

Team

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May County Prosecutor's Office to determine if Mayor Mike Beck did anything wrong in asking a police officer at the council meeting to find out if the committee had made a decision. Beck and Councilman Glenn Douglass had waited about an hour for word from the committee.

Douglass filed complaints with the DCA regarding Councilman Tom Conrad taking part in the vote to name Craig as a replacement on council because Conrad is a council member. Douglass also questioned whether committee members should be allowed to vote to appoint the county Republican committee chairman (Donohue) as solicitor. Douglass also questioned whether Donohue could serve as a solicitor where there are council members he will back for reelection.

Simonsen said he had decided to wait and see how things panned out, but after attending a few meetings this year he said it was clear that he wanted to run.

"The meetings are a disgrace," he said. "There needs to be order. This is not run the way (the meetings) should be run, for local government, or any other meeting."

Simonsen said restoring order would be his first priority if elected as mayor. In Lower Township's form of government, the mayor and deputy mayor are members of council, but the mayor acts as the administrator of council meetings.

Simonsen said leadership means trying to get people

to reach a consensus, and he feels that council works well most of the year.

"We have to get rid of the political posturing and grandstanding and self agendas. We need someone new to take over and run the meetings," he said.

Simonsen said he believes some people are impeding other people's freedom of speech. He said he understands Beck feeling outnumbered, but he has to be able to run a meeting. He said at the beginning of 2011 there was a lot of conflict on township council, but afterward, council was able to get to work and settle a budget that was under the state cap.

"We got to keep services in this economy, we added programs...we didn't lose anything and didn't raise taxes because we were on the same page," he said. "I didn't plan on stepping down, and now I can see what needs to be done and have an opportunity to do that."

Simonsen served about 11 months of a four-year term. He said he has worked in Education for 20 years, coaching, volunteering, and performing music. He said those activities have allowed him to learn how to accept criticism.

"There are always critics, but you have to do what is right, and what is best, for the people you are serving," he said.

Simonsen said he thinks Lower Township can increase services without more taxes. He said there are currently a lot of facilities for activities and programs, and many

people willing to volunteer, whether it be to teach computer classes to seniors or to work with sports programs.

"There are a lot of sports that don't cost a lot of money and facilities we can take advantage of. The library is a great facility," he said.

Simonsen said a lot of businesses contribute to programs run by the township.

Simonsen he would focus on these things, keeping taxes lower, and improving public safety.

"I will focus on things that are important to the township, not bickering," he said.

Lare, who has more seniority on council than Simonsen, said he doesn't mind Simonsen running for mayor.

"I'm fine where I'm at. I think a lot of people were expecting me to try and run for mayor, but I'm happy doing the work of the people where I'm at. I'm fine as council-at-large, deputy mayor," he said.

Lare said he was excited to be running with Simonsen, because they were both born and raised in the township, were childhood friends, and went to school together.

"I think Erik is a welcome addition to council and he will do outstanding job," Lare said.

Lare said he has a track record the residents of the township appreciate.

"I think my record is proven leadership. I was out in front on the need to stabilize the tax rate, we increased services, and we haven't laid any township workers off," he said.

"While many towns across New Jersey are in financial

straits, I'm proud to say this year, as well, we won't have a tax increase," he said.

Lare echoed Simonsen's remarks related to controlling taxes, providing recreation and providing public safety.

"We just put two officers through the academy, we have two more in the academy, and by the end of the year we will be at numbers the (police) chief proposed," Lare said. "Those three things... they are the three big things people in the township want - people want their trash picked up, they want to (have recreational opportunities), and they want to feel safe."

Lare said during the last campaign people said they want to have year around, weekly pick up of recyclables. He said the township was able to provide that with no added expense.

"That was a big issue and I took the lead on that. Now we recycle more than any other town in the county. The program has paid for itself with rebates for tonnage," he said. "I like to think I'm a solutions based guy and believe we can put our heads together and work things out whatever it is."

Lare also said it was time to end what he called the cycle of cynicism in Lower Township.

"It is time to focus on what is great about Lower Township and to bring people together to make it an even better place," he said.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Top, construction on the extension of Breakwater Road. Above, Bennett's Crossing, which will be eliminated at the end of the project.

Road

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pleated.

"I think the community will be pleased to see some things finally getting completed. It'll be done for summer," Voll said. "Thank God we haven't had any snow. That would

have been a real mess for plowers."

Voll estimated the township has saved at least \$10,000 in overtime because of the mild winter requiring no snow-plowing, and it has saved on road salt and sand mix.

Gas

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pleased with the way the installations have been handled. He said temporary road patches would be replaced with permanent repairs, and where lawns have been dug up they would also be repaired.

"They are supposed to come back later this spring to plant grass seed and fix lawns where it had to be dug up," Schupp said.

Schupp said he had his hook-up work completed several months ago. He said someone commented at this month's commissioners' meeting that the issue of getting natural gas in the Point was raised 12 years ago, and it has finally become a reality.

"I said it was just a matter

of timing, but he said, 'They tried, but you did it,' Schupp said.

Schupp said if people still want to hook up to natural gas there is a \$65 fee and a permit required, then the gas company can run the laterals, which provide service to the house. Schupp stressed people should have this done while the project is ongoing.

"Once they leave it will cost a lot more than \$65. It pays to do it while they are active," he said.

Anyone who has not applied for gas service but wishes to do so should call Rob Shropshire, residential energy efficiency consultant with South Jersey Gas, at 609-234-5508.

Complaints

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said.

Douglass said despite the disagreement, he and Mayor Mike Beck tried to participate in the Feb. 6 council meeting without any conflict. A resolution on the agenda asked the Cape May County Prosecutor to investigate Beck, who allegedly asked a policeman assigned to the meeting to walk to the Lower Township Senior Center and find out if the Republican Committee had voted for a Ward 2 councilman. At the time, Beck said any council member could approach the Prosecutor's Office and ask for an investigation; that it didn't have to be by an act of council.

"Mike asked they get rid of the investigation because from everybody's aspect

there is no criminal aspect to it," Douglass said.

Douglass said the DCA was reviewing other cases and would get back to Lower Township on the matter.

Douglass said he also asked DCA to comment on the relationship of the county Republican chairman supporting candidates for a council he was appointed to represent. He said if there is a conflict, can the solicitor also give an opinion on whether or not a conflict of interest exists.

"A resident brought the first issue to me - was Donohue in conflict by answering that question," Douglass said.

Douglass said also germane to this issue is a phone call he received prior to the Jan. 4 meeting, where Donohue talked to him about appointments that were scheduled

to be made, including Craig's appointment to fill the Ward 2 vacancy, and an appointment to the LTMUA board of directors.

Douglass said he believes the Republican organization is playing games. He said he believes the committee arranged for their third member of council not to attend the Jan. 18 meeting. He said the committee had a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 10, but moved it to the same day and time as the council meeting.

Additionally, Douglass said Lare sent him a text message saying he was going to be at the Jan. 18 meeting, but at the meeting date got closer, he heard Lare wasn't going to be at the meeting.

According to Douglass, if DCA finds wrong-doing they could issue a fine, but they

have no authority to remove a person or reverse a decision. However, he said the Ethics Review Board can remove or recommend removal of a solicitor.

Douglass said he recently received the information on DCA and the ethics board's role, and has received copies of the paperwork. Douglass said he's not completely satisfied, because the District 1 Attorney Ethics Review Board assigned the case to the Cooper-Levinson law office in Atlantic City.

"That's where the (Lower Township) Republican Committee chairman works," Douglass said.

Douglass said if the DCA and ethics board find a violation in Lower Township there are more than likely violations in a couple of other towns.

Parasites likely caused dolphins' deaths

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY - Parasites are thought to be the cause of death in the three common

dolphins found dead in Ocean City, the Villas and Stafford Township within the last two weeks, according to preliminary results from a necropsy performed by the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, New Bolton Center.

According to Bob Schoelkopf, Director of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center, who was monitoring all three of the dolphins, the Ocean City dolphin was found dead Sunday, Feb. 11 in a ladder rung.

The dolphin was spotted alive in the same location several days earlier.

The dolphin was found to have multiple parasites throughout, including one belonging to the genus *Nasitrema*.

The parasites had worked their way into the dolphin's

brain and under layers of its blubber.

According to the 2001 CRC Handbook of Marine Mammal Medicine, Second Edition, some parasites belonging to the genus *Nasitrema* can infect a dolphin's respiratory system, sinuses and brains.

The handbook stated that *Nasitrema* might be a significant cause of stranding in several species of odontocetes, or toothed whales.

Symptoms of the parasite in dolphins include loss of equilibrium, generalized central nervous signs and head lashing.

"Part of the problem is these animals are eating fish (which contain parasites)," Schoelkopf said.

"It's (parasites) found in just about all marine mammals to some degree, but when it gets into the brain it

gets really nasty," Schoelkopf said.

The dolphin found in Villas was determined to have died of multiple parasites and pulmonary edema of the lung.

According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, pulmonary edema is an abnormal buildup of fluid in the lungs, often caused by heart failure.

The dolphin found in Stafford Township showed some atrophy of the brain, also likely the result of parasites, according to Schoelkopf.

The animal was also missing its left eye. The wound became highly infected.

Schoelkopf added that there was no food found inside any of the dolphins.

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center monitored the Ocean City dolphin for three days, and Schoelkopf said that birds were observed feeding in back bays near the dolphin.

This indicates that food was available for the dolphin to feed upon.

However, because the dolphin was found in Ocean City's back bay, it can be assumed that the dolphin was too sick to seek out food by the time it arrived there.

Common dolphins are deep-sea animals, and don't usually come close to shore.

"You don't find healthy, common dolphins in back bays," Schoelkopf said.

Another dead dolphin was found Sunday, Feb. 19 at Dennis Creek in Dennis Township, Schoelkopf said.

Copper Fish

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**GHOST RIDER 2 IN 3-D PG-13 2:55 5:05 7:30 9:45
**SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETY 6 12:05, 2:20, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
**THIS MEANS WAR PG-13, 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:05
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND 3D PG 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
THE VOW 2 - D PG-13 11:55, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40
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