

Door

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to the Republican Party. You only care what your game is.” Winters told those he labeled as self-interested council members they should “pack you your duds and move out of here.” Ward 2 Councilman Wayne Mazurek said he had been left out of the process entirely. “I never had any input on an agreement before it was given to Kathy to sign,” he said. “I don’t think that’s the way government should be run.”

Mazurek said at the last council meeting they went into closed session and discussed rather thoroughly the removal of the manager. He said when he became aware of McPherson’s intention to retire he believed the problem was solved. He said Beck called him and told him council would be bringing an agreement to the next closed session for McPherson to sign. Mazurek said he would vote no on the agreement, not because he thought it was not favorable to McPherson, but

because he, the Ward 2 councilman, was left out of the process. He said that was detrimental to Ward 2. Additionally, some of the language in the agreement was incorrect. The agreement said McPherson was advised to seek counsel before signing the agreement, but chose not to. It was later learned she had received the advice of counsel after declining to do so, but the language wasn’t changed in the agreement. Mazurek said it showed how quickly the agreement was put together.

“This agreement was made in haste to get it here tonight,” Mazurek said. Monzo said a draft of the agreement was provided to McPherson about a week ago before she had the opportunity to consult with a lawyer. She subsequently spoke to an attorney and he gave input on the agreement to Monzo. “I don’t understand why, when someone puts in for retirement, you take moves to remove her; especially when you have a coronary if someone talks about an employee being removed,” Janet Pitts

said. Pitts was an unsuccessful candidate for the Ward 1 seat in the November General Election. Several members of the audience said it was a critical time for the township, particularly with the municipal budget, and not the time to replace the manager. Beck echoed that sentiment, saying, “I’m not buying into the fact that no one has been ticketed for this (job). The rumors are out there.” Beck said the move to change township managers

was a Republican effort, with it being opposed by the one Democrat and the “lone, true independent,” referring to himself. Lare ran with Beck two years ago as an independent, but has since appeared to be more aligned with the Republican Party than with Beck. Beck asked, hypothetically, why council wasn’t taking action to remove other employees before their announced retirement date. “This is not the right thing to do,” he said. Beck did not receive a response to his statements.

Tool

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for the most part put out by the device and the temperature dropped to just over 200 degrees before the hose team entered to finish the job. “I would rather crawl into a 400 degree room than a 1,000 degree room,” Mazurie added. Many of the safety officials who attended were amazed by how successful the tool was at putting out the fire. “It worked a lot better than I anticipated,” West Cape May Fire Chief Chuck McPherson said. “If you can save five to 10 minutes when arriving on scene, that’s a lot of time.” McPherson, much like the rest of the firefighters there said it was also the first time they had ever seen a demonstration of the DSPA-5, which cost around \$1,000 a piece according to West Cape May Deputy Chief Steve Nelson. Nelson said the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company

already owns two of the devices and the local Boy Scout troop is now raising money to buy them two more. Cape May Deputy Chief Richard Lundholm said it is a great idea and concept but the DSPA-5 does not replace conventional fire fighting. “I would rather take that \$1,000 and put it into our training program,” he said. Lundholm said it would be of good use to first responders in rural areas, state police and even fisherman out at sea in case of an engine room fire. He does not however consider it to be a device that will replace personnel on a fire team and would not rely on it because it can “create a false sense of security,” in the event the tool fails. “No matter what, you still need the man power,” he added. The Fire Knockdown Tool was developed by the Breathe Save Fire and Safety Equipment Company in Warrington, Pa. Speaking on

behalf of the product was company president Ben Grove. Grove has held multiple positions in the volunteer fire service in Bucks County, Pa since 1974 and said this piece of equipment will definitely enhance the safety of firefighters. “In seconds, it can protect fireman, save lives, and stop more damage from occurring,” he said. Grove said the DSPA-5 can be used by not only fire departments but also EMS Units, Police and even the military. Grove said the product has already been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency because of its non-toxic substance and has already been considered by the Marine Corps for use on Naval ships at sea. “When you’re out on the ocean, there is no fire department so this would be a useful thing for them to have,” he said. Grove said he was proud to



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave  
Firefighters work amid the smoke after the Fire Knockdown Tool put out the fire in a demonstration at the Cape May County Fire Academy, held for representatives of all the county fire companies.

have made a product that works so well and will certainly save lives on a regular basis.

“We don’t see advancements like this much in fire companies,” he said. “We’re very excited to bring this rev-

olutionary device to the fire service.”

Housing Authority needs relief from water bills

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Cape May Housing Authority asked city council for some

relief from water bills, asking for a compromise on the rate increase. After the city raised the water rates effective Jan.1, the Housing Authority went from paying \$70,000 per year to paying \$100,000 annually. Joe Fox from the Housing Authority asked the city to consider taking \$80,000 instead. Fox said the city has made great strides in improving conditions at the Housing Authority, but increases in water rates are forcing them to dip into their capital budget to pay water bills. He said they are currently in the process of completing a \$250,000 upgrade of 55 kitchens in the 85-unit complex. But he said taking capital funds to pay water and sewer bills would make it harder to maintain the properties. He said federal regulations require the office of Housing and Urban Development to ask for a three-year average before they can consider increasing the authority’s subsidy. Council did not immediately respond to Fox’s request for an \$80,000 flat fee as opposed to the \$100,000 they are being billed. Mayor Ed Mahaney said if they did so, and the authority used \$100,000 worth of water, the

other \$20,000 would have to come from the city or the other rate payers. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said some of the authority’s increase for water use came from the rate increase, but some was the result of increased consumption. In response to questions from city council members, MacLeod said it was difficult to isolate where water consumption increased, although it has increased on Broad Street more than in other areas. He said there are three or four water meters for the entire complex, instead of 85 individual water meters. Fox said sewer increases imposed by the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority were “outrageous.” Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman also called sewer rates outrageous. “They are so far out of whack and we seem to have no say in it,” he said. Mahaney said the city had a visit from Charlie Norkis from the CMCMA several years ago and he did a good job explaining how rates were determined. “Flow is less than 110 percent of the budget,” Mahaney said. Mahaney then suggested bringing Norkis back for another update.

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**Cape May Star&Wave** (ISSN 519-020),  
volume 156 number 49. Published weekly by  
Sample Media Inc., 112 E. 8th St., Ocean City,  
N.J., 08226. Subscription price in Cape May  
County \$22; East of the Mississippi \$25; West  
of the Mississippi \$29. Periodicals postage at  
Pleasantville, N.J., and additional mailing  
offices.  
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes  
to the Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park  
Blvd., #28, West Cape May, N.J., 08204.

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