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May 3, 2023

Dear friends and residents,

In February of this year, after over a year of meetings, the Planning Board approved an application to construct a Senior Assisted Living facility at 224 Old Tappan Road, next to the Syrian Orthodox church on Old Tappan Road. Two appeals to reverse that decision had been filed with the Mayor and Council. As of late yesterday one of the appellants withdrew their Notice of Appeal. On Monday evening, May 8, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. the Special Appeal Meeting will be held. The law provides that the governing body is to review the transcripts of the 13 months of Planning Board meetings and either approve, disapprove, or remand back to the planning board with any suggested modifications. The governing body's decision must be based solely upon the review of the testimony brought forth at all of the Planning Board meetings.

Okay, so what can happen next?

~ Reversal of Planning Board's Approval:

The applicant can then appeal the matter to the NJ Superior Court which has final jurisdiction in the matter.

~ Confirmation of Planning Board's Approval:

Those who filed the original appeal and the public have the same right to appeal the matter to the NJ Superior Court.

~ Remanded back to the Planning Board:

Suggested revisions and/or modifications are considered by the board and once decided are then, again, referred to the Mayor and Council for their decision.

In other news, I have it on pretty good authority that the vacant office building and property opposite Oakes Park has been purchased by Public Service Electric and Gas. Also, interior demolition work has begun at the former Foodtown Supermarket. The word is that a national company, Grocery Outlet, will be occupying that space, hopefully, sometime in the near future. And, for the ice cream lovers among us, Dairy Queen has moved to a larger store located next the Mailbox Store still within the Bi-State Plaza.

I hope to see many of you at the Memorial Day Parade and services at Oakes Park on May 29th.

Sincerely,

*John M. Kramer*

Mayor  
Borough of Old Tappan