



April 2014: Morris Township News Update

Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to present to you the latest in a series of periodic E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings as well as other helpful information about Morris Township.

Please take a moment to sit back, read, and consider the following information to stay informed about our municipality. As always, I welcome your comments. When you are finished, please pass this on to your neighbors and friends.

For a look at how our Township government operates, open the link below to a short video of the last Township Committee meeting. Although I think we need to do more, it provides a peek into our municipal government for those of you who cannot get to a monthly meeting at town hall.

Township Committee Meetings of February 19th and March 19th

The February meeting of the Township Committee was held on February 19, 2014. The agenda can be found here: <http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/emails/02192014-526.pdf>

In February, four ordinances were adopted:

- 01-14: AMENDING CHAPTER 89, SECTION 14 "TOWING AND STORAGE CHARGES"
Comment from Jeff: The Township regulates who is allowed to tow cars in the municipality and establishes set fees for their various charges.
- 02-14: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 67 - "POOL, MUNICIPAL: RULES AND REGULATIONS" IN PARTICULAR - MEMBERSHIP FEES
Comment from Jeff: This establishes the cost of various memberships for the Township swimming pools.
- 03-14: AMENDING CHAPTER 45 "FEES", SECTION 3 "GENERAL FEES"
Comment from Jeff: This ordinance established the fees charged to outside organizations when they contract Morris Township Police or Fire services. This is mostly used by the utility companies who need a police presence when they are working on busy streets.
- 04-14: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CONCERNING SALARIES FOR NONUNION PERSONNEL
Comment from Jeff: This establishes a 2% raise for our non-union personnel, most of whom work in the municipal building.



A listing of the ordinances can be found by clicking on the link for the agenda above.

The Township Committee held its March meeting on March 19, 2014. The agenda can be found here: <http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/emails/03192014-533.pdf>

In March we only had one ordinance up for adoption:

- 05-14: AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS 106-108 LAKE VALLEY ROAD AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF OPEN SPACE TRUST FUNDS TO SATISFY ALL OR A PORTION OF THE PURCHASE

Comment from Jeff: The Township will be purchasing 5.5 acres of the Baker Farm located on Lake Valley Road.

A listing of the ordinances can be found by clicking on the link for the agenda above.

The Township Committee concluded the meeting with commentary from each member of the Committee. My public commentary is posted to my website so that they are publicly available. Here are my remarks from the February meeting:

<http://jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202014-02-19.pdf>

Here are my remarks from the March meeting:

<http://jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202014-03-19.pdf>

Video of Township Committee Commentary

Every month, I post my written commentary to my website so it is available to the public. However, I have always wanted to televise our meetings so people can see and hear for themselves, not just read.

At the annual Reorganization meeting on January 8th, I remarked that the top of my wish list for 2014 says, "Township Committee meetings televised on the public access television channels on cable TV." At our February 19th meeting, I restated my desire to televise our meetings so that more citizens could have a view of our municipal government. I was immediately rebuffed by the other four committee members and told that it was just not a priority.

Apparently, some people disagree. A citizen taped the commentary portion of the March 19 meeting and posted it on the Morristown Green website. You can view and listen to the commentaries of all Committee members here:

<http://morristowngreen.com/2014/03/21/video-highlights-from-morris-township-committee-meeting/>

The above videos of commentary are a small start toward more open government, but I would really like to see the entire meeting televised so that residents can be better informed about our municipal government.

Morris Township 2014 Budget

At the Township Committee's monthly meeting on March 19th, the 2014 municipal budget was introduced. The municipal tax increase will be \$28 for a household with an assessed value of \$390,000.

The Township Committee will hold a public discussion of the budget on **April 8th at 5:00 PM** at Town Hall. The Township's Administrator and Department Heads will be in attendance to answer questions from the Township Committee.

A formal public presentation of the budget will be made at the Township Committee's April 16th regular meeting. Following that presentation, there will be time for public questions and commentary, which will be followed by a vote by the Township Committee for adoption of the budget.

A summary of the 2014 budget can be found at:



<http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/1445>

The complete 2014 municipal budget can be found at:

<http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/1439>

If you would like to compare this year's budget to past years, you can find older budgets posted online here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/404/Adopted-Municipal-Budgets>

Ginty Pool Update

The plan to have Ginty pool renovated for the summer of 2014 has been delayed. The cost of renovations was estimated at \$1.6 million, but the lowest bid that came back to complete the work was \$1.8 million. So the renovation plan will itself be renovated and the project will be put out to bid again. In the meantime, both Ginty and Streeter pools will open on schedule, but in the same condition they were in last year.



Read more details here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/1236>

Registration for pool membership is underway. Contact the recreation department office for more information at 973-326-7371.

Other News of Interest

- **The Morris Township Health Department** will be holding its Annual Adult Blood Test on Friday April 5. The cost is just \$25. If you have not had a blood test in a while, this is a very economical way to check up on your health. More details can be found on the Township website:

<http://www.morristwp.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=107>

For additional information call: 973-326-7390

- **The Township Recreation Department** has posted its Spring brochure and lists many interesting activities. You can find a copy here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/1377>

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact the Recreation department at 973-3326-7371.

- **The Morris County Parks Commission** has released its spring "Pathways" newsletter, which lists many area activities. You can view it on their website at <http://www.morrisparks.net/>

New Jersey turns 350 in 2014 and is celebrating 350 years of history. Read about all the activities taking place surrounding this event

<http://officialnj350.com/what-is-nj350/>

- **Motorists in New Jerseys must STOP for any pedestrian in a marked crosswalk.** Please view this

public service announcement:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usTMpdWwYEM&list=UUtMY-2GpISaQXuPJea8M6fg>



Upcoming Committee Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Township Committee will be on Wednesday April 16th at 7:00pm in our municipal building.

Please try to attend one of our Township meetings to see how your local government operates. Your presence improves the quality of the proceedings, and your "in-person" questions assist the Township Committee in being responsive to our citizens.

The Next Meeting is Wed., April 16th

Contact Jeff...

I will continue to communicate with the public by e-newsletter on a periodic basis. However, if you ever have a question or an issue you would like to discuss, feel free to contact me by e-mail. I will continue to respond to e-mails sent to Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com.

You can also reach me at my official Township email address: JGrayzel@Morristwp.com

Please feel free to forward this e-mail news on to others. If you know someone who would like to subscribe to future issues, please have them contact me at Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com

I look forward to another year of serving the residents of Morris Township on the Township Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, ideas, or concerns. Little League Baseball season is here. Play ball !!

Your neighbor,
Jeff

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[Jeff's Web Site](#) | [Contact Jeff](#)

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