

The Mantoloking Reporter

Mantoloking

August 15, 2011

No. 444

Mayor Nebel opened this meeting promptly at 4:30 p.m. All Council members except Councilman Gillingham who is recovering from heart surgery, were present. The minutes of the July meeting were passed.

Councilman Witkowski moved four resolutions: to accept the report of Municipal Finance Officer Swisher; to pay the August, 2011 bills totalling \$1,879,789, of which \$1,522,000 were for Ocean County taxes; to accept the 2010 Municipal Audit Report; and, to accept the 2011 Best Practices Check List. This 50-question list is " a constructive way to encourage municipalities to consider and embrace a range of best practices that will help improve financial accountability and transparency. It is required by the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the 2011 Budget Year." All resolutions were passed.

Councilman Ness, covering for Councilman Gillingham, introduced Police Chief Wright who reported 314 incidents during the late July-early August period. These included 19 boat stops, four animal complaints, 58 building checks, 20 crash-related incidents, eleven first aid calls, one missing person, four thefts, 64 time cards and 24 traffic enforcements.

The Mantoloking Fire Company responded to 24 fire calls in June and 26 in July. Of these 14 were fire alarms in June and 15 in July. The other calls in June were fires on poles and a fence, the Mantoloking substation, an auto driving into a garage, smoke in a building. The July report included two auto accidents, electrical, cooking, pool heater, building, and pole fires, and a lightning strike.

Councilwoman Nelson moved a resolution to appoint S. Charles West to Deputy Plumbing Subcode Inspector, part time, effective August 15, 2011. It was passed. She reported that Mantoloking and Bay Head have entered in a Barnegat Bay initiative to use a jet pack to clean the storm sewers. This will be paid with state-grant funds. Bay Head will store the jet pack and the debris at their facility.

In June, Construction Official Wardell issued 15 building permits and four updates for dune decks, a new house, siding, irrigation systems, an inground pool and a roof. In July, there were 20 permits issued and five updates, for dune platforms, fire updates and smoke detectors, electrical and plumbing updates, kitchen renovations and a/c replacements.

Land Use Officer Marinaccio received 15 applications in June. One was denied. Twenty six applications were received in July, 18 were approved and three were denied.

Councilman Strohm is pleased the beach front owners are paying attention to their dunes and getting permits for what they need to do. Dune Inspector Farrell appreciates their efforts.

Councilman Brown expects to send a letter to residents concerning the ins and outs of garbage and recycling pickup.

Councilman Witkowski praised MFO Swisher for her services preparing and filing the municipal audit.

Thomas McIntyre asked if there is anyway to get rid of the barge 'parked' opposite Runyon Lane. It has been there for months and seems to be there to stay. He has contacted all who might be in charge in Brick, Ocean County and the State to no avail. He asked Mayor Nebel and Council to follow up on his efforts to rid this environmental and safety hazard. . . . Steve Wilder thanked the police for the signs and cones on Rte. 35 to enable residents to cross to the beach in safety.

Chief Wright said they do help but the crossers must pay attention, too. . . . Locky Jones said the barge belongs to a company that is no longer in business and is trying to sell it. The marine police has no control over this problem, it is not their job. He also wondered why his tax bill increased by 11%. Mayor Nebel cannot respond to individual property assessments, and he said the municipal tax was up one percent or 1/3rd of the tax; county, library and open space increase was up seven percent or 2/3rds. There are 33 communities in Ocean County; most home sales were down except Mantoloking. We should have the abstract of property values by Labor Day. If anyone wishes to talk to assessor Jim Anderson, he is at Borough Hall every Thursday. . . . Valerie McDowell questioned her taxes also. She asked if residents could attend budget meetings. Yes. . . . Walter Bray is pleased Mantoloking is holding the line on property taxes, but there is a serious problem with the county. The county property values are down so taxes went up.

Bob Post has some copies of MANTOLOKING MOONSHINE, the movie shown during the Centennial. They are \$15 a copy, a fun history of Mantoloking. It'd be a good stocking stuffer.

The meeting was adjourned at a little after 5:00 p.m. The next Council meeting will be on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.