

LTRS

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officers' salaries increased from \$160,000 in 2006 to \$420,000 in 2009, a 262 percent increase in three years. Likewise, Weber, said information obtained from employee W2 forms indicated LTRS president's salary increased 57 percent, to over \$100,000 a year. He said salaries for all employees increased from \$762,000 in 2006 to \$1.4 million just three years later.

"I don't know how to run a rescue squad, but to run a business into the red in three years..." Weber said.

Weber said the operating

costs were built on the backs of exorbitant salaries for employees.

Beck said he wanted to see the W2s.

"My question is, as we help to support them, and this is one of the more difficult groups to go after – everyone loves EMTs – but we have a responsibility to the taxpayers. If the salaries rose as said, we have to look at what we're giving," Beck said.

The township currently supports the LTRS to the tune of \$105,000. Weber said he thought it showed a lot of nerve to ask for \$105,000, free rent and electricity when the salaries are as he reported.

LTRS Vice President Tony Kapurelos spoke at Monday's meeting in response to issues being raised at this and earlier meetings. Kapurelos, an LTRS lieutenant, said he makes around \$10,000 per year. Addressing the number of Class B EMTs (basic life support) he said New Jersey only allows local squads to have Class B EMTs.

"We provide basic life support," he said.

If advanced life support is needed, other help is called.

Kapurelos said the clearing of lots at 3 and 9 Cardinal were in response to long-standing complaints from neighbors about overgrown

property.

"Now we are trying to clean it up...to be good neighbors," he said.

Regarding double parked vehicles, Kapurelos said vehicles were allowed to be parallel-parked on the street and they had moved vehicles to improve the sight triangle at street corners.

Kapurelos also said there has been a dramatic jump in the amount of emergency services. He said the LTRS is also providing transport to doctors' offices, providing rides to wheelchair –bound patients, etc.

"As we have increased our services we have to increase

employee costs. We provide rides to dialysis, and some people have to go where their insurance companies authorize them," he said.

Kapurelos said the LTRS also makes assist calls it doesn't charge for, such as getting an infirm family member back into a chair.

According to Kapurelos, what the financial support the township gives the LTRS amounts to \$2.50 per house on a \$100,000 home.

"In my career I've gone out on between 10,000 and 20,000 rescue calls, and I've never had anyone complain that I came," Kapurelos said. "It seems like there is an attack

on the rescue squad, and I don't know where it's going."

Beck said everything started about six weeks ago, not on Monday night. He said the lot clearing resulted in a pile of debris 15 feet high and about 30 feet long.

"It now looks like the dark side of the moon," he said.

"The bottom line is being a good neighbor."

Beck said he wanted to review the LTRS W2s from the last several years before he voted on the lease.

Look

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Maryann Gorrick said she would like Cape May to continue to be a National Historic Landmark and to be a mecca of B&Bs.

Barbara Masemore

referred to the city vision prepared by Rhodeside and Harwell to make Cape May the Garden City in the Garden State. She recommended turning attention to the Promenade next, putting natural plantings in barrels at

beach entrances.

Jinny Hesel recommended making the town more racially diverse and "not just all these white people living here."

"I hope we would welcome all people to Cape May," she said. "We need to think about making this a more international city."

Charlotte Todd said she would like the city to implement as many green initiatives as possible.

"I would hope the city would look at all technologies – sun, wind, ocean waves..." she said.

Todd said renewable energy was not intrusive, and some wind turbines are actually attractive.

Todd wished to encourage more public transportation and the use of electric vehicles in town.

Kevin Maloney echoed some of Todd's remarks, say-

ing he would like to see the entire island become a "natural energy model." He said Thomas Edison developed a power grid and said the power should be generated where it is used. Maloney said the wind, sun and ocean waves Todd mentioned are here.

Jules Rauch envisioned a town with different sources of energy.

"I'd like to see a town without light poles," he said.

Rauch asked the PECAC to imagine roads that actually generated electricity. He said he would also like to see city signs brought into conformity, saying there were too many types and styles of lettering throughout the town.

Rauch also talked about dealing with the issue of rental homes being advertised as sleeping upwards of 17 and 20 people. He said one individual owns six homes that

together are advertised as sleeping 99 people.

Related to this issue is the lack of parking for so many people. Pearl Avenue resident Harry Bellangy said people talk about the typical situation where a property sleeps 10 and parks one.

Bellangy said the biggest thing he wants for Cape May is to continue the landmark designation for the whole town. He said in 20 years, the Village Green section of Cape May could be designated as a historic, planned community.

Bellangy also mentioned that people first came to Cape May because of the beach. Susan Johnston later mentioned the beach as Cape May's most valuable asset. She said after this spring's DEP/ACOE beach restoration at the Cove, about half the sand washed away. Johnston suggested another jetty or beach saver reefs.

Shane Meier had a number of suggestions for Cape May. He recommended having tour buses park in nearby West Cape May or Lower Township rather than at the Transportation Center. He recommended the city eliminate contradictions over what is historic and to update Historic Preservation Commission guidelines. He said the city should not replace its existing water tower with something modern looking.

Jeanne Powick said she believed everything she heard suggested people are all concerned about the quality of life in Cape May.

The city is planning two more public meetings to solicit public input on the Community Visioning statement. The PECAC will meet at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.

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Jail

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tolls to travel to the jail. According to Avery, a 20-minute visitation using

the program costs \$10. These fees will provide revenue for the correctional facility as well and offset expenses, saving money for taxpayers.

Schaffer said he came up with the idea of doing this type of visit at the prison after watching his wife SKYPE with his granddaughter. He went on Google to do some research and immediately found Avery's website.

Before the Cape May County Correctional Facility signed on, this project was in the developmental stages in Washoe County, Nev., where it was tested and researched in a facility of around 900 inmates according to Avery.

"It helps reintegrate them," he said. "When they see their family on screen at home, it makes them not want to be in prison."

During a press conference on Thursday, May 12, correctional officer Steve Sumler did a demonstration of how the program works. A family member or friend of an inmate first sets up an online account from home or any other location with an internet connection and SKYPE capabilities, and then schedules visits online. A list of all the visits shows up on the screen each day, so both the guards and prisoners know when an inmate has a visit. The facility has 27 units located throughout the jail in the visitation area and in the cells. When a prisoner sits down at a specific monitor, his or her visitor will appear on the screen at the scheduled time and they are free to chat and see one another for 20 minutes.

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"I'm totally amazed by this system," Sumler said. "It will be a Godsend for some people."

Avery said one of the best things about this program is the fact that children won't have to visit the actual facility, but can still see and talk to their relatives.

"There have been studies done in the past that show children who visit prisons on a normal basis have a higher risk of becoming incarcerated themselves when they get older," Avery said.

Even though low-income families of prisoners may not be able to afford a computer or one capable of installing the SKYPE program, Avery said they can always get access to a computer in a public library or cyber café. He said there are also non-profit organizations like the Salvation Army and YMCA interested in becoming involved to help provide the technology to families of inmates when more prisons participate.

Avery said the 27-unit system at the facility cost around \$67,000 and should pay for itself in no time at all. Schaffer said this system has already done wonders for the prison and he hopes more facilities become involved.

"My officers are safe, the inmates get more visits and people are saving money because of this," he said. "This is the future, I think."

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