

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
COUNCIL MEETING

October 2, 2013

The Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Steinhardt. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865.

Mayor Steinhardt stated “adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Gazette and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

A prayer was offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Steinhardt, Council President Camporine, Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla and Councilwoman McCabe. Also present were Tax Collector Edinger, Attorney Campbell and Engineer Sterbenz.

Resolution No. 13-99 - was passed to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Public Comment: Public asked questions on agenda items.

Old Business:

Minutes – Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2013 with requested correction on vote by Councilwoman McCabe on August 7, 2013 minutes that she abstained from the vote as she was not in attendance at the meeting. Motion by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 2013-09 – Second reading and public hearing Petitioning the Clerk of Warren County to Place on the Ballot a Referendum to Increase the Open Space Tax. Motion to open the public hearing by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Discussion ensued with numerous questions and comments from the public. Comments from the following people are not verbatim. Tom McKay asked if a feasibility study was done for the project. Councilman Belcaro said there would be community involvement in the process if passed. Councilwoman Ciesla stated that she saw the plans for the community center from the first committee who was in touch with Forks, Palmer and other towns who have a community center. The public was informed that there were plans to hold many public information sessions going forward. She stated that she would like to start small, with just bathrooms and maybe a snack facility by the baseball fields/soccer fields. She noted that we need to generate more revenue for park improvements. Gena James asked to clarify what the project would be and where we are financially. Donna Schneider commented on the cost to upkeep a community center – cost a lot to paint ceilings. Even just bathrooms would cost a lot – to fix pipes. Marla Endick said Lori Ciesla is sincere but she didn't care if it was port-a-potties or a community center, the debt would be several million dollars and this says who you are and how you are in touch with the public. Even putting it out there is irresponsible. Ask the question about whether it makes sense or not. Just saying now might not be the right time. Council President Camporine said he didn't like having to agree with Marla; Lori is very sincere and went to a lot of trouble but agrees the timing isn't right. We are in the middle of re-evaluating properties and it doesn't look good. Lee Rozycki said it is not in the best interest of the town to increase the Open Space Tax. She was disappointed that Council was advised by the County Clerk. Disregarded the law, we are not in compliance with the statute, raise the bar of integrity and turn down the referendum. Various Council people as well as the Township Attorney advised the public the County Clerk accepted the Ordinance. Motion to close the public hearing by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Motion by Council President

Camporine to reject the second reading, seconded by Mayor Steinhardt with the caveat to reprint the ballots. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

Ordinance 2013-10 – Second reading and public hearing of Capital Ordinance for the replacement of a roof on Strykers Road Fire House in the amount of \$7,500.00. Motion to hold a public hearing by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. No questions from the public. Motion to close the public hearing by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-10

SECOND NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, held on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, the following Ordinance was presented and passed on the final reading. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law by title only.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A ROOF ON STRYKERS ROAD FIRE HOUSE NO. 2 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG AND APPROPRIATING \$7,500.00 FOR SUCH PURPOSE

Said Ordinance may be read and inspected at any time at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, Lopatcong Township Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt this Ordinance. Motion by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

Unistar Matter (School House Village Strip Mall) – Further discussion continued on the installation of a sewer line along Strykers Road leading to more questions and further due diligence by the applicant before Council can make a decision.

New Business:

Ordinance No. 13-11 – First reading to Delete Chapter 30 entitled “Industrial Commission” and Replace it with Chapter 19 entitled “Economic Development Advisory Committee”.

ORDINANCE NO. 13 – 11

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG,
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
TO DELTE CHAPTER 30 ENTITLED “INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION” AND REPLACE
IT WITH CHAPTER 19 ENTITLED “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE”**

WHEREAS, the Township Council is desirous of abolishing the Industrial Commission which has been inactive for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council wishes to create a new Advisory Committee to focus on the economic development of Lopatcong Township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Chapter 30 entitled “Industrial Commission”, shall be deleted in its entirety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that a new Chapter 19 be created entitled “Economic Development Advisory Committee” which shall be created as follows:

Section 1

Chapter 19. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

§ 19-1. Establishment

There is hereby established the Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey.

§19-2. Composition; powers and duties.

The Committee shall consist of not more than nine members and shall be a body corporate having the powers enumerated herein. In addition, there shall be two alternates to the Committee.

§ 19-3. Members and officers.

A. The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong. Each member shall be, for the last five years preceding this appointment, a citizen of the United States and a qualified voter of the State of New Jersey. One member shall be appointed for one year, two members for two years, two members for three years, two members for four years and two members for five years. Thereafter the term of each member shall be five years. In addition, two alternates shall be appointed, one for one year and one for two years. Thereafter the term of each alternate member shall be two years. Vacancies in the membership of the Committee, occurring for whatever cause, shall be promptly filled by appointment by the Mayor for the unexpired term thereof. Members shall serve for their respective terms and until their successors are appointed and qualified. No more than five members shall be from the same political party. A member of the governing body of the municipality shall not be appointed as a member of the Committee

B. Each member shall be chosen with a special view to his/her qualifications and fitness for service on the Committee. He/she shall have had experience in industry or commerce and shall be conversant with the economic development needs and facilities of the Township of Lopatcong and shall be of known devotion to public service.

C. There shall be appointed upon said Committee, unless local conditions shall otherwise require, one representative of industry or commerce, a representative of labor, one representative of banking or insurance, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce or a local business, a representative of the service clubs of such municipality, a representative of the legal profession and a representative of a recognized real estate dealers' association.

D. No member, officer or employee of the Committee shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contracts for work or materials used by the Committee or in any sales, leases or agreements in connection with lands, building or other property owned or controlled by it or in any fees or compensation of any kind paid to any broker, architect, engineer, merchant or other person doing business with the Committee member in any other transaction of or with the Committee or the benefits or profits thereof.

E. Each member and officer of the Committee shall, before assuming office, take and subscribe an oath that he/she will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of his/her office.

F. The Mayor shall choose annually from among the members of the Economic Development Advisory Committee a Chair and Vice Chair. The Mayor of the Township of Lopatcong shall be ex officio a member of the Committee, but he/she shall not have voting privileges.

G. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum of the Committee.

H. The members and officers may be required to furnish bonds to the Committee to secure the faithful discharge of their duties, in form, amount and with such surety as may from time to time be required by resolution of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong.

§ 19-4. Employees; offices.

A. Insofar as may be practicable, the employees and assistants required by the Committee shall be recruited from the public officers and employees of the municipality served by the Committee; the Municipal Engineer shall be the Engineer of the Committee; and the several departments of the municipal government shall be available to the Committee for the purposes of the Committee's business. Municipal employees serving the Committee shall do so without compensation, other than their regular compensation as employees of the municipality. The Committee shall, from time to time, make known to the Mayor of the Township of Lopatcong its wants in the nature of services by employees of the municipality, and the Mayor shall designate which of the municipality's employees, if any, shall render such services.

B. To the extent that the Committee shall deem it necessary to carry on its functions and to the extent that it shall consider the services of existing employees of the municipality insufficient for its purposes, it may employ such additional employees or services at such compensation as may be approved by resolution of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong. Its requirements in this direction shall be submitted from time to time, in writing, to the Council of the Township of Lopatcong.

C. The Committee shall have and maintain a suitable office where its maps, plans, documents, records shall be kept, subject to public inspection during reasonable business hours of the Committee. If practicable, existing office facilities of the municipality served by the Committee shall be used without charge by the municipality, and the office and similar equipment of the municipality shall, wherever possible, be made available for the use of the Committee without charge.

§19-5. Powers and duties; limitations.

To effectuate its purposes, the Committee hereby created shall have the following powers:

A. To adopt suitable bylaws for the management of its affairs. All by-laws must be approved by Township Council.

B. To inquire into, survey and publicize the extent, advantages and utility of the vacant land of the Township, whether municipality owned or otherwise.

C. To study and analyze the various industries of the nation and, to the extent it deems necessary for its purposes, the industries and businesses of other nations, with a view to ascertaining the opportunities for the commercial expansion of the Township. In this connection, the reports, records, statistics, compendia and similar documents of existing federal, state, county, municipal and other governmental and public agencies, as well as of responsible private institutions, boards, agencies and similar bodies interested in the compilation of the information relating to industry and business, shall be resorted to, wherever possible, in order to avoid original research and gathering of source material.

