

An Open Letter from Mayor George C. Nebel

To My Fellow Mantoloking Residents and Taxpayers:

The public hearing and vote on **Bond Ordinance 653, rebuilding the Borough Hall**, scheduled for our Council meeting on December 15 is one of the most significant ever conducted in Mantoloking. It is the Mayor and Council's opportunity to assess the degree of resident and taxpayer **support for or opposition to** the municipal governing body's plan for restoring the municipal building and police headquarters destroyed by Superstorm Sandy.

The ordinance, if approved by the Council, would authorize the issuance of \$3,879,000 in bonds or notes to partially fund a plan developed by a committee of elected officials, residents, and professional service providers during almost three years of research and periodic community review and feedback. The objective of the plan is to **restore the municipality's critical government, administration, and police functions** to the same permanent location in Mantoloking where they had been conducted since 1928.

The council introduced the ordinance in October. Your elected officials obviously considered the plan to be in the **best interest of Mantoloking**. But we have heard the objections of constituents who apparently do not believe our current plan is in the best interest of Mantoloking and we are sensitive to the objections. That's why at our last meeting we deferred consideration of the pending bond ordinance until a committee of volunteers could meet independently and report to the municipal governing body on the results of its deliberations. One of our elected officials actually took a leadership role in these efforts and arranged for the municipality to hire a construction services firm to assist the committee.

On December 15, we expect representatives of the committee of volunteers to report to the governing body and the public concerning the results of their efforts. We also look forward to receiving a report from the construction services firm to be presented at the meeting. . We expect those reports to be significant and that interested parties would appreciate some time to consider those reports before participating in a public hearing on the Bond Ordinance. I know Council Members want time to consider the reports and want the public hearing on the ordinance to involve informed participants.

Accordingly, I am recommending the Council defer the public hearing and vote on Bond Ordinance 653 until a **special meeting** at 5:30 pm Tuesday December 29, 2015 at the Mantoloking Yacht Club.

The correspondence we receive during the two-week period until the special meeting and the informed observations at the public hearing will help us conclude whether the **weight of public opinion** favors the municipality proceeding with the project as presently conceived or, abandonment of the current plan, and revisiting the issue of borough hall with due regard for the consequences

Your observations are welcome and can be sent to me at boroclerk@mantoloking.org