

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
May 20, 2004

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on May 20, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. with Mayor Gatta stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Holden, Chaump, Johnson, Briscione and Mayor Gatta.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Deputy Borough Clerk, Kimberly A. Jungfer and A/Borough Attorney, Martin A. McGann.
- INVOCATION:** Borough Chaplain Berry gave the invocation.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Gatta led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the regular meeting held on May 6, 2004 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilwoman Chaump moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and approved by Council. Councilman Mahon asked if the changes were made and the Deputy Borough Clerk stated that they were.

CLERK'S REPORTS:None

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle reported that the Water Watch Committee had their monthly meeting and are starting a season to season study of water quality in the Oceanport area and also noted an increased fecal count in the area of Old Wharf Park. The committee is looking to see if there is a correlation between the fecal count and the amount of geese in the area.

Councilwoman Kahle stated that the Fire Explorers had their fund raiser this weekend and it was very successful and thanked everyone for participating and supporting the program. The funds will be used for new equipment.

Councilwoman Kahle reported that a few weeks ago the Fire Department had a mutual aid call in Little Silver and on May 3rd the Borough of Little Silver passed a resolution thanking the Fire Department which she read.

Councilwoman Kahle reported that at the last Council meeting and the last Hook and Ladder meeting it was brought up about the sirens not working. She reported this to Captain Sutton of OEM and they were tested on Saturday finding that the only siren working is behind Borough Hall. Captain Sutton stated they will be bringing in an electrician to do the repairs and thereafter the sirens will be tested every Saturday to assure the sirens are in working order.

Councilwoman Kahle asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-04-45** endorsing the formation of the Oceanport Fire Explorers Program after which she moved to approve same. Councilman Mahon seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Councilwoman Kahle asked that everyone keep in their thoughts and prayers Joe Wolfe, a member of the Hook and Ladder Fire Company, as he will be deployed to Iraq on June 5th.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-04-46** regarding a refund due to an overpayment of property taxes after which he moved to approve same. Councilwoman Kahle seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-04-47** authorizing veteran's tax deductions after which he moved to approve same. Councilwoman Kahle seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-04-48** authorizing senior citizen's tax deductions after which he moved to approve same. Councilwoman Kahle seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon reported that under Finance and Administration there has been an ongoing review of the Shore Regional High School budget which he has been working on with Mayor Gatta and Councilman Holden and wanted to thank the Mayor for supporting him in several of the items that he had a problem supporting being cut at the public hearing on May 13th. The Mayor had been able to remove those items from the package that was approved by the other sending districts and that effects funding for basic skills, special education funding and athletic department funding and also the SAC coordinator.

Councilman Mahon stated that the Finance and Administration Committee has been doing much work and this committee will begin work on schedule for employee evaluations. They will follow the policy adopted by the 2003 Mayor and Council and encouraged the public to use the comment cards in the lobby to provide feedback, good or bad, and to offer suggestions.

Councilman Mahon commented that we also have in hand a year to date statement of accounts, the account activity for each department and they will be reviewed.

Councilman Mahon reported that with regard to Public Works, with the addition of a new employee and the return of an employee who had been on medical leave the staff has been able to get a handle on some of the regular maintenance issues around town and stated he has received several compliments about the conditions of the ball fields this year and the repair of pot holes.

Councilman Mahon stated that Tom Crochet has been following up on the street opening permits and just today the utility responsible for a large depression on Port-Au-Peck Avenue has made the repair. Public Works has been working with the help of the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority to identify problems with underground drainage pipes in advance of several road programs being considered.

Councilman Mahon commented that he attended a pre-construction meeting on May 7th with Mr. Crochet for the road improvements to Gooseneck Point Road and Cayuga Avenue. Work is scheduled to begin on or about June 15th and is scheduled for completion within 90 days. Residents on those streets will be notified shortly. The 2003 Road Program continues to be evaluated and prioritized. The Council is aware of the need to address the needs of many roads, among them

Sagamore Avenue, Crescent Place and Horseneck Point Road with the reality that the grant received for Burnt Mill Circle only covers a portion of the improvements that are needed. This discussion will continue when the results and the estimates for the drainage repairs to Burnt Mill Circle are known and in the meantime we have completed repaving and restriping the rear parking lot of Boro Hall and had the same contractor make a repair on Sagamore Avenue.

