

**GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MARCH WORKSHOP**

MARCH 2, 2020

Mrs. Trotto was absent.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Mercado opened the public portion.

There being no comment, the public portion was closed.

1. **DISCUSSION OF HICKSTOWN ROAD CROSSWALK AND FLASHING PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS-** Mr. Cardis stated this project was awarded by resolution at a previous council meeting. This discussion is to approve Remington & Vernick's service fees for this project. A straw poll was taken with all council members in agreement.
2. **DISCUSSION OF 2020 BLACKWOOD LAKE DAM INSPECTION-** Mr. Cardis stated the NJ Department of Environmental Protection is requesting a required dam safety visual inspection report for the Blackwood Lake dam to be completed by April 15th. This discussion is to approve Remington & Vernick's fees to perform these services. A straw poll was taken with all council members in agreement.
3. **DISCUSSION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR GREEN ACRES PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS-** Mr. Cardis stated The Pettit Group has provided a proposal for Green Acres Playground improvements for two parks in the township. This discussion is to approve The Pettit Group's proposal for their service fees, \$18,000 of which will be covered by the grant. A straw poll was taken with all council members in agreement.
4. **DISCUSSION OF LEE ANN DRIVE SOBER LIVING FACILITY -** Candy Ruggieri and Cathy Pogozelski of Lee Ann Drive summarized that a home sold on Lee Ann Drive, on January 24th, is going to be converted into a sober living facility by the same owners who own Victory Bay Recovery Center. There will be one staff member on site along with drugs and NARCAM. This facility will house 10 males, rotating on average every 6 months, and these men can be under house arrest and or on probation. Mrs. Ruggieri and fellow residents feel this will have an incredible impact on the street and to the many families and small children that live on Lee Ann Drive. Mrs. Ruggieri and residents of Lee Ann Drive are asking the township to contact the state in order to give municipalities a voice and power to the township to determine where these homes or facilities can be placed.
Jeanne Muehlhauser, an original owner, invited council to drive down the street to experience the neighborhood.
Denise Coyne of Chews Landing Road described the sober living home in her neighborhood and showed a video to council regarding a situation that took place.
Joe Ricchezza of Lee Ann Drive expressed his concerns with how a sober living home will affect the neighborhood.
Jim Szabo of Lee Ann Drive expressed his concerns operating a business in a residential zone and home values and believes the residents of the street should file a lawsuit.
Cathy Pogozelski asked council if there are ordinances that would prevent the equivalent of a boarding house in the neighborhood.
Catherin Galli of Lee Ann Drive explained that sober living tenants are removed if they do anything improper.
Glenn Shultz of Lee Ann Drive built a mother in law suite several years ago, but is not permitted to rent it out because then his home would be considered a duplex. Mr. Shultz asked why the home in question can be rented to multiple individuals. Mr. Carlamere defined a living unit and the Department of Community Affairs criteria.
5. **2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY DISCUSSION** – David Haag of Highland Village and Elio Lorenzo of Glendora wishes the township to assist in stopping infringements on

gun owner's rights by supporting a resolution regarding the 2nd Amendment. Mr. Haag explained the resolution he wishes council to support. Mr. Lorenzo listed additional counties that have supported the resolution. Mr. Lorenzo shared prison statistics with council.

Lindsay Hamilton of Mothers Demand Action and James Stewart described what their organization represents and some of the services they provide such as "Be Smart" which educates families regarding gun safety and storage. Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Stewart stressed their organization is about gun safety education and proper gun ownership and legislation. Mr. Stewart discussed veteran suicide. Ms. Hamilton explained Red Flag Laws. Ms. Hamilton stated her group's concern is if this resolution is passed, this may lead to New Jersey common sense gun laws being overturned or create dangerous conditions due to confusion of what this resolution means.

Mrs. Stubbs confirmed that this resolution, if passed, does not change New Jersey law. Natalie Guevara of Hampshire Road is in support of the 2nd Amendment Resolution.

Jose Martinez of Cherry Hill wished to read the list of municipalities that have adopted this resolution. Council has the list.

Rick expressed his support of the 2nd Amendment resolution.

Dennis Gormely of Voorhees Township with Mothers Demand Action read passages to Council from the Heller Decision.

Mr. Hutchison requested Council table a decision regarding this resolution until the next workshop. Mr. Carlamere briefly counseled Council regarding this resolution. Mr. Mercado granted Mr. Hutchison's request regarding this resolution at the next workshop in April.

6. **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE** - Peter Heignbaugh of Morning Star Court provided the township clerk with a rough draft of an ordinance that he is proposing to detail how the township can borrow funds and incur debt. Mr. Mercado stated this draft was received at 7:30 pm today, but council will review.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Mr. Mignone stated the Little League and Field of Dreams seasons are about to begin. The league is looking for singers of the National Anthem and two buddies to assist Field of Dreams players.

Mr. Mercado announced March is Women's History Month and Gloucester Township will be honoring ten women at the second Council Meeting in March for their contributions to the township.