

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
COUNCIL MEETING

March 5, 2014

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 Ciesla, Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe and Councilwoman Schneider. Also present were Tax Collector Edinger, Attorney Campbell and Engineer Sterbenz.

Resolution No. 14-39 - was passed to hold an Executive Session to discuss contracts, potential litigation and attorney/client privilege matters. Motion to go out of Executive Session by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. All in favor.

Veterans War Memorial Dedication – Mayor Steinhardt invited Mr. Nixon of the Lopatcong Veterans War Memorial Committee and his associates to come forward and talk about their project.

Mr. Nixon – Mr. Mayor and members of Town Council, it is a pleasure to be here. We are representing the Lopatcong Veterans Memorial Committee and I would like to make everyone aware of who is serving on that committee. We have Terry Lee. Terry is a Coast Guard Veteran. We have Konnie Mellert an Air force Veteran, myself a Navy Veteran, Terry Stocker, Marine Veteran, Brian Weeks, Lopatcong Dept. of Public Works Superintendent and Gary Woolf a Navy Veteran. We are serving on the committee to develop a Lopatcong Veterans Memorial in the Township. I've given you a copy of the people contributing with everything we are doing. The Lopatcong Veterans Memorial site will be placed at the Lopatcong Municipal Park at the base of the walking path near the Green Acres Sign and the Park Layout Display. The pad will be a 10 X 20 stamped concrete pad and there will be a memorial stone, a marker, gray granite which we purchased through Phillipsburg Memorial Company and it will be brought to us from Vermont. The verbiage on the marker was agreed upon by the members of the committee and I would like to share with you the verbiage that will be on that marker. “In honor of all courageous men and women of Lopatcong Township who to defend Americas freedom served, died, or remained missing from our armed forces. We are grateful for their sacrifice”. This will be dedicated May 17, 2014 and that will also be on the marker. There will be two, 20' flag poles externally lighted; one for the American Flag and one for the POW-MIA Flag. There will be electricity installed at the site. It will light the poles, flags, and electrical outlets. We are recommending for future use that this site be used for memorial ceremonies, families, community and veterans to pay their respects, teaching moment for our youth and our families so we can properly dispose of unserviceable American Flags. We plan to install benches at a later date. We can hold an annual Veterans Memorial tribute there, a ceremony. There is discussion about holding a baseball tournament there which would coincide with a veterans program at the same time. A lot of use can be made of this area. We also, as a part of this committee, knew that we had to identify who our Lopatcong Township Veterans were. We weren't sure. Through some dogged work by Konnie Mellert and Terry Stocker and of course the other members of the committee, we have identified over 300 veterans in our Township and over 70 widows or widowers in our Township. We've also uncovered who we think is our oldest living Veteran in our Township and that would be Terry Lee's uncle; he is 94 years old and a WWII Veteran and POW. We also uncovered a few MIA's and four AIA's from WWI and we know that we have two KIA's from Vietnam. We're actively pursuing donations and I listed for you some of the process we are using to solicit those donations and we'll be working at that so we can cover the expenses for the site. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for May 17, 2014, that is a Saturday and there is no rain date and it will be held at the Lopatcong Municipal Park at the Lopatcong

Veterans Memorial site. We are presently working on that dedication ceremony and what will take place pre-ceremony and post ceremony. Plans are under construction along with our Recreation Committee in the Township and our Youth Athletic Association. We will be including a "Field of Flags" which people may purchase a flag that will be installed on the field. The entire Lopatcong Township community will be invited. Everyone will receive a letter inviting them along with our Veterans and the families Veterans. The Lopatcong School District has been invited; band and choir to perform. A middle school student will read an essay. There will be an essay contest. Students attending the high school from Lopatcong will be involved in some way. There will be several Veterans organizations attending. This will be very military in style. We will be posting the colors and working on all those contacts right now. Red Ball, a local military historical restoration organization will be there with their vehicles. I understand maybe 25 restored military vehicles. The Daughters of the American Revolution have contacted me already, having found out about this, and they will be there. We will be sending invitations out to our police department, our fire departments, our emergency squad and all other volunteer organizations and civic organizations in the Township and surrounding communities. The Veterans Memorial Committee would also like to request that a portion of the road leading to the Lopatcong Municipal Park be named Veterans Way and properly identified before the scheduled dedication ceremony. Work will continue with regard to identifying our Township Veteran's. Criteria is simple; any Veteran who lived in Lopatcong Township at any time. We would like to display their names, branch of service and years served somewhere in our Township, eventually. Work for the Lopatcong Veterans Memorial Committee will continue until the project is complete and identified projects related to our Township Veterans, our comrades and their families are developed and completed. We thank you very much for all the support you've given us. I came to the Mayor many months ago about this concept and he has been extremely cooperative and given us the green light to do everything we need to do to make this happen. We're well under way.

Public Comment Agenda Items:

Mayor Steinhardt – You're asking about one, two and three. If you have a comment about them, feel free to make it otherwise when we get to each one we will go over

Carlos Correa – I came in and made a request for numbers one and two to see if I could read before but I was told I couldn't so. I cannot make a comment on something I haven't read.

Mayor Steinhardt – They are going to be explained in depth to all of us in a matter of seconds.

Carlos Correa – Thank you.

Mayor Steinhardt – You're very welcome. Any other comments?

Minutes: All right moving on to Item No. 1 to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2014 meeting. Everyone's had a chance to review those; questions, comments? Motion. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. All in favor.

Resolution No. 14-40 – Authorizing appointment of Jonathon Eriksen as Sergeant Provisionally.

R 14-40

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIING APPOINTMENT OF JONATHON ERIKSEN AS SERGEANT PROVISIONALLY IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PENDING CERTIFIED LIST OF ELIGIBLES FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby authorize the appointment of Jonathon Eriksen as Sergeant provisionally in the Police Department pending Certified List of Eligibles from the Civil Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, Jonathon Eriksen will be paid a salary according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Jonathon Eriksen is hereby appointed Sergeant in the Police Department provisionally and shall be paid pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt this Resolution. Motion by Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Council President Ciesla. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 14-01 – Second reading and public hearing to abolish the Recreation Commission and in its place and stead, create a Recreation Committee. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. No comments from the public. Motion to close the public hearing by Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Council President Ciesla.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-01

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, March 5, 2014 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 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCNG,
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
ABOLISHING THE RECREATION COMMISSION, AND IN
ITS PLACE AND STEAD, CREATING A RECREATION
COMMITTEE

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 Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Council President Ciesla. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

New Business:

Resolution No. 14-41 – Authorizing application to the Local Finance Board for its approval of a proposed refunding bond ordinance authorizing payment of amounts owed by the Township to the owners of various properties for taxes levied in the Township.

Auditor John Mooney – You have a resolution before you which authorizes you to prepare an application to the Local Finance Board. What this application will do is give the Finance Board an opportunity to review your three tax appeals that have been settled and give you the ability to

pay back that tax appeal over the course of five years. This coincides with the Bond Ordinance (No. 2 on the agenda) for \$993,000 payback over those five years. The reason we are asking for five years is to limit the tax impact on the average local tax payer. If it is paid back over one year, it would be a \$275.00 increase to the average local tax payer. If it is paid back over the course of five years, it would be a \$58 increase to the average local tax payer. So what the resolution does is allow you to file an application and the ordinance allows you to payback.

Mayor Steinhardt – The breakdown of what the sums were or do you have a breakdown of what the sums are, I think there, oh I'm sorry here they are. So the Phillipsburg Mall and my understanding of the essence of the Phillipsburg Mall refund is that it had been assessed at \$80 million dollars and it was sold recently for \$11,500,000 and there was an instant appeal as a result of the what they perceive to be an over assessment for the tax years 2009, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Ms. Campbell and her office, in negotiating with the new members of the mall, were able to get them to withdraw the appeals for 2009 and 10 which I guess saved us another roughly \$800,000 in refunds and is recommending we accept the remaining appeals for the remaining three years; 11, 12 and 13 \$793,198.10.

The former Advantor headquarters, 222 Red School Lane, was apparently sold at auction for \$296,000 and then turned around and sold, I guess in 2013, for \$950,000. The parties agreed to an assessment of \$1.6 million which results in a refund from us of \$28,998.94 and the last is Strykers Golf, sort of an interesting one, Strykers Golf filed appeals for 2010 thru 13, they were able to negotiate a withdrawal of the 2010 appeal leaving 11, 12 and 13. The refund amount there is \$159,262.54. However, it is my understanding that they are in arrears to the Township for a little more than \$160,000. Correct? The law requires, or we require that they cannot pursue their appeal or we issue a refund till they pay their back taxes. So it is my understanding that Strykers is borrowing the money to pay us and then we have to refund them the \$159,262.54. I think that makes up the roughly \$993,000 and it is also my understanding that by going to the Local Finance Board, there are a multitude of options that we can ask that it be repaid back over a series of years; anywhere from one, three, five or even seven years but I guess the impact is under \$50 per household, I guess, for the average residential households, the Board won't consider it. So for the \$58 bucks it gets us to five years. Okay.

Did you guys handle the one in White Township a few years back when they had the big appeal for (inaudible)?

Auditor Dave Evans – (Inaudible).

Mayor Steinhardt – What were, given me the, what were the, give me the rundown of those. What were the White Township ones and how did they end up with the Local Finance Board. White Township was, was that the old Hoffman LA Roche.

Auditor Dave Evans – (Inaudible).

Mayor Steinhardt – And what was the amount there 3 ½ million?

Auditor John Mooney – Three and a half million.

Mayor Steinhardt – Okay and Belvidere had BASF?

Auditor John Mooney- (Inaudible).

Mayor Steinhardt – What was the other one? Pohat? I don't remember. What was Pohat? Was as a result of the mall too?

Auditor John Mooney – Yes.

Mayor Steinhardt – Yeah but they had sixty some percent of the mall.

Auditor John Mooney – (Inaudible).

Mayor Steinhardt - Bottom line folks is that in order to not have to impose this burden on all of us in a single year, we are looking to deal with it to pay it back over a period of time. But the

fact of the matter is those properties sold at far less than what they had previously been appraised for and as a result, well not the golf course, they've been appealing for years, but the golf course it is what it is in terms of the values of golf courses, I guess these days, but the other two were based on retail purchases of those two properties that were far less than their previously assessed values. So that's the situation we find ourselves in but as you hear Ms. Campbell and Mr. Evans indicate, fortunately we are better off than our neighbors in Pohat and some of the other folks that have had to go through similar situations in the past with substantial appeals. Questions or comments from other Council members? Financial advisors.

Council President Ciesla – What is the assessment of the mall?

Mayor Steinhart – Actually you got the assessment of the mall, they actually agreed to pay more.

Attorney Campbell – They bought the mall in 2013 for \$11.5 million and just for our thirty percent, we have them over that amount. They've agreed to pay (inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – Do you know what the whole value is between Pohat and Lopat?

Attorney Campbell – It's not on-line yet (inaudible).

Mayor Steinhart – So we are clear, we can't go back and ask to stretch this out to seven because it's going to be a mandatory denial.

Councilman Belcaro – I have a question, just to be clear, so our audience can understand, when you say one year, if we had to pay back, so we choose to pay back in one year, it would be \$275.00 the average.

Auditor John Mooney – The average local taxes

Councilman Belcaro – Just a onetime \$275.00. Now if we stretch it out over five years at \$58.00.

Auditor John Mooney - \$58.00 dollar per year.

Councilman Belcaro - \$58.00 per year for five years.

Auditor John Mooney – Correct.

Councilman Belcaro – Okay so we have an understanding here. Thank you.

Mayor Steinhart – Any other questions from Council?

Council President Ciesla – The only question I have is everybody, everybody now has been reassessed and they're in the tax book with the newest rate?

Mayor Steinhart – Yes.

R 14-41

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY MAKING APPLICATION TO THE LOCAL FINANCE BOARD
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:2-51 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY (the "Township") desires to make application to the Local Finance Board for its approval of a proposed refunding bond ordinance authorizing the payment of amounts owed by the Township; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. The application to the Local Finance Board is hereby approved and the Township's Bond Counsel and Auditor, along with other representatives of the Township in matters pertaining thereto.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Township is hereby directed to prepare and file a copy of the proposed bond ordinance with the Local Finance Board as part of such application.

Section 3. The Local Finance Board is hereby respectfully requested to consider such application and to record its findings, recommendations and/or approvals as provided by the applicable New Jersey Statute.

Recorded Vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adopt this Resolution. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 2014-02 – First reading of Bond Ordinance to refund payment amounts to various property owners due to tax appeal settlements.

ORDINANCE 14-02

REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWING TO OTHERS FOR TAXES LEVIED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$993,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$993,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING THE COST THEREOF.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Township of Lopatcong, New Jersey (the "Township") is hereby authorized to pay an aggregate amount not exceeding \$981,444.58 for amounts owed by the Township to the owners of various properties for taxes levied in the Township, as set forth in a schedule on file with the Tax Collector (the "Schedule"), pursuant to the Local Bond Law of the State of New Jersey, constituting Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended and supplemented (the "Local Bond Law").

Section 2. An aggregate amount not exceeding \$11,555.32 for items of expense listed in and permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-51(b) has been included in the aggregate principal amount of refunding bonds authorized herein.

Section 3. In order to finance the cost of the project described in Section 1 hereof, negotiable refunding bonds are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount not exceeding \$993,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law.

Section 4. In anticipation of the issuance of the refunding bonds, negotiable bond anticipation notes are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. All refunding bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer, provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with notes issued pursuant to this ordinance, and the Chief Financial Officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations.

All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time, but all such notes including renewals shall mature and be paid no later than the fifth anniversary of the date of the original notes; provided, however, that no notes shall be renewed beyond the first or any succeeding anniversary date of the original notes unless an amount of such notes, at least equal to the first legally payable installment of the bonds in anticipation of which the notes are issued, determined in accordance with the maturity schedule for the bonds approved by the Local Finance Board, is paid and retired on or before such anniversary date; and provided, further, that the period during which the bond anticipation notes and any renewals thereof and any permanent bonds are outstanding, shall not exceed the period set for the maturity of the bonds by the Local Finance Board.

The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 5. The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Clerk of the Township and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services. Such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the debt provided in this bond ordinance by \$993,000. The obligations authorized herein will be within all debt limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

Section 6. A certified copy of this refunding bond ordinance as adopted on first reading has been filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey prior to final adoption, together with a complete statement in the form prescribed by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services and signed by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township as to the indebtedness to be financed by the issuance of the refunding bonds authorized herein.

Section 7. The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. The obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Township for the payment of the obligations and the interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 8. This bond ordinance constitutes a declaration of official intent under Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2. The Township reasonably expects to pay expenditures with respect to the tax amounts owing as set forth on the Schedule prior to the date that Township incurs debt obligations under this bond ordinance. The Township reasonably expects to reimburse such expenditures with the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the Township under this Bond Ordinance. The maximum principal amount of debt expected to be issued for payment of the costs of tax amounts owing as set forth on the Schedule is \$993,000.

Section 9. This bond ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law, provided that the consent of the Local Finance Board has been endorsed upon a certified copy of this ordinance as finally adopted.

NOTICE

The Bond Ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, on March 5, 2014. It will be further considered for final passage after public hearing thereon at a meeting of the governing body to be held at the Township Council at the Municipal Building, 50 Municipal Drive, in said Township on May 7, 2014 at 7 o'clock p.m. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of the full ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's Office for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: Refunding Bond Ordinance Providing For Payment Of Amounts Owing To Others For Taxes Levied In And By The Township Of Lopatcong, In The County Of Warren, New Jersey, Appropriating \$993,000 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$993,000 Bonds Or Notes Of The Township For Financing The Cost Thereof.

Purpose(s): Payment of amounts owed by the Township to the owners of various properties for taxes levied in the Township, as set forth on the Schedule on file with the Tax Collector.

Appropriation: \$993,000

Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$993,000

Grants (if any) Appropriated: None

Section 20 Costs: \$11,555.32

Useful Life: N/A

M. BETH DILTS
CLERK

This Notice is published pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17

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

Mayor Steinhardt – Ms. Campbell pointed out to me that part of our doing Items one, and thank you gentlemen very much, part of our handling Items one and two, includes the \$159,262.54 to Strykers Golf which I made previous reference, but Council has not set the sum by settlement. Ms. Campbell's recommendation that we do so (inaudible). So with that caveat attached Council accepts the \$159,262.54 subject to the payment of Strykers Golf's arrears first. Motion by Councilwoman Schneider, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilwoman Schneider, Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Ciesla, and Mayor Steinhardt.
NAYS: None

Resolution No. 14-42 – Authorizing an addition of 1/12th of the 2013 Municipal Budget and Sewer Operating Budget to the 2014 Municipal Budget and Sewer Operating Budget – Municipal Operating Budget in the amount of \$489,235.00 and Sewer Operating Budget in the amount of \$131,181.00.

Mayor Steinhardt – Resolution authorizing an addition of 1/12th of the 2013 Budget and 1/12th of the 2013 Sewer Operating Budget. Is that correct?

CFO Dobes – Yes.

Mayor Steinhardt – Okay so they’re two separate items to the 2014 Municipal Budget and 2014 Sewer Operating Budget. Correct?

CFO Dobes – Yes.

Mayor Steinhardt – Municipal Operating budget in the amount of \$489,235.00 and Sewer Operating Budget in the amount of \$131,181.00. We are transferring 1/3rd of last years, whatever, was left over, I guess, into the

CFO Dobes – (Inaudible).

Mayor Steinhardt – Any questions for Ms. Dobes?

Councilwoman Schneider – So just to understand, there is not a surplus, we are just taking, using, switching money?

CFO Dobes – No, no, no. Using last year’s budget, local finance 2014-15 Local Budget Law allows us to do that.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay.

Mayor Steinhardt – We are using last year’s budget number until we have approval of the budget number for this year. Okay. Any other questions or comments for Ms. Dobes?

R 14-42

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AN ADDITION OF 1/12TH OF THE 2013 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND SEWER OPERATING BUDGET TO THE 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND SEWER OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS, as per New Jersey Local Budget Law, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong may add 1/12th of the 2013 budget appropriations to the 2014 Temporary Municipal Budget and Sewer Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, said 1/12th of the 2013 budget appropriations of the 2014 Temporary Municipal Budget is \$489,235 and 1/12th of the 2014 Temporary Sewer Budget is \$131,181 as shown on Schedule A attached.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to add to the 2014 Temporary Municipal Budget 1/12th of the 2013 budget appropriations in the amount of \$489,235 and to add to the 2014 Temporary Sewer Operating Budget, 1/12th of the 2013 budget appropriations in the amount of \$131,181.

SCHEDULE A

Appropriations for Municipal Operating Budget \$489,235.00

Account No.	Appropriation	Amount
10529020	Road Maintenance OE	-\$25,385.00
10531020	Buildings and Grounds Other Expenses	-\$2,500.00
105375095	Garbage and Trash Removal	-\$1,000.00
10510120	Postage	-\$1,000.00
10510520	Human Resource Education	-\$500.00
10515010	Tax Assessor Salary & Wages	-\$5,000.00
10519810	Fire Inspector S & W- Uniform Fire Safety Act	-\$2,000.00
10547120	Public Employees Retirement System	-\$148,742.00
10547520	Police & Fire Retirement System	-\$303,108.00

Appropriation for Sewer Operating Budget \$131,181.00

Account No. Appropriation Amount

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Lopatcong Veterans War Memorial and Dedication Ceremony –

Mayor Steinhardt – I want to ask Council to consider tonight approving the renaming of Amey Street to Veterans Way in anticipation and recognition of the Township's Veterans and also in recognition of the soon to be memorial there based on Mr. Nixon's request and that of his Veteran's Committee. There's no reason why Amey Street was dedicated, it wasn't dedicated as Amey Street years ago for any reason was it?

Council President Ciesla – They want to leave it as Amey Street coming in and when you get to St. Charles Alley that's where they want it start, St. George, they want to start Veteran's Way at that point. Because they didn't want to trample on the name (inaudible).

DPW Superintendent Brian Weeks – We were talking about it but we don't know exactly but.

Mayor Steinhardt – So the request is to run it right up to.

DPW Superintendent Brian Weeks – Straight up to.

Council President Ciesla – Okay.

Mayor Steinhardt – Nobody has, there's no mailing addresses on Amey are there.

Council President Ciesla – No.

Mayor Steinhardt – It's just a dedicated street. Okay and it wasn't named that way when we put, because somebody gave us the land for the pool or somebody gave us the land for the park or anything that? Jim? No. All right. Paul no problems doing it?

Engineer Sterbenz – The only thing you'll have to do for Amey Street as mentioned in Chapter 227 of your ordinance which is your traffic regulations. So at some time in the future, when we do another traffic ordinance, you would make that change at that point.

Mayor Steinhardt - Can we make that introduction tonight too to try to keep it consistent or don't we have to?

Engineer Sterbenz – I don't think it's vital. I think we can wait. There's going to be a traffic ordinance at some point this year and we can do it at that time.

Mayor Steinhardt – Just make a note so we don't forget. Any other Council members have any questions or concerns with making the name change.

Councilwoman Schneider – I just want to make sure that that is the case. If that's a definite that there's no name that's being, that was dedicated, that's a definite or we don't, don't think so.

Mayor Steinhardt – Paul, it's a done deal right, the day we make the vote here we can change the street sign, correct?

Engineer Sterbenz – Correct.

Mayor Steinhardt – All right. Cause it doesn't require any other DOT approvals because it doesn't connect between county roads or anything like that. Why don't we do this, why don't

we see what we can find out what we can about why it was Amey Street, if there's any history at all before uh. Ask Bill Baker, he remembers all this stuff. Konnie Mellert will know.

Council President Ciesla – Konnie's on the committee.

Mayor Steinhardt – Nothing?

Konnie Mellert – No.

Mayor Steinhardt – If you don't know, nobody's going to know. Okay. Just try to do some digging. See what we can find out. My only concern would be something that was dedicated for some family reason, sometime back. It would be incumbent upon us to respect that it was done for something, for a purpose. We can go back when the property was dedicated for the pool, see if something was done then. I can't think of anybody before that. Jim.

Jim Mengucci – (Inaudible).

Mayor Steinhardt – So why don't you put it on the agenda for April. That will be plenty of time to get it done for May if we decide to do it. Be mindful of Ms. Schneider and my concerns. Anybody else? So we can hold off on that.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Steinhardt - Items one through twelve are a Consent Agenda reflecting several grant applications, approving resolutions regarding the redemption of tax sale certificates, a transfer of appropriations for Municipal Appropriations reserve Budget and appointment of Mr. Lelko as Soccer Director, donation of individual pool pass to Warren County Technical PTA, a Bandwidth Rights Of Way Agreement for fiber optic lines, and Fire Company No. 2 request for junior member.

Attorney Campbell – Stated a letter to be sent to the PEG Bandwidth Agreement

Mayor Steinhardt – A motion for one through twelve omitting eleven. Any questions or comments? Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Ciesla. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Steinhardt – And then a motion authorizing Ms. Campbell to send a letter to PEG Bandwidth regarding their proposed rights-of-Way Agreement. Again, based on her recent recommendation. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 14-43 – Authorizing participation in the Safe and Secure Communities Program administered by the Division of Criminal Justice Department of Law and Public Safety.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

RESOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong wishes to apply for funding for a project under the Safe and Secure Communities Program; and

WHEREAS, the Lopatcong Township Mayor and Council has reviewed the accompanying application and has approved said request; and

WHEREAS, the project is a joint effort between the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Township of Lopatcong for the purpose described in the application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Lopatcong that

1. As a matter of public policy the Mayor and Council wishes to participate to the fullest extent possible with the Department of Law and Public Safety.
2. The Attorney General will receive funds on behalf of the applicant.
3. The Division of Criminal Justice shall be responsible for the receipt and review of the applications for said funds.
4. The Division of Criminal Justice shall initiate allocations to each applicant as authorized.

CERTIFICATION OF RECORDING OFFICER

This is to certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy of a Resolution which was duly and regularly introduced and finally adopted at a meeting of the Township of Lopatcong held on the 5th day of March, 2014 and duly recorded in my office; that all requirements of law pertaining to the conduct of said meeting and the passage of this Resolution were observed; and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

DATED this 5th day of March, 2014

Margaret B. Dilts
Certifying Officer

Clerk/Administrator
Grant #P 5180-12

Green Communities 2014 Grant – Authorizing application to Green Communities 2014 for a grant in the amount of \$3,000 with in-kind match of \$3,000 to hire grant writer for the renewal of our Community Forestry Management Plan.

Resolution No. 14-44 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-030 and Premium on Block 116.14, Lot 4 C0034 in the amount of \$944.38.

R 14-44

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 116.14, LOT C0034 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$944.38

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on June 19, 2013, a lien was sold on Block 116.14, Lot 4 C0034 also known as 34 Limerick Lane for 2012 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-030 was sold to US Bank Cust for Pro Cap II, LLC for a Premium of \$400.00; and

WHEREAS, JP Morgan Chase Bank, mortgage company for property owners, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2013-030 in the amount of \$544.38.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of March, 2014, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount \$944.38 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-030 and Premium to:

US BANK CUST FOR PRO CAP II, LLC
50 S. 16th St., Suite 1950
Philadelphia, PA 19102

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 14-45 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-006 on Block 28, Lot 4 in the amount of \$8,103.09.

R 14-45

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE
NO. 2013-006 ON BLOCK 28, LOT 4

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on June 19, 2014, a lien was sold on Block 28, Lot 4 also known as 1107 Belvidere Road for 2012 delinquent taxes; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-006 was sold to US Bank Cust. for Pro Cap II, LLC for 3% interest; and

WHEREAS, Kolb, Vasiliadis & Florenz, LLC, a law firm for property owners has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2013-006 in the amount of \$8,103.09.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of March, 2014, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$8,103.09 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-006 to:

US BANK CUST FOR PRO CAP II, LLC
50 S. 16th St., Suite 1950
Philadelphia, PA 19102

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 14-46 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-029 and Premium on Block 116.12, Lot 21 C0065 in the amount of \$1,677.99.

R 14-46

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO
OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 116.12, LOT 21 C0065 IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,677.99

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on June 19, 2013, a lien was sold on Block 116.12, Lot 21 C0065 also known as 65 Limerick Lane for 2012 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-029 was sold to US Bank Cust for BV001 Trust for a Premium of \$400.00; and

WHEREAS, Hudson City Savings Bank, mortgage company for property owners, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2013-029 in the amount of \$1,277.99.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of March, 2014, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,677.99 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-029 and Premium to:

US BANK CUST for BV001 TRUST
50 S. 16th St., Suite 1950
Philadelphia, PA 19102

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 14-47 – Authorizing refund of tax overpayment on Block 71, Lot 2 in the amount of \$1123.24.

R 14-47

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR YEAR 2014 ON BLOCK 71, LOT 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1123.24

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that warrants be drawn to the property owners listed below in the designated amounts representing tax overpayments for the tax year 2014.

<u>Block & Lot</u>	<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
71 2	James Johnson 320 S. Fourth St. Phillipsburg, NJ 08865	\$1123.24

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have approved the refunds made rather than applying these payments to the 2014 taxes due.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 14-48 – Authorizing Transfer of Appropriations of the 2014 Lopatcong Township Municipal Appropriation Reserve Budget during the first three months of the year as per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59.

R 14-48

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STAT OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS OF THE 2014 LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATION RESERVE BUDGET DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR AS PER N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to expend an amount in excess of the respective items appropriated in the 2014 Lopatcong Township Municipal Appropriation Reserve Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to make the following appropriation transfers.

FROM:			TO:		
10525220A	Emergency Mgmt. OE	\$100.00	10526420A	Fire Co. OE	\$100.00
10518320A	Planning Brd OE	\$500.00	10529020A	Road Maintenance OE	\$500.00
TOTAL:		\$600.00			\$600.00

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

LAA Soccer Director – Approve Garrett Lelko as Soccer Director as requested by the LAA.

Warren County Technical School PTA – Approve donation of individual pool pass to the Warren County Technical School PTA for the annual Tricky Tray.

Strykers Road Fire Co. No. 2 – Approve Dilan Rottman as Junior Member of Fire Company No. 2 on Strykers Road.

Council Reports:

Councilwoman Schneider – For Dept. of Public Works, Community Forestry Management Plan is expired. Our Community Management Forestry Plan so we need to create a new plan and of which courses are required to become compliant with the State. There is a combination of two people who need to take the courses, a combination of two people in the town. It could be a volunteer, it could be an elected official, it could be somebody who works in the town. Brad Decker and I have committed to getting us compliant for 2015. The New Jersey Forestry Program may not seem like it is important but it is something of great importance because without approved status, our liability protection against hazardous trees or diseased trees becomes, it doesn't, it just doesn't, we have nothing. So we would like to get us compliant. Approved status gives us also eligibility for grants to assist in the implementation since we have a very small budget grants are very important for compliancy.

Our Recycling Program is also managed by Brad. I plan to sit down when he returns. I registered to attend a Warren County Recycling Seminar on April 3rd with a speaker from the Department of Environmental Protection. Hopefully, I will get some insight on their expectations from us.

Pot holes have been a plenty in the town but Brian and crew have actively been out on the major roads trying to get the really deep potholes so this way your cars are not severely damaged like I've been hearing from so many folks in the area. So they've been out diligently trying to temporarily fix the potholes with just like a, it's just a solution, soft material, yes cold patch – thank you it's cold patch until the weather gets warmer then we can permanently fix the potholes. If anyone knows of any that are really deep that we have not found or the guys have not found, please call one of us. We need the DPW to make sure we get those taken care of. They did the major roads now they are looking around into the neighborhoods.

The Board of Education, the last Board of Education meeting, the Board of Ed has begun its trial period for BA. His name is Bill Bauer and his Assistant BA, Maureen. They are in a trial period until June. They are also BA's for Phillipsburg, for their school district. Our Superintendent Ms. Roncoroni reports that they are doing a great job as far as responses to e-mails, to their phone calls, to their requests and just so you know, they do not work out of our buildings, they are in

the Phillipsburg School buildings. So they are not, they are not in our buildings quite often, but their return phone calls have been very good.

The series of three Strategic Planning Meetings have taken place. The first one was held on February 18th. The purpose, according to the mission statement, is to provide each and every student the tools and education foundation needed to meet or exceed New Jersey core curriculum contents standards. The first topic that the focus groups talked about was strengths, achievements and challenges of our school district. Small groups brainstormed and shared ideas and then they presented all the ideas to everyone who attended. The data was collected and then put into a program and the results will be on the school website. I believe they may be on there right now. For anyone interested in attending those meetings, all can attend. The next meeting is March 18th at 7:00 pm. They are about an hour and a half long and the topic for the next meeting is to create a shared vision together and that's all I have.

Mayor Steinhardt – Thank you very much. Councilman Belcaro.

Councilman Belcaro – I have an update on the Rt. 57 Pump Station. Due to the snow covered ground, the contractor cannot get his equipment there. He is expected to get it on Monday, since the weather is finally starting to break. Thanks Brian for stopping the snow dance and so, as per Dan Madden who is our Sewer Engineer and this is a request from the contractor, I'm asking for an authorization from Council to hire a contractor to come out and do markings for a line which connects Baltimore Street Pump Station to Rt. 57. There is another part to it which is "Call Before You Dig" and they come out, utility companies come out and do it for free and do markings for water lines, electrical, etc. This is different; this is the responsibility of Lopatcong Township to find out where the sewer line is. They don't know where it is. The cost is approximately \$700. He is estimating and we will need authorization to approve that to hire the contractor to come out and do markings for that. I'd like to make a motion.

Mayor Steinhardt – Is there a second?

Council President Ciesla – Second.

Mayor Steinhardt – Comments, questions. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Councilman Belcaro – The second part is Chapman had four alarms in five days at the Stonehenge Pump Station. The issue again is with rags. They have been addressing it and obviously to know, not being successful finding out where it is coming from. So every time these rags get flushed down the sewer line, it jams up the impellers. So, the recommendation here is to purchase new impellers which will be non-clog type impellers as suggested by a pump manufacturer. The cost for this is approximately \$6800 because you are weighing the cost of calling out Chapman every time the alarm goes off to come in there and remove this clog. So you weigh out the cost and it's been an ongoing problem so this is something we want to continue to look into and the \$6800 is about the price we are looking at but if we find something cheaper we get back but it is a wise investment for now.

Mayor Steinhardt – (Inaudible). You are asking for approval up to \$6800. (Inaudible).

Councilman Belcaro – Yes right now. Yes which I find, you know, see if we can do better but that's the price right now. So for anybody that knows or is aware of someone flushing rags.

Mayor Steinhardt – I thought you were going to ask if anybody knew anybody that had impellers.

Councilman Belcaro – Yeah, but we have a problem with someone flushing rags so and it's been ongoing for quite some time now so, it's a problem. What's that?

Audience - Inaudible.

Councilman Belcaro – I think we got to get some DNA on that stuff.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah it would be a lot of DNA.

Mayor Steinhardt – You want a motion up to \$6800 bucks.

Councilman Belcaro – I would like to make a motion up to \$6800 please.

Mayor Steinhardt – Is there a second?

Council President Ciesla – Second.

Mayor Steinhardt – Any discussion from Council?

Councilwoman Schneider – I just have a question Lou, do you know how much the calls are? I don't know if you said that.

Councilman Belcaro – No.

CFO Dobes – They are in the thousands.

Councilwoman Schneider – They are in the thousands for one phone call.

CFO Dobes – To come out a one time.

Councilman Belcaro - To come out and it's Chapman and then they call out a contractor to come and unclog and this has been multiple times.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yeah okay.

Mayor Steinhardt – Any other comments, questions.

Council President Ciesla – What is an impeller?

Mayor Steinhardt – What's an impeller? That's the motor that basically churns the sewerage as it gets to the plant and send it back, you know, gravity back in the direction we need it to go in. All right Brian?

Council President Ciesla – So how does it not clog?

Mayor Steinhardt – I have no clue, you'll have to ask the engineers.

Councilman Belcaro – Ok, Brian.

Audience – Inaudible.

Council President Ciesla – These impellers will shred it. It won't clog. Okay I get it.

Councilman Belcaro – That won't mean it's okay to keep throwing rags down the sewer.

Mayor Steinhardt – We have a motion and a second and any other comment. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

Councilwoman McCabe – I have a few reports. February 20th we had our annual Safety Committee Meeting. This meeting, in this meeting we reviewed the importance of safety issues. Such as handling the reporting of incidents in a timely manner and thoroughly investigating them. Secondly, making sure the municipality's equipment is safe and up-to-date and maintained properly to ensure that, also ensure that our turn out gear is in proper working condition and updated on an as needed basis. Third, to ensure that necessary training is provided and up-to-date for the employees that requires the training for their particular position. Our loss control

consultant stated that Lopat is in good shape regarding the above issues and he offered to look into any requested, specific training (inaudible).

Secondly, Planning Board. We had a meeting on February 26th. We appointed Joe Pryor as Vice Chairman and we swore in John Kosar as our Alternate Member. The approved minutes passed the Resolution regarding the Phillipsburg Mall Minor Subdivision which we are allowing them to spin off the Friendly's pad. The Friendly's will now be paying their taxes directly to Lopatcong not being paid through the mall. We also reviewed a draft of the ROM Zones Study. It's currently being prepared by our professional Planner, George Ritter. This is a study of the Township's Industrial Zoned lands as related to Lopat's Highlands Center District which was established by the Highlands Council pursuant to the Highlands Regional Master Plan. The purpose of the study was to provide the Planning Board with data necessary to prepare any recommendations to Council regarding any zoning amendments for the ROM, you know, if any come up in the future. For example, in 2004 the Planning Board adopted an ordinance permitting Mixed Use properties on those land parcels that needed to be (inaudible). So the study is not finalized yet and we'll continue to review that at our next meeting of the Planning Board.

Next, our Economic Development Advisory Committee had our first meeting on February 20. Members all, we met, we're very positive and they had some great ideas. We're working on plans to assist our current businesses in the community and how to attract new businesses to Lopat. We want to work on our community business relationships and see how best we can work together to benefit each other. We have another meeting scheduled for later this month and we hope to continue planning and eventually implement some of our ideas.

Lastly, I met with the Brakeley Park Tenants Association last week. Brakeley Park is an important part of our community. Many of our senior citizens live in Brakeley Park and they had an issue and one of their questions was that we had passed an ordinance in June of last year allowing decreases in rents due to market conditions and they advised that the management company was not adhering to this. So I told them I would work with our Rent Leveling Board and Kathy Devos to try to address this issue and see if we can help the senior citizens over there. I also left them know if they had any further questions or issues that they could reach out to me and we'll try to assist them in anyway.

Lastly, I know everybody probably knows this already, but the toll bridge, our toll bridge, over here, they're going to start again with their rehabilitation project. I believe they're starting on painting as of this week or next week and they're going to be putting up a suspended platform so the two lanes that are going westbound will be open one lane each for eastbound, westbound and the two lanes coming eastbound are going to be shut down so lots of fun ahead.

Council President Ciesla – They announced today too it's down to one lane approaching the bridge.

Councilwoman McCabe – So plan accordingly and that's it.

Mayor Steinhardt – Thanks Ms. McCabe. Ms. Ciesla.

Council President Ciesla – All right I'll start with the LAA. As you know, and I've been mentioning in my Council Reports for some time now the LAA has been working on finishing their bylaws. The bylaws that were last approved, last adopted by the LAA and last approved by the Council were done in 2001. They started working on some new bylaws in 2008. Kind of went by the wayside. They picked it up again with their new President Lutz and, at our February meeting, they adopted their new bylaws. So I would like to make a motion for Council to approve the bylaws that the LAA has adopted.

Mayor Steinhardt – Is there a second?

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

Mayor Steinhardt – Discussion. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

Council President Ciesla – As you know, we approved Garrett Lelko as the Soccer Director. A little background on him, he's been a high school coach for 15 years. He was named the Express Times Girls Soccer Coach of the Year in 2007 and 2009. He is a teacher at North Hunterdon High School and he is a Lopat coach to both his son and daughter. I believe he also, I know he grew up in the area. I think he's from Lopat and he's going to be a huge asset to program. He will pick his assistant director once he is settled in. Part of the new bylaws was the addition of assistant director's for each sport because we do realize that managing a sport is very time consuming. So each sport may have up to, may have one assistant director with the exception of football which may have up to two. The assistant directors are picked by the LAA directors and they are as follows: Football is Brad Cherry and Richard Price, Baseball is John Remian, Softball is Sean Leahy, Twirling is Gwen Olah, Cheering is Danielle Fricke, Wrestling is Bill Greene and Basketball is Dan Pace.

The other thing for the LAA is that they are planning a baseball camp on May 24, Saturday that will be here in Lopatcong. The baseball camp is going to be free. It is run on donations. Part of this camp includes the, we're going to have at least one majorly known, major league ball player, retired, coming here along with about seven others who will actually train these kids all day in their camp and they'll have some games going on. It's a really big program. It's going to be advertised across the county and like I said, it is free because it's going to be running on donations. There's also going to be a little meet and greet session afterwards where we're going to make posters for them and they're going to be able to get all their autographs. So, as we get more information, I'll give that to you.

Moving onto the Recreation Committee. As you heard today, there is a Veteran's Memorial being planned for May 17th, that's actually Armed Forces Day at 11:00 am. We're in need for donations for that too. I think Mr. Nixon went over that pretty well. They are really working very hard. They're, I saw the plans for the memorial, it's going to be pretty amazing and they're putting a lot of effort into this. Letters will be going out because again with an explanation of what's going on. They want the whole community here if they possibly can. They're going to be looking for donations and they're also doing the Field of Flag, where you can buy a flag in honor of anybody that you have in the armed forces and they are going to lay them out in a field. Probably going to put little ribbons on them and you can, they're all going to be, it's going to look, really, really nice and then you can take the flag home afterwards.

We also have the Easter Egg Hunt. That will be Saturday, April 12th at 10:00 am. Our rain date is April 19th at 2:00 pm. That's open to toddlers up to nine years old and, of course, if you want to donate for that too, that would be nice.

We are also looking to find a better way for bikers and walkers to access, to get around town and also to get across into the park so we have some ideas on that and as we cement them; I'll come back and give you more on that.

We're hopefully going to plan a pavilion cleanup and refresh event. We are going to have everyone come out to see if we can clean up the pavilion cause we want to make it look as nice as we possibly can for the rentals.

Lopatcong Day is Saturday, August 30th. We were, we had Mr. Mengucci who came to our last meeting to give us a little history of some of things that we had been checking out like bike paths and Delaware Park School. We're trying to see what's going on with that so I thank you for coming and bringing all the history of Lopat with you.

I also went to an Advantor Community Advisory Panel Meeting on February 27th and different members of the community are invited to this. The superintendent of schools, the principal, all different groups like Norwescap, United Way, Catholic Charities. The speaker this time was Sarah Brevli from United Way and she gave a presentation on what is probably the hardest hit community in New Jersey which is people who are working, they have income, but it is not enough survive in the State and United Way, Norwescap and Catholic Charities all work with everybody but they work heavily with these groups providing affordable housing and food. Again, any of those groups, if you want to volunteer your time or your money they are always looking for help. I think that's it.

Mayor Steinhardt – Thank you Ms. Ciesla. Couple property updates. Internal demolition I understand has begun at the 222 Red School Lane site. From what I understand Coordinated Health is looking to locate new offices. It is also my understanding they are going to be making application to the board soon. So that building will hopefully be occupied soon. They also have longer term plans to do a lot more with that property. Hopefully increase the rateables that are generated from it as well as get a nice new business in town.

Secondly, based on my last communication with the realtors involved with the Ingersoll-Rand, they are close to coming to a contract, in fact, there is a contract being exchanged with potential buyers of it a hundred and some acres that is presently in Lopatcong Township.

The only other item I have to deal with is somewhat personnel related. We received a resignation from Brian Race of our DPW who had previously been serving as the Recycling and Clean Communities Coordinator, he received a \$2,000 a year stipend for that if I'm not mistaken, he returned the \$2,000 stipend and asked that we find someone else to assume those responsibilities. Mr. Decker also from the DPW has indicated that he would assume them. So I would like to ask Council's approval of one: accepting Mr. Race's resignation and two: accepting Mr. Decker as the new Recycling and Clean Communities Coordinator at the same rate. Motion?

Councilwoman McCabe – Motion.

Mayor Steinhardt – Is there a second?

Council President Ciesla – Second.

Mayor Steinhardt – Discussion. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Steinhardt - Budget Workshop. We're holding a Budget Workshop to, we've never really done that before but based on some comments from new Council Members, we thought it would be helpful to dedicate an evening to kind of tear into the budget, take a look at it and have some discussion over the various items and see how we can, especially since we have a lot of new members, have some more in-depth discussion on the budget itself. So we're going to hold a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm here at the municipal building for anyone who would like to attend and we can all talk budget then.

We've also received a letter from Warren County Office of Public Safety from Frank Wheatley who serves as the Warren County Community as Director of Public Safety. They forwarded to us the Warren County Municipal Mutual Aid and Assistance Memorandum of Understanding for the various municipalities to sign onto. Everyone has had a chance to take a look at it, we discussed it earlier, Council's had it, Ms. Dilts has gone through it and Chief LaFord as well and is recommending that we sign in. It's really memorializing the same, what's been going on in past practice in terms of the various municipalities chipping in for each other when there are problems but by putting it in this agreement format, we are also able to make application for instance, FEMA funding and so forth, if there are ever emergencies and we end up having to go cover in another municipality that we weren't previously able to do. So, I need Council's permission for us to execute the Warren County Mutual Aid and Assistance Memorandum.

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Councilman Belcaro – Second

Mayor Steinhardt – Discuss. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Steinhardt – Ms. Dobes.

CFO Dobes – Nothing.

Mayor Steinhardt – Mr. Sterbenz.

Engineer Sterbenz – Nothing Mr. Mayor.

Department Reports – Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to approve Department Reports. Motion by Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Council President Ciesla. All in favor.

Payment of Bills – Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

Audience Participation:

Bruce Hall – Regarding the Amey Street issue, John Amey was our mayor in 1892 to 1896.

Mayor Steinhardt – I asked the wrong person, come on Mr. Mellert, you were around, right around then weren't you? I understand that and I know that we have roads named after other families. It will be something Council's going to have to weigh. My chief concern was that it wasn't dedicated to somebody somewhere down the road that there's an expectation that it might stay that was in perpetuity so I appreciate that thanks very much. Council will take that under advisement.

Councilman Belcaro – Some towns have both signs up.

Council President Ciesla – We could put that decorative sign on top.

(Inaudible)

Council President Ciesla – So put Veterans Way on top. This might go back to having it at that intersection.

Audience – Inaudible.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah. Ok. So then you can see if from the road.

Mayor Steinhardt – Ms. Campbell is asking is High Street in Hackettstown still High Street and they also call it M & M Way?

Engineer Sterbenz – Yes.

Mayor Steinhardt – Okay. Anybody else tonight, questions, comments?

Lee Rozycki – 56 Puddingstone Way. As it was recorded in the Express Times regarding the overpayment to Phillipsburg for the sewer charges for the past fifteen years. I was just wondering if there was a discussion on possible refund to the residents for that amount or is there discussion as to, how to dispense?

Mayor Steinhardt – It hasn't even been determined that's what's owed yet Ms. Rozycki. I mean, we filed a suit, they haven't even answered yet. I suspect they will be asking us for an extension of time to answer. So literally that discussion, I'll keep the scale small, step ten and we are at step one. We don't have, it can be determined that, that they don't owe us anything, it can be determined that they owe us the whole 1.2. I have no idea. Then we can have discussion as to how best to deal with it. I don't even know yet.

Lee Rozycki – Nothing yet? Okay thank you.

Mayor Steinhardt – While you're here.

Lee Rozycki – Here we go.

Mayor Steinhardt – No this is an easy one. The folks at Advantor have indicated that there is like left over filing cabinets, furniture from the old office complex and they are offering it to the town. You might want to mention it to the school, to the Board of Ed too that there's, either let Beth know or let me know. We'll let them know right away. Send your, they will probably be there the rest of the week. Send your custodial staff or somebody over to take a look. They're giving it to the town for whatever we want it for and when we walked through the other day to kind of look through, you might as well go take it.

Lee Rozycki – We'll bring that forward to Raine. Thank you.

Mayor Steinhardt – Anybody else tonight questions, comments? Going once, going twice.

Carlos Correa – 82 Puddingstone Way. Now that we are videotaping the Council Meetings. Is it possible that you get the video tape from tonight's meeting uploaded by Friday. Like instead of waiting a month from now.

Council President Ciesla – We haven't decided what we're doing yet. Do we wait until we approve the minutes or

Mayor Steinhardt – The practice had been to do it after the approval of minutes. I don't know why, but they just don't have them up that fast.

Carlos Correa – Because, I mean, you have something on the website that tells you that the video tape has nothing to do with the approving of the minutes.

Council President Ciesla – Right. So we haven't..

Carlos Correa – You disclose it right on the website so I don't see why you cannot post the video. (Inaudible) automatically disclosing on the website that this, that these videos are really not what the minutes are.

Mayor Steinhardt – Thanks, we'll certainly take it under advisement.

Carlos Correa – Yes and the other thing is that if you guys can talk in the micro phones because my camera cannot pick up the sound. The camera from here doesn't pick up the sound sometimes. When you look at the video tape that is uploaded from January 6, the audio is not there sometimes.

Mayor Steinhardt – Well we're trying to get used to it.

Carlos Correa – Because it's like (inaudible) in the microphone.

Mayor Steinhardt – It's something fairly new Carlos and we are all kind of getting used to it.

Carlos Correa – I'm just saying because I mentioned it this afternoon to Beth to mention it to all you guys and apparently maybe she didn't.

Council President Ciesla- No she did.

Mayor Steinhardt – She did.

Council President Ciesla – She did.

Carlos Correa – Because like when Katrina talks, I could tell you...

Mayor Steinhardt – Believe it or not, it's easy to forget, you don't, sometimes you just answer a question and don't think to lean forward. We're trying.

Carlos Correa – Yeah I mean, I’m pretty sure I’ll have to try because. (Inaudible). Now it is but before it wasn’t so. Okay thank you.

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Ciesla. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

Douglas J. Steinhardt
Mayor