



Township of Egg Harbor

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Office of the Mayor

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April 6, 2010

Via Facsimile: 272-7224

Neill A. Borowski, Executive Editor/Content Director
The Press of Atlantic City
1000 West Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232

Dear Mr. Borowski:

Re: Public Golf Courses

I read a response by Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson to a recent story on public golf courses and their operation during these difficult economic times.

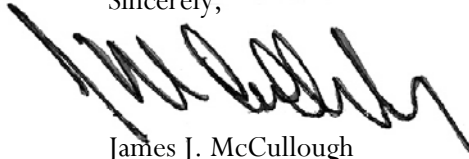
I would like to follow up on Egg Harbor Township's golf course. For many years the county landfill sat in the heart of our town. Residents had to deal with hundreds of trash trucks on our streets, seagull droppings, rats and terrible odors associated with the landfill on a daily basis. This is the first golf course in New Jersey built on a closed landfill. The conversion of a closed landfill into a golf course was a great re-use of spoiled land. It turned a negative in the community into a positive for the entire Township.

When it was scheduled to close, the Township Committee appointed a citizens group to determine the best use for the property. They chose a golf course because the NJDEP said no structures could be built on the landfill. Since we never operated a golf course, we retained a consultant to conduct a feasibility study. The report concluded that a public course was needed and it would be profitable. I met with the leading golf course owner in the area and sought his advice. He encouraged us to move forward as a public course was needed and it would help build the game. A member of his family helped construct the golf course. This same individual served on the County Green Tree Golf Course Advisory Board.

The Press of Atlantic City in a February 5, 1991 editorial entitled "Suited to a 'Tee'" commented that "Egg Harbor Township should be commended for acting quickly to turn a liability into an asset." On July 30, 2000 the Press of Atlantic City in an editorial entitled "At the Tee" commented that "A scarred landscape becomes a recreational opportunity. Egg Harbor Township deserves credit for taking the initiative on this a decade ago and pursuing it tirelessly."

The Township Committee in 1998 wanted to build it without using taxpayer's money as is done with all public facilities and not use Township employees to run it. For eight plus years it worked. Unfortunately, the golf course business like many other businesses has fallen on hard times and the awful weather this past year compounded the problem. We are going to continue operating the golf course with minimal reliance on the taxpayers. A rebound in the economy and weather will assist us in our efforts. Just like all municipal golf courses and facilities the local government is still ultimately responsible for their operation and the debt.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. McCullough', written in a cursive style.

James J. McCullough
Mayor