

Asking

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believed there were criminal charges involved, to which Lare responded, "I have no idea." Beck asked Lare to withdraw the resolution, saying any member of council could approach the Prosecutor's Office with a request for an investigation.

"Let's move on - put these things away," Beck said. "If you wish to make a complaint you can go to the Prosecutor's Office anytime you want. You don't need permission from council."

Beck moved the resolution to be tabled, which was denied in a 3-2 vote.

Conrad said he favored the request for an outside investigation saying someone gave the order for the police officer and township manager to check on the committee meeting. Beck said if an investigation was the desire of council he would like to see the entire situation investigated "from top to bottom, inside and out."

"This situation is like someone knocks on your door, covered from head to toe in mud, and he tells you you have lint on your sock," Beck said.

Douglass then revealed his own request for an investigation. He said he didn't want to address his concerns in a public meeting, but instead went to the Department of Community Affairs and the Superior Court District's Ethics Commission. Douglass

said he had major concerns about actions involving the municipal solicitor and some members of council. Douglass said DCA was reviewing the situation, and there was some consensus a conflict of interest existed. He said the DCA would be responsible for reviewing a case and identifying a conflict of interest, but not for enforcing the laws regarding conflicts.

Lare then asked Douglass if he had ever voted on a supervisor's salary ordinance, because his brother Gary Douglass is the Superintendent of Public Works. Douglass said he probably had, but the issue of a conflict had never been raised.

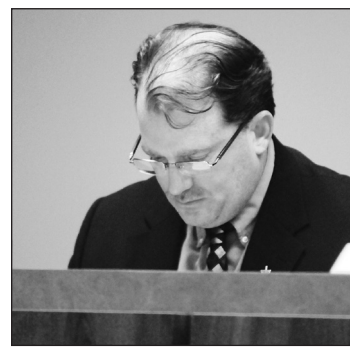
Lare said he thought the resolution requesting the Prosecutor's Office to investigate was an open way of handling the issue.

Resident Fred Long asked for the resolution to be read at the meeting. The resolution expresses concern over the police officer and manager being sent to the committee meeting, as well as asking who sent them and under what circumstances.

Long said he agreed with some members of council, namely Beck, who said if an investigation is requested the scope should not be limited. Long said there was a statutory violation regarding the filling of the vacant seat by the committee. He said the



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Councilman Glenn Douglass, above left, and Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare, right, have each asked for investigations into the conduct of other council members.



statute requires the appointee to be sworn in immediately, which was not the case. Walt Craig was selected by the committee to fill the Ward

Resident Helen Thompson criticized Craig's selection saying the committee appointed an individual who was voted out of office. Craig

LT GOP seeks candidates for mayor/deputy mayor

LOWER TOWNSHIP - The Lower Township Republican Organization announced that it will be accepting Letters of Intent from prospective candidates for Lower Township Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Letters of Intent must be received by the Secretary no later than Feb. 15, 2012. Letters of Intent may be mailed to the Secretary LTRO, PO Box 231, Villas, NJ 08251.

2 vacancy, but he did not appear and be sworn so the council meeting could begin. Craig responded as he did not Jan. 25 that it would not have been good government for him to take his seat and vote on township matters with no preparation.

served a term as mayor in Lower Township, but did not get the party's nomination for reelection. Thompson raised the issue of Craig's DWI while serving as mayor, saying, "He's a guy who can't make good decisions."

Craig objected to

Thompson's remarks as personal attacks.

Resident Joe Winters complained that council was wasting tax dollars with the resolution asking for an outside investigation.

"If you people have a problem, go to the county. Don't waste my damn money paying someone to write this (resolution) up," he said.

Janet Pitts questioned how Lare, who was on vacation, could have filed a request based on the activities of Jan. 18. She said the council members present and the manager were told they would be informed of the Republican Committee's decision, and the manager and a police officer went to see if a decision had been reached.

"You were not here," Pitts said, addressing Lare. "Who told you what transpired?"

Lare said the visit by the manager to the committee meeting was captured on video and posted on the Cape May County Herald's website. The video shows Voll telling Lindsay the officer was a messenger and asked he be informed when the committee made their decision.

Craig said, aware there was no quorum, he didn't know the council meeting was going to be held. Conrad accused Beck and Douglass of trying to hold a meeting when there was no quorum, and trying to force Craig to attend by sending a police officer in

order to vote in a new solicitor. Beck said that was not possible since it takes an act of council to make a request for proposals for professional services contracts.

"I asked for council to get other proposals but did not get permission to do so," Beck said.

Beck went on to say, since council wished to investigate circumstances regarding filling the Ward 2 vacancy, whether the Ward 2 councilman could participate in voting on that request.

"These are uncharted waters," Municipal Solicitor Mike Donohue said.

"I'm not sailing the ship," Beck replied.

Donohue said he had not investigated whether or not there was a conflict of interest in the matter, but was not aware of any. Donohue said, in a sense, everyone on council had a conflict of interest in the matter. He said the Doctrine of Necessity says a body can act despite apparent conflicts in order to advance some action.

Council voted 3-2 to request the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office to investigate matters of Jan. 18. Conrad, Craig and Lare voted to make the request. Beck and Douglass voted against the resolution.

Lower Township notes

VILLAS - Lower Township Council voted 5-0 to pass Ordinance 2012-01 on second reading, amending the township's administrative code to include policies on attendance, training, and email communications between council members. The sec-

tion referring to email came as a result of a letter from Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor asking council to establish a policy on email. Taylor questioned the use of email in discussions regarding the advertising for and hiring of a township manager.

Two new police officers, Matthew Gamble and Anthony Gretto were sworn in Monday night. Police Chief Brian Marker said Gamble, Gretto and two officers who entered the police academy that day would replace retiring officers in the ranks.

Council members gave conceptual approval to an ordinance banning Outdoor Wood-burning Boilers. The ordinance was developed as a result of complaints by neighbors of an Andrielle Avenue resident who is using one of the OWBs to heat water for his home.

Council passed Resolution 2012-54 to allow an agreement with Paymentch and JP Morgan Chase Bank as a payment processing agency to allow township residents to pay taxes online. Township Manager Mike Voll said the system would be expanded to include other types of payments. He said JP Morgan Chase was working with Sturdy Bank to develop the system.

The municipal clerk said the township is organizing a platelet donation for a young township resident. A dozen donors are needed and there are still eight spots to fill before scheduling a Red Cross bus. Call 609-886-2005 ext. 113 for more information.

Grads

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infrared camera, the crew spotted the five fishermen hanging onto the wreckage of their submerged vessel. The light the fishermen used to signal the lookouts was a cell phone that miraculously survived the sinking. Gray, Reed and Taborda noticed the cell phone light from more than two nautical miles away in fairly high seas.

"When we found out it was people in the water, we were really surprised," Reed said. "The fisherman held his cell phone straight above his head and caught our attention."

Reed graduated from Cape May on Sept. 9, 2011, with Recruit Company Lima 185 and had been aboard Cutter Venturous since October 2011. Gray, who was unavailable for comment because he had undergone surgery last week, graduated from the Training Center on Sept. 23, 2011.

All five fishermen sustained chemical burns from hanging onto the buoyant fuel barrels, as well as respiratory injuries from swallowing large amounts of gasoline as they tried to stay afloat for the 10 hours they had been stranded. One of the men was in a severe state of hypothermia. When rescued and brought aboard the 210-foot cutter,

they were immediately given medical assistance, food and water.

The three Coast Guardsmen were named the U.S. Coast Guard's Shipmates of the Week for their alertness and steadfast actions in spotting the fishermen. Reed said he knew he would make a difference by joining the Coast Guard, but had no idea it would happen so soon.

"We just happened to be on watch at that point," he said. "Luckily we saw them or we would have passed right by and they would have died."

Reed and Taborda thanked their training at Cape May for their ability to conduct a good watch and be alert for anything suspicious in the water. Reed said as a recruit, one is taught discipline and trained to stay focused during any duty or detail.

"They trained us well for this," he said.

Kelly said he always tells his recruits prior to graduating from the Training Center that within 90 days of leaving Cape May, at least one of them will be involved in a rescue, drug bust or other intense situation where the skills they have learned will be put to the test. He said he always expects an email or some sort of correspondence from a former recruit when that happens. Reed and

Taborda both sent emails to Kelly.

"At the end of some of these emails and letters I got a little choked up," Kelly said. "We're blessed to have these young men and women train here and it's the icing on the cake to hear when they do something like this."

Kelly said when recruits graduate from Cape May they are basically trained, physically fit and smartly disciplined so when situations like this arise, they move with a sense of urgency and perform every duty to their full potential.

Chief Warrant Officer Donnie Brzuska of Training Center Cape May said recruits graduate from the base and seven days later are doing frontline missions for the Coast Guard, which is different from any other branch in the military. He said it is the job of the officers at the Training Center to make sure graduating recruits never become complacent and conduct tasks efficiently.

Kelly said Gray, Reed and Taborda all proved themselves in the field and believes doors will certainly open for them in the future, as they will for many men and women in the Coast Guard who perform to that standard.

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** WOMAN IN BLACK PG-13 12:35, 2:55, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35
THE GREY R 4:20, 9:55
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE PG-13 12:55, 7:05
** THIS MEANS WAR PG-13 One Time Sneak Preview ONLY 2/14 7pm

Rest

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given there are no delays or permit issues, the rest stop will receive a new welcome sign, brand new restrooms, and a food service station courtesy of Sunoco. The largest portion of the project will consist of tearing down the present welcome center and rebuilding a new one. The tourism center will continue to be operated by the county. Milam said the renovation is expected to last four to five months.

Milam said Sunoco will be taking care of the majority of the cost and the Turnpike Authority will be helping out as well. The project will be of no cost to the county or

its taxpayers. He said the Sunoco gas service will still be available to Parkway travelers during construction.

"Luckily Sunoco saw fit to rebuilding and maintaining the rest stop and provide a welcome center to those visiting the county," he said. "Cape May (County) is a tremendous draw for our state and should boast a welcome and inviting rest stop for the countless tourists that visit every year."

He said many organizations have been involved in bringing the long-awaited rebuild to fruition. The Turnpike Authority, Sunoco and the State Department of Transportation worked in conjunction with the State

Travel and Tourism Division and Cape May County officials to be sure the project will be a success.

Milam said the shore towns and tourism driving communities of Cape May County like Cape May City and Wildwood deserve an attractive entrance way and hopes this will improve the positive image these municipalities already have.

"Residents and tourists to Cape May have surely noticed that this rest area has seen better days," Milam said in a press release. "Once completed, this new rest area will be transformed from essentially a ghost town into a grand entrance way to historic Cape May County."

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