



# JEFF GRAYZEL

## MORRIS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

### EMAIL UPDATE

Newsletter #6 ~ March 3, 2008

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Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to be sending you this latest update in a series of E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings and other helpful information about our municipality. This newsletter covers the Township Committee meetings of 2/6/08 and 2/20/08, and also provides updates on a couple of issues in the community. If you did not see the prior newsletters, you can view them at [www.JeffGrayzel.com](http://www.JeffGrayzel.com) and click on the "newsletter" link.

### Feb. 6th Committee Meeting...

You can view a copy of the agenda from the Feb. 6 Township Committee meeting via a link to our Township website: [http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_02-06-08.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_02-06-08.pdf)

The Feb. 6 Township Committee opened with an administrative hearing for an alleged liquor law violation. The hearing was continued until March 5. I will provide information once the hearing is completed

There were 4 Ordinances for Public Hearing and Final Approval at the Feb. 6 meeting. These ordinances had been introduced at prior meetings.

The first item for final approval was a salary ordinance for our paid firefighters who are represented by the FMBA union (Firemen's Benevolent Association). The Township and the union agreed on a contract a couple of months ago, and this ordinance is the formalization of their pay increases. The firemen received the same wage increase as our police officers agreed to several months ago.

The second ordinance for approval adjusted the fee schedule for participation in certain recreation programs. Two years ago the Township implemented fee-based programming instead of allowing residents to participate in certain activities for free. This helps to partially offset the costs associated with running these programs.

The third ordinance for approval updated some of the rules for our swimming pools.

The fourth ordinance for approval was for adjusting the fee schedules that the Township charges citizens and developers to bring their development plans before the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment.



Copies of any of these ordinances can be obtained from our Township Clerk.

There was just one ordinance for introduction at this meeting. It related to increasing the number of parking spaces at the Convent Station Train Station parking lot. More information on this can be found below.

Our Township Administrator then reviewed the bid process and final awards for several engineering projects that had previously been approved. The individual projects are listed on the agenda (see the internet link).

### **Feb. 20th Committee Meeting...**

You can view a copy of the agenda from the Feb. 20 Township Committee meeting via a link to our Township website: [http://morristwp.com/agendas/twp\\_comm\\_02-20-08.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/twp_comm_02-20-08.pdf)

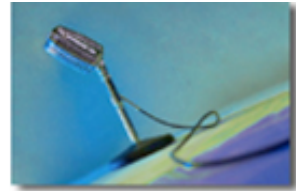
At the Feb 20 meeting there was just one ordinance for Public Hearing and Final Consideration. This ordinance related to increasing the number of parking spaces at the Convent Station Train Station parking lot. Specifically, it changed the designation of a section of Convent Road previously designated "no parking at any time". This allowed for the creation of 10 new parking spots. In addition to changes by this ordinance, 4 new Resident permit spots will be created in the parking lot itself. Also, 10 existing general meter spaces will be changed to resident meter spaces.

More on the Convent Station parking lot can be found in the discussion below.

There were no ordinances for introduction at this meeting.

### **Public Commentary...**

Every Committee meeting has a "public commentary" portion during which anyone can make a statement concerning anything related to Township matters.



- The first speaker asked if the public commentary portion of the Township Committee meeting could be moved to the front of the agenda instead of placing it last. In this way the public could speak at a more reasonable time of 8:15pm instead of at the end of the meeting which sometimes occurs as late as 11pm. He also asked about televising the meetings on the cable television public access channel.
- The second resident asked about speeding in the Footes Lanes area. There is only one speed limit sign and he thinks there should be more, as well as better enforcement. He also asked the Township to advise JCP&L to mark their meter reading vehicles for security reasons.
- The third speaker told us of leaves and debris on his neighbor's property behind his house that he found a nuisance. He said that township representatives had come by to see it and he was not satisfied with the outcome.
- Volunteers with our OEM thanked the community for support during their fundraiser, the Valentine's Day rose sale.

I urge more citizens to come to the Township meetings to air their comments. Doing so at a public forum gives you the opportunity to get an immediate response from the Township Committee, and often times help us improve our regulations related to the issues at hand.

### **Jeff's Comments...**

The final portion of each meeting allows for each member of the Township Committee to make any general comments they please. I made the following comments:

- I congratulated the volunteer members who run our Office of Emergency Management (OEM) department for conducting their sale of roses prior to Valentines Day. Not only does this fundraising help improve the quality of the equipment at OEM, but it also

eases the budget requests from them as well, which helps out all taxpayers. I applauded their efforts in this regard as well as their ongoing volunteerism.

- I noted that on the consent calendar we had a new “Junior Firefighter” join the ranks of our volunteers at the fire department. One cannot become a volunteer firefighter until age 18, so Morris Township has a program for kids aged 16-17 to get familiar with operations at the fire department. Anyone who has a child who may be interested in volunteering a few hours a week at one of our firehouses should contact our Fire Department at (973) 326-7435.

### Other Comments...

#### Ron Goldberg made the following comments:

- Thanked Superintendents of the Pollution Control Utility and the Roads and Sanitation Depts. for familiarizing him with their operations.
- Announced that new resident parking spots at Convent Station would become available Feb 27. Urged those displaced by construction from the Morristown Station use the substitute HQ Plaza parking and free shuttle. (Note: Ron and Rick Watson comprise our Parking Lot oversight committee)

#### Scott Rosenbush made the following comments:

- He congratulated the Morris Township Fire Department on receiving a \$21,000 grant from the Fund Insurance Company to purchase fire equipment. The fire department will be purchasing air masks, an air mask fit test machine and full-body rescue harnesses.

#### Mayor Nace made the following comments:

- Morris County has awarded the traffic study for the Jets complex on Park Avenue. Several municipalities are participating in this project to study the effects of this new facility on surrounding traffic patterns.
- The Deed restriction for the paper street off of Fredrick Place has been signed.
- See upcoming newsletter for info on the Relay for Life, a Mayoral Wellness activity.
- Sat., March 15 is St. Patrick’s Day parade in which Mo Twp Committee will be Marching
- An engineering contract has been awarded for improvements at Plymouth and Mackenzie Roads.

### Correction to my January Newsletter...

In my commentary about the new traffic light to be installed at the intersection of Whippany Road and Columbia Turnpike where the Westin Hotel is located), I made an incorrect statement. Left hand turns from Whippany Road northbound onto Lindsley Drive (a side street to the Westin) WILL be allowed with the new light.

### Closed Session

The Township Committee then recessed into “closed session” which occurs when there are legal or personnel matters that cannot be discussed in public. Minutes of the closed session are released to the public when the matters discussed are resolved. The Township Attorney John Mills announced at the meeting (prior to recessing into closed session) that the closed session would deal with land acquisition, personnel matters and union negotiations.

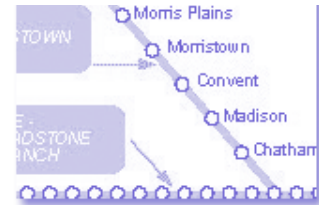
### Update on our Convent Station Train Station parking lot

There have been several people upset with the parking situation at the Convent Station. The problems got a lot worse after the Morristown Train Station parking lot was shut down. Some Township and Town residents who formerly parked at Morristown Station began parking at Convent Station. It is now difficult to find



a spot after 7:45 am.

Measures have been taken to ease the parking situation for our residents. As stated above, 14 new parking spots have been created for residents, and 10 general meters have been changed to resident meters. A strict ticketing policy is in force to keep order and maintain safe conditions.



Everyone should be aware that resident parking permits are now sold out and no new ones will be issued. There are daily meters available for anyone without a permit, but you would need to get to the station early in order to assure a spot.

Regarding rumors or public assertions about Morris Township giving or "trading" parking spaces with Harding Township: these rumors and statements are completely false. No such agreement has been or will be made.

We urge you to utilize the temporary parking for the Morristown Train Station located at Headquarters Plaza. A free shuttle bus will take you over to the train station. More info can be found at the following link: [http://morristwp.com/pdfs/Morristown\\_sta.pdf](http://morristwp.com/pdfs/Morristown_sta.pdf)

### Beef Recall

Many of you are aware of the beef recall in the U.S. that has been in the papers and on TV. For those of you with children in the Morris School District, you should be aware that the Morris Township health department was pro-active in assisting the school district locate and destroy the tainted ground beef that had been recalled by the USDA. A sweep of every public school was completed by a Township inspector.

Of note, the Township health department has also contacted Delbarton, Villa Walsh, Morristown Beard, and St. Virgil's schools, and determined that they had not received any of the suspect beef.

### Other items of interest:

- Sign-ups for kids T-ball, softball, and Little League are underway. Spots are filling up quickly. If you would like to enroll your child please contact our Recreation Department at **973-326-7371**.
- Electronics Recycling Day 04-12-08. Additional info can be found online at [http://morristwp.com/pdfs/Elec\\_Recy\\_04-12-08.pdf](http://morristwp.com/pdfs/Elec_Recy_04-12-08.pdf)
- I had previously reported that our DPW had begun accepting dry-cell batteries (A, AA, AAA, C, D, 9V) for recycling at the DPW depot on Jane Way. As an alternative, you can now recycle dry cell batteries at the Municipal Building. A battery recycling container is located in the center lobby at the information table.
- CURBSIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION OF LEAVES, GRASS, BRUSH resumes on March 19. More info can be found online at [http://morristwp.com/dept\\_dpwcollectionservices.asp#leaves](http://morristwp.com/dept_dpwcollectionservices.asp#leaves)
- The Morris Township Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association Local #70 is sponsoring two \$1,500.00 Scholarships for a Township resident graduating from high school in 2008. More information can be found online at: <http://www.fmba70.org/scholarship.html>
- For those of you the travel on Mt. Kemble Avenue (Route 202) please take note that there is construction taking place near Springbrook Road beginning March 2 for a period of several months. You can expect road closure and/ or detours during that period. More details can be found online at: [http://morristwp.com/pdfs/RT202\\_Detour%202-25-08.pdf](http://morristwp.com/pdfs/RT202_Detour%202-25-08.pdf)

### Upcoming Committee Meeting...



The next two Township Committee meeting are scheduled for this Wednesday, March 5th, and Wednesday, March 19th. Please attend!! Your presence improves the quality of the proceedings, and your questions require the Township Committee to be responsive to our citizens.

Other Township meetings and events can be found online on our municipal calendar: <http://plus.calendars.net/morristwp>

Please feel free to forward this e-mail on to others. If you know someone who would like to subscribe, please have them contact me at [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com) .

As always, if you have any comments you would like to share with me then please send an e-mail to [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com)

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