

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski and Committee members Larry Tatsch and Timothy Martin. Deputy Mayor Linda Lenox and Committee member Patricia Cregar were 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 August 17, 2010. The purpose of this meeting is to take action on Alcoholic Beverage Control social affairs licenses for two special events for The Ridge at Back Brook. The public is invited to attend. Action may or may not be taken.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Representatives from The Ridge at Back Brook included David Gordon, Esq. from the firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, and Shelley Narducci, Business Manager.

Mayor Kneski asked representatives to explain their request since these types of matters are usually handled at regular meetings.

Mr. Gordon thanked the governing body for convening this evening. He explained that The Ridge has a special golf course license with restrictions. About a year ago, there were a series of meetings between the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and special golf course permit holders to discuss regulations. He spoke about the critical need for golf courses to sustain business and working with non-profit or charitable groups. Under the regulations, the golf courses cannot sell alcoholic beverages to the non-profit/charitable group for golf outings; before the meetings last year, the state said that the golf courses could "give the drinks away." There was a special ruling last year that a non-profit could obtain a special permit for a social affair for a gathering. The Ridge does not sell the alcohol; the alcohol is purchased from a retail outlet by the non-profit/charitable group, and it cannot be on site prior to 48 hours before the event. The Ridge will provide the bartender and servers (who are trained in checking identification), and unused alcohol is removed off premises by the organization after the event.

The Ridge is allowed to have 25 of these events in a year, and these are the first two applications that they are processing. The Ridge was told by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control that these were routine applications, signed off by the Police Department (i.e., in the municipality's case, the State Police) and the Clerk. The Ridge subsequently found out that the application had to go to the governing body for approval. When The Ridge first tried to contact the office, the Clerk was on vacation and the second contact was after the agenda was prepared for the last meeting. The Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control requires two weeks prior notice of an event, and the first event is scheduled for 9/13 (not sufficient time if the item was put on the 9/9 agenda). He mentioned the names of the two organizations that were holding events, St. Peter's Foundation and NJ CAR.

Mr. Gordon stated that they would be familiar with procedures, and going forth would have applications on schedule. Mr. Gordon also asked if the Township Committee would consider authorizing the Clerk to sign off on the social affairs permits since more of them would be forthcoming. Mrs. Stahl commented that in the past, the Township Attorney has addressed the issue of the Clerk signing off on the permits rather than the governing body, and he recommended that the applications come to the governing body for approval. Mr. Gordon said that he was not asking for a decision tonight and would speak with the Township Attorney about this.

The governing body felt that the information provided was straight forward and had no questions. Mayor Kneski commented on supporting the events as a "win-win" for all.

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RESOLUTION #134-10

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that they have no objection to Special Permits for Social Affairs being granted to the following organizations from the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for events to be held at The Ridge at Back Brook:

St. Peter's Foundation
254 Easton Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
September 13, 2010

NJ CAR
856 River Road
Trenton, NJ 08628
September 20, 2010

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Tatsch, and it was carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Tatsch, and it was carried to open to the public for comment. There being no comments, motion by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Tatsch, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk