

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG

COUNCIL MEETING

October 14, 2014

The Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order at 4:00 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, Councilwoman Schneider, Councilman Belcaro and Councilwoman McCabe. CFO Dobes and Attorney Campbell.

Resolution No. 14-126 - Attorney Campbell stated the Council was in Executive Session for approximately 40 minutes and noted the topics of discussion. Motion to go into Executive Session by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Ciesla.

R 14-126

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, there are presently pending matters to be considered in Executive Session concerning possible matters listed:

CBA Contract, Sale of Township Foreclosed Properties, and personnel – CFO, salary for seasonal workers, COAH, Tax Appeal – Larken, Pump Station Change Orders

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and the State of New Jersey that the Council is authorized to hold an Executive Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Lopatcong will make said matters public within approximately 30 days of said meeting or until such a time as confidentiality of the matters is no longer required.

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 Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to go back into Regular Session by Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. All in favor.

Best Practices Checklist – CFO Dobes reported that the Township would be receiving 100% of the funding. The checklist questions were addressed by the Clerk and Mayor as well as Council. CFO Dobes established an Internal Accounting Control Checklist, Fund Accounting Policy and a revenue and expenditure forecast for 2015. No questions were asked by the public.

Ordinance 2014-12 – First reading to provide funding for South 3rd Street Improvements and Appropriating \$305,000 for such purpose.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-12

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SOUTH 3RD STREET IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG AND APPROPRIATING \$305,000 FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, authorizes South 3rd Street Improvements for the Township of Lopatcong to be funded from the source specified in Section 2 of the Ordinance.

Section 2. The amount of \$305,000.00 is hereby appropriated for the purposes stated in Section 1 of the Ordinance funded from NJ DOT Grant at \$145,000.00 and NJ DOT Grant at \$120,000.00 and \$40,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Section 3. In connection with the purpose and the amount authorized in Sections 1 and 2 hereof, the Township determines the purpose described in Section 1 hereof is not a Current Expense and is an improvement which the Township of Lopatcong may lawfully make as a general improvement.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon due passage and publication according to law.”

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE

The ordinance, the title of which is published herewith, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, held on October 14, 2014. It will be further considered for final passage after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of said Township Council to be held in the Municipal Building, 232 South 3rd Street in said Township on November 19 at 7:00 o'clock P.M., and during the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of said ordinance will be made available at the Clerk's Office in the Municipal Building said Township to the members of the general public who shall request the same. The purpose of said ordinance is to make an appropriation in the amount of \$305,000.00 for South 3rd Street Improvements.

/s/ M. Beth Dilts
Township Clerk

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

Resolution No. 14-127 – Authorize correction to assessment on Block 86.02, Lot 15 from \$488,100 to \$425,000 as recommended by tax assessor.

R 14-127

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 AUTHORIZING THE CORRECTION OF AN ASSESSMENT ON A 2014 PROPERTY KNOWN
 AS BLOCK 86.02, LOT 15

WHEREAS, the Assessor of the Township of Lopatcong, Warren County, New Jersey has informed the Mayor and the Council of a 2014 assessment correction on Block 86.02, Lot 15; and

WHEREAS, the following property should have had an assessment in 2014 of a total of \$425,000 based on a tax appeal judgment instead of \$488,100.

<u>Block and Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
86.02, 15	21 Meadowview Drive	From Assessment \$488,100 To Assessment \$425,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assessor and the Tax Collector of the Township are hereby authorized to make the necessary corrections as listed above and corrects the Assessments for the tax year 2014.

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 Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

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

Highlands Exemption Determination Program – Gary VanVliet indicated there is an Ordinance that should be adopted for exempting properties basically from impervious cover. The Highlands pretty strictly regulates impervious cover on properties. An application coming before the Planning Board will now have to provide a checklist, complete list from the Highlands itself and it would add more time to the application process by one to two months. Then it comes back and is reviewed by the professionals and then it is forwarded up to the Planning Board. Large developments are the appropriate way to go. When someone, a private homeowner in the area wants to put a deck on, or something like that, to make them go through that exercise and the Highlands allows seven exemptions (inaudible) what they're doing is they're allowing a municipality to grant that exemption for them and then they do not have to go

through the Highland's process. It is granted at the municipal level. So far we have five people trained to do that, to grant the exemption they have to be approved by the Highlands Council in order to grant that exemption. Beth's one of them, I'm one of them and our professionals; George Ritter, Gary DosSantos and Paul Sterbenz are also certified to do that. So, if we adopt this or if you adopt this, I should say, you'll provide a little easier path for people to live in the Highlands area that are existing homeowners. It even extends into the Preservation Area that if you own property or a lot in the Preservation Area which is tightly constricted as far as building, we could grant the exemption for a person who owned the property before 2004 and they would be able to utilize one acre of that property in order to construct the home without going through the Highlands Exemption process. Those are just a few examples of what the ordinance does. You can adopt a fee with this. I kind of indicate that maybe you wouldn't want to since they already would have to put a fee in for the Checklist as it exists now in order to come before the Planning Board. I don't think you want to pile more on top of this because they do have to do some things. They have to put a deed restriction on their property when they do this as far as impervious cover in case they transfer that property later on. So I would think unless it comes to it, you might want to consider not putting a fee on it because it's the local populous, you don't want to keep piling more and more on. The other thing that I would recommend if you are looking at is the option of who would be looking at this and I believe that you might want to designate our engineer the Planning Board engineer to review it. He has to review the Checklist anyway. He is one of the first people that get it and in order to expedite the process, he would be the logical person to do it so you might want to consider designating that in the ordinance. Other than that if you want to adopt this, or if you want to make corrections to it, this is the recommended one from the Highlands. The Planning Board has already indicated back in April or May when we reviewed the Highlands that the Board would approve this type of ordinance. Not specifically this one, this one just came out and we were waiting for that to come but if you want to return it to the Planning Board for additions or corrections it is your prerogative.

Council President Ciesla – Council have any questions?

Councilwoman Schneider – Um, are we planning on moving on this tonight?

Council President Ciesla – I don't think so.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay then Gary can I get to you and just talk to you a little bit about of this outside.

Gary VanVliet – Absolutely, we can do it right after the meeting, that's fine or do you want to another time.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yeah, exactly, yeah I just, um, it's a lot to read and I'd like to get clarification on some of it.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah that would work right because we have another meeting now. We have to schedule another meeting on the 27th of this month. So maybe we can revisit it then. The Township had foreclosed on several properties and we now own them. Katrina put together a synopsis of each property and what specific action needs to be done on them. Some of them can go right for sale, some might need a variance, some we need to offer to the adjacent homeowners first so what I'd like to do

Attorney Campbell- I can go through them.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, why don't you go through them.

Attorney Campbell - Um, I gave all of you a memo with all the information on each property and then I gave you the maps with everything. Basically, if it is a conforming lot, lot size, we can sell it at auction. If it is a non-conforming lot, meaning it is not big enough, we have to offer first to the contiguous property owners and we can set a minimum, and then if it is less than 1/8 of the conforming lot, then you can actually negotiate with adjacent property owners to sell it. So, usually what they do there is, if it is a tiny little, like when we vacated old roads and we gave ½ to one side and ½ to another, sometimes we charge the cost of engineering; sometimes we just give them a Quick Claim Deed. So, I'm going to go through a couple of them because most of them are straight forward but a couple I have questions on. So the first one is 72 Fox Farm Road, that is undersized um, so typically what we do, is when we go through the whole list, the ones that are undersized first thing I would do is if you actually authorize me to sit down with the assessor and get a fair market value set for each one of these and then I would go and write a letter to all of the adjacent property owners telling them by this date if you have any interest in this property, this is the minimum price, please give us your best price and then those people who are adjacent, nine times out of ten, we get no response and we have to put it on the list for auction. Some of these properties we've actually gotten a couple of calls on. So for example, this Fox Farm one touches Merrill Creek and it's near some other property owners, farmers, hunters who are interested in it. It is a land-locked piece of property right now. It is very close to another piece we foreclosed on so but it is, you can't get to it, so but Merrill Creek might be interested in more than the adjacent property owners so that one I would just go and sit with the assessor. Another one of those lots is Belvidere Road; it is listed at Lot 2, Block 18. If you look at the map, it looks like it is in the middle of nowhere. It is a tiny, like, little lane. It is 25' by 600'. So, that one, again, it probably only deals with Mannick's or Holton's that would be interested in it. We would offer it to them first and, again, we would be offering it with a Quick Claim Deed. We would be saying, whatever our rights are we're selling them to you at this price. There is another one off of Fox Farm Road. There are two off of Strykers Road. One looks like Architects is actually using as a driveway right now, not knowing that it is not theirs and they are not paying taxes on. Another one, a property owner owns both sides of the property and he adamantly believes that it is his property but has searched his own search and can't prove that it is his so, um, both of these are undersized, less than an 1/8th so the question I guess on these would be if you want to rely on the assessor to set the value. If she says, if you can offer these up and just get them back on the tax rolls, you know do it like no minimum value and then tell all the adjacent property owners what's your best bet and if someone says a dollar, we can sell it for a dollar or do you want to set a value. You can always set a value and then no one says anything, come back, so I don't know if you want to rely on your assessor to set the values for those if she says we can get it back on the tax rolls for a dollar, um, but I would leave that up to you. So, that is one of the questions. The last piece that you actually foreclosed on, I would recommend you don't do anything with. It's behind Warren Heights and it's actually I think where they are putting in the pump station so you actually own a piece now so it's less easements you may need in the future. So, I wouldn't do anything with that one and then the two more complicated ones are 100 South Eight is a corner lot and if you drive by right now, it looks like someone's yard, it's not, it's owned by the Township. So, it is about 7500 to 8000 square feet currently. The minimum lot size in this neighborhood right now is 9000 square feet so Mr. Sterbenz said we could get a variance and sell it as a building lot so we could actually have some great potential for income for the Township. So, I would ask that if you are interested in that I would ask that if you are interested in that, authorizing Mr. Sterbenz to start the process for doing that. He's got to get paperwork together in order to come before the board to take care of that one. The last one is off of Puddingstone Way. It is, actually, in the rear. It has road frontage on Buckley Hill Road. It is right next to the school's property. It is 7.56 acres. This was foreclosed on by the developer; Par-a-mic owned this and foreclosed on it. The developer is deceased. The, um, so it has road frontage but the back of it is wet so there is a lot of it you're not going to be able to do anything with. So, I would just ask that you authorize Mr. Sterbenz to take a look at it. He may, we believe that perhaps the 200 foot of road frontage, you might be able to get a building lot in before it gets too wet. Also, I believe the school in the past has

