

Committee Meeting — April 7, 2008
MAYOR'S REPORT

FIRST AND FOREMOST ON OUR AGENDA TONIGHT IS THE SECOND READING ON THE BOND FOR THE PROPOSED FREDERICK A. WATTS RECREATIONAL COMPLEX AT ROSEHILL. AS I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, I AM A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF FURTHERING THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. I'M CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL PROBABLY HEAR A VARIETY OF EXPLANATIONS OR EXCUSES AS TO WHY WE SHOULD NOT BOND FOR THE PARK AT THIS TIME, BUT I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THEY ARE NOTHING MORE THAN POLITICAL POSTURING RATHER THAN LEGITIMATE REASONING.

EVEN THOUGH WE CAN CERTAINLY GO TO REFERENDUM IN NOVEMBER WITH THIS ISSUE, WE ARE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION RIGHT NOW TO MOVE FORWARD AND SAVE THE TAXPAYERS SOME MONEY BY WAY OF LOWER INTEREST RATES AND DISCOUNTED CONTRACTOR BIDDING. IT ONLY MAKES GOOD FINANCIAL SENSE. FOR ANYONE UP HERE ON THE DAIS TO SAY THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT DUE TO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IS UNCALLED FOR. IF WE WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR OR LONGER, IT COULD COST ALL OF THE BARNEGAT TAXPAYERS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS MORE.

THE FIVE OF US UP HERE WERE ELECTED TO MAKE DECISIONS, SOME SMALL AND SOME BIG. THIS IS A BIG ONE AND I ONLY HOPE THAT THIS COMMITTEE WILL DO THE RIGHT THING, PUT POLITICS ASIDE AND VOTE YES ON THE FREDERICK A. WATTS RECREATIONAL COMPLEX AT ROSEHILL.

PARKWAY MEETING;

ON THIS WEDNESDAY THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING HELD BY THE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY ON THE UPCOMING FULL INTER-CHANGE. THE HEARING WILL BE FROM 7 PM TO 9 PM HERE IN THE COURTROOM. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE PROJECT.

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FOREST FIRE MEETING:

THIS THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH, I WILL BE ATTENDING A PRESS CONFERENCE ALONG WITH STAFFORD MAYOR CARL BLOCK AND NEW JERSEY DEP COMMISSIONER LISA JACKSON TO DISCUSS A NEW FOREST FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM. THE DEP, FOREST FIRE SERVICE, AIR NAT'L GUARD AND THE PINELANDS COMMISSION ARE ALL DEDICATED TO DOING WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO AVOID ANOTHER MAJOR FOREST FIRE AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON WAYS THEY CAN DO THEIR PART TO MITIGATE THE POTENTIAL OF ANOTHER FIRE OCCURING.

COX HOUSE:

ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA THE COMMITTEE WILL BE VOTING ON ENTERING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HISTORIC BUILDING ARCHITECTS, LLC FROM TRENTON TO DO THE STUDY ON THE OUTBUILDINGS AT THE COX HOUSE. THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE UTILIZING A \$46,600 GRANT ALONG WITH MATCHING FUNDS OF \$20,000 FOR THE STUDY. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO SECURE FUTURE STATE FUNDING FROM THE NJ HISTORIC TRUST FOR A BRICKS AND MORTAR GRANT FOR THE BUILDINGS ALONG WITH THE MAIN HOUSE. A CONCERTED EFFORT WILL BE PUT FORTH THIS YEAR TOWARDS REPAIRS AND MAINTANENCE OF THE COX HOUSE AND THE SURROUNDING PROPERTY.

SECOND STREET:

RECENT CONCERNS HAVE ARISEN FROM RESIDENTS ON SECOND STREET ABOUT THE PROPOSED CUL-DE-SAC. THE COUNTY'S RENDITION OF THE REALIGNMENT OF LIGHTHOUSE DRIVE SHOWS SECOND STREET AS A DEAD END WITHOUT THE CUL-DE-SAC. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE TOWNSHIP'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DESIGN THE CUL-DE-SAC AND IT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE THROUGH OUR ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

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MIRAGE WATER:

THE ISSUE OF THE MIRAGE WATER BILLING FOR THEIR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS IS ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA. THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL EXPOUND ON THIS DURING HIS REPORT.

LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY:

I RECENTLY HAD THE HONOR OF WALKING IN THE OPENING DAY PARADE FOR THE LITTLE LEAGUE ALONG WITH COMMITTEEMAN HARTMAN AND DEPUTY MAYOR CIRULLI. I ALSO GOT TO THROW OUT THE FIRST PITCH OF THE SEASON. I HAVE TO COMMEND ALL THE VOLUNTEERS, COACHES, STAFF AND PARENTS OF THE BARNEGAT/WARETOWN LITTLE LEAGUE FOR THE OUTSTANDING EFFORT THEY PUT FORTH FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR GREAT COMMUNITY.

OCEAN COUNTY:

THE COUNTY HAS FINALLY REPAIRED THE FENCE SURROUNDING THE DETENTION BASIN ON BARNEGAT BLVD. THIS IS THE FIRST RESULT OF OUR RECENT "WISH LIST" MEETING WITH THE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE MENTION THAT THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF OUR TAP BUS COORDINATOR, MICHELLE RIVERS AND ADMINISTRATOR BREEDEN, THE TOWNSHIP WILL SOON BE RECEIVING TWO HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE BUSES AND A FRONT END LOADER THAT WERE SCHEDULED FOR AUCTION BY THE COUNTY. OUR TOTAL COST TO PURCHASE THESE THREE VEHICLES IS \$3.00. THESE VEHICLES WILL ALLOW US TO EXPAND OUR BUS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND ENHANCE OUR PUBLIC WORKS CAPABILITIES.

LASTLY, THE MEDIA RECEIVED AN EMAIL QUESTIONING WHY ONLY THE MAYOR'S STATEMENT IS PUBLISHED ON OUR WEB SITE. I INVITE ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SUBMIT A WRITEN REPORT AS I DO FOR EACH MEETING TO BE POSTED ON THE WEB.