D. To recommend to the Township Council the methods of advertising the commercial advantages and opportunities of the Township of Lopatcong in the County of Warren and the availability of real estate within the Township for commercial settlement within the Township.

E. To investigate the availability of state or federal grants which may be available for general community development and particularly for development of commercial and industrial enterprises within the Township.

F. Make such additional studies as may be desirable and necessary to attract commercial ratables to the Township and to perform such other functions as may be directed from time to time by the Township Council.

G. Such Committee shall recommend to Council that it make an economic survey, analyzing the present and potential possibilities of the municipality, with a view to ascertaining its commercial needs. In carrying out such a survey, the Committee shall study the needs of existing local businesses so that means may be evolved to enable them to compete more successfully with competitors in other states; and more particularly how they might successfully round out and enlarge the business within the municipality with a view to diversifying and stabilizing employment conditions. The Committee may recommend any investigation deemed necessary to enable it effectually to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and, for that purpose, the Committee may take and hear proofs and testimony and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, records and documents, including public records, and its authorized agents may enter upon any lands as in its judgment may be necessary for the purpose of making surveys and examination to accomplish any purpose authorized by this chapter.

H. No Committee created under this chapter shall have any power of condemnation or eminent domain.

I. No Committee created under this chapter shall have power to pledge the credit of the municipality by which it is created or of any other municipality or of the State of New Jersey or to create any debt against or in any manner act as the agent of such municipality or of the State of New Jersey.

§ 19-6. Records and reports.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee shall make an annual report to the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, setting forth in detail its operations and transactions for the preceding 12 months, and shall include therein its receipts and disbursements during that period, if any. A copy of the report shall be filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk and be open to public inspection during the regular business hours of the Clerk's office.

§ 19-7 Meetings

The Economic Development Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly and at the call of the Chairperson.

Section 2:

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3:

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

Section 4:

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong held on October 2, 2013 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on November 6, 2013 at 7 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance at the

Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC
Township Clerk

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading. Council President Camporine made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. . Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.
NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 13-12 – First reading to Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 227 entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”, including Section 25 “Multi-Way Stop Intersections” Relative to the Intersection of Strykers Road and Belview Road.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-12

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 227 "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", INCLUDING SECTION 25 “MULTI-WAY STOP INTERSECTIONS” RELATIVE TO THE INTERSECTION OF STRYKERS ROAD AND BELVIEW ROAD

WHEREAS, Chapter 227 "Vehicles and Traffic" of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong contains various parking and traffic regulations; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend provisions relative to multi-way stop intersections to include the intersection of Strykers Road and Belview Road to improve safety; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Chapter 227 "Vehicles and Traffic", Section 25 be amended, revised and supplemented as follows:

SECTION 1

The portion of 227-25 relative to multi-way stop intersections shall be amended to add the following intersection:

<u>Intersection</u>	<u>Stop Sign On</u>
Strykers Road and Belview Road	Strykers Road (both legs) and Belview Road (both legs)

SECTION 2

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 3

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

SECTION 4

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

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Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading. Council President Camporine made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. . Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 13-13 – First reading to Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 183 entitled “Sewers” to provide a refund in cash or credit for overpayments.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-13

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 183, “SEWERS,” SECTION 10.1, “SECOND WATER METER,” SUBSECTION F OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG TO ALLOW OVERPAYMENTS TO BE APPLIED AS A REFUND OR A CREDIT.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, has determined that Chapter 183, “Sewers,” Section 10.1, “Second Water Meter,” Subsection F of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong shall be amended, revised and supplemented to allow for a refund or credit of sewer overpayment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Chapter 183, “Sewers,” Section 10.1, “Second Water Meter,” Subsection F of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong shall be amended, revised and supplemented as follows:

Section 1:

- F. The resident shall submit a reading to the Township Sewer Collector on or before October 15 of each year. Any and all abatements may be in the form of a refund and/or a credit. The Township shall have discretion to determine whether an abatement will be paid as a refund or a credit. All credits shall be received during the fourth quarter of that year. If the amount of the credit exceeds the sewer bill for the fourth quarter, the balance of the credit shall be applied to the first quarter for the following year.