Councilman Mahon reported under the Cable and Technology Committee the committee met with a phone service provider last week to consider a voice over IP phone system, based on recommendations and concerns expressed by Chief Bebout the Council has decided to proceed with the purchase of a competing system on State Contract.

Councilman Mahon announced that under Flood Mitigation he has been receiving e-mails from some of the members who are anxious to get started working this year, unfortunately that committee's meeting nights have collided with the work on the various budgets so a meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Councilman Mahon reported that he attended the last Environmental Commission meeting for Councilwoman Kahle and there was a review of the notifications made to the Mosquito Commission which will be doing work in the Borough.

Councilman Mahon reported that under Sanitation and Recycling, he and Councilwoman Kahle have received information from Sea Bright on their recycling and trash collection contract which they just received bids for. The recycling information is being reviewed by the Borough Engineer and they will be meeting with Mr. Rospos and Tom Crochet to discuss how Oceanport can benefit from out sourcing recycling collection. He continued that he and Councilwoman Kahle will be meeting with representatives from Monmouth Beach, who may be interested in a joint contract for out sourcing.

Councilman Mahon stated that Councilwoman Kahle has been reporting on the condition of the Borough Hall roof regarding leaking and mold problems. The roof has deteriorated to the point where it must be replaced and as a result the financing originally dedicated for upgrading the recycling drop off area in the Capital Budget back in February has been reallocated for the greater need, an ordinance will be introduced later in the evening to amend the Bond Ordinance so this can be done.

Councilman Mahon reported that the Municipal Building Modernization Committee met recently and architect Eric Wagner was there to help the committee chart its course and going forward with the improvements and expansion of the building and the Municipal Complex as a whole. Mr. Wagner is volunteering his time at this point in the process, as he has in the past for the Borough in order to assist in organizing our approach and present a feasibility analysis to the committee and the Mayor and Council, as we plan and budget going forward.

Councilman Mahon noted that Sunday, June 23rd the Oceanport Sports Foundation will be hosting a Coaches Appreciation Night at Avantis. Councilman Mahon stated that the Mayor and Council have been invited as have the members of the Borough Recreation Committee. The guest list also includes the 206 Borough residents who have completed the Rutgers Safety Certification program. He said the organization will be distributing the applications for their 2004 grant program and \$10,000.00 has been set aside for this purpose.

COUNCILMAN HOLDEN: Councilman Holden reported that the Shade Tree Committee is in the process of staking out the placement of the trees on Wardell Circle and the trees are expected to be planted within the next ten days. He stated that when that is completed trees will be planted in Old Wharf Park. It should be noted that the Girl Scouts have also planted some trees at Old Wharf Park and Mike Tober has indicated that some of the trees are leaning but he wants to contact the Girl Scouts since it was their project and he wants to let them take care of it and he is willing to help out.

Councilman Holden reported as had Councilman Mahon, there has been a great deal of discussion with regard to the phone system and what would be proper as far the police security is concerned with respect to any system. Those recommendations have been made known to both the Council and the Cable Technology Committee.

Councilman Holden stated that the Borough has received a copy of a letter from Assemblymen Panter and Morgan thanks to the efforts of Mayor Gatta and Councilman Briscione, addressed to Col. Fuentes, Superintendent of the State Police, asking for reconsideration of the decision and allow the State Police to continue their presence at Monmouth Park on a full time basis.

Councilman Holden announced that the Capital Improvement Committee will be meeting on June 4th which will be the committee's first meeting to start receiving capital requests for next year.

COUNCILWOMAN CHAUMP: Councilwoman Chaump reported that First Aid had 57 calls in April and they welcomed a new member, Rich Arlt.

Councilwoman Chaump stated she attended the Senior Citizens meeting on May 19th and they had a few questions about the Old Wharf building which she will be discussing with Councilwoman Kahle.

Councilwoman Chaump said that there are 196 campers ages kindergarten thru 6th grade for the summer's Action Camp program and there are 14 signed up for the youth program.

Councilwoman Chaump reported that on May 10th the Mayor, Councilwoman Kahle, the Borough Engineer, herself and members from the Recreation Committee, Lee Poole, Jeff Botger, Dave Redeshi, Kevin Kornek, Toni Sverapa and Gordon Elam, from the Baseball Association, met to review the final scope of the Blackberry Bay Park project. Suggestions were made and the plans were revised for the Recreation Committee meeting on the 13th. A copy of the Plans are in the Clerk's Office in Borough Hall and the advertisement for bids will be on the 14th. The bid opening will be Friday, June 11th and the recommendation of the award will be made to Council at their workshop meeting on June the 14th and on June 17th at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council the contract will be awarded, the contracts will be processed from June 18th to July 2nd and preconstruction meeting and issue notice to proceed will be between July 6th and 9th. The contractor should begin work on July 15th and by October 1st, we hope to have the deadline for the fields to be seeded. The fields will not be able to be used until the following year and the Mayor has written letters to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, Fort Monmouth and the Monmouth County Parks System to use their fields while Blackberry Bay is closed.

Councilwoman Chaump stated that Student Government Day was held earlier in the evening and she thanked Maple Place School, Mrs. Fragale and the students for a job well done. She stated she sat with them on Monday afternoon after the election to go over parliamentary procedures and they did a very good job.

Councilwoman Chaump discussed the Oceanport School budget. She stated that after last Thursday's meeting the resolution that was passed was faxed to the Board of Education on Friday morning. Joe Henderson, President of the Board of Education, called the Mayor to suggest another meeting of the Board of Education committee and the Council committee. In the past the County Superintendent would sit down with both committees, but since this is a new County Superintendent she has different procedures for handling this. After conferring with the Council's consultant on Monday, Dr. Williams, who also had contact with the County Superintendent, he strongly suggested that we contact the County. On Tuesday she, Mayor Gatta and Councilwoman Kahle and had a telephone conference call with the County Superintendent, Eugenia Lawson, and Domonick LaGappa, who is the County Business Administrator. It was a lengthy conversation of an hour and three quarters. The Council Committee expressed concerns about the budget and the Superintendent suggested that the Committee sit down again with the Board of Education Committee, as the two parties were close enough to come to a compromise. The County Superintendent and the Business Administrator, although they understood the concerns, they strongly suggested another meeting. Ms. Lawson felt that since the Board of Education was under a 3% surplus and that the increased enrollment in special education the Council should look at what we had projected for a decrease.

Councilwoman Chaump explained that if a compromise was not reached by Wednesday, the 19th Ms. Lawson would make a recommendation to the State Commission of Education and once it goes to the State, the Board of Education nor the Council have any control over the budget and both parties would then live with the amount of the cut and from where in the budget the cuts would be made. Knowing that the Council Committee and the Board of Education Committee felt strongly, they sat down again to try to resolve the matter. On Tuesday evening at 9:30 p.m. after the Board of Education public meeting, she and Mayor Gatta sat with the Board of Education Committee. By 11:00 p.m. a solution was reached and the Board of Education would hold a special meeting on Tuesday, May 25th to adopt the amendments and she hoped that the Council could support those amendments which were as follows: Basic Skills Teacher salary the amount cut would be \$18,000.00 which again would be a 3/5 to a 2/5 teacher; \$3,000.00 from Title one will be put back into the budget, \$3,000.00 and \$5,000.00 cut to minimize any additional clubs will remain, a \$1,500.00 increase under athletics has been eliminated, 10% increase for the \$3,000.00 dollars is staying because \$20,000.00 was budgeted and the insurance only rose 10% and this will assume the increase will again be 10%, the \$8,750 that was for extracurricular field trips and related busing, parents will be paying for that if trips were needed, Worker's Compensation Insurance was reduced to a 10% increase instead of a 20% increase based on past history whereby eliminating \$5,000.00 from the budget, HVAC will be funded elsewhere minus the electric bill not budgeted for with a net decrease of \$78,487.00, equipment will cut \$27,000.00 and \$21,000.00 keeping the item the same as was budgeted last year. With all of this the amount that is being cut from the budget is \$170,737.00, which equates to a reduction of 3.45 cents, making the Board of Education budget increase 6.15 cents as compared to last years increase this is only a penny more.

Councilwoman Kahle concurred that a compromise had to be reached and this is best that could be done.

