



# Waterford Township

PROUD PAST, PROMISING FUTURE • NEW JERSEY • EST. 1694

## TOWN HALL MEETING QUESTION & ANSWERS 10/12/2017

Q. Please consider the Development of a Skate Park

A. *In response to several resident's inquiries, and as the Mayor stated, the township will begin to investigate the creation of a skate park. There are not only funding requirements, in which the town would seek grants and alternative means to fund the project, there is a policy and procedure that must be followed as per our Municipal Joint Insurance Fund; approvals, safety checks and insurance guarantee must be in place prior to the construction of a skate park.*

Q. More Police presence is on Jackson Road – people speed up and down and it is dangerous for children getting off of the school bus

A. *It has been requested to our Chief of Police to ask officers to patrol the area, especially during known school bus drop off and pick up*

Q. Can the old Firehouse be donated to the Library so we have a larger, safer Library?

A. *As it may or may not be known, the Firehouse located on Atco Ave, is not owned by the municipality; ownership is held by the members of the Atco Fire Company. Any decision to have it donated to the municipality would be the decision of the members of the Atco Fire Company*



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Q. What is the long term plan for Haines Blvd.? With public transportation right there it lends itself for recreation and retail such as dog parks, skate parks, stores and restaurants.

*A. The long term plan for Haines Blvd, and as per the Redevelopment Plan for that area, is to utilize the 140+ acres as an area that includes mixed use housing, single family and age restricted homes. Additionally as per the plan, there shall be space for recreational areas, retail and institutional/educational buildings. It is the Township Committee's goal to provide the best mix and use of this space that will encourage additional economic development down the White Horse Pike corridor. At the October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting the Township appointed a Redevelopment Entity, who in turn has been directed to begin the due diligence process with two prospective developers that would like to develop the entire area. This due diligence includes the developers providing documentation proving they are able to handle the project both financially and creatively. It is expected that a developer will be chosen and approved by the end of 2017.*

Q. What is the time line for Development on Haines Blvd?

*A. As the Township and its Redevelopment Entity are still in the Selection Phase of choosing the developer who will develop Haines Blvd., it is not fair to quote a time frame, however these types of projects are done in phases, and it is anticipated that once the developer is selected and approved (by end of 2017), the developer will begin acquisition of the properties on Haines Blvd. These properties have sat vacant and undeveloped for 15+ years, with no active prospects or developers. The appointment of a Redevelopment Entity and the anticipated selection of a developer are MAJOR accomplishments as our municipality begins to move forward. We are excited and optimistic about the progress in this area, and are confident that in the next several months we will have more definitive details.*

Q. What is being done about all of the people moving out of Atco and the blight along the White Horse Pike?

*A. In the beginning of this year, we entered into an agreement and partnered with Community Champions to help fight against the blight we saw beginning to creep up in our neighborhoods. With this newly formed partnership, the Township adopted an*



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*ordinance requiring every financial institution that controls a property to register that property with Community Champions. The registration comes along with a bi-annual fee, that is used to help fight the blight and maintain homes that do not get maintained by the responsible party. As of today, we have collected \$84,483.33 that in 2018 we will be able to put back into our community to fight the blight.....Most importantly though, this registration provides us with a direct contact of the responsible party. We are then able to contact that person if the property falls out of compliance with our code, and are able to rectify situations in a more expeditious manner. At present, we have 80 registered properties; while this number changes weekly as properties are sold and mortgages are defaulted on, we have seen a large increase in the amount of properties that have been sold, renovated and new families move in since this program started. The partnership does not end with just us and Community Champions however, we need our residents to get involved, that is why we have placed on our webpage the link to Community Champions where you can report a complaint of high grass, open windows or doors, debris or any other unsafe condition that as a resident you feel warrants a look. Township Officials will then receive the complaint and investigate the issue and will proceed accordingly in accordance with our Township Code. Lastly, the township has taken an active stance on several properties located on the WHP that have either been foreclosed upon, turned over to the municipality through tax liens or are deemed unsafe and uninhabitable; the township is in the process of contracting with a demolition company to demolish those properties that are unsafe and uninhabitable.*

**Q. Will there be any renovations done to the girls softball fields at Thomas Richards Park?**

*A. At present there are no concrete plans to make any renovations to the softball fields themselves. In 2016, lighting was repaired so that the fields could be used more efficiently for night games. The Park itself however is undergoing major renovations with improvements to the basketball and tennis court areas. A new walking path is on tap to be constructed as well as Handicap Accessible play equipment.*

**Q. What is the estimated time the new fire house will be completed?**

*A. We are anticipating a move in date of late December to mid January*



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Q. Please elaborate as to how members of the Township Committee all worked together in a professional manner with Federal, State and County entities and were awarded grants/federal assistance that have helped our town.

*A. Members of Township Committee have made a concerted effort to get involved more with County and State programs that would be beneficial to our community. Through this involvement it has opened new pathways to be able to forge relationships with our Freeholders and State Senators. Working closely with our Camden County Board of Freeholders and Senator Dawn Addiego, our Township was awarded over \$150,000 in Federal Block Grant Money. This money is currently being used to do the upgrades to our Senior Citizens Building which also serves as a shelter in case of a natural disaster. Additionally our partnerships with State and Local FEMA Officials, we were awarded Federal Grant money from FEMA in the amount of \$120,000. This money is being utilized towards the installation of generators at our Senior Citizen Center and our Municipal Building; both of which will ensure continuity of municipal operations in case of wide-spread and multi-day power outages as we experienced in 2010 and again in 2015. Lastly, because of our ability to work closely with County, State and Federal agencies, we have been able to secure reimbursement monies in excess of \$75,000 which has helped to offset our General Operating Budget for storm management from both Winter Storm Jonas and the straight line wind storm in 2015. Without these partnerships, our municipality would have had to bear the brunt of the cost for manpower and supplies.*

Q. Any work order change on new Firehouse? And what were they for?

*A. The current firehouse project has been progressing and is still on target to come in under budget. As in all large projects, change orders are sometimes a necessary evil. The project has seen change orders for items that include the following: Trench drains, 3 phase electric for necessary equipment operation, insulation upgrade required for fire rating and certificate of occupancy, and a revision to engine bay doors and sprinkler head location.*



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**Q. Is there any progress on arranging a meeting between the Township Committee and Board of Education Members?**

*A. Mayor Richardson reached out to the Board of Education President in the middle of September to arrange a meeting. At current schedules are being coordinated to hold a joint meeting of both committees by the end of this year.*

**Q. Can the summer camp be brought back?**

*A. We have had several inquiries regarding the start up of the Summer Camp Program that was offered to residents. In 2011 due to anticipated school district building upgrades and renovations, the Summer Camp Program had to be discontinued. Discussions regarding the Township starting the program up once again have been had, and it is planned to discuss in further detail with the School Board the viability of attempting to run a program again in the future.*

**Q. How much “junk” is allowed on one’s property without a fine?**

*A. It is not necessarily the question of how much “junk” is allowed on one’s property without a fine; rather the zone the property is in and what type of “junk” is on the property. The statute states you cannot have an accumulation of junk or debris (Waterford Township Code: 220-7:b1), and that the Township Zoning and Code Official shall be responsible for the issuance of notices and violations. If any resident has a concern regarding a property maintenance issue, they may contact our Zoning Department at 856.768.2300, ext 273.*

**Q. My street is very dark. How do we get a street light installed?**

*A. Over the past 12 months, the township has received several requests regarding the installation of additional street lighting throughout out town. These requests have been forwarded to Atlantic City Electric for consideration and price quotes are being put together; the cost of new street lighting is expensive. Currently, the municipality is working with the NJ Board of Public Utilities to secure grant funding to install LED street lighting throughout the municipality. The process has been slower than what we would liked to have seen, however these requests for additional street lighting have been placed in our grant request as well. We are hoping that we receive an answer soon.*