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November, 2011: Morris Township News Update

IMPORTANT -- PLEASE NOTE:

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Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to be sending you the latest in a series of E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings as well as other helpful information about our municipality. Thanks to everyone who has expressed appreciation of my efforts to report on what is happening around town from a government perspective. If you missed any of my past newsletters you can click [HERE](#) to review prior issues.

With the Halloween storm and power outage mostly behind us and clean up in progress, please take a moment to sit back, read, and consider. As always, I welcome your comments.

Election Results

The results of the municipal election are in. Two seats on the Township Committee were up for election. I won a seat on the Township Committee. Current Committeeman Dan Caffrey retained his seat. Here are links to two election summaries:

http://newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/grayzel-back-on-morris-twp-committee-caffrey-also-wins-democrat/article_7990f0f8-0a83-11e1-af37-001cc4c002e0.html



and

<http://morristowngreen.com/2011/11/08/jeff-grayzel-scores-historic-political-comeback-in-morris-township/>

Here is a perspective from a Morris Township resident which I hope will improve the conduct of future elections: http://morris.patch.com/blog_posts/ashamed-republican

I am thankful to the residents of Morris Township who supported my candidacy. I am looking forward to working with my fellow Committeemen in the coming year to address the issues facing our town and our residents.

My swearing in is scheduled for Wednesday January 4th at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend this ceremony which takes place at the annual "Reorganization Meeting" at our municipal building.

Township Committee Meeting on Nov. 9

The Township Committee held a regular meeting on Wednesday November 9th.

The meeting opened with a badge ceremony for a new firefighter. New firefighter SEAN McCLOSKEY was sworn in by Fire Chief Scott Lovenberg.



The meeting then continued with four ordinances up for adoption and two ordinances for introduction (with final adoption at the next meeting) as follows:

- **32-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 88, SECTION 2.2 AND SCHEDULE I "NO PARKING ANY TIME." (adopted)**
- **33-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 29-11 ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICE SUPERIOR OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION (PBA 133A) OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS. (adopted)**
- **34-11 AN ORDINANCE DEDICATING A PORTION OF LANDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS FOR ROADWAY AND OPEN SPACE PURPOSES – WHITE BIRCH ROAD. (adopted)**
- **16-11 ADDING SECTION 57-166, DEVELOPMENT FEES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, TO CHAPTER 57, LAND DEVELOPMENT (re-introduced)**
- **35-11 AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED "REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF MAILBOXES" WHICH IS PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR DAMAGE OCCURRING TO MAILBOXES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS" (introduced)**
- **36-11 AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 7 ENTITLED VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS BY ADDING SUBSECTION A(i) AND A(II). (introduced)**

A number of bills were paid related to Hurricane Irene damage. One of these bills paid was to PM Construction in the amount of \$103,246.69 for repairs on Lake Valley Road. I mention this one example so that residents understand the significant costs incurred by the Township as a result of two major storms.

During the "Public Comment" portion of the meeting, five residents came up to the microphone to discuss issues and ask questions of the Township Committee. Four residents relayed their experiences during the power outage as a result of the snowstorm. They were concerned that their section of town (Mountainside Drive) was last to be restored in each of the two outages. Another spoke of the Watnong Brook.

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday November 30th at 8:00pm at our municipal building.

JCP&L and BPU

JCP&L's internal self-assessment is continuing. They will be providing a status report to the Township in the near future.

As stated in my last newsletter, I encourage you to communicate any complaints or concerns you may have to the NJ Board of Public Utilities. The BPU regulates all utilities in the state, and those utilities "report" to BPU (not to the individual municipalities). You can send comments by e-mail to: board.secretary@bpu.state.nj.us



If you send an email, reference "Hurricane Irene" or "October snowstorm" in the heading. Additional information may be obtained from the BPU website: <http://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/announcements/hurr.pdf>

Morris Township and Morristown settle sewer dispute

Morristown and Morris Township settled their dispute over which municipality should get the connection fees for the new Egbert Ave. sewer line Morris Township installed and paid for. Under a contract, the Morris Township sewer utility takes the flow from this line that serves Town and Township homes. However, the contract does not clearly state how the costs of the new lines and fees from new hookups should be distributed. When Morris Township collected the hookup fees, Morristown threatened to sue individual home owners for return of the fee. Apparently, the Morris Township governing body decided settlement would be best, so that the residents would be out of the middle and high legal costs could be avoided. The connection fees were split, although they are usually used to offset construction cost, and total construction cost has been borne by the Township. For details, contact the Morris Township Administrator at 973-326-7361.

Other items of interest...

- **Information on post-storm brush collection:** <http://www.morristwp.com/Nor'easterBrushCollection.pdf>
- **Permit Fees Waived:** The Morris Township Committee voted to wave municipal permit fees for electrical code work done to replace components or repair damage from the Oct. 29 and 30 storm. No local fees will be charged for this work through Dec. 31. State fees cannot be waived.
- **Thanksgiving Harvest Home at Fosterfields:** On Sunday, November 13 from 12 Noon - 4 pm come experience how the Foster and Woods families observed Thanksgiving in the early 20th century. For more information contact: 973-326-7645
- **Mennen arena has started a new program on Friday nights** called "Ice Skate with DJ Earl". Skate with your friends and listen to today's best and rockin' music! Fun for all ages! Friday from 8 - 10 p.m. Cost: \$7. General Admission, Skate Rental \$3.50. For more information contact: 973-326-7651

Upcoming Committee Meeting...

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, November 30th at 8:00pm at 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 require the Township Committee to be responsive to our citizens.

**The Next Meeting:
Wed.
Nov. 30th**

Contact Jeff...

I will continue to communicate with the public 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

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

Your neighbor,

Jeff

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Jeff Grayzel | PO Box 10 | Convent Station | NJ | 07961

