

The Shamong Township Committee held a workshop meeting on the above date at the Municipal Building.

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order.

The Clerk stated please be advised that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act in the following manner. Written notice has been mailed to the Burlington County Times and published in the Central Record. Written notice has been posted on the official bulletin board of the Township of Shamong.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and)	Mr. Sean Gray	P
Absentees)	Mr. Martin Mozitis	P
Noted)	Mr. Christopher Norman	P
	Mr. Jonathon Shevelew	P

Mayor Gray explained the first discussion of the meeting would be on lighting of the softball field at the Dingtletown Complex. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Critchfield so he could explain and present a proposal to the Committee and residents that were present. Mr. Critchfield presented the Committee with a brochure showing the type of lighting they were proposing which is called Musco and explained its functions, technology, and the effect it has on and off the playing field. He reviewed some of the associated costs and warranties with this system. Mayor Gray made clarification that Mr. Critchfield was coming before the Township Committee for approval to place lighting on a softball field at the Dingtletown Complex not asking for funding. Mr. Critchfield said the money will be raised through fund raisers and donations and the total cost is estimated at \$110,000. Committeeman Mozitis asked if he had the cost of the control link and Mr. Critchfield stated that is included in the cost estimate. Mr. Critchfield said there is no maintenance cost for 25 years. He also stated there will be 4 poles approximately 10' off the foul line. Mayor Gray explained some years back there was litigation referencing lighting at the complex and a settlement agreement was entered into with several residents that stated there would be no lighting, if any, only low impact lighting for parking. Mr. Critchfield said he could understand the residents concern with the type of lighting that is at the complex now but with new technology the lighting is contained to the field. Mayor Gray opened the meeting to the public at which time Jim Sweet stated he has been a volunteer for 8 years and he feels this is a good project that will benefit the residents and stated they are all volunteers doing this work at no cost to the township. Committeeman Norman feels if the technology we have now was available when the lights were installed several years ago there possibly would be no suit because a lot of the issues from then have been addressed in this new lighting system. Mr. Critchfield stated not having lighting on a softball field affects the high school girls who practice and play after the younger girls, so it essentially eliminates their ability to play softball without

being able to play at night. Ms. Cochran stated she coached a high school team this fall and out of 22 games 18 home games had to be played in Medford. Mr. Critchfield stated Waterford Township and Voorhees Township have this system and the lights are used all summer. Committeeman Mozitis stated he feels the lights on the boys field should be changed to new technology or at least have a timer so they are not on all night. Mrs. Wahrenberger expressed she understands Mr. Mozitis's concerns but this is about the girls and she would like the Committee to stay in focus with what the girls need.

**On motion of Committeeman Shevelew, seconded by Committeeman Norman, it was moved to convene the regular township committee meeting and go into executive session to discuss the lighting issue via Resolution 2009R-016. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

**Mayor Gray stated the Committee will go into executive session to discuss certain matters and they may or may not take official action when they return to regular session.**

The Committee returned from executive session and Mayor Gray explained they discussed the proposal that was presented to them tonight asking for the Committee's approval to place lighting at the Dingtletown Complex field for the girl's softball teams. Mayor Gray than opened the meeting to the public for further comment at which time Jim Sweet suggested there may be grants available for funding a facility to make it more energy efficient. Committeeman Shevelew asked the Administrator to see if the ball fields could be added to the energy audit since they are township owned properties. Mr. Knight suggested converting one of the baseball fields, which has the old lighting, to a softball field and putting the new lighting on it and that would leave 3 fields for the boys with lighting on one of them. He feels that would help solve some of the lighting issues. Mayor Gray stated he understands the boys fields are utilized heavily and they need all the existing fields. Committeeman Norman suggested the baseball teams affected by this would feel they were being punished. Mayor Gray closed the meeting to the public on this issue. Mayor Gray asked the Committee for any comments or motions on this issue and **on motion of Committeeman Shevelew, seconded by Committeeman Norman, it was moved that the Township Committee give approval for the girl's softball program to move forward with the lighting project based on there is no costs incurred by the Township since they are taking this project on themselves. Also, as part of this motion, Committeeman Shevelew asked that all permit fees be waived on this project. A roll call vote showed all members present voting yes.**

The Administrator reviewed with the Committee figures from the 2008 budget stating the budget was under spent by \$767,000 which will go back into surplus. This is a 28% savings due to reduced spending which resulted from most departments conserving.

The Administrator reviewed the following items for the 2009 budget: she explained the State may cut STASA funding, the pension payments can possibly be on a voluntary basis paying 50% of the figure shown for this year and investing the other 50% or deferring it, need to discuss the Open Space Coordinator for this year, possibly the

retirement for the Deputy Clerk, minimal increases to operating expenses of 2% representing \$1,000, a savings of \$7,500 in salaries due to retirement of staff in the construction office, need to budget \$137,000 for gypsy moth spraying and the deadline to get out of the program is February 6<sup>th</sup>, no change in Parks & Lakes budget or Rent Control Board, added monies to the War Memorial to have names added and are waiting for a quote for doing this, the Streets and Roads salaries will decrease due to an employee retiring, received \$180,000 from State to repair Old Indian Mills Road, need approximately \$10,000 for repairs to Wheatsheaf Road, Manitoba Trail, Grassy Lake Road, Concord Ridge, and East Stokes Road, possibly purchase a grader and/or boom mower, Indian Mills Fire Company is requesting \$25,000 towards purchase of a tanker in 2009, an overall increase in health benefits of 8.47% and a dental increase of under 6%, and a 4% increase for the cost of living adjustment. The Administrator reported as it stands now the 2009 projected budget is \$59,680 more than 2008 which reflects a 2% increase with the \$137,000 gypsy moth treatment cost included.

Mayor Gray instructed the Administrator to request a copy of the Indian Mills Fire Company's current financial statement and also question why they are requesting \$25,000 this year towards the purchase of the tanker when they originally were not requesting any funds for this until 2010.

Committeeman Shevelew asked if the Administrator had any figures for the Capital Budget and she said it is the same as last year with approximately \$30,000 for improvement to the municipal building.

The Administrator reviewed with the Committee a resolution requesting the permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to waive the Statutory deadline for filing the 2009 Municipal Budget. This resolution will allow more time to prepare and submit the township budget in case it is not ready in the time frame the State allows.

The Administrator reviewed with the Committee a resolution authorizing the budget to be read by title at the public hearing.

Mayor Gray opened the meeting to the public at which time Mrs. King reminded everyone of the Town Meeting Saturday morning stating they usually have coffee and donuts. Mrs. King noted the web-site shows the Historical Society having meetings in January and February but she stated there are no meetings in January or February. There being no further comments from the public, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Susan D. Onorato  
Municipal Clerk