

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 6:50 PM. Present were Mayor C. Larry Tatsch, Deputy Mayor Patricia Cregar, and Committee members Peter Kneski and Tim Mathews. Committee member Linda Lenox 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 February 8, 2011. The purpose of this meeting is to interview candidates for a position on a township board.

The public is invited to attend and comment. Action may or may not be taken.

JULIAN TREADWELL was interviewed for a position on the Planning Board or the Zoning Board. He has lived in East Amwell since 1995, growing up in Montgomery Township and previously residing in Hopewell Borough.

Mayor Tatsch outlined available seats, including openings on Recreation and Recycling Committees. Mr. Treadwell was interested in planning/zoning. He provided background information, including the following: he has a background in construction, hazmat training and OSHA training. He commented on his opinion that there are no water supply issues on the mountain since there hasn't been a drought since 1995. He felt that the Township should be a "little more lenient" with applicants so that they do not have to have lawyer bills for their applications. Mr. Treadwell commented on his attendance at the meeting when the Sourland Mountain zoning ordinance was adopted.

Mayor Tatsch asked about his position on tree cutting; Mr. Treadwell felt that dead or damaged trees should be removed without permit (which is allowed under the current ordinance).

Mr. Kneski asked for Mr. Treadwell's opinion on his vision of the Township in 8 - 10 years, commenting on the requirement to readopt the Master Plan every 5 or 6 years. Mayor Tatsch stated the key focus of the current plan is in keeping agriculture present and vigorously pursuing open space in the valley and mountain zones. Mr. Treadwell commented on difficult economic times and the effect of bonding on the taxpayers. He would like to see lower taxes, acknowledging that keeping farms and a rural community is a good idea.

Mr. Mathews asked Mr. Treadwell about his construction experience, which Mr. Treadwell highlighted, i.e., remodeling experience on his own in college, in 1990 working for a corporation doing bigger projects, and going back to his own construction firm. He dealt with Stew Doddy (former Construction Code Official) in the past. He has a son in East Amwell Township School and older step-sons in high school, and he has participated in recreational activities with the children.

Mr. Treadwell detailed his hazmat and OSHA training requirements, which include first aid and CPR.

Mayor Tatsch thanked Mr. Treadwell for his attendance, noting that there are a number of candidates applying for the position, and he would be notified.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Cregar, seconded by Mr. Kneski, and carried unanimously to go into recess at 7 p.m. so that the Clerk could call a candidate. The candidate arrived in the meantime, and motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cregar, and carried unanimously to return to the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

FRANCES GAVIGAN, 123 Wertsville Road, explained that for sixteen years she has "shown up and paid attention" and is an advocate for East Amwell Township. Her background in the regulatory area and writing are assets, and she helped the Planning Board with the tree ordinance. She spoke about her ideals, mentioning her ability to be "pragmatic and collaborative."

Ms. Gavigan spoke about the issues with the Prall House, dealing with the Hunterdon County Freeholders and with SADC for assistance. She also commented on Hunterdon County's revised thinking on integrated highway systems and the Crossroads of the American Revolution, and East Amwell will be part of this.

Mr. Kneski asked about Ms. Gavigan's vision of the Township in 10 years. She stated that the Township may be under pressure to develop, and she mentioned challenges with open space preservation due to the fiscal element. She believed that the Township should defend what they have accomplished, acknowledging legal issues ahead for solar installations and time of decision matters. She elaborated on refining the Master Plan, on funding challenges, and using the Master Plan and Municipal Land Use Law to support Township goals, including the possibility of scenic byway designation or Crossroads.

Mr. Mathews asked Ms. Gavigan about a reference she made to CLG; she explained that it meant the Certified Local Government, which was part of the Municipal Land Use Laws and may help with more funding options.

Mayor Tatsch acknowledged that Ms. Gavigan currently serves on the Historic Preservation Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Committee; she mentioned a question about whether she can serve on the Agricultural Board if serving on the Historic Preservation Committee. Ms. Gavigan concluded by saying that she has the time to serve.

Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cregar, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the special meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk