

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski, Deputy Mayor Linda Lenox, and Committee members Patricia Cregar and C. Larry Tatsch. Committee member Timothy Martin was absent.

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 28, 2010. The purpose of this meeting is to participate in a stormwater management (SWM) educational session conducted by Joe Skupien from SWM Consulting, Inc. The public is invited to attend and comment. Action may or may not be taken.

Mr. Skupien provided a Power-point presentation and provided handouts to the governing body and members of the public in attendance. The program is part of the annual 10 point education program implemented by the NJ DEP.

Mr. Skupien outlined the history of SWM as an update of the 1960's Clean Water Act in 1987 to address nonpoint sources of water pollution, including stormwater runoff. The EPA was directed to develop a stormwater program through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to regulate sewage. The Cuyahoga River Fire in 1969 was instrumental in having the government take a vested interest in pollution control. In 1999, Phase II of the USEPA program regulated stormwater further from MS4s (storm sewers) in municipalities with less than 100,000 in population and in construction sites greater than an acre. In 2003 the NJ DEP proposed the municipal stormwater regulations, and they were renewed in March 2009. There are four different SW permits in the state, and East Amwell is in Tier B, based on population and level of development. Tier B requirements are not as involved as Tier A, and the only two requirements Tier B are post-construction stormwater management for new development and redevelopment and a local public education program. The first requirement includes implementing the SWM plan and ordinance, ensure compliance and maintenance of stormwater facilities, and labeling storm inlets. The 10 point educational program includes receiving three points for tonight's program, along with other highlighted items, as shown on the handout.

Mr. Skupien continued by stating that the municipality must be careful about equipment and vehicle washing. He suggested that the Township look at their original NJ DEP permit issued to outline their requirements. There is an annual report and certification requirement, and the Stormwater Coordinator must certify compliance annually. The NJ DEP does make inspections and may request to see the municipality's annual reports for the past five years; Mr. Skupien provided statistics on these visits along with statistical information on various aspects of stormwater management, as listed in the handout.

Mr. Skupien provided the following website as a valuable resource for stormwater management issues, www.njstormwater.org, and his email address of joeskupien@swmconsulting.com. He concluded by stating that he enjoyed helping East Amwell Township in the development of their SWM plan and would be willing to help if anything else comes up.

Mayor Kneski opened the meeting to the public.

Andrea Bonette, 17 Ridge Road, thanked Mr. Skupien for all his help on SWM. She asked if there were any plans to change regulations with the new Christie administration. Mr. Skupien reminded her that clean water was a federal regulation; he commented on the potential for lawsuits if the federal regulations are not enforced. He noted that fines are mandatory with federal violations, while the NJ DEP fines are discretionary.

Mayor Kneski commented on the Governor's revisiting unfunded mandates and costs associated with them. Mr. Skupien commented on the development of SWM regulations over the past years, with the NJ DEP realizing that the public education system was quite vague and fine-tuning the 10 point educational system. He also commented on the re-adoption of the permit in 2009 and a delay in getting new rules in place. He mentioned that the state has minimum standards, and the municipalities may make stricter requirements but must be able to defend them.

Mayor Kneski thanked Mr. Skupien for his presentation this evening, and he thanked Mr. Skupien and Mrs. Bonette for all their assistance in SWM matters for the Township.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Lenox, seconded by Mr. Tatsch, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk