

**GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
APRIL WORKSHOP**

APRIL 2, 2018

Mr. Hutchison was absent.

Mrs. Trotto was absent as she is on vacation.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Mercado opened the public portion.

Peter Heinbaugh of Morning Star Court stated there was a public notice in the paper about the Fair Share Housing Plan next month in the court room of Camden County and that any objections need to be submitted by 4/27 before the hearing. Mr. Heinbaugh asked what would the public be able to object to? Mr. Carlamere stated this is a notice requirement that the COAH hearing mandates us to give notice and publish this. Gloucester Township has entered into a settlement with the Fair Share Housing Center. Mr. Carlamere stated that if anyone wants to take a look at the fair share housing element it is in the Clerk's Office and on May 9th the township will address our settlement. The Fair Share Housing Center's mission is to provide fair share housing. At the conclusion the court will make a decision and if it accepts our plan our COAH litigation will be settled until 2025. Peter Heinbaugh asked if this agreement is between the township and this agency, which is not a state entity. Mr. Carlamere stated that the Supreme Court mandated, since we failed our 3rd round certification, the development of rules in certain regions go to the superior court. Process mandated that we follow rules that were being adopted. Mr. Heinbaugh questioned the 2% cap. Mr. Cardis stated 2.9% averaged over the last 9 years. The cap can be banked going back 2 years. Mr. Heinbaugh questioned the 2015 cap used in 2017. He asked how the township can use 2017 in 2018. Mr. Heinbaugh also asked for two financial statements that were posted late to the website. Mr. Cardis stated that Mrs. Erhet replied via email that the state changed the format and they no longer needed to be online. Mr. Cardis explained that the state created a fast portal which would hold the budget, annual debt statement etc. The State was overwhelmed with the budget. Mr. Cardis stated that Municipalities do not have to post it, just submit by paper. Access to every municipality is now in the fast portal.

Ray Polidoro of Erial wanted to know if the Fair Housing requirement had to be done in a specific number of units. Mr. Polidoro asked if this could be done in sporadic fashion using vacant homes that are HUD. Mr. Carlamere stated that is the township's plan. Mr. Polidoro asked Mr. Mercado and council to open the opportunity for Sam Sweet and Ray Polidoro to be included in the Shop GT discussion. Mr. Mercado stated he has done research about this program and that Mr. Cardis has spoken with other township administrators about the pros and cons.

Sam Sweet of Erial presented information and brochures regarding Shop GT.

There being no comment, the public portion was closed.

1. **PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR MILLBRIDGE ROAD M2018-71** - Mr. Cantwell spoke about the conceptual planning for Millbridge Road. Mrs. Winters asked if this was to narrow the road. Mr. Cantwell stated that this would create some pedestrian walkways and landscaping. A straw poll was taken with all council members in agreement.
2. **DISCUSSION OF DVRPC – TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (TCDI) GRANT** - Mr. Cantwell spoke about a plan, creating walkways from the North of Church Street on the BlackHorse Pike. Mrs. Winters asked if this was for both sides of the street. Mr. Cantwell stated he wasn't sure but this project was for the Southwinds Development. A straw poll was taken with all council members in agreement.
3. **SHOP GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP** - Mr. Mercado introduced Shop Gloucester Township and invited Ray Polidoro and Sam Sweet to speak. Mr. Sweet explained the

program. Mr. Polidoro stated, over the weekend, he visited several stores and explained the program and asked businesses if they would be interested in signing up. The cost is \$120 a year for the merchant and some merchants won't need a machine, i.e. roofer. Mrs. Winters asked about all cash businesses? Mr. Cardis stated that he spoke with Voorhees and they had more vendors 5 years ago. Mr. Cardis stated the businesses involved are mostly all mom and pops and that participants are declining in Voorhees. Mr. Mercado stated Voorhees said they needed more anchor vendors. In 2017, the program brought in \$16,000 averaging \$20.19 per property. Mr. Mercado asked Mrs. Trotto to head up a sub-committee along with Mr. Sweet and Mr. Polidoro to work on this. Mr. Mercado stated that currently, there is no one to go out in administration to drum up participants. Mrs. Stubbs mentioned that schools sell coupon books for these local merchants and buyers cannot combine both coupons. Mrs. Stubbs asked what the fees are. Mr. Sweet stated 25% of what is collected. Mr. Sweet stated the company is making money off the interest of the money they float and then 10%. Mr. Mercado stated that Mrs. Trotto will contact Mr. Sweet and Polidoro when the subcommittee will meet.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Mr. Mercado read a letter from a family who moved to Gloucester Township and whose son joined the reserves, and received a hero's welcome when he came home.

Mr. Carlamere stated that a list of tax certificates that are held by the township (92) will be, by resolution, listed for tax lien foreclosure 30 at a time. Mr. Carlamere stated that this will be done over the next couple months. Mr. Carlamere explained In rem foreclosure. Township gets title to property and then can be sold in auction.

Mr. Mercado stated that financial disclosure forms are due in April.

Mr. Mignone stated that the opening day of the baseball fields is Friday for Erial and Saturday for Blackwood.

Mrs. Winters stated the volunteer night is May 10 at the senior center.

Mr. Mercado stated he wanted to create a subcommittee on the budget and that himself, Mrs. Winters and Mr. Hutchison would work with Mr. Cardis.