

**GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP**

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Mercado opened the public portion.

There being no comment, the public portion was closed.

1. **DISCUSSION OF THE FY2019 NJDOT TRUST FUND MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM “STATE AID” APPLICATIONS** – Mr. Chadwell stated that Remington & Vernick is applying for state aid to resurface the remainder of Kelly Driver Road. A straw poll was taken with all council members in agreement.
2. **DISCUSSION OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP** – Mr. Cardis stated that the township put \$150,000 in the budget to replace 30 year old trailers at the gun range with a pole barn that has running water, electricity, and hvac. Mr. Cardis stated that there was nothing in the coop in the township’s price range, but found a structure for \$125,000. The Township Architect, McKernan and Associates, submitted a proposal of \$17,900 for architectural services. A straw poll was taken with all council members in agreement.
3. **DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO THE FIRE LANE/FIRE ZONE ORDINANCE** – Mr. Carlamere stated this request came in from the Police Department. Mr. Carlamere stated that he updated the ordinance to define fire lanes, purpose of them, locations of them, indicating towing expense and fines for violations enforced by the Gloucester Township Police Department. Mr. Carlamere stated the Chief sent a draft of the ordinance to all of the fire districts and there have been no objections coming in. Mr. Carlamere stated if Council does not have any objections, this ordinance will be on a future agenda for September.
4. **DISCUSSION OF JEHOVAH WITNESSES** – Mr. Mercado stated that the Jehovah Witnesses have an Assembly Hall on Orr Road that is currently under a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement with the township. The Jehovah Witnesses are seeking relief by requesting to end the PILOT agreement with the township. This structure is an assembly building not a place of worship. Mr. Cardis stated the township gave up a lucrative ratable which prompted the PILOT. Mr. Kirkpatrick, from the assembly hall, attended and provided Council with a history of the hall, the PILOT program, and the relief request. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that the Jehovah’s Witnesses wish to be treated like any other religious organization in the township.
5. **DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 58 OF THE GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED “HAWKERS, PEDDLERS, CANVASSERS, AND SOLICITORS”** – Mr. Carlamere stated that he has been researching other towns to see how they address this issue. Mr. Carlamere introduced “Do Not Knock” which would create an annual list of homeowners, maintained by the clerk’s office, who have opted out of soliciting. A sticker or badge would be placed on the door of the property. When solicitors register with the township, this list would be provided to them and fines put in place for violations. If a violation occurs, the homeowner would contact the police department and even if they are physically not caught, their registration is on file and their company fined. Mr. Carlamere stated that he doesn’t believe this ordinance should be placed on the next agenda, because more research needs to be done to prevent violating any constitutional rights. Mr. Owens expressed his concern with the administrative process involved with developing a homeowner database.

Mr. Halprin was permitted to speak and suggested the hours of soliciting be changed from 10am-6pm to 10am-4:30pm. Mr. Halprin stated that he completed research on various solicitors that have visited his home and have found excessive lawsuits for

several of them and misleading sale processes. Mr. Halprin stated that the police department is not protecting the residents' rights from fraud because the police department is approving these solicitors and their companies.

Mr. Hutchison asked if the township could do their own due diligence and deny a company a solicitor's permit based on their past business practices. Mr. Carlamere stated a company background is completed and the individual solicitors have a background completed as well. Mrs. Winters questioned what number, percentage of business to lawsuits, should determine if a business can or cannot solicit in our township. Mrs. Winters stated that this is a topic that Council is still discussing and working on.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Mr. Mercado stated that the Highland baseball team will be coming Monday for a presentation.