



JEFF GRAYZEL

MORRIS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

EMAIL UPDATE

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IMPORTANT -- PLEASE NOTE:

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Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Supporters,

I am pleased to be sending you this first in a series of e-newsletters since my swearing in as a Morris Township Committeeman four months ago. I will be sending newsletters containing highlights and some commentary monthly after each Township Committee meeting in order to keep you informed of happenings in our municipality.

Recreation Update...

This month's meeting opened up with a presentation from our Recreation Director, Bill Foelsch, to update us on various recreation programs. Bill has accomplished a great deal since taking over from our former recreation director 6 months ago. Following Bill's report there was a lengthy discussion of the playing fields we have in town and the desire of certain recreation groups (e.g. Morris United Soccer) to have a year-round, all-weather turf field. There was also a comment from a citizen who asked for Better maintenance of the Collinsville playground.

Ordinance Discussions...

The township committee meeting then continued with the Ordinance section of the agenda. At this meeting, though there were 3 ordinances on the agenda, 4 ordinances were discussed. The first two were for final passage. One dealt with funding for two road projects and several playground and field improvements which were in need of immediate funding. The total cost was \$108,000 which included about \$59K for the roads and \$59K for the parks/playgrounds. The source of these funds was monies that were left over from old spending ordinances that had not been fully spent. I am proud to have initiated the exercise of re-allocating some of these monies to pay for very much needed improvements to some of our parks and playgrounds.



The second ordinance was an approval of a stop sign being placed at the end of Fanok Road where it intersects with Dwyer place (at the rear of the police station). There had been a yield sign there, but most people just sped right through it. A discussion of speeding along Fanok ensued with a couple of residents getting up and asking for a stop sign at the corner to the entrance to Ginty pool.

The remaining two ordinances were for introduction only. This means that they would have formal public hearing at upcoming meetings -- if they were "moved" (received a "second"). However, only one of them was seconded (more on this below).

New Townhouse Development Proposed — The first ordinance introduced relates to a project which could have significant impact on our community. A developer is proposing to knock down the former Verizon Wireless office building located at 250 James Street and put

in approximately 100 town-homes. This ordinance was referred by the Planning Board this past Monday night, less than 48 hours before it was to become before the Township Committee. My opinion was that this was premature to come before the Township Committee. I also felt that the Township had not explored any other options for this parcel. I voted against introduction of this ordinance to give the Township Committee more time to study it since I felt that 40 hours was not reasonable. However, this ordinance passed by a 4-1 vote and will have a formal reading and a public session at the next Township Committee meeting on October 17. **I urge citizens to come to the October 17 meeting to hear the plans for this townhouse development.**

"Ordinance for Open Application Law and Public Directory of Appointed Municipal Positions" — The second ordinance introduced was not on the formal agenda. This was new municipal legislation that I am proposing, and I was made to introduce it via a motion. My ordinance titled "ORDINANCE FOR OPEN APPLICATION LAW AND PUBLIC DIRECTORY OF APPOINTED MUNICIPAL POSITIONS" aims to create fair, equal opportunity for all citizens to apply to the boards and standing committees of Morris Township by providing them timely notification, a uniform and simple application process, and reasonable deadlines for application. In the absence of open application procedures, citizens may be unaware of an opportunity, not know how to apply, or may fear that application is too difficult for them.

Some details of my proposed ordinance are to:

- 1) publicly post a comprehensive directory of vacancies maintained by the clerk, including terms expiration dates, appointing authority, and meeting times and locations,
- 2) create an official application form for persons seeking appointment, and
- 3) provide a process through which the applicants are notified of application receipt and the final decision.

My motion to introduce the ordinance did not get a second, so it was not discussed nor brought for a formal vote of the Township Committee. The Mayor referred it to sub-committee who will report back to him with a recommendation.

Public Commentary

At every meeting there is a "public commentary" portion where any citizen can make a statement concerning anything related to Township matters. The people who spoke last Wednesday night made comments relating to:

- » need for a turf field (preferably with lights)
- » need for more sidewalks
- » need for traffic calming measures (e.g. speed bumps) to slow traffic down on residential streets.
- » request to broadcast meeting on cable TV
- » support for the ORDINANCE FOR OPEN APPLICATION LAW as "best practice"
- » noted that minutes of most committees and boards are taking 4 months to get on-line on the Township web site

Regarding Cable TV...

At the July meeting of the Township Committee I brought up the issue of broadcasting our Township Committee meetings on cable TV. I personally did the research as to how to get a Morris Township public access channel on the new Verizon FIOS network. Again, the Mayor sent this to sub-committee for review and said publicly that they would not get to it for several more months. Getting our Township Committee meetings aired on the local public access channel is one of my top priorities.

The Next Meeting...

The Township Committee meeting is scheduled for October 17. Please try to come out to the

meeting to see for your selves how things run in our Township.

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