

TOWNSHIP OF MILLSTONE  
Meeting Room  
215 Millstone Road  
Millstone Township, NJ 08535

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OCTOBER 18, 2017 @ 8:00 PM**

**Mayor Kuczinski calls the meeting to order at 7:14 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Kuczinski - present, Committeeman Dorfman – absent, Committeeman Kinsey – ARRIVES AT 7:25PM, Committeeman Masci – present, Committeewoman Grbelja - present. Also in attendance: Attorney, Duane Davison and Municipal Clerk, Maria Dellasala.

**STATEMENT OF NOTICE AS REQUIRED BY P.L. 1975, C231 IS READ.**

**I HEREBY ANNOUNCE THAT PURSUANT TO THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL NOTICE OF MEETINGS WHICH WAS MAILED TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS AND THE TRENTON TIMES, POSTED ON THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS BULLETIN BOARD IN TOWN HALL AND FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK ON DECEMBER 27, 2016.**

**RESOLUTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION, (17-167) Moved C/Grbelja, Second C/Dorfman. Committee Discussion: None**

**VOTE:**

AYES: C/Grbelja, C/Masci, M/Kuczinski  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: C/Dorfman, C/Kinsey arrives at 7:25pma

Motion to adjourn executive session, Moved C/Grbelja, Second C/Masci. ©

Time In 7:16 p.m., Time Out 7:48 p.m.

**MAYOR KUCZINSKI CALLS THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:02 P.M. FOLLOWED BY A FLAG SALUTE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE.** M/Kuczinski asks everyone to keep in their thoughts all the people who are suffering from these natural disasters.

The Township of Millstone will be videotaping this meeting for replay on Millstone PEG Channel. By attending this evening, attendees acknowledge this recording and agree to allow their images to be recorded.

All attendees and participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for public gathering. Individual speakers should be advised that no right of privacy protects a person's public comments made in a public forum. Accordingly, all participants bear responsibility for their own statements and commentary.

**RESOLUTIONS: CONSENT RESOLUTION POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARD.**  
**ALL MATTERS LISTED UNDER ITEM "CONSENT AGENDA" ARE CONSIDERED**

**ROUTINE BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE (1) MOTION IN THE FORM LISTED BELOW. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION ON THESE ITEMS, IF DISCUSSION IS DESIRED OF ANY ITEM, THAT ITEM WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.**

- 17-168 Resolution Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for “Improvements to Red Valley Road from Trenton Lakewood Road to Spring Road”
- 17-169 Resolution Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for “Improvements to Nurko Road - Phase I from Borough of Roosevelt to Parkside Way”
- 17-170 Payment of Vouchers for 10-18-17

Motion to adopt, Moved C/Kinsey, Second M/Kuczinski. Committee Discussion: None  
VOTE:

AYES: C/Grbelja, C/Kinsey, C/Masci, M/Kuczinski  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: C/Dorfman

**REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017:**

Tax Collector	\$198,763.48
Clerks report	\$ 664.85
Dog License	\$ 538.00
Recreation	\$ 16,864.00
Building Department	\$ 28,228.00
COAH	\$ 0.00
Municipal Court (August)	\$ 20,130.00
Municipal Court (September)	\$ 15,041.00
2017 Interest Revenue	
Budget Status Report - 09/30/17	

Motion to file, Moved C/Grbelja, Second C/Kinsey. ©

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

1. Regular Session and Executive Session October 4, 2017

Motion to adopt, Moved C/Masci, Second M/Kuczinski. Committee Discussion: None  
VOTE:

AYES: C/Grbelja, C/Kinsey, C/Masci, M/Kuczinski  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: C/Dorfman

**APPLICATIONS FOR A RAFFLE/BINGO LICENSE:**

1. Millstone Township PTO, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held on February 9, 2018 at Millstone Township Middle School.

Motion to approve, Moved C/Masci, Second C/Grbelja. ©

2. Millstone Township PTSA, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held on December 1, 2017 at Millstone Elks Lodge.

Motion to approve, Moved C/Grbelja, Second M/Kuczinski. ©

3. Millstone Township PTSA, On-Premise Merchandise Raffle to be held on December 1, 2017 at Millstone Elks Lodge.

Motion to approve, Moved C/Grbelja, Second C/Masci. ©

4. Millstone Township PTSA, Bingo to be held on December 1, 2017 at Millstone Elks Lodge.

Motion to approve, Moved C/Masci, Second C/Grbelja. ©

**PRESENTATION:** The Mentor Group  
M/Kuczinski explains that tonight we have representatives from State of New Jersey, Department of Children and Families:  
Elizabeth Manley Director Children's System of Care  
Clarence Whittaker - Assistant Division Director Children's System of Care  
Kim Maloney - Supervisory Program Support Specialist  
Brian Ross, Esq. Assistant Commissioner for Legal, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs  
Nancy Caruso - Legislative Liaison

Representatives from The Mentor Group,  
Katherine Orłowski, LCSW - Clinical Director  
Liam Mulligan, LCSW - Regional Director - Specialty Services  
Sean McNally, LCSW -Program Director

Also in attendance from the NJSP is Thomas Martin

Katherine Orłowski, New Jersey Mentor Clinical Director describes the October 5th incident stating that juveniles escaped through their second floor bedroom window using the lightning rod line to reach the ground. Liam Mulligan, New Jersey Mentor Regional Director stated there was an operational breakdown with the staff and that the two staff members working that overnight shift were fired. He also stated that they are looking at options where they can place these kids but right now the right place is to these kids in the home.

Brian Ross, Assistant Commissioner for Legal, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, said he is in charge of licensing and looking into the qualifications and enforcing regulations for programs like Mentor Group. They are looking at a plan of action reviewing the adequacy of supervision, making sure that the staff in place is appropriately trained and appropriately qualified for the position. He thinks that know that something did not work right. Out of all of these programs I've ever seen, I have never

heard of any children escaping with the lightning rod cord. They are taking this very seriously, they are worried about the safety of the kids and the surrounding community.

Elizabeth Manley, Director of Children's System of Care added that the juveniles are in these homes on a voluntary basis. It is a voluntary treatment program in which the parents and the child together with a team of professionals made the determination that treatment in an out-of-home situation setting is in their best interest. This is not a deferment for children. Ms. Manley was asked if the youth may have had prior criminal activity, she said, that's complicated and difficult for her to answer.

New Jersey State Trooper Thomas Martin also presented at the meeting stating that there were two arrests in July and three arrests in October. Everybody involved was charged with burglary as well as theft for the things taken. Trooper Martin was asked to clarify about juvenile complaints. Generally with juveniles, when they get arrested, they get fingerprinted and photographed and instead of going straight to Municipal Court, they get sent to the Prosecutors' Office. Family Court division handles that. These individuals don't go to jail. There is no jail process for juveniles. Everything is handled through the Family Court. The reason is that the crimes they committed were not aggravated circumstances. There was no forced entry and no violence. So even if we had presented them to be screened for detention, they would not rise to the level to where they would be taken in.

C/Grbelja stated that the Township is working with Assemblyman Ron Dancer, Assemblyman Rob Clifton and Senator Sam Thompson on a bill that will allow municipalities to enhance security and supervision to juvenile group homes under certain conditions. M/Kuczinski stated, this Township Committee is completely committed to getting this resolved. The bottom line is we don't have a say in the matter. These are state mandated programs. Attorney, Duane Davison, stated the fact that these facilities can come to a residential zone is an act of the New Jersey State Legislature. In Millstone, there are different zones with different permitted uses. The government body has no say in the presence of group homes in residential zones. Instead of an ordinance that establishes zoning which is the normal course, in this particular case, State legislature has established the zoning. The statute on the municipal land use laws says that group homes are to be deemed a permitted use in every residential zone. So that's how these facilities can come in without the Township having any ability to approve or disapprove this type of use.

Many residents asked direct questions about the burglaries and spoke of fear for the safety and security of the juveniles living in the Mentor Group home, as well as the fear for the safety of their own family and pets. The Mentor Group discussed several opportunities they are planning to implement in the short and long term including possibly a key fob swipe to track when bed checks are made and contacting the alarm company to review new security measures.

C/Masci states I'm hearing talk about monitoring systems and alarms at the home, I am beyond reproach here. It's not going to be long before the Township and the residents sue you. In this room, I recall many of these faces from the last meeting. They were here and they showed compassion for these kids and the lives that these kids unfortunately behold. This goes beyond the compassion now. You want to provide an excellent opportunity for these kids but guess what, it's destroying 11,000 residents who want that very same opportunity. C/Masci held up a document that defines the bidding process for the Department of Children and Families and states on every single page, there's the word SAFETY and states the safety of these kids are in jeopardy right now. C/Masci asked what the criteria was to stop this facility from operating until safety measures were dramatically improved.

Kim Maloney, Supervisory Program Support Specialist responded, we are identifying any system barriers and will work to remove those so we can expedite the transition. We have access to all of the programs statewide and we will be looking at all of the programs that meet the youths needs and identify who has openings. We will work with the CMO's to expedite the meet and greet interviews to take place so we will work to expedite that process.

C/Grbelja states she actually worked with the Juvenile Justice System for a period of time and is very disappointed in what she has heard and what you're going to implement. We were only here in July and another incident took place in October. When I hear what you want to do to rectify what just happened, I am aghast! I can't believe it. C/Masci further challenged the Mentor Group officials. The fact that you guys come here and are talking about some crappy alarm system. That is not what we want to hear. When you were here the last time, there were discussions about counseling sessions that were supposed to happen, they didn't work. How is the Mentor Group held accountable for their LACK of operating these group homes.

Brian Ross states we do enforce the regulation. In this case, we are looking for corrective action. We are planning to have inspectors out here more often – 15 to 30 days. We will have unannounced inspections. We have had our division of Child Protective Systems out here to rule out child neglect and other supervision related issues. On the contractor side, we have been out here to discuss some of the performance related things. We are very concerned. These are children that we are responsible for that is in their care. We have some initial steps that have been very promising. Some of the treatment related things obviously we can't discuss such as the counseling and other steps we have taken related with each individual youth. We have to address these behaviors. We are encouraged by what we have seen so far. Obviously there's a long, long way to go and Mentor Group knows that. The Department knows that. We will be out in Millstone as often as we can.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Mayor Kuczinski opens the meeting to the public at 11:19 p.m.

No additional public comment.

Mayor Kuczinski closes the meeting to the public at 11:19 p.m.

M/Kuczinski thanks everyone for their attendance tonight.

Motion to adjourn, Moved C/Grbelja, Second M/Kuczinski. © Time Out 11:20 p.m.

Tapes of the meeting are available in the Municipal Clerks Office.

October 18, 2017 minutes approved at a Township Committee meeting held on November 1, 2017.

---

Maria Dellasala, RMC  
Municipal Clerk  
Millstone Township