

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor David Wang-Iverson, Deputy Mayor Dart Sageser, and Committee members Charles Van Horn and Peter Miller. Committee member Tim Mathews was absent.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Municipal Clerk Teresa R. Stahl announced that this is a special meeting, with a copy of the agenda for this meeting forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, and Star Ledger, posted on the bulletin board, and filed in the Clerk's Office on November 24, 2015. The purpose of this meeting is to interview candidates for township boards or committees. The public is invited to attend. Action may or may not be taken.

Candice Wiggum, a resident on Old York Road, was interested in COAH or Emergency Management. She provided background information as follows: she was a college counselor in Washington and in New Hampshire, eventually becoming an interim Dean of Students in New Hampshire. She did a lot of emergency management planning while in New Hampshire, including planning for Avian Flu issues and natural disasters. She also trained through the Red Cross, and she has had some FEMA training, including desktop examples on chain of command. She was also involved with a program for behavioral health issues for people with disabilities. Ms. Wiggum has experience in emergency responses to fires and floods.

Ms. Wiggum said that after she retired as the Administrative Dean of Students, she joined the Peace Corps for 3 plus years and served in Macedonia, providing some anecdotal information about the area. Her work in Macedonia involved sheep breeding and agriculture. She has agricultural background since she had a farm in Washington years ago. She commented further on her work with the Peace Corps, mentioning the intent of the program she was involved with as an attempt at rural development for the area. She also mentioned grant writing as part of the program.

Mayor Wang-Iverson asked about Ms. Wiggum's "sense of agricultural activities" in East Amwell, and she commented on the number of horse farms without any major industrial farms. The Mayor commented on openings on the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Mayor Wang-Iverson asked about Ms. Wiggum's involvement with FEMA; she mentioned working with state agency items and responses. When asked if she would be willing to serve on two boards, Ms. Wiggum felt that it would be a good opportunity to know the community where she now lives. The Mayor commented on helping with the Emergency Management team, similar to Charles Soos, a former member who moved out of town.

Some comments were exchanged between Ms. Wiggum and the governing body on sheep farming, and the Township Committee thanked Ms. Wiggum for the interview.

Tom Rue, a resident on Welisewitz Road, was interested in the Recycling Committee, Environmental Commission, or Historic Preservation Committee. He has lived in East Amwell for 28 years and retired from working at a state facility for the disabled. Mr. Rue also served for six years on the Board of Education (about 8 years ago).

Recycling Chair Will Harrison and Environmental Commission Chair Doug Schleifer were present during this interview.

Mr. Harrison explained that East Amwell Township is only one of a few municipalities in Hunterdon County that operates a Recycling Committee, who oversees recycling in the Township (but not curbside). The Recycling Committee advises the Township Committee as needed; they run the monthly recycling depots on the municipal lot with each Recycling Committee member volunteering to manage at least one depot a year (depending on the number of members on board); the Committee oversees recycling on the athletic fields, which is difficult since recreation leaders rotate – the importance of recycling education was noted. The Recycling Committee works with the Recreation Committee on this matter.

Mr. Harrison added that the Recycling Committee meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Van Horn pointed out that Styrofoam was recycled also; Mr. Harrison commented that it is collected, stored near the recycling shed or behind the fence in plastic bags, and is transported by

the DPW to the accepting facility. The Township benefits by making a difference on the environment.

Mr. Harrison concluded that the Recycling Committee is an enjoyable group to join!

Mr. Schleifer explained that the Environmental Commission supports different types of initiatives, including having a booth at the 4H Fair; sponsoring the Annual Green Fest, which hosts many organizations and non-profits to promote environmental and open space issues; supports open space initiatives with letters of support, etc.; participates in site walks for various projects; acquires funding; works on trail projects, such as Omick Woods. The location of Omick Woods was discussed.

Mr. Schleifer commented on the Environmental Commission applying for grant funding for a kiosk and parking area at the Cider Mill Preserve. Mr. Rue asked whether cross country skiing was allowed on the property; the answer was unclear. Some discussion took place about the property maintained by D & R Greenways, e.g., the property is mowed only once a year to maintain a habitat for birds and is not done during breeding or nesting season; the Mayor commented on having a native meadow on site, and Mr. Schleifer thought that planting copious milkweed plants would encourage the arrival of monarch butterflies, which will be discussed by the Environmental Commission.

Mr. Rue said that he has the time to serve on both committees. He added that he enjoys outdoor activities, such as kayaking and hiking.

Mr. Schleifer said that the Environmental Commission meets only 10 times a year on the fourth Monday of the month. He added two other areas that the Environmental Commission oversees, i.e., the annual Roadside Clean-up led by Blaine Hummel and inspection of conservation easements. He was told that the inspections are for maintenance purposes only to make sure that no development is made in these easements. The Environmental Commission is currently developing protocol for the inspections next year. Some comments were exchanged about conservation easements near Mr. Rue's property and development at Wertsville and Welisewitz Roads.

Mr. Rue had no other questions for either Chair.

Mayor Wang-Iverson mentioned a recent inquiry from Mr. Rue about loud Frontier airplanes traveling overhead. The Mayor commented on having time now to look at a website with flight data that resident Larry Tatsch provided. Mr. Rue commented on the 2 engine jets being much noisier than regular jets, adding that Hunterdon County gets nothing but noise while Mercer County gets \$50,000 from Frontier for rental of property in Mercer. Committee members and Mr. Rue exchanged further comments about the airplane matter, with the following highlights: the FAA governs the flight patterns; Pennsylvania is suing Frontier because of flight patterns over the river; Mr. Rue commented on a jet flying as low as 300 feet above ground when he was at dinner one night; the Mayor suggested that the flight matter maybe something that the Environmental Commission might want to undertake; acrobatic planes over the Sourlands were also mentioned.

The Committee thanked Mr. Rue for volunteering, adding that he would receive information from the Clerk on the Environmental Commission and on appointment information for the reorganization meeting.

A third candidate, who wished to be considered for the Recycling Committee, did not appear. Some discussion took place about the candidate and her daughter, who recently attended one of the Recycling Committee meetings. Mr. Harrison commented on their attendance, adding that he hoped that the Committee could be fully seated this year. Mayor Wang-Iverson commented on possibly interviewing the candidate at the December 30 meeting, adding that another candidate (for Historic Preservation) would be interviewed that night.

The meeting was open to the public for comment. There being no members of the public in attendance, motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried to close to the public.

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

*draft - not yet approved*