

A special meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Tim Mathews, Deputy Mayor Richard Wolfe, and Committee members David Wang-Iverson, Kevin Ostrander, and Peter Miller.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, a copy of notice of this meeting was filed in the Clerk's Office, posted on the bulletin board, and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, and Star Ledger on January 5, 2018 and an agenda was posted on January 9, 2018. The purpose of this meeting is to hold interviews of candidates for boards/committees. The public is invited to attend. Action may or may not be taken.

Tom Jarick was interested in a position on the Board of Adjustment. His neighbor, Michele Doherty, suggested that he volunteer. He does not have any experience on this board, adding that he is a salesman for printing, mailing, and signage for supermarkets throughout the week and hatches chickens and cares for them on weekends. Some comments were made about the hatching business.

Mayor Mathews noted that Mr. Jarick attended Rider, which the Mayor also attended; Mr. Jarick was in the 60's and the Mayor in the 80's.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if Mr. Jarick was aware of the role of the Board of Adjustment; Mr. Jarick said that "Gail" told him a few things, such as looking at building plans and seeing if they qualify. Mr. Wang-Iverson explained that the Board granted variances if applications do not meet code with the Board evaluating projects and proposals.

Mr. Jarick said that he hasn't done anything along those lines, but can study.

Mr. Ostrander asked if Mr. Jarick would want to volunteer for any other board. Mr. Jarick said that he could give a couple of hours per month but not much more. He said that he has lived here 3 years, has lived in North Jersey since the 1960's, and his partner has been here 35 years.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if Mr. Jarick was a farmer. Mr. Jarick highlighted some of the work he has done on his farm and commented on the number of animals and crops/pasture he owns, including having 25 horses.

Mr. Ostrander again asked if there were any other committees that Mr. Jarick might be interested in; he concluded that he would be able to offer a couple of hours a month and was not committed to zoning.

Mayor Mathews said that the School might be interested in Mr. Jarick's hatchery program; Mr. Jarick commented on the school teachers "loving" the program.

Mayor Mathews concluded that the Committee would be getting back to Mr. Jarick and he was thanked for coming to interview.

Mark Castellano, 9 Prall Court, was interested in the Planning Board. Mr. Wolfe said that he knows Mr. Castellano, reached out to him, and encouraged him to get involved with a committee. Mr. Wolfe felt that Mr. Castellano would be a great addition, with Mr. Wolfe adding that he has done a number of projects with his wife and knows of her quality work. Mr. Wolfe said that Mr. Castellano was enthusiastic about being interviewed for the Planning Board and has an impressive background.

Mr. Castellano said that he runs his own business management advisory firm, worked for Merrill Lynch and Blackrock for 30 years, including working in London, where he met his wife. Mr. Castellano said that he was on management and strategy boards for BlackRock and did a lot of financial work. He also managed over a couple of hundred people here and in London.

Mr. Castellano felt that the Planning Board would be interesting to him. He said that since he moved into town, planning has always been a point of contention, and he is interested in land use. He would like to have a bigger voice and input in decision making, adding that he has a long term commitment to East Amwell. He has lived here 14-15 years, has children in East Amwell School, has assisted his wife, who runs most of the projects at the school, and he felt that volunteering would be the best way to give back to the community.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if Mr. Castellano had attended any Planning Board meetings, and he answered a few and some zoning meetings. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked Mr. Castellano what issues he saw with planning. Mr. Castellano mentioned acreage for farming, noting that retaining the natural setting of the township is important, but there should be some compromise. He also spoke about more awareness, adding that the same people are at the meetings and there is always heresay. Mr. Castellano spoke about more participation of everyone. Mr. Castellano said that there was nothing dramatic, but he believed that more people need to know issues and more people need to get involved, saying “we have a base of people to get involved.”

Mr. Ostrander knew Mr. Castellano, also acknowledging his wife, Alison’s, “impressive work.” Mr. Castellano said that he works from home, can attend meetings, and has the time. He acknowledged the good work that his wife accomplishes. Mr. Wolfe added that Mrs. Castellano will be doing the Recreation Committee work and will work on the Township webpage to make it user friendlier.

Mr. Castellano again stated that they are here for the long term and want to get involved. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if Mr. Castellano would be interested in any other committee; Mr. Castellano had not thought about another committee. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if Mr. Castellano knew about affordable housing; Mr. Castellano said that he knew some, growing up in Newark, and nothing surprises him, and he thought at affordable housing was interesting, how it is playing out.

Mr. Ostrander was impressed with Mr. Castellano’s background, adding that his family does beyond the call of duty, and it would nice to mix it up, adding that the township was a farming community and now becoming suburban, and as a mixed community, it should also be so on the committees.

There were no other questions, and Mr. Castellano was thanked for attending.

There was a recess at 6:18 p.m., and the next candidate came in at 6:30 p.m.

Timothy John Willey, 25 Burd Lane, was interested in the Board of Adjustment. He is a 25-year resident and is a general contractor. He is familiar with architects and zoning here and in other municipalities. He added that he served his country in the 1980’s, took a 30 year hiatus, and now wants to help locally.

Mr. Wolfe asked if there was any time issue. Mr. Willey said that he is self-employed, and unless there is an emergency, he should be available for meetings and input, adding that he tries to end his work day by 5 p.m.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if Mr. Willey had any issues or concerns after living here 25 years. Mr. Willey said nothing in particular, although he was upset when an ordinance was approved for The Ridge at Back Brook for a swimming pool, tennis courts, and housing. He worked at Hopewell Valley Golf Course for ten years, and he believed that The Ridge could have had the same thing without an ordinance being passed and the owner just getting zoning approval and permits, but he felt that “this was water over the dam.” Mr. Willey again said that he felt that it was time for him to serve his community.

Mr. Ostrander asked if Mr. Willey had any other volunteer experience. Mr. Willey said that he coached t-ball in the past, but he has been building his business for eleven years, which was time consuming. Mr. Willey said that business is more steady, his children are older, and he has the time now.

Mayor Mathews said that he has known Mr. Willey and his family for 13-14 years through the children who attended school together.

Mr. Willey had no questions, again adding that he wanted to serve his little community, and he has experience in construction and zoning boards here and also in Hamilton, Bordentown, and other places.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if Mr. Willey would be interested in any other boards; Mr. Willey said that with his construction background, he liked the zoning board. Mr. Willey added that Jim Davidson is a neighbor, that he lives near Lindbergh Estate, is interested in the history of the Township, and grew up in Harbourton.

Mr. Willey was thanked for attending and told that the Committee would be in touch.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried to open to the public.

There being no comments, motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried to close to the public.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk