

AGENDA
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP WORKSHOP

23 February 2023
6:00 PM - Budget Workshop
7:00 PM - Workshop

Municipal Building
349 Mountain Lake Road
Great Meadows, NJ 07838

Sunshine Notice
Flag Salute
Roll Call

Reports:
 Committeepersons
 Mayor

Adoption of Agenda

Unfinished Business

- 2023 Appointments
- Environmental Commission, Alternate #2, expiration of term December 2024
- LandUse Board, Class I Mayor’s Designee, expiration of term 31 December 2022
- LandUse Board, Alternate #2, expiration of term 31 December 2024
- LandUse Board, Alternate #3, expiration of term 31 December 2023
- LandUse Board, Alternate #4, expiration of term 31 December 2023
- Open Space Advisory Committee, expiration of term 31 December 2025
- Open Space Advisory Committee, expiration of term 31 December 2025
- Recreation Commission, Alternate #1, expiration of term 31 December 2023

- NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water Bureau Level 2 Assessment
- Municipal Land Use Law – Climate Change Resilience Strategy
- Dam Safety Inspection Report for Liberty Lake Dam
- Liberty Township Tax Title Liens
- Disabled Veteran Tax Refund Ordinance

New Business

- Application for Solicitor’s Permit
- Request to Film at Mountain Lake

Resolutions

- Disabled Veteran Tax Refund

Public Comment

Adjournment

A special advertised Budget workshop of the Township of Liberty was held in the Municipal Building, 349 Mountain Lake Road, Great Meadows on 23 February 2023. The Budget workshop was opened by Mayor John Inscho at 6 p.m.

Present: Mayor John Inscho; Deputy Mayor Daniel Grover; Peter Karcher; David Rogers; and Wayne Spangenberg

Also, Present: Jennifer Breslin, CFO/Deputy Municipal Clerk; and, Diane M Pflugfelder, RMC/MMC

Discussion ensued on the following;

- ✓ Masterplan Revision and LandUse Planner expenses
- ✓ Capital improvement expenses of computers at \$5,000 and road improvements at \$65,000
- ✓ Tax maps upgrades to be addressed as an emergency appropriation
- ✓ Unknown costs for Hidden Lakes dam removal
- ✓ American Rescue funds set aside for DPW truck purchases
- ✓ Salt budget remains at \$75,000
- ✓ Need to budget \$40,000 for Tier B to Tier A categorization and pursue reimbursement grant funding
- ✓ Proposed municipal budget increase of \$0.02 on \$100 assessment (total would be \$0.365 on \$100)
- ✓ Consideration of introduction pending Auditor review

This 2023 budget workshop concluded at 6:37 pm.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Township of Liberty was held in the Municipal Building, 349 Mountain Lake Road, Great Meadows on 23 February 2023. The meeting was opened by Mayor John Inscho with Adequate Notice of Meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor John Inscho; Deputy Mayor Daniel Grover; Peter Karcher; David Rogers, and Wayne Spangenberg

Also, Present: Richard Wenner, Municipal Attorney; and, Diane M Pflugfelder, Municipal Clerk/Administrator

REPORTS

DAN GROVER – Mr. Grover advised that the Municipal Planner, Eric Snyder, would be conducting a mandatory class for LandUse Board members on Saturday, 25 February 2023.

MAYOR INSCHO – Mayor advised that JCP&L would be removing six transformers from Hidden Lake Estates and re-routing the service

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2022 APPOINTMENTS

No appointments were made at this time

NJDEP BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER BUREAU LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT

Mayor Inscho reported that he spoke with NJDEP and has yet to meet with Warren County Board of Health staff to review the documentation required and the request for a \$75 fee.

MUNICIPAL LAND USE LAW – CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Dan Grover to review with Eric Snyder, Municipal Planner.

DAM SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT FOR LIBERTY LAKE DAM

No receipt of a Dam safety report at this time.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TAX TITLE LIENS

Attorney Wenner reported that he is working Cindy Eckert, Tax Collector. Discussion carried to 2 March agenda

DISABLED VETERAN TAX REFUND ORDINANCE

Attorney Wenner will prepare a draft Disabled Veteran Tax Refund Ordinance for 2 March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

APPLICATION FOR SOLICITOR’S PERMIT

An application was received from Paris Gonzalez to solicit for Trinity Solar, Inc. Mr. Gonzalez was present and answered questions from the Governing Body regarding his experience and his presentation to the residents. A motion by Pete Karcher authorizing the issuance of a solicitor’s permit with expiration of 31 December 2023, to Paris Gonzalez for Trinity Solar carried.

REQUEST TO FILM AT MOUNTAIN LAKE

A request was received from Alex O’Neill, location scout, for Apple TV. He is scouting for a small-scale thriller called *Echo Valley*. He is scouting for a beach/lake location to film 2 day and 2 night scenes from 27 June to 30 June for scenes that take place in the parking lot, on the beach, and on small boats in the water itself. Multiple questions arose from the Governing Body and are to be forwarded to Mr. O’Neill for further consideration at the 2 March meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion by Pete Karcher to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2023.027
TAX REFUND

WHEREAS, The Tax Collector recommends to the Township Committee that the necessary administrative action be taken to authorize a refund to the following;

Block/Lot	Name/Address	Reason	Year	Total Refund
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11-42.21	Lereta 901 Corporate Center Dr. Pomona CA 91768	Overpayment of Property Taxes	2023	\$2,884.25
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For Jennifer Roster & Paul Wagner
21 Midland Dr.
Great Meadows NJ 07838

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By a majority of the members of the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the refund on the above list shall be returned to the parties designated.

Vote: aye - Karcher
aye - Rogers
aye - Spangenberg
aye - Grover
abstain - Inscho

John Inscho,
Mayor

A motion by Dan Grover to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2023.028
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LIBERTY,
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF STREET OPENING PERMIT
TO ELIZABETHTOWN GAS

WHEREAS, the Township of Liberty has codified requirements for the opening of streets and the excavation of same within the municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, said rules and regulations are established in Chapter 88 of the Township Code; and

WHEREAS, prior to individual or corporation being granted permission to open a street within the municipal boundaries, said individual or corporation must first apply for and obtain a permit issued on behalf of the Township; and

WHEREAS, Elizabethtown Gas, a public utility of the State of New Jersey, has submitted a project for a road opening in order to install natural gas lines within Pequest Road and Townsbury Road, consisting of plus or minus 7,050 ft and to install individual branch lines to private residence.; and

WHEREAS, Elizabethtown Gas, a public utility of the State of New Jersey, has submitted a project for a road opening in order to install individual branch lines to private residence within Pequest Road and Townsbury Road; and

WHEREAS, said Roads were paved less than five (5) years ago; and *WHEREAS*, the Township has a moratorium on the opening of streets which were paved less than five (5) years ago, unless special permission is granted by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has reviewed the permit application filed by Elizabethtown Gas, has consulted with the township engineer, the township attorney, and the township Director of Public Works regarding the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, based upon the special nature of the proposed project (the installation of a gas line in order to service residents within the township and without) the governing body is willing to authorize the issuance of permit for the street opening as set forth on the permit upon the following conditions:

1. Elizabethtown Gas, as a condition of receiving the Street Opening Permit for a newly paved road will be required to perform a complete milling and repaving of Pequest Road and Townsbury Road in their entirety.
2. All requirements of Chapter 88 of the Township Code shall be enforced, including but not limited to:
 - a. Posting of surety bonds in an amount to be determined by the township engineer.
 - b. Provision of traffic control measures and a traffic control plan with information to provide it to the residents of Liberty Township in advance of construction activities. {00766053-1}2
 - c. Escrow for professional services in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the township engineer with any unused escrow funds to be refunded to the applicant upon completion of the project.

- d. A current Certificate of Insurance naming Liberty Township as an additional insured.
- 3. Final branch line installation and Pequest Road and Townsbury Road paving shall be completed on or before 1 June 2023. As of 1 June 2023, a 5-year moratorium on the issuance of road opening permits on Pequest Road and Townsbury Road shall commence with an expiration of 31 May 2028.

WHEREAS, If the foregoing conditions are not satisfied by the Applicant, then no permit shall issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the Road Opening Permit submitted by Elizabethtown Gas is hereby approved and authorized to be issued contingent upon the satisfaction by the applicant of the requirements of Chapter 88 of the Township Code and all other requirements as set forth here and above.

Vote: aye - Spangenberg
 aye - Karcher
 aye - Grover
 aye - Rogers
 aye - Inscho

 John Inscho,
 Mayor

PUBLIC COMMENT was opened at 7:17 pm.
 No comment

ADJOURNMENT
 There being no further business, a motion by Mayor Inscho to adjourn the meeting carried.
 Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Diane M Pflugfelder RMC/MMC
 Municipal Clerk/Administrator
 Minutes Approved 2 March 2023
