended that these issues be addressed at the beginning of next year when the Council is making appointments and engaged in the budget process. He stated that, in his opinion, the Council should not engage in any legal challenges. He asked Mr. Semrau for his opinion regarding the autonomy of this board and similar boards. Mr. Semrau advised that this board is autonomous as determined by case law. The authority of these boards makes them autonomous in matters pertaining to action they take. However, that autonomy may not apply in administrative matters relative to the Township. The Township has administrative oversight of contract execution to ensure compliance with the law. Mayor DiDonato expressed shock that this conversation is centered around censoring boards comprised of volunteers who give their time and invest considerable effort to serve West Milford. He stated that Stephen Glatt has given West Milford some of the lowest fees imaginable and he has attended almost every meeting throughout his tenure. When he could not make a meeting, he contacted a colleague to cover for him so that the board could conduct business. This was not a sinister conspiracy. The board has a contract with the board attorney and that attorney works out payment for any substitute who fills in for him. The Township pays the attorney with whom they have the contract. Matters before the Zoning and Planning Boards are very time sensitive. If the time limitations are not adhered to, projects are automatically approved. He asked the Council to imagine if that happened with Eagle or Valley Ridge. He stated that, in his opinion, West Milford has lost the ability to be nimble. Our Attorney Ethics ordinance imposes additional regulations to the extent that we can no longer have any attorney step in to cover meetings; we have shackled ourselves. He stated that attorneys are backing away from West Milford. They don’t want the character assassinations, bad publicity and additional paper work that West Milford requires. After years of dedicated work for this Township, Mr. Glatt is fed up and will not be seeking reappointment at the end of his term. His reputation has been besmirched. Our hands are tied even though we are not violating the local contracts law because our attorney gets professional courtesy from his colleagues. There was applause from the audience. Councilman Nolan expressed disbelief that the Mayor is saying that we should violate our ordinances and state contract laws. He said that the Zoning Board has thumbed their nose at the Administrator and the Council, and to date, Mr. Glatt has not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement for 2005. Mayor DiDonato clarified his statements by saying that he is not saying that we should cut anyone a break. Whatever laws are on the books must be adhered to and enforced. However, our hands are now tied and we have lost the ability to get the job done. Councilman Nolan expressed disbelief that the Mayor stated that we cannot get attorneys to come to West Milford.</p>
<p>5)</p>	<p>Award of Crack Sealing Contract – Administrator Kunze advised that this contract allows for the purchase of roadway crack sealants and we anticipate using about the same amount as last year. The Engineer has recommended purchasing through the Morris County Co-op and to award the contract in an amount of \$22,000. The Council instructed</p>

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Township Council Workshop
 Date of Meeting: September 6, 2006
 Time of Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
 Minute Page No: Page 7 of 8

	that a resolution awarding the contract be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
6)	Bond Counsel Contract – Administrator Kunze advised that proposals were accepted last Friday pursuant to pay-to-play laws. We received eleven proposals and he and the CFO are currently reviewing them. He asked the Council if they would accept their report in their packets on Friday and, because of time constraints, allow a resolution based on that report to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. If any Council member has questions or concerns about the report, they can call the Administrator. The Council agreed.
7)	Marketing of Recyclables – Administrator Kunze advised that the contracts for curbside collection and marketing of recyclables will expire at the end of this year. We sent out RFPs for the marketing of recyclables as this contract must be in place before the specifications for the curbside pickup can be finalized. We received five proposals which have been reviewed by the Engineer. He has sent a recommendation that the contract be awarded to Trinity, the company that has the current contract. Council President Gervens asked if anyone had researched the possibility of outsourcing all our recycling operations. Administrator Kunze advised that sufficient research has not been done at this time. However, he will ask the Engineer if this contract would impact future potential for outsourcing. He will have the Engineer and the Recycling Coordinator research outsourcing. The Council gave consent for a resolution awarding this contract for the next meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor DiDonato instructed the Clerk to prepare appointment resolutions for the next meeting. He will recommend appointment of Mr. Volpe to the Planning Board and Mr. Wieser to the Zoning Board. He reminded everyone that this coming Monday is the 5th anniversary of 9/11 and there will be an observance at Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. at the monument on the front lawn. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Township Administrator's Report

Administrator Kunze advised that the Township had received an offer from a gentleman to fix the 9/11 monument sign at his own expense. The Council affirmed that the monument would be fixed by the same entity that installed it and gave their consent. Administrator Kunze reported that the weekend storm activity had minor impact in town. In response to queries from Councilman Nolan, Administrator Kunze advised that, in the past, the DEP had indicated that, in addition to obtaining a permit from them to draw down when repairing docks in the lakes, residents must also obtain a Highlands permit. It appears that this may not be applicable to single-family homes. He will obtain further information and will get it out to the press and the Council.

Township Council Reports

Councilman Weisbecker stated that the Energy Committee recently toured Town Hall and the Johner building. They plan to speak with firms about an energy audit and they also discussed better use of fuels in municipal buildings. He asked the Administrator about the status of poles for banners. Administrator Kunze advised that he is still looking into the possibility of donations. However, it may not be feasible to have this completed this year. Councilman Weisbecker asked if the Administrator had started the 2007 budget process. Administrator Kunze advised that packets have been sent out to all departments, boards and commissions and are due back in the beginning of October. Then, the CFO and Administrator will review them in the hopes of beginning the public meetings in November. The budget document will then go out to Council in December. Councilman Weisbecker stated that he recently spoke with a Long Pond Ironworks West Milford Parent Association member who expressed concerns about gangs in New Jersey. In 2001, the police reported that there were no gangs in West Milford. Based on the most recent report he obtained on-line, we now have gangs. He stated that the leaders of this Town should be proactive to educate our youth and adults about gangs. He stated that he will provide more information at the next Workshop meeting and he gave the Administrator information to be copied and distributed to Council.

Councilman Smolinski recommended that we get a report from our Police Department about gang activity in Town. He urged everyone to attend Monday's memorial. He stated that he watched a very touching television show about Father Mychal Judge, the former pastor of St. Joseph's. The show will air again tomorrow night. He thanked the Committee of Petitioners for pulling their petitions. He commended the Mayor for the support he expressed for our volunteers tonight.

Council President Gervens stated that, although we did not get the grant money applied for, we should do something about a sidewalk on Lincoln Avenue. Perhaps we could install an asphalt sidewalk. Councilman Smolinski asked if we had looked into additional busing for the seniors. Administrator Kunze advised that he had received updated costs for a sidewalk from the Engineer as well as a memo from the Recreation Director on the potential for additional busing. He will forward both to the Council.

