

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 7:05 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 January 25, 2011. The purpose of this meeting is to interview candidates for a position on a township board. The public is invited to attend. Action may or may not be taken.

Joseph Nyce, 28 Zion Road, was interviewed for a position on the Planning Board. He read a prepared statement about his interest in serving on the Planning Board. Highlights of the statement included the following: Mr. Nyce moved to East Amwell in 1982; he gave his opinion on the creation of government to protect citizen's rights and having laws contrary to the freedom of citizens and inflicting constraints on them; he commented on boards only protecting a certain portion of citizen's interests, and he felt that a different perspective to current government should be considered; he felt that there was not a "right or wrong answer," commenting on his tenure on the Board of Health when regulations at times restrained citizen's freedom; he again felt that a different perspective would allow that all resident concerns would be given "full consideration." He concluded by stating that he served on the Board of Health 10 years ago and asking if there was any problems or concerns about his work at that time.

Mr. Kneski asked if Mr. Nyce would be willing to serve on another board besides the Planning Board. (For the record, there is an alternate II position on the Planning Board.) Mr. Nyce would prefer the Planning Board but would consider an appointment to another board.

Deputy Mayor Cregar asked about a statement Mr. Nyce made about residents not going along with farmland. Mr. Nyce explained that what was presented as farmland preservation is in actuality open land preservation not specifically drawing farmers into the program. He continued by mentioning land being preserved that does not have a potential for development, on the perception that there may be another agenda for preservation, on how the Township will pay for preservation, including passing costs along to future residents, and on farms being lost in the community (e.g., there were 25 working farms when he moved to the Township and now there are about 7 or 8). Mr. Nyce mentioned his involvement with the Amwell Valley Business Association, stating that the group tried to organize farmers under their umbrella for a stronger base.

Mr. Kneski mentioned the Master Plan prepared by the Planning Board, asking how Mr. Nyce envisioned the municipality in 10 years. While he felt it was a good question, Mr. Nyce said that he would be uncomfortable only giving his perspective, suggesting that residents should be given an opportunity to provide input on what they would like to see for a better representation.

Mayor Tatsch thanked Mr. Nyce for his appearance, stating that there were more candidates to interview, and he would be notified by the Clerk of the outcome.

John Seramba, 111 John Ringo Road, was interviewed for a position on the Planning Board. He is interested in the Planning Board, Board of Health, or another position. He spoke about his "expertise with age," noting his service on Planning Boards in the past. He felt that different opinions are helpful, and he wants to provide service to the community. He spoke about non-profit assistance to the rescue squad and his service as an Alternate Farm Bureau member. He spoke about 20 years of service in the past and a desire to serve again. Mr. Seramba spoke at length about assisting farmers, saying that he hears certain comments in his position as a CPA; keeping acreage in farming is important by planned zoning. Mr. Seramba also mentioned his expertise in budgeting.

Mr. Kneski asked Mr. Seramba about his vision of the Township in the next 10 years. Mr. Seramba spoke about his service in Raritan Township when the fairground property was being developed and there was a request for "spot zoning." He felt that keeping the Valley open is important, noting the potential for solar farms and industrial parks being proposed on open land in the future and the fact that developers may purchase large tracts of land to build these types of facilities. He felt that more work had to be done on the Ringoes side of the valley, stating that the Route 604 corridor should be protected. Mr. Seramba commented on hearing many

complaints about protecting the Ringoes portion of the Valley with the thought that the Township is being neglected. Mayor Tatsch reminded the governing body and Mr. Seramba that a grant for \$180,000 has been received for sidewalks in Ringoes from Clawson Park into the center of town.

Mr. Seramba again replied that he wanted to help the Township, commenting that he "was tired of the two party system and would like to work together to help" the community. He commented on a full Republican administration in 1999 when he was Mayor of Raritan Township and supporting a Democratic candidate because of the need for diversity. He felt that diversity was key, and he reminded the governing body "that solar is coming."

Mayor Tatsch thanked Mr. Seramba for his appearance, stating that he would be notified when a decision was made. The Mayor also appreciated the offer to serve on other boards.

There being no further business, motion by Deputy Mayor Cregar, seconded by Mr. Kneski, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk