

ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS IS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAW 1975 AND BY RESOLUTION 2012-14 WITH THE REQUEST OF THE HOME NEWS TRIBUNE AND THE SENTINEL NEWSPAPERS TO PUBLISH SAME AND THIS ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING

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A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South River, in the County of Middlesex and the State of New Jersey was held on December 10, 2012 and was called to order by Mayor John M. Krenzel at 7:15 PM in the South River Elementary/Middle School Cafetorium, 3 Montgomery Street in South River, New Jersey with the following Council members in attendance:

Council members Guindi, Roselli, Trzeciak, Vaughn, Hutchison  
Council member Farren was absent

Also attending this meeting were Frederick C. Carr, Borough Administrator, Gary M. Schwartz, Esq., Borough Attorney and Representative Rush Holt.

Opening Remarks, John M. Krenzel, Mayor

Mayor Krenzel stated the ground rules of limiting comments to 10 minutes. Purpose of the meeting was to exchange information and hear the experiences residents had during and after the storm. Employees of the Borough of South River and FEMA were present to answer questions and assist residents. Mayor stated that communication was a concern during the storm when power was out. He will be working with his staff in 2013 on improving the means of communication in a situation such as this for the future.

Mayor Krenzel introduced Rush Holt and a representative from his office.

Remarks from Rush Holt, Representative

Representative Holt stated that he walked the streets of South River and has seen the degree of devastation. Safety and security of the vacant homes and construction is a major concern. The South River Utility functioned very well for the storm.

Representative Holt's experience with FEMA has been good and hoped the residents felt the same. If there are unresolved problems, residents should let him know but stated that he can only follow up if a privacy form is submitted. Forms can be obtained from his assistant or his office.

Public Comments by Citizens Concerning Hurricane Sandy

In summary, the residents brought up the following comments/concerns. Responses from officials in attendance are noted.

- Many thanks were given to the Mayor and Council, FEMA, Department of Public Works, Office of Emergency Management, Police Department and Borough Employees. Many praises were given to the new Director of Public Works, Adriano Soares, and his crew for the outstanding job they did. Also thanked were the South River Food Bank, Red Cross, South River Football team and the Mormons for their food, supplies and manpower.
- Sentiments were expressed to Councilman Hutchison, Councilman Trzeciak and Councilman Roselli on their personal losses from the storm
- Residents questioned if building permits will be free of charge in months to come when work is being done in phases. Will older homes have to be brought up to code?

Glenn Lauritsen, Construction Official, stated: Permits are being extended in 30 day increments; advised residents to submit paperwork with borough so it's on file. In the area of renovation, the UCC Rehabilitation Code deals with life safety issues that need to be addressed according to code.

- Questioned if trash will continue to be picked up.

Adriano Soares, Director DPW, stated: Continue to put trash and bulk items at curb and it will be picked up

- Drainage, foul odors and sewer backups exist near Armstrong Avenue and in flood zones. Since work was done on sewer it seems to happen more often; possibly look into cleaning out the system.

Mayor stated that he will look into the sewer problems

- Residents questioned the buy out program through FEMA, will FEMA elevate their houses.

Chris, FEMA Representative, stated: Program is in its preliminary stage right now. The Emergency Management Division has to submit the project request. The State makes the decision, every town in the state can apply and it is a competitive process. FEMA options are to elevate, move or demolish.

Charlie Benn, OEM Coordinator, stated: He is in the process of filing the "project request" indicating that there have been repetitive losses in South River.

Glenn Lauritsen, Construction Official, stated: Has been notified that damage assessment will begin next week by FEMA.

- Will there be an extension of the December 31<sup>st</sup> FEMA application deadline
- Mayor will address deadline with Representative Holt

- Residents questioned water and electric bills, utility deposits and tax relief.

Mayor stated: Specific utility questions will be directed to the Borough Administrator and Utility Department

Mike Frangella, Tax Assessor, referred residents to complete a Temporary Tax Relief form. Call or stop by his office if residents have questions.

- Residents asking for additional help; no centralized location where they can go for help. Asking for agencies to come to South River.

Chris, FEMA Representative, will make a request for FEMA to come to South River

Mayor stated that Catholic Charities will be coming to St. Mary's and St. Stephens.

- Signs posted at the end of the Causeway by the County regarding contamination were questioned.

Councilman Guindi stated that it was posted as a result of a diesel fuel in the river. Mayor will look into it with the Health Department.

- Residents of the Causeway area requested additional police presence in that area
- Questioned if South River has a written Emergency Plan

Charlie Benn, OEM Coordinator, stated: Yes we do - but it is not a public document for security reasons.

- Residents would like assistance if they are non-English speaking

Mayor advised that there is a phone accessible for translating at 48 Washington St.

- Some felt that the Reid Street area was forgotten in the flood
- Storm left roads in bad condition; roads are cracking, potholes need to be repaired.

A list of residents that the Mayor referred to the Clerk during the meeting was given to the Borough Administrator. These concerns will be addressed by the respective departments.

#### Adjournment

Councilman Vaughn moved that this meeting be adjourned at 10:35 p.m.  
Councilman Hutchison seconded the motion. So carried.

Respectfully submitted on  
December 14, 2012

Sheryl Lynn Nevin, RMC  
Deputy Borough Clerk

Approved at the regular meeting  
held on December 17, 2012