

CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION NOTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

WORK SESSION NOTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Heymann called the meeting to order at 10:27 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

The following persons were present:

Mayor Sophie Heymann

Councilpersons John C. Glidden, Jr., Thomas Hennessey, John Kashwick,
David Barad, Cynthia L. Tutoli, Victoria Roti Amitai

Borough Attorney, Edward T. Rogan

Borough Clerk, Loretta Castano

Borough Engineer, Nick DeNicola

Chief of Police, David Berrian

The following persons were absent from the meeting:

Councilwoman Victoria Roti Amitai

2. PROVISIONS OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Heymann advised that the meeting was being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Before going into the work session, Mayor Heymann reported that the Borough Attorney had finalized the ownership of Bethany Circle and thanked the Borough Attorney for all his hard work. In answer to a question, Borough Attorney said they had been paying taxes but none in the last two years; and there would be no rebates.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY - KASHWICK (GLIDDEN/HENNESSEY)

- 1) STATUS REPORT RE CAPITAL BUDGET/CAPITAL PLAN
(RM 7/9/08) - Council Kashwick said work on the operating budget is continuing; and the meetings with the individual department heads have been concluded. Final numbers should be available within two weeks.
- 2) STATUS REPORT RE TRANSPORTATION MEETING HELD IN ENGLEWOOD 6/30/08 - Councilman Kashwick asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

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- 3) STATUS REPORT RE CLOSTER WEBSITE
- 4) STATUS REPORT RE IN-KIND MATCH OF \$25,000 FOR COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT (Work to be done by DPW) RM 6/27/07 - Relative to the Grant, Councilman Kashwick said a final inspection must be accomplished when the trees are active, hopefully, during the month of April. Once the inspection is complete and the paperwork filed, the Borough would receive the \$25,000 toward the trees that were planted last year. In addition, George Futterknecht and his company, Woods Landscape, have volunteered to tend to the trees this Spring with mulch and checking on their condition.
- 5) REPORT: The Environmental Commission is completing the signage for the Trail which, hopefully, will be completed in the next two weeks.

Councilman Kashwick reported that he took a Historic Preservation law class in the beginning of February along with other members of the Commission which was very informative. Relative to the West Street/Harrington Avenue Historic District, the Commission is delaying the hearing for at least a month pending further outreach to the homeowners.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY - GLIDDEN (TUTOLI/HENNESSEY)

- 1) REPORT - Councilman Glidden had nothing to report.

C. PUBLIC WORKS - HENNESSEY (AMITAI/GLIDDEN)

- 1) REPORT – Councilman Hennessey had nothing to report.

Councilman Hennessey referred to a question that came up during a Zoning Board Meeting about a zoning violation against a particular builder who totally disregards Borough Zoning Laws. He asked the Borough Attorney if it was possible to create a regulation requiring contractors to obtain a local registration license within the Borough and using same as leverage to force contractors to follow the rules. Borough Attorney explained that same could be formulated as long as it is done carefully and not be overly restrictive. The license could be revoked for violation of the ordinance. Borough Attorney said he would research the matter. Councilman Hennessey referred to the property on Ruckman Road where an outdoor fire pit, barbecue, with electric and gas and pavers were constructed without a permit and this caused an overage in imperious coverage.

D. ORDINANCE - BARAD (KASHWICK/AMITAI)

- 1) STATUS REPORT RE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- 2) REPORT – COMPUTER POLICY TO PROTECT US AGAINST INAPPROPRIATE USE OF COMPUTERS - Councilman Barad said State Statute covered inappropriate computer use and that this matter could be included in the personnel policies. Chief Berrian advised that the Police

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Department computers have filters and that he would copy an internet usage policy to the Council. Filter purchase and installation for the Borough Hall would be checked with Kevin Whitney.

At the last Ordinance Committee meeting, the CIC mission statement was discussed and there had been understanding there would be no change but the Mayor agreed to inform them of any major changes in landscaping etc so they could opine on them.

E. HUMAN RESOURCES - TUTOLI (KASHWICK/BARAD)

1) STATUS REPORT RE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETINGS –
Councilwoman Tutoli said the Committee has been meeting weekly and would continue to do so.

At this time, Borough Engineer questioned if the Borough wished to go forward with the bidding process for the paving program. He said that the process could take approximately 3 months. The bidding process was discussed and it was noted that the Borough does not have to award the project. There are no other monies available at this time; but requests through the stimulus package are being submitted by other municipalities. Mayor Heymann said our request has been sent to the Governor's office, the League of Municipalities and our Senator. She felt there would not be much chance of funding. If the Borough had the money, it would be fiscally prudent to do the project. She said her rough figures indicate that the bond issue would cost over \$250,000 per year given today's interest rates and amortizing same over 20 years; and she could not recommend that course of action. If the Borough had the money, she would recommend the project; but she would recommend taking the bids. Mr. DeNicola said he would not recommend bonding over 20 years since the roads do not last that long.

F. LAND USE AND CONSTRUCTION – AMITAI (BARAD/HENNESSEY)

1) REPORT

4. OLD BUSINESS
5. NEW BUSINESS
6. ANY OTHER MATTER WHICH MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY
7. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC
8. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS, IF APPROPRIATE

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9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Work Session at 10:45 p.m. was made by Councilman Glidden, seconded by Councilman Barad and declared unanimously carried by Mayor Heymann.

Provided to the Mayor and Council
on March 19, 2009 for approval at the
Regular Meeting to be held
March 25, 2009.

Loretta Castano, RMC
Borough Clerk

Prepared by Carol A. Kroepke, RMC
utilizing recording and Borough Clerk's
notes.

Approved at the Regular Meeting held March 25, 2009
Consent Agenda Item No. 25b2)

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WORK SESSION AGENDA – FEBRUARY 25, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.