

FEMA

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out waiting for DEP review," Christie said.

Christie said the building requirements will ensure coastal communities will be constructed "smarter and more resilient."

"I can't wait another 18 to 24 months to rebuild the Jersey shore. That is an unacceptable alternative to me. FEMA will move no faster than 18 to 24 months to approve these maps, so we're going to end the mystery for you and adopt these now as the state standards and people can then begin to make the economic decision regarding rebuilding immediately rather than having to wait months or years to make those decisions," Christie said.

Christie said having common elevation standards statewide qualifies New Jersey to receive lower flood

insurance rates and additional federal assistance on Flood Insurance Program's Community Ratings System.

"If you don't know what to rebuild to and what the effects of those decisions will be on your future costs of your home or your business, then many people will just stop and not rebuild. That's not an acceptable alternative to me," Christie said.

He said if FEMA changes the maps from higher to lower flood zones, those communities benefit from lower flood insurance premiums after rebuilding to higher standards.

"This is what I think we need to do to build a 21st century Jersey shore," Christie said, adding buildings suffering the most devastation in Monmouth and Ocean counties were older and built to older standards.

Cent

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MacLeod said about 47 percent of the budget is covered by revenues that do not come from property taxes. Last year, parking meters brought \$1,085,000 into the general fund. The 2 percent room tax added \$1,122,478, construction fees added \$179,877, and payments of delinquent taxes rose from an anticipated \$303,000 to \$376,000. The city's tax collection rate has held at around 98 percent or better for the last 15 years.

The city also receives revenue through interlocal agreements, such as for police services to West Cape May and Cape May Point. Those municipalities pay a combined \$693,000 to Cape May for police patrols.

MacLeod said the revenues dropped in some areas, including construction fees, interest income and court revenue.

Beach tag revenue rose somewhat in 2012, but beach revenues are not part of the general fund. Beach revenues do however cover costs that might otherwise be paid for out of the city's general fund. The city has three utilities - Beach, Water/Sewer, and the newly formed Tourism Utility - which have a com-

bined budget of \$26 million. The city has raised about \$2 million dollars in beach revenues for each of the past two years, but spends nearly that much for beach maintenance, including ADA improvements, and lifeguard salaries. The city plans to apply funds from a \$1 per day and \$3 seasonal beach tag increase toward new restroom facilities, which would replace portable units.

The budget will use \$2.1 million in surplus funds toward the 2013 budget, while maintaining \$1.4 million in the surplus funds account.

Salaries and wages, which amount to about 39 percent of the municipal budget, has risen \$13,555. The total workforce has been reduced by 5 percent since 2008.

Nondiscretionary spending, including insurance, pensions, and debt service, rose by 6.2 percent in the 2013 budget, adding nearly \$450,000 to the city's obligations. Discretionary spending is rising by \$47,751, or about 2.2 percent.

The budget, now in the hands of Cape May City Council, will be formally introduced at the Feb. 19 meeting and is scheduled for a second reading and public hearing on March 19.

Dies

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dent than Lower Township.

Wichterman said the resolution asked for a change to include the number of students in the school. Cape May sends about 80 students to the regional school district.

"There could be a combination of property value as well as number of kids in schools," he said. "I say everything is up for negotiation. It could be one-third predicated on property values and two-thirds on the number of kids. Everything is up to compromise."

Wichterman said he would have liked to have had that discussion, but it's not going to happen.

"We can't even discuss it without a second," he said.

Wichterman said attempting to get the resolution on the table was a step the city

had to take. He said they are following the instructions of their attorney Vito Galgiardi, who advised them to expend all administrative processes before the matter ends up in court, which is where Wichterman sees the process going. Galgiardi is also working on a feasibility study regarding the city's direction on changing the funding formula.

"We're continuing on the path that has been set for us by Vito," Wichterman said. "It will end up in court, as I see it. I won't be here by the time that happens."

Wichterman said the Cape May Taxpayers Association starting fighting for a funding formula change in the 1990s. He said he raised the issue at the second meeting in January 2012, asking what the city is paying to send students to the regional school

district.

"This has been going on for a year and look where we are," he said.

Wichterman said most people he has heard from agree very much on pursuing the change. He said the council is united in its effort. Still there have been a few "naysayers," as Wichterman put it.

"I've heard we've been down this road before and we're wasting time and money. But when we were down this road before, it was before (Galgiardi) enjoyed success at New Haledon and Seaside Park. Things have changed in the last 10 years. I think we are doing the right thing."

All three municipalities, Cape May, West Cape May and Lower Township, would have to agree to the change in the funding formula. Wichterman said that is not likely because the voters of Lower Township

won't vote to raise their taxes. However, he believes the impact would be minimal. Wichterman said the auditor calculated that for every \$1 million Cape May saves in school taxes, the average homeowner in Lower Township would pay an additional \$85 per year. In Cape May, the anticipation is the average homeowner would save \$179 for every \$1 million saved by the city as a whole.

Wichterman said under their proposal, Cape May would save about \$3 million per year for the city of Cape May.

Wichterman said he has a meeting today with LCMR School Superintendent Jack Pfizenmayer and district business administrator Mark Mallett to gather more information. He said he would know better today the exact cost of sending students to the LCMR district.

Urge

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she said.

When asked for council comments, Conrad said, "It's a no brainer. The educational programs it brings to our schools are wonderful."

"When you see the kids come in you will see them back as big kids. We all have been involved in the village since we were kids. Being there is like being a kid again," Councilman James

Neville said.

"For a long time I took it for granted. When I saw the presentation on the flag Jim Stephens gave I realized how great a resource it is. The Salvatores are great people. They have never taken a salary for their work," Clark said.

"It is a major employer in the county. Local people hold key positions. We rerouted the Bayshore Heritage Byway because of its location. We can't lose funding (for HCSV).

It is a key location," Beck said.

Salvatore concluded by thanking the HCSV staff present at the meeting for their work. She added that the HCSV is now on the Internet on Trip Advisor.

The resolution says, "the Township Council hereby urges the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders to continue funding Historic Cold Spring Village at the current level of \$150,000 per

year to maintain the stability and integrity of the organization for future generations as well as for the benefit of the year-round residents and summer visitors, who visit the site and become knowledgeable about the lifestyles, issues, trials and sacrifices of our ancestors."

LT council makes appointments to fill board vacancies

By BETTY WUND
For the Star and Wave

VILLAS - Lower Township Council voted last week to fill vacancies on township boards, including an opening on the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority board.

With Councilman Glenn Douglass on vacation, council met on Wednesday, Jan. 23, and appointed North Cape May resident Stephen Sheftz to the LTMUA to fill the position of Kenneth Mann, whose term has expired. Council appointed Sheftz by a 3-1 vote, with Councilman Thomas Conrad casting the no vote.

Council also reappointed LTUMA board chairman Nels Johnson, whose term in February.

Council also appointed Lonnie Bedell and Bruce Fournier to the Recreation Advisory Board.

Mayor Mike Beck said there were no candidates for the opening on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

"We do not have many applications in. This is the opportunity we need. I would

like to stop for a second. The individual that had this position does not want to be reappointed. We need members of the community to come forward and be available for positions on the boards. We have openings on the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)," Beck said.

"We do want people to come. We have a lot of spots open. Make calls," Conrad said.

Applications have to be in so they can be reviewed in time to be put on the agenda the council agreed.

"We don't want people to come in Monday afternoon and we be forced to make a decision without reviewing the application," Beck said.

Other items on the consent agenda were approved except for three items. The contract award for Broker of Record and Risk Management Consultant was tabled for further consideration.

"It is tabled because further investigation is needed to get the best for our employees and the township," Beck said.

Two ordinances set for introduction at the Feb. 4 meeting have been moved to the meeting on Feb. 20. They are an ordinance amending Chapter 90, Articles 1 through 111 of the Code of the Township of Lower-1975. It is a matter of housekeeping and is an update to the basic code, Township Manager Mike Voll said. As amended (Restating the Establishment of the Police Department).

The second ordinance would amend Chapter 1 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Lower (setting forth mandatory penalties for non-traffic offenses and establishing mandatory court for specific offenses), and would upgrade fines and let many offenses be paid in person or by mail without a

court appearance, Voll said.

All other resolutions on the consent agenda were approved. Beck said the Resolution for Certification of Lot Clearing Charges to the Tax Collector reflects the fees charged to property owners who let the township clear their property. Some do this on a regular basis because the charges are less than professional services, he said. Private contractors have been hired by the township to do this job. In the past owners were charged an administrative fee of \$25. The township increased the fee to \$250 two years ago. It was done to make the job easier for the tax collector. Liens have been placed on five properties amounting to \$4,383.95, Beck said.

