

Committee Meeting – September 2, 2008
MAYOR’S REPORT

2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

In an effort to reduce the municipal tax rate for this year, discussions with the County have begun to address the expenses incurred by the Township in dealing with the UCC violations at the Mirage. The County Freeholders have acknowledged that they have a significant obligation to share in this major expense to our taxpayers. We are currently working on an agreed dollar amount that the County will contribute towards resolving the Menk issues.

SHORELINE SAND & GRAVEL:

Superior Court Judge Grasso has ordered the entire matter of Shoreline Sand & Gravel’s violations be reviewed by NJDEP and that our code enforcement people, if appropriate, will issue local summons with our Municipal Court if eye witness testimony from the neighbors is given. I have instructed our Code Enforcement Office to institute a “ZERO TOLERANCE” policy at the pit.

MIRAGE ISSUES:

Ongoing discussions between Menk and the Township with regard to the water in the crawl spaces issue are nearly complete for the first group of 60 Menk homes. An agreement should be in place shortly addressing nearly all of the homes in question. Once this is accomplished, we will move on to the next group of 50 homes to be inspected in the fall with respect to water in the crawl space. In addition, our attorney and Menk representatives will continue to work towards an equitable resolution to all of the UCC violations in the balance of approximately 260 homes. As stated back in April of 2006, all 467 homes originally built by the Menk Corporation will be inspected with UCC violations corrected. The Township will live up to that promise.

Furthermore, inspections and related corrective action for the initial 208 homes that were part of the DCA/MENK agreement are near completion and the Township anticipates by the end of September that CA’s (certificates of approval) will be issued for these 208 homes.

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HORIZON’S DRAINAGE BASINS:

An agreement has been reached between Gulf Insurance and the Township for the repair of the drainage basins at Horizon’s at Barnegat. This agreement should resolve all but a few minor issues left undone by the Kara Homes bankruptcy. A resolution on tonight’s agenda will memorialize this agreement. I am also asking that Gulf Insurance be required to post a 2 year maintenance bond to insure that the repairs are properly performed.

THE AGENDA:

You will notice that the format of the agenda has changed slightly. In an effort to streamline the agenda and move the meeting along, we have incorporated many more items in the consent portion of the agenda. Any item may be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately if desired. Ordinances and the bill lists will remain on the agenda as separate items.

PIRATE’S DAY:

Pirate’s Day is set for Saturday, September 6 in the Historic District at Route 9 and East Bay Avenue. With well over 100 vendors and non-profit organizations, this is our biggest event of the year. The event runs from 9 AM to 4PM followed by a boat parade at 6:30, a live band at 7:00 and fireworks at 9:00 at the public dock. Shuttle bus service is available from Town Hall, Bayside Chapel and St. Mary’s Church.

Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township