

Grayzel Remarks

Township Committee Meeting

7/18/2012

Today was another hot day. I wanted to remind our residents that this building is our primary cooling center in Morris Township. It is open everyday from 8am-6pm for your use in this regard. Morristown also uses their municipal building as a cooling center as well if that might be more convenient for anyone.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable July 4 holiday. I would like to recognize one resident who spent his July 4 holiday cleaning and maintaining a walking trail in his neighborhood. Mr. Fred Sporer spent a good part of the day clearing the trail that runs along Punchbowl Road adjacent to the fence at the gulf club. This trail is used by local residents to traverse Punchbowl Road safely as a way to get to the Traction Line trail and to Madison Avenue. Thank you Mr. Sporer.

On our consent calendar tonight we received a letter from Fire Chief Lovenberg that firefighter Michael Zucker has passed his one-year probationary period. Mike was a longtime volunteer for the fire department who applied for one of the vacant full-time firefighter positions we had open last year. Congratulations to Mike Zucker for achieving this milestone and we look forward to having him on our force for many years to com

For those of you who have not heard, the James Street bridge that takes drivers over route 287 is being reconstructed is being reconstructed, with the project scheduled to begin in August. The bridge, located near Springbrook Road on the north side and Southgate Parkway on the South side, goes over seven lanes on I-287. It is being replaced because of its poor condition from the weather and having no major

alterations since it was built over 40 years ago. NJDOT is managing the project and they are scheduled to start the project sometime in August and project it to last somewhere between 6-9 months to completion. The detour around the closed bridge will be posted.

This will be an inconvenience for some but this is a project that needs to get done sooner or later, so sooner is better. Please plan your driving route accordingly.

With regard to the Honeywell redevelopment plans, I look forward to a frank, open, and honest conversation about this proposed plan and the accompanying ordinance recommended by the Planning Board – and I really do hope that they are frank, open, and honest. I would like to take this opportunity to make some initial comments and look forward to our continued discussions at future meetings.

First, let me say that Honeywell is a valued member of our community. They have been here a long time and we hope to keep them here. I really do. I want this redevelopment plan to be win-win for both Honeywell and the many other residents of our municipality. I would like to see something built on the property that has present value and enduring value to both Honeywell and the community as a whole.

With the approvals of the proposed plans or a variation thereof, pending this body's discussions of this matter, this would show Morris Township's commitment to Honeywell. I hope that Honeywell would reciprocate that showing of commitment by this body by committing back to this body and to our community that they stay on site for a specified period of time to be determined. I hope they will choose to make such a commitment.

I have a number of discussion items for the Township Committee to contemplate as we move forward. These include, but are not limited to:

- The financial analysis that will be presented to us shortly and what the bottom line is on our tax ratables base by implementing the proposed plan vs. some possible alterations.
- The benefits of having a Continuing Care Retirement Facility incorporated into the plans. I personally think it would be beneficial, and I recall that during the debates about placing a CCRC on the Delbarton property that Mr. Rosenbush also felt this to be a beneficial use for Morris Township residents.
- Purchasing a portion of the land from Honeywell for open space
- Environmental concerns
- Incorporation of required affordable housing units
- Safety at the railroad crossing, and the accompanying responsibility for maintaining any safety measures. This is a particular since there may be a recreation area very close by according to the plans.
- Incorporating “Complete Streets” elements into the design plans.
- We already had several good suggestions from residents this evening, and I look forward to hearing more from them at the upcoming meetings.

These are just some of the issues I would like to address at our next meeting and get feedback on from my fellow Township Committee members.

Thank you.

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