Councilwoman Chaump then asked if the Council had any questions and hearing none asked the Deputy Clerk to read the resolution **R-04-49** amending a resolution passed last Thursday evening after which she moved to approve same. Councilwoman Kahle seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Holden stated he was voting yes to the resolution because he felt it was necessary, but he expressed concern that the original budget as it was presented was not entirely

correct and that the mistake in the budget may have caused the Council to take cuts that are not serving the citizens of Oceanport well or the Board of Education and for that reason he is persuaded to make the changes but he is also constrained to mention he felt the school budget should reflect the proper numbers with respect to any of the inconsistencies that were in the budget so in the future these types of processes can be done in a more fair manner.

Mayor Gatta stated that in view of the whole process the taxpayers in Oceanport will be able to know that they will have a guaranteed decrease of 3.45 cents, through the negotiations the Board of Education and will not appeal this decision. Secondly, the concerns such as Councilman Holden has brought up and some of the questions the Council has from doing this process will be answered by the Board of Education and the Council will be receiving paperwork for review and the President of the Board will be coming in to speak to the Council regarding those concerns.

Mayor Gatta thanked Councilwomen Kahle and Chaump for the time and effort that they put into this budget process, which was long and tedious, and pointed out that from last Monday, the Council Committee could not eat a dinner until Friday night because of the meetings in addition to the regular Council responsibilities, they did everything they could do to review the budget. The Mayor added that the Council now wants to move forward and work with the Board of Education and that was one of the items mentioned on Tuesday night at 11:00 p.m. and most important the action taken by the Council this evening will not affect the children.

Mayor Gatta then addressed the Shore Regional Budget, stating that too was a very long and tedious process. The Mayor thanked Councilmen Mahon and Holden for working with her in trying to work through that budget and at the meeting last Thursday the consultant's report was reviewed, but the Committee had not met with the other sending districts in total. At the previous meeting the Committee met with three of the four municipalities, so on Saturday morning Councilmen Mahon Holden and the Mayor met with the three other municipalities in Monmouth Beach. There was a very long discussion on the consultant's report and the outcome was the importance of the four communities to reach a number that all could live with, trying hard never to affect the children. It was very difficult because two communities passed the budget and two communities defeated the budget, but the reality of the situation is that taxes are out of control and we have to find ways to streamline budgets, be creative and work together. The sending districts were committed to a particular number, and when this has happened in the past, usually the towns that pass the budget recommend no cuts and the towns that defeat the budget recommend cuts. This process was different in looking at this as regional budget, not pitting town against town but the budget in its entirety and all four municipalities has to compromise, but a stronger message is sent when all four municipalities, for the first time ever, can come up with a number.

On Sunday morning there was a meeting in Oceanport comprising the four municipalities, the superintendent and business administrator from Shore Regional and four Board members, two from Oceanport, one from West Long Branch and one from Monmouth Beach. The meeting lasted three hours and during this time all tried to compromise and an acceptable number could not be reached on either side. With that in mind, the representatives from each municipality reached a number and went back to their respective Councils with a figure of \$300,000.00. There was a Council workshop meeting on Monday night and the Council was in agreement with this reduction. Unlike Oceanport's local budget where approximately \$49,000.00 equals a penny, the Oceanport portion at Shore is about \$163,000.00 equals a penny, but the three other municipalities have also adopted the \$300,000.00 cut and Oceanport will be the last municipality to do it because of meeting schedules. Included in there is additions to the revenue through excess surplus and rising interest income and deleted from the budget holding the spending levels in non instructional areas resulting in a decrease of \$15,000.00, \$18,000.00 decrease in maintenance services, defer some work, a line

item entitled Other Purchases Services with was deleted resulting in a \$12,600.00 reduction, \$10,000.00 deduction in insurance and \$20,000.00 was deleted from a \$40,000.00 increase to supplies, health insurance increase was decreased by \$14,678.00, Shed was removed and \$89,722 was taken out of the administration budget because the rationale was that the district currently has an enrollment of approximately 740 students and seven administrators. The budget costs for these positions for 2004-2005 is approximately \$733,000.00. After reviewing job descriptions it seems financially sound and not detrimental in any way to students, parents and staff to reallocate the Assistant Principal, Vice Principal, Director of Curriculum Instruction and the Supervisor of Athletic Duties into three positions. These are the recommendations that will be going forth that are endorsed by the three districts, but added she was not sure what Shore Regional would do, they obviously have the opportunity to appeal, but the municipalities feel very strongly that this will not impact a thorough and efficient education. The cost per pupil is about \$14,000.00 at Shore, that would be projected in this budget and it is way over the average cost per pupil. The administrative costs are high at Shore Regional and the municipalities feel quite confident that if the appeal does go forward that the municipalities would be successful in reducing the increase. The Mayor thought as astutely as a resident said last Thursday, everyone has to bear in mind is that this would be a decrease of the increase.

Mayor Gatta asked if any Councilperson had any questions.

Councilman Holden had a comment and stated again at the last public meeting where the expert spoke about the various cuts than the would recommend, he left the meeting with the sense that the Council should be recommending a cut in excess of \$500,000.00, however, he could not overlook the fact that the process that took place after that meeting and the efforts of Mayor Gatta, as well as the Mayors of the other towns and Councilman Mahon and the other Councilpersons that participated. This was a very important process not only for this year, but for years to come. He could not tell what the 40-year history of Shore Regional has done in the past, but this is the first time that anyone can remember that all four town united with a proposal that came identically from each one of the towns. It was obvious that there were compromises that were made, but those compromises were made in an effort that the \$300,000.00 that will be cut will be fair and just and a solid wall in terms of the positions of all of the towns. This was a bipartisan, non-partisan totally not political effort on behalf of the four towns. There were hours and hours and hours of work that took everyone's weekend and a few days on either side of the weekend, there was some arm twisting, some cajoling but there is no question about the fact that everyone came out united and it sends a message in the future we are willing to address the problems and not going to have a process that continually pits town against town, but rather we are all in this together. This was the year that was Oceanport's turn to be under the gun because of the formula. That formula, by the way, had a built in a 5.2 cent increase for Oceanport before we addressed any increases. To be able to do this in the manner that it was done, Councilman Holden felt the residents could be very proud of the Mayor and her relationship with the Mayors of the other towns. A special thanks also has to go out to Mayor Zambrano who was tireless with respect to being involved in the process and instrumental in helping to orchestrate a compromise with the one town that did not want to make any cuts at first. With all that in mind, Councilman Holden applauded Mayor Gatta and everyone involved in this process. He now felt very comfortable with the \$300,000.00 recommended cuts and this will mean tax relief for the residents.

Councilman Briscione thanked the Mayor and the Council members for their efforts with regard to the budgets and he thinks the residents of Oceanport deserve accountability from the respective Boards and sincere efforts to continue to hold costs down and he felt this process has begun and wanted to thank everyone involved for that.

The Deputy Clerk read resolution **R-04-50** setting forth the appropriations for the Shore Regional 2004-2005 budge after which Councilwoman Chaump moved it be approved. Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Mayor Gatta wanted to say in regard to this process, she thanked Councilmen Mahon and Holden for again dropping whatever plans they had, and attending all the meetings, their hard work and cooperation and more important, something that came out of these meetings is the need for the dialogue amongst the four municipalities. That is another commitment that we are now going to talk as a regional district, four municipalities with meetings and we are going to have the four Mayors along with Council representation and start thinking of creative ways in which the municipalities can work together. Mayor Gatta said she extended the same idea to Shore Regional High School and told them the four municipalities would like to work with them and she is hoping that they are going to join the group in an effort to creatively move forward in cost saving endeavors that would be a win for the tax payers without compromising the quality of education.

Mayor Gatta concluded stating that this was a learning experience for everyone and she appreciated everyone's cooperation.

Councilwoman Chaump thanked Councilwoman Kahle for all her help with the local school budget and thanked Councilmen Mahon and Holden and Mayor Gatta for their work on Shore Regional High School. She also thanked the other Council members for their support of the amendment to the Oceanport School amendment and the resolution for the Shore Regional appropriations.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Councilwoman Johnson agreed with Councilman Briscione that everyone involved with these negotiations did a great job and made a difference in Oceanport.

Councilwoman Johnson asked the Deputy Borough Clerk to read resolution **R-04-51** supporting clean indoor air legislation after which she removed to approve same. Councilwoman Chaump seconded the motion which was approved by Council.

Councilwoman Johnson announced that the Board of Health will be doing a walking tour of the Monmouth Park stable area on June 17th at 9:00 a.m.

COUNCILMAN BRISCIONE: Councilman Briscione called for the introduction of an amendment to bond ordinance #769 amending a line item for the repairs to the roof of Borough Hall and ased the Deputy Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE #769 ENTITLED "BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$484,228. AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$460,016. BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOOROUGH FOR VARIOUS IMPROVIEMENTS OR PURPOSES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY.**

Councilman Briscione moved to approve this amendment to Bond Ordinance #769 on first reading. It was seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

AYES:	Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Holden, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Councilwoman Kahle stated with regard to the recycling center, even though the monies for that have to be used to repair the roof, she is still moving forward with Tom Crochet and will be looking at a plan on what to do about the recycling area.

Councilman Briscione moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 3rd and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Holden.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

AYES:	Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Holden, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Councilman Briscione reported that based on the preliminary review of our telephone charges by the consultant, potential savings have been identified on our interstate AT&T calls at 28%, intrastate of 38% and on the Verizon charges 38% intrastate calls. The consultant will be forwarding a report shortly for review.

Councilman Briscione stated that the Planning Board will continue hearing the application of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority for preliminary and final site plan approval for the Village Center. He explained that this was a mixed use residential and retail development and the next hearing is on May 26th.

Councilman Briscione said that with regard to the racetrack, he and the Mayor met with Bob Kullina, General Manager and Bruce Garland, Senior Vice President about the relocation of the State Police presence at Monmouth Park. It was their opinion that the State Police have had no visible presence in the past few years at the race track. Additionally, they have had a review of their security by an international security consulting firm and their procedures and personnel were found to be compliant. He continued, that has Councilman Holden previously mentioned Assemblymen Panter and Morgan's office has reviewed the information provided about race track security and have forwarded a letter to Joseph Fuentes, Superintendent of the State Police, asking that the decision to remove State Police be rescinded.

Councilman Briscione reported that in the discussion with Monmouth Park, he announced that opening day was May 29th and the management encourages Borough residents to visit the track on opening weekend as attendance that weekend can set the tone for a successful meet. It is the Borough's number one ratable and we encourage people to support their business.

Mayor Gatta then asked Councilman Mahon to give an update on Cayuga Avenue and Gooseneck Point Road to which he stated that there was a preconstruction meeting on May 7th. Present for the Borough was Police Chief Bebout, Public Works Superintendent Tom Crochet, engineering staff, the contractor and representatives from Federal and State DOT. It was learned that day that the project had been contracted as a 90 project from that date of May 7th and the project has ninety days to be completed. The contractor indicated that his earliest start date will be June 15th or thereabouts. He is scheduled to have the job completed by approximately August 15th. There were concerns expressed by the Police Chief regarding traffic onto Gooseneck Point Road off of Myrtle Avenue and will be addressed between traffic safety officers and the contractor.

Councilman Mahon continued there was discussion regarding Cayuga Avenue and the timing of the project with regard to one job or the other. The job has ninety days for completion and the job includes both roads within that 90 days. There is not one road first, followed by the other. We will likely see concrete work begin on both roads, under drainage work beginning on both roads at the same time and then the paving to follow on both roads, so that the time table will be concurrent as opposed to consecutive. The engineering staff will stay on top of the project and there are different guidelines because of the federal funding and the DOT had representatives at the meeting and there was a portion of the meeting dedicated to just those DOT concerns.

Councilman Mahon stated that two of the things that were stressed at this meeting were that the residents be notified not just at the beginning of the project, but during the project as the need arises for access to driveways to be interrupted. It was also asked that lawn restoration be done as they proceed down the streets rather than waiting until after the project is done, reducing the amount of time after the project is completed relating to punch list items, rather than have the punch list evolve and be completed at the work proceeds. He also explained some of the elevations that will need to be done on Gooseneck and associated situations that will occur. Councilman Mahon stated that because of the time frame of the job we should seed completion on time, the only delays that we can't foresee would be the weather. The contractor has had adequate time and notice to be prepared for subcontractors and materials. We hope this will be a very successful project with the key to the success going to the Borough's engineering staff monitoring the progress of the job to ensure that what we are paying for the Borough gets.

Councilman Mahon stated that when Mr. McGann was on Council it was him and help from Congressman Rush Holt in getting all of the funding for this project and thanked him for that.

MAYOR GATTA: Mayor Gatta gave a bridge update stating that in her weekly conversation with County Engineer Giannachini, the July 2nd date is still the target date. As reported at the last meeting, there was a change order that was suggested by the County Engineer and approved by the County Freeholders adding an \$18,000.00 incentive to complete the work by July 2nd. Any completion after that date will result in \$2,500.00 being deducted from that amount. The Mayor added that the County Engineer was confident that the July 2nd date would be realized.

Mayor Gatta stated that if anyone drove by Borough Hall this past Saturday and saw that the flag was flying at half mast it was to recognize Peace Officers Memorial Day in the US and it was to honor all the US law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Mayor Gatta asked everyone to remember that the 10th annual Oceanport Lions Club Strawberry Fair will be starting on Tuesday. It is a great kick off for the summer. This is usually a successful fair and everyone enjoys going from the great rides to the wonderful music and the fantastic food and of course the strawberry short cake. It runs from Tuesday, May 25th to Sunday, May 30th, 6 to 11 p.m. and everyone should bear in mind that all the proceeds goes to charities.

Mayor Gatta announced that the Borough received notification that a grant applied for through the 2003 Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Program was not approved. There were 24 applications seeking a total of 4.4 million dollars and Oceanport's application was not selected for the funding. However there will be another round of funding and the Mayor requested Councilwoman Chaump ask the Recreation Committee to apply for the next funding cycle.

Mayor Gatta announced that last Thursday, the Borough officially signed the papers for the acquisition of what is known as the "Soccer Fields". The Borough now owns the 39.865 acres and it is the Borough's for Open Space. The Mayor continued that this has been going on since 1999 when

the voters overwhelmingly supported an open space tax. In July of 2000 the Borough began formulating its Open Space and Recreation Plan and with the Open Space Tax in place this made the Borough eligible to receive a newly established State acquisition plan referred to as the Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant. During this time the Borough worked with Green Acres on the Open Space and Recreation Plan and sought suggestions from various Borough committees and boards. On February 5, 2001 the Mayor and Council held a special hearing with regard to the Open Space Plan and tax and adopted a resolution allowing the submission of an application to the Green Acres Incentive Program for the acquisition of the "Soccer Fields". On April 17, 2001 the Borough was notified that we had qualified for \$750,000.00 in a matching grant for the acquisition of this property and 50% of the cost related to such acquisition. In the spring of 2002 the Borough resubmitted the application for additional funding and were notified on August 1, 2002 that the Borough qualified for an additional \$400,000.00 matching grant for the project. On November 2002 the Borough entered in a contract of sale with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority for the purchase of this property. In October 2002 the Borough authorized funding through the Monmouth County Improvement Authority in the amount of 1.1 million dollars to be repaid using the Open Space Dedicated Tax Fund. In January, 2003 the Borough signed a contract of sale with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority for the purchase and in February 2003 a subdivision was approved by the Oceanport Planning Board creating 4 lots from Block 88, Lot 26 one of which would be purchased by the Borough using Green Acres funds. A smaller lot was purchased for \$1.00 for use as a new leaf compost facility, which had to be separate from the other lot because the composting facility is not an approved use for Green Acres funding. On December 23, 2003 a check in the amount of \$1,150,000.00 was received from the Green Acres program and on May 13, 2004 the Borough of Oceanport took title to 39.865 acres from the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

The Mayor continued that it needed to be noted that it seems like there was a long gap between the time the project was started and its final culmination, but for the first few years plans were developed and sent to Green Acres for recommendations and approvals. Once funds are qualified, the legislature has to qualify the funding which could take anywhere from 6 to 12 months. There were also appraisals; surveys and environmental assessments required before funding could be released. The Mayor wanted to explain this because sometimes it is forgotten how long and how hard people have worked and she honestly stated if it wasn't for the determination and the persistence and the hard work of then Councilman McGann and Deputy Clerk Kim Jungfer's work helping to make this a reality this project would not have happened. In moving forward the Mayor has asked that Martin McGann serve as an Ad Hoc member of the Recreation Committee for the purpose of the transition of the property and is looking towards the future to working with everyone towards developing this property as recreational facilities for all residents.

Mayor Gatta reported that the Council had talked about going out to bid for professional contracts. Since January the Council has been working on many things, this being one of them, however with the time line and getting the RFPs in place, the Council is at a point in time where a decision had to be made on how to proceed and it was decided that given the time frame, the Council has decided it would bid professional contracts in September for the 2005 year. Those that have been appointed in acting positions will continue in those positions until December 31st. Council also decided that the positions of Prosecutor and Public Defender would not go out for bid.

Mayor Gatta wanted to update everyone on the pay-for-play ordinance. Councilwomen Chaump and Kahle will be working on that. Obviously they have not had time at all recently, but in a few weeks they will be starting to develop an ordinance for the Council to consider.

Mayor Gatta thanked Councilwoman Chaump for all her work on Student Government Day, as it is always great to see the future leaders taking the role of Mayor and Council and Emergency Service personnel and they did a fine job.

Mayor Gatta congratulated Alexandra Scholtz, who on May 19th was awarded the highest award in girl scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award and while the Mayor was unable to attend her award dinner, she has been invited to a Council meeting at a later date to acknowledge her fine achievement.

Mayor Gatta asked to keep in everyone's thoughts and prayers Joe Wolf, who will be leaving shortly for Iraq.

Mayor Gatta then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make.

Jim Gallo, 45 Bradley Avenue, asked if there is a name for the new park and was told no but there will be soon.

Mr. Gallo asked if Rossiter Place by Asbury Avenue will be repaved and Councilman Mahon stated it was not on the short list. He explained that every street in the Borough has been listed and the front page is what is being worked on in terms of priority and funding. Mayor Gatta also suggested that Mr. Gallo come into the office a review where Rossiter is on the list.

Maryann Housechild, Cayuga Avenue, asked Councilman Mahon if June 15th was a firm date for work to begin and he said it was. She also said she heard earlier that the lawns would be restored, but asked about sprinklers that might be disturbed and Councilman Mahon said that the property must be restored to as it was before construction.

Mrs. Housechild asked if the residents would be notified as to when construction would begin by their house for purposes of moving cars and Councilman Mahon said it would be done by letter and also a knock at the door for residents who are home.

Peter Dellera, 1262 Turf Drive congratulated everyone for doing a great job on the school budgets.

Mr. Dellera stated that he felt that it was not right for the Lions Club pool to charge the Recreation program to use that pool. He stated that was not the original agreement when the pool opened and felt it was wrong to charge the kids who are there for recreation purposes through the Recreation Committee.

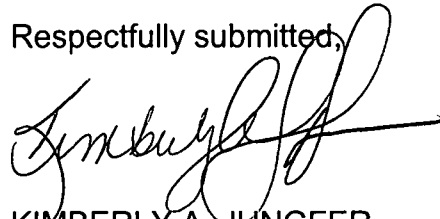
Councilwoman Kahle stated she spoke with Janice Corradino and she stated that the pool was not under the Lions Club, but there was a committee running the club because years ago the pool was offered to Oceanport and the Borough stated they did not want it and this group took it over and the reason for the charge to the Action Camp is that there are expenses to open the pool and they Swim Club cannot afford to provide the services for free. She also commented that there are other groups that want to use the pool facilities for a higher fee but they reserve the pool for the Oceanport children, but Councilwoman Kahle stated she would research it further.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Mahon moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated May 20, 2004 with the following exceptions: Account #4-01-26-310-254 a bill for custodial service at the request of Councilwoman Kahle. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council with an abstention from Councilman Holden with regard to a bill for Angelo's Paving, Municipal Court Administrators Association and previously a bill last meeting for Pasquale Menna which he would like the record to reflect. TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$11,762.78, TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$52.21. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHER PAID \$69,782.91. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$15.00. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$69,797.91. 2004 VOUCHERS PAID \$6,482,180.75. TOTAL 2004 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$323,314.71. TOTAL 2004 VOUCHERS \$6,805,495.46. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 9:36 p.m. Councilwoman Kahle moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 3, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Briscione and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



KIMBERLY A. JUNGFER
DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK