

Committee Meeting – February 19, 2008
MAYOR’S REPORT

Tonight I will ask this Committee to reintroduce the ordinance for the Frederick A. Watts Recreational Complex at Rosehill. Our administrator will again present an overview of this new proposal and I will again ask for public comment at the introduction of the ordinance. Last week, the administrator, Deputy Mayor Cirulli and I began the process of informing the public of our latest proposal to gain valuable input as to it’s perception by our residents. Thus far the public’s comments have been favorable. What we are proposing here tonight is to bond for the basic park consisting of 3 soccer fields, 2 softball fields, 1 baseball field, all of the infrastructure, walkways, a stone parking lot, basic lighting and one concession stand with restrooms for a total of not more than \$3 million dollars. This proposal can be funded through our open space tax and recreation assessments resulting in no additional tax burden to our residents and without affecting our current reserves.

Committeeman Morano has taken the opportunity to spin this proposal by saying that we (the 3 republicans) are putting recreation first and ignoring our Police communications system. That is the farthest thing from the truth. We know all to well that our police console is outdated and in need of replacement. Mr. Morano’s suggestion to install repeaters is just another “quick fix” that will not solve our problem. This Committee has been working on obtaining information and prices on a new communications console. We will fix this problem but we need to be sure that we spend our money wisely and get the right system for the right price. If Mr. Morano believes that the repeaters will solve the problem, I will gladly recommend to the Committee that he research the prices and availability and report back to us at the next meeting.

Also at this time I would like to address the concerns of Committeewoman Ryan as to the availability of other recreation facilities within our town. I have asked our administrator to move ahead with plans to add 3 tennis courts throughout the township, one at Meadowedge Park, one at Lower Shore Rd. and one at First St. Park. Also I am asking that a new playground be established on Railroad Ave in the downtown to replace the one eliminated at the Edward’s School. These tennis courts and playground can be funded through our recreation assessment thus eliminating the need for additional bonding. I have also asked Mr. Hess to estimate the cost of adding a softball field on First St. He has indicated that it would require Pineland’s approval and would cost upwards of \$500,000 for the field, drainage and a parking lot.

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It is important that this Committee address the needs and concerns of our residents and our employees. We need a new communications system for the police, we need cameras and computers in the police cars and we need more recreational opportunities for our residents. We can accomplish all of this if we work together towards the same goals instead of working against each other. I again ask this Committee to cooperate with each other for the betterment of everyone in Barnegat Township.