

[<Back](#) 

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January 2014: Morris Township News from Jeff Grayzel

Dear Neighbors,

2014 is upon us, and I am pleased to continue sending periodic E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings as well as other helpful information about our municipality.

If you missed any of my past newsletters, you can click [HERE](#) to review prior issues.

Please note that the first regular meeting of the Township Committee in 2014 is tomorrow, Wednesday January 22 starting at 7:00pm. The meeting will be preceded by a quarterly Board of Health meeting starting at 5:00pm, after which the Township Committee will go into closed session until the 7:00pm start of the open public meeting. Tomorrow's Twp Committee agenda can be found here:

<http://nj-morristownship.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/01222014-519.html>

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 reading, please pass this on to your neighbors and friends.

Township Committee Reorganization Meeting of January 8th

The Township Committee held its annual reorganization meetings on January 8, 2014. The agenda can be found here:

<http://nj-morristownship.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/01082014-515.html>

The meeting room was "standing room only" with many dignitaries in attendance. The Committee appointed Bruce Sisler as mayor and Dan Caffrey as Deputy Mayor for the 2014 year. Appointments were also made for all the expiring terms on our various boards and committee. For these expiring terms, In all cases the same people were reappointed to those same positions.



Read the summary article from the Morris Newsbee:

http://newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/mapping-morris-township-s-future/article_46a5401a-7ef1-11e3-b7db-001a4bcf887a.html

Township Committee Regular Meeting

of November 13th and December 18th, 2013

The Township Committee held regular meetings on November 13th and December 18th. The November agenda can be found here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/11132013-505.html>

And December can be found here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/12182013-509.html>

You can see the full text of each ordinance and resolution voted upon on by clicking on the blue highlighted number preceding each ordinance.

At the November meeting we swore in a new firefighter, Joshua Wing, to our fire department. He is replacing a recently retired firefighter.

At the December meeting you will see various resolutions related to the purchase of new equipment. The funds for this new equipment were budgeted for in the 2013 budget year.

There was only one ordinance listed on the above agendas. This is because pending legislation from the prior year may not be carried into the next calendar year. Since it typically takes at least two calendar months to comply with public notice and comment requirements, legislation is seldom introduced or passed in the last two months of a year. In addition, the Township Committee is reconstituted at the beginning of each January (due to an election for at least one spot on the Committee taking place every year), and this precludes a new Committee from giving final approval to legislation introduced by the prior year's Township Committee.

At the end of 2013, we did vote in one ordinance, as shown, related to the contract agreement with one of our unions:

**ORDINANCE 21-13: ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND
COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS (LOCAL NO. 469) 2014, 2015,
2016, & 2017**

The Teamsters represents our employees at the Department of Public Works and at our Sewer Utility. They are the first of three unions whose current contract ended at the close of 2013. Our police and fire union contracts are still being negotiated, and we are hopeful that those agreements will be in place shortly.

Several **resolutions** were then voted upon, and these can be found by clicking on the link to the agenda above. All resolutions were passed unanimously.

As is typical, the Township Committee commentary ended the meeting with commentary from each member of the Township Committee. As I have been doing throughout my time in office in 2012-2013, I will post my comments to my website to make them publicly available

Click the link below to read my commentary from the November and December meetings.

[Click here for a complete list of all Jeff's meeting remarks.](#)

Open Space Preservation

At our meeting on December 18 the Township Committee voted to utilize money from our Open Space Fund to purchase 5.5 acres of the Baker Farm located on Lake Valley Road.

See the summary article in PATCH:

<http://morristown.patch.com/groups/goodnews/p/morris-township-buys-12m-worth-of-open-space.html>

Swimming Pool Update

I have fielded a couple of resident inquiries about the status of the reconstruction of Ginty pool. The money to fix Ginty pool was authorized in 2013. The bidding process recently opened up and bidders have surveyed the pool site. Bids were just received back, and unfortunately all the bids exceeded the project estimate upon which our bonding ordinance was based. This matter will be discussed further at tomorrow's Township Committee meeting.



New Morris County Freeholder Board

We have one new face on the County Freeholder Board (due to the departure of Ann Grossi to assume the role of County Clerk), but the leadership remains the same as last year.

Here is the press release from the County Freeholder Board:

<http://morriscountypb.blogspot.com/2014/01/freeholders-reorganize-pledge-no.html>

Other Items of Interest...

- **These is still time to Register for Winter Recreation programs:** Please see the Township's rec offerings here: <http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/352.html>

For more information call the Rec office at 973-326-7371

- **Rose Sale for Valentine's Day to support Township OEM:** The Morris Township Emergency Management Association will continue the annual fundraising activity of selling roses for Valentines Day. The sale will take place at the Hillside Firehouse on Wednesday, February 12th 3pm to 7pm; Thursday the 13th from 12 noon to 8pm; and Friday - Valentine's Day from 7am to 7pm. The Hillside firehouse is located at 132 Western Avenue in Morris Township.

For orders or questions, call Pat at 973-714-7481 (cell) or e-mail patriciasimms207@hotmail.com . You can order in advance or just stop in and pick from their selection.



All proceeds benefit the OEM organization – meaning that all proceeds benefit Morris Township residents! The OEM department is staffed entirely by volunteers who give their time to the community. Please support the community by buying your roses at the Hillside firehouse.

- **Cat and Dog License Application for 2014:** Every dog and cat owner is required to register their pet. Get more information, see the "quick links" section on the far right of this

page: <http://www.morristwp.com/191/Animal-Control>

- **Watch Your Back! How to Prevent Snow Shoveling Injuries:** Winter can be a wonderful time, but too much activity without proper preparation can spell trouble! Read more:
<http://www.spine-health.com/wellness/ergonomics/snow-shoveling-techniques-prevent-low-back-injuries.html>



Upcoming Committee Meetings...

The next regular meeting of the Township Committee will be on Wednesday, January 22nd at 7:00pm at our municipal building.

Looking forward, the February meeting of the Township Committee will be on February 19th.

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 now 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.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2014 to all of Morris Township!

Your neighbor,
Jeff

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

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The Next Meeting is Wed., Jan. 22nd

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