

Jeff Grayzel commentary – April 16, 2014

Morris Township Committee meeting

My condolences to the O'Hagan family. The Colonel had a lot of accomplishments, including terms as a freeholder and Mayor of Morris Township. I thank him and his family for his service to our municipality.

Thanks to everyone who worked on putting together the budget this year. In Mr. Quinn's presentation he showed how the shared service of the joint court would save us approximately \$148,000 this year. A couple of weeks ago I attended the quarterly joint court meeting along with Mr. Caffrey and Mr. Quinn. The joint court is running well and our case load has been smoothly absorbed. I bumped into Mayor Platt of Harding earlier today. He chairs the joint court committee this year, and he told me that he had just been to a NJ League of Municipalities meeting where State Senate President Steve Sweeney pointed to the joint court as one of the best examples of shared services in the state of New Jersey.

Mr. Quinn also mentioned how well the sewer utility is doing, and the finances will only get better when the new Randolph and Parsippany projects come on-line. The sewer committee has started talking about lowering the rate charged to senior citizens. This will help keep Morris Township affordable for our seniors, particularly those on fixed income).

With regard to the library expenditure, over the past four years municipalities have learned to live within their means. When things break we need to fix and put that cost into our budget. I am not saying that the library budget is extravagant. In fact, it is lower this year than last year. But it is imperative that the library start allocating a larger part of their budget to reserve funds to pay for issues like as this one.

Earlier today I attended the first meeting of a new group sponsored by the Great Swamp Watershed Association that they are calling the Municipal Alliance. This is where I talked to Mayor Platt. The presentation was on repurposing old facilities including aging downtown areas and outdated office space. There were some learnings that can be applied to the

Honeywell property, and I will be sharing this learning with our committee representatives on the planning board.

I would like to congratulate Morris Township's newest Eagle Scouts. David J. Coven and Jeremy M. Herbert received Scouting's highest honor that were honored at a ceremony at Frelinghuysen School on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for coming out to tonight's meeting and I hope we will see you back at a future meeting.

For our Jewish and Christian residents I would like to extend my wishes for a meaningful Passover and Easter holidays to them respectively. Please note that the municipal building is closed this Friday for Good Friday.

This Saturday there are not one, but two, Easter Egg Hunts to choose from in Morris Township. The first is at 10:30 AM. The Fairchild Easter Egg Hunt will be at Alfred Vail School. The other is at 2:00 PM. The Hillside Hose Easter Egg Hunt takes place at Saunders Park (off Rolling Hill Drive)

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