Section 2:

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3:

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

Section 4:

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong held on October 2, 2013, and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on November 6, 2013 at 7 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC
Township Clerk

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading. Council President Camporine made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.
NAYS: None

Fair School Funding Plan – Council will invite Senator Doherty to the next meeting to make a presentation of his plan to the public.

Best Practices Checklist – Council discussed the Best Practices Checklist required by the Department of Community Affairs. Motion to approve the submission by Councilwoman Ciesla, seconded by Council President Camporine. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.
NAYS: None

Uniform Shared Services Agreement with Warren County Health Dept. – Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to renew our agreement with the Warren County Health Dept. Motion by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.
NAYS: None

Lopatcong Athletic Association – Approve appointment of Robert Bisci as Treasurer. Motion by Councilwoman Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.
NAYS: None

Recreation Commission – Approve appointment of Robert Liston and Alyssa Robertson as members of the Recreation Commission. . Motion by Councilwoman Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.
NAYS: None

Delaware Park Engine Co. – Approve membership to Delaware Park Engine Company as recommended by Chief LaFord for Raymond Tomei, Tylor Hopkins and Charles Argila, Jr. Motion by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.
NAYS: None

Announcements: Cleanup is scheduled for October 5th from 7:00 to 12:00 noon at Fire House No. 2 on Strykers Road and the Municipal Pool parking lot. Halloween is Thursday, October 31, 2013 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Council Reports:

Councilman Belcaro – Sewer Engineer Joe Pryor retired and his associate Dan Madden will be our contact going forward. The USDA authorized the contracts be signed which will then allow us to hold the pre-construction meeting so the project can start.

Councilwoman Ciesla – The new LAA Treasurer, Bob Bisci, will work to transition in the position as well as have the books audited. A meeting will be set up with Township CFO to discuss what expenses the Township will be responsible for and what the LAA will be responsible for. Also, the LAA Bylaws will undergo a review suggesting changes that the Council will authorize under the advisement of Attorney Campbell.

The DPW received quotes for the replacement of the Field House roof, lowest bidder being Affordable Home Maintenance at \$3500.00. Motion by Councilwoman Ciesla, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

Councilwoman Ciesla informed the public that the school board does not have a liaison connected to the Council and suggested to the Board President, Mr. Taggart, if it would be possible to have one appointed. Mr. Taggart said he will address this at their meeting on Tuesday and if they want, they will appoint someone. Councilwoman Ciesla would like to meet with the School Board to discuss shared services. She also suggested we have Senator Doherty meet with us to discuss school funding and suggested we include the Phillipsburg School Board as well. In order to control our taxes, we must look into every bucket, including school and county taxes as they represent the majority of our tax bill.

Councilwoman Ciesla stated that the Council has the most accurate information; there is no conspiracy or corruption here. Miscommunications lead to discord amongst the residents, the Council, and the Township employees. We continue to bring the most up-to-date information to our website, facebook and through twitter. Residents can contact us through email, or directly by telephone. We ask that you bring your questions and concerns directly to us so as to avoid misinformation.

The Salary Committee Report will explain the laws and educate the public. Once you understand something you are better poised to evaluate and have questions that can be answered honestly. The Council has access to the most accurate information and suggested to the public that they contact Council directly. Councilwoman Ciesla said she wished there was not so much animosity and she pointed out questions will be answered honestly.

Councilwoman McCabe – Reported the South Warren Regional Police Commission is in the process of setting up a meeting with Civil Service to get the status of their findings. The non-economic proposal is completed.

There was no Planning Board meeting in September.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee is replacing the Industrial Commission and the Ordinance has undergone numerous changes. Two applications have already been received and Council is looking to fill seven more spots.

Council President Camporine – Cleanup is this Saturday and computers and other technical equipment must be recycled at the pool parking lot only.

Mayor Steinhardt – Asked Council for a motion to eliminate Longevity pay for non-union employees and amend the Personnel Policy to reflect this. Motion by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

Mayor Steinhardt reported that as part of our Best Practices Checklist, points can be earned by elected officials who attend education courses approved by the DCA. Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt a policy to require our officials to attend educational courses in those areas approved by the DCA. Motion by Council President Camporine, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Ciesla, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Camporine and Mayor Steinhardt.

NAYS: None

Engineer Sterbenz – reported that a written request to the County engineer to lower speed limits on Belvidere Road and create bicycling lanes was denied.

Also sidewalks near the high school site are planned and an agreement is in place to install once the high school construction begins.

Audience Participation:

Juniper Leifer – asked to speak to something Lori said noting not a fan of animosity. Juniper felt it shameful that there was a breakdown of communications and that the punishment does not fit the crime.

Ms. Leifer noted that there was an expert witness hired with regard to the Township Planner George Ritter and did it require Council votes. Attorney Campbell addressed this and said she believes he was subpoenaed by the Plaintiffs.

Councilwoman Ciesla responded to Juniper Leifer that everything that anyone has come to us to talk about has been dealt with. She said she does not feel intentions are to clear the air but for gotcha moments. Councilwoman Ciesla and McCabe felt that the things they were being asked to do were unethical and they were not comfortable with what was being asked of them.

Councilwoman Ciesla said “at the end of the day, I need to set an example for my children and protect the residents of Lopatcong”. She said she did lose her patience because she felt this is about personal vendettas and takes away from the business of the town that needs to be done.

Councilwoman McCabe said Lori does over and above in her job. Tonight’s exchange is disrespectful and started from the audience first. Councilwoman Ciesla told you four times the County Clerk gave us permission. I do not like being accused. Sometimes I think you say we do things to screw you. You consistently badger and belittle the hard working employees in this Township and I am sick and tired of the badgering.

Gena James – questioned the Council Hours and asked if there were minutes taken. Also thanked the Council regarding the Unistar sewer matter and hoped that if the sewer matter is approved that she would appreciate an agreement with all the costs covered as well as a letter notifying the homeowners.

Diane Hall – asked Council who was responsible for the solar farm and how the property looks like a dump.

Bill Taggart – thanked the Council for the installation of the stop sign at Belvidere and Belview Roads. Asked about marking the road before the stop sign “stop sign ahead”.

Lee Rozycki – asked Lori if she will make a formal approval on the Salary Report at the November meeting. Councilwoman Ciesla will also put the information on the website.

Harvey Walters – Thanked the elected officials for doing a good job with the Township.

Eric Johnson – asked about a four-way stop sign at Stonehenge between Red School and Buckley Hill as well as bike routes on Belvidere and Red School Lane. He noted he is concerned about safety.

Andy Horun – thanked Lori for working to restore the LAA website. Asked about former employee Janet Swim and the years she was employed along with her titles, pay and benefits and

how he can get that information. Also asked if he could get copies of minutes where Martin Swim was making complaints.

Donna Schneider – stood up and said she had a concern about a council person who yelled at her. She said Councilwoman Ciesla kind of yelled at her after the last meeting and her tone was sarcastic and bad. Councilwoman Ciesla stated that she did not yell at Ms. Schneider and reminded her that their conversation was private. Both Mayor Steinhardt and Attorney Campbell advised Councilwoman Ciesla and Ms. Schneider that private conversations should not be addressed at a public meeting. Ms. Schneider asked what was being done with the cat situation in her neighborhood. Councilwoman Ciesla informed Ms. Schneider Council was doing everything they could to take care of the problem but there were complaints of Ms. Schneider trespassing on private property. Mr. Olchewski yelled out eighteen cats and you complain about her on the property. CFO Dobes spoke out and told Mr. Olchewski that the Township is taking care of the issue and just paid a bill to have seven cats euthanized. Councilwoman Ciesla noted that there are ways to deal with the cat matter that are non-toxic.

Juniper Leifer – yelled out to Councilwoman Ciesla that she should not forget who put her in the position she is in right now. Ms. Leifer stated that Councilwoman Ciesla was obligated to them because they put her on Council. This statement was repeated numerous times.

Jim Mengucci – Councilwoman Ciesla is doing a good job and directed his next comment to Ms. Leifer “we put you in there and she owes favors” –these are implications coming out of your mouth – “This favor and that favor”. This is beyond my comprehension. He went on to say to Ms. Leifer that he thought she has come to Council meetings for the better part of 1 ½ years and has been nothing but a divisive factor. He went on to say “if you want to do something, show some guts and put your name on the ballot”.

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

Douglas J. Steinhardt
Mayor