

**Elk Township Economic Development Committee Minutes
Monday, October 3, 2011, 7:30pm
Elk Township Municipal Building**

In Attendance: David Slack, Victor Morella, Anna Thomas, Delores Swanson, Cheryl Potter and Mike Pantaleo, who arrived at 8:05 p.m.

Absent: Angela Teti and Doris Brady

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm

Guest Speaker: Tony Creta, 233 Unionville Road, Co-owner of H.A. Creta, Incorporated. Mr. Creta questioned if any progress had been made regarding his property in the industrial park by the Elk Township Planning/Zoning Board. He is trying to figure out what to do regarding the property that he owns. He said the planning/zoning board was escrowing him “to death.” Currently, he owns 13 acres in the industrial park, but he has been renting space for his business in Glassboro. “Everything I’m asking for his permitted in Elk Township,” he said. Creta doesn’t understand how the township says on the one hand that it wants business and then “you put handcuffs on them.” He is trying to find out what to do about his business in Elk Township or should he move on to another town. Mr. Morella suggested that he should bring his concerns to the township committee. He said, “if you shine a headlight on the problem and get the press involved and then you can showcase the operation. Glassboro has rules, operations and procedures. You’ll know what you can and can not do in Glassboro.” Mr. Creta said, “it took him 15 minutes” to set-up his business in Glassboro. David Slack said to Mr. Creta that “we as a committee can not give you advice that you will or will not be treated fairly in Elk Township. If it gets it built faster some place else than in the township, go where it works.” Delores Swanson said that a copy of the minutes should go to the township committee so that they can “see Tony’s frustration and be aware of his concerns.” Mr. Creta said that he was considering putting a solar farm in the back of his property in the industrial park that is wet lands. Mr. Morella said that his son used to own property on Hollywood Avenue and donated one acre of land to the township for a school bus turn around, but ran into problems in the township and cut his loses and sold the property.

Call to Order:

Approval of September Minutes - Motion made by Victor Morella and seconded by Delores Swanson.

Swearing In of new member - Anna Thomas.

Review Open Items:

Solar Farm -Laux Road - Update:

Victor Morella reported that a month ago he saw an advertisement that said he cost \$6,000 per acre for a solar farm and they were putting solar panels on farm land, such as in Pittsgrove Township. He was

studying an email sent to him from California to see if this organization would want to put a solar farm on a closed and sealed landfill. He said that the township committee should send a letter requesting a change

in legislation to allow PSE&G to come into another utility's (Atlantic City Electric) territory. Mike Pantaleo gave an overview of the solar project at the municipal building. He said on September First, presentations were given to the township committee and then they went out for Request For Proposals and they are now locked into a 15 year proposal for the field behind the municipal building, the municipal building, the Public works Building and the concessions stands. Solar Solutions is the name of the company doing the project. The project, he said, will start by the end of year and "is not costing the township any tax dollars, but did cost attorney's fees in order to protect the township."

100 acres owned by Gloucester County - Nothing new to report. David Slack will email Lisa Morina for an update on what the County is doing.

Review New Items:

Ewan Crossing- Cheryl Potter reported that she had heard that the developer had decided to quit the project in Elk Township. However, David Slack said that as far he knew that they still had not gone before the township's planning and zoning board. Mr. Slack reported that the last he heard that the developer had to take down a few trees on the property in order to make it a four unit occupancy instead of three.

Lawn Doctor - David Slack reported that it looked like it was completed but was still trying to find the status of the occupancy.

Fislerville Road at Route- 77 Traffic Light - The light is up and running. Mike Pantaleo reported that it took the township four years to get the light installed.

Township Web Site - Anna Thomas said that she has been exploring changes to the township website with updates that can be completed easily. She reported that the township has signed up with company for a three year time period at a cost of \$300.00 for two domain names and a web server. She reported that she re-designed the entire website and made some recommendation regarding content since a lot of the material on the township website is out of date. Delores Swanson questioned if multiple people were going to utilize the website, how viruses were going to be prevented? Anna Thomas said that she could make all of the updates right now and continue to review the site.

Discuss other meeting committee member have attended: - None

Review Next Steps:

Economic Development Committee needs a new Vice-Chairman - Cheryl Potter nominated Victor Morella; Seconded by Delores Swanson. Unanimous Vote.

Victor Morella mentioned that volunteers in the township can go to the League of Municipality Convention in November, as long as they pay their own way and pay a fee of \$50.00 for the convention that is being held in Atlantic City on November 15 thru 17.

Open to the Public - None

Next Meeting - November 7th (Cancelled)

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Cheryl Potter