During council comment, Conrad said residents should be prepared for the storm expected at the end of the week.

"The township is ready to help but we want you to be ready," said Conrad.

The predicted 1 to 2 inches of snow never arrived.

Clark said the grant for ADA work at the Fishing Creek School has been approved. Local contractors will be used on the job, he said.

Beck said the Feb. 4 council meeting would begin with a new format. He said the code enforcement officer would give a presentation as part of the work session. It is planned that each month a department would be represented at the meeting. On March 4 the public works director is scheduled to be at the meeting.

Beck invited residents to join members of the Lenni Lenape Indian Nation Thursday, Jan. 31, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Cape May Point State Park Classroom, where their memorabilia will be displayed. Residents with any of their own Lenape memorabilia are invited to bring it. The Lenni Lenape Nation is the indigenous tribe in this area.

During public comment, a member of the audience asked about the enforcement of the metal collection law. The township manager recently announced people taking recyclables from the curb would be charged with theft. The speaker was concerned about the people who rely on it for a living. Voll said metal recyclables left at the curb are the property of the township by law. Beck stated that the law has not been enforced because of few problems until now.

The metal collectors known as "scrappers" take any metal

left by residents for recycling at the curb. Recently residents have reported finding their garbage cans turned over obviously in search of metal cans, Beck said. Some have been seen on summer residents' properties removing metal items, which has been brought to the attention of the township and police.

After the meeting Voll said revision of this law would include registration of the metal collectors. After the meeting, Voll said the metal collectors would have to show they are a township resident, have a driver's license, and registration and proof of insurance for their vehicles. They will also have to turn in their receipts monthly to show the tonnage they collected. He said there would probably be a \$10 registration fee.

The township is trying to find out if there is enough tonnage to lower the taxes in the township, Voll said.

"The township can get grants, rebates and money back from the state. It is a win-win situation," Voll said.

"It would cost \$1,000 to send a town truck out to collect a small amount of metal. This way the town would benefit and the scrappers would keep their money."

"We will pass it around the council and have an answer in a couple of weeks," Beck said at the meeting.

Jay Young, a resident of Cape May Beach, asked about the repaving of Club House Road in Cape May Beach. Voll said that the MUA has money left over from a project. It will get done in the spring. He said the township is waiting for completion of piping at Cox Hall Creek at the "S" curve.

Ed Butler of Villas asked about new FEMA regulations. He wanted to know why FEMA was not at the meeting. Beck said FEMA was supposed to be at the meeting and canceled last minute. He said council would try to get a representative from FEMA to be at the next meeting.

"We need to see what impact new (flood plain) maps will have on us. It is critical that we understand this thing and how this will affect the ability to sell or buy property," said Beck.

Clark said owners whose house is on a slab might be asked to raise their houses or be charged higher (flood insurance) rates. Because of the changes in the Cox Hall Creek area there is probably an expansion of the flood plain he added.

Robert Rizzo of Mickels Run wanted to know how much the new fencing at the town recycling facility cost. The cost was \$14,000 and was done by Murphy Fence of Erma answered Voll. Rizzo thought the fence was a nice change.

A resident of Shore Drive north of the "S" curve asked if the town is going to be doing something about the sand dunes that have taken a beating during Sandy. Voll said that only the township owns a portion of the bay beach and that dune replenishment might be possible.

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** MOVIE 43 R 11:15, 1:30, 4:40, 7:25, 9:45
SILVER LINING PLAYBOOK R 11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35
MAMA PG13 11:00, 1:25, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40
ZERO DARK THIRTY R 11:35, 4:00, 7:40
** HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS R 11:30, 7:35, 9:55
A HAUNTED HOUSE R 1:55, 7:05
BROKEN CITY R 11:25, 4:35, 9:30
** No Passes

TIDES
JAN/FEB 2013
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low
30	9:40 A.M.	10:12 P.M.
31	10:19 A.M.	10:55 P.M.
1	11:03 A.M.	11:45 P.M.
2	11:54 A.M.	5:51 P.M.
3	12:43 A.M.	12:56 P.M.
4	1:50 A.M.	2:08 P.M.
5	3:00 A.M.	3:24 P.M.
6	4:08 A.M.	4:35 P.M.

Moon Phases
Last Quarter, Feb. 3
New Moon, Feb. 10
First Quarter, Feb. 17
Full Moon, Feb. 25
Perigee, Feb. 7
Apogee, Feb. 19

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