asked, they've had some interest in it that maybe for some sort of nature seeking something but of course, that doesn't go on the tax rolls if you give it to the Township. If you look at the map, all those places I pointed the arrows, they are also owned by the town. So it might be something to look into but I thought we'd start with Paul to just tell us if we can even build on this piece. If we can't build on it and then you kind of, but if you could get a building lot, then you'd feel better about giving the rest away. Those are and the last one is a doozy there is a house on it and it had a squatter on it for the longest time. It is surrounded by Baker Chemical, Aqua, a Warren County property and Norfolk Southern Railroad. It has a lot of people who go down there and party and beer cans and we've had a lot of trouble enforcing it. A couple years ago we got authorization from Norfolk Southern to allow the police to go down there. So, there is a house down there. So, it is still a lot with a house on it so that one you could just auction off and the building, someone is going to have to tear that thing down but at least there is already a house so that one I would say we just put on the auction list and when we get the other one and then what I would recommend is that if any of these don't get sold to the adjacent property owners, we set the auction out far enough, so that all of the other properties would also be added on the auction list. We'd auction them off and then, um, sometimes people, and if I find any and if I talk to Paul, perhaps the State of New Jersey Green Acres might be interested in, again, that comes off the tax rolls but if they pay for it, Harmony Township had a piece I could tell you it was five acres, they were about to sell it to a gentleman for \$1000 because no one wanted it because it was wet and then he realized it was wet even though we told him ten times it was wet and he wanted to renege and we let him out because we realized he made a mistake. The State of New Jersey gave us \$20,000 for it because it was adjacent to other town, uh; state property and they were interested. First, they offered us \$80,000 and then they said \$20,000. I'll let Paul take a look at these and if we get Merrill Creek to buy the one off of Fox Farm that would become a big deal too because they are always looking to increase their property so, um, I would just ask for the authorization to work with Paul, to work with Kathy and kind of come forward. What I can do is work with Kathy and get her to give me the list of what we would ask for these properties before I send anyone a letter, so you can see the list.

Council President Ciesla – We can just make a motion for you to work with Kathy and Paul and authorize Paul too.

Councilwoman Schneider – How does the auction process work?

Attorney Campbell- It is an open public auction. Typically, we do a live auction where people actually come in and bid. You can do it by closed sealed bids which still get opened in the public but these kind of, it's usually because you have so many, you just set a date and everyone comes in and does it. We've done it in Washington Township, Harmony.

Councilwoman Schneider – So, where do you do it, like, in the municipal building?

Attorney Campbell- Mhmm and depending on what kind of properties we have because some of them if we have an actual building lot, you maybe even do it on a Saturday.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, right.

Attorney Campbell – People are actually going to bid on it. You might contemplate hiring someone to auction for you like a Max Spann or Fiedler. Usually, they add a ten percent fee on the purchase price.

Council President Ciesla – All right so let's make a motion to work with Kathy and authorize Paul to look into some of these properties. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Council President Ciesla – Next one we have to authorize a payment of interest on the tax court judgment for Belview Crossings in the amount of \$16,631.66. We need to introduce an Emergency Appropriation to do so.

Auditor Evans – That’s correct.

Resolution No. 14-130 - Attorney Campbell – This is the tax court judgment that we got for Belview Crossing the 32 lots for 2010 and 2011. Um, we paid the overpayment of taxes which was about \$89,000. We paid that a while ago through the bond that we borrowed. Unfortunately, when the tax court enters a judgment as opposed to you settling your case, they require interest of 5% per year. So because it is for 2010 and 2011 they make you go back to that. Um, the reason we hadn’t paid it sooner, is we were working on a settlement trying to make it a global settlement. Part of the deal was gonna be if they settled on new values going forward, they would waive the \$16,000. They have grown impatient with the settlement process and are demanding their \$16,000. So they are entitled to it under the law. They should have gotten it a while ago so that is why they are asking for payment now. I’m going to attempt to negotiate a credit. If I can get a credit on taxes future that’s much better then we’ll cancel it at the next meeting the appropriation.

R 14-130

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION WITH
RESPECT TO A PAYMENT OF TAX APPEAL INTEREST

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to pay tax appeal interest and no adequate provision was made in the 2014 budget for the aforesaid purpose and NJS 40A:4-46 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purpose mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the emergency appropriations created, including the appropriation in the budget for 2014 is \$209,540; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing appropriation together with prior appropriations does not exceed three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) the budget for 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (by not less than 2/3 of all governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJS40A:4-48:

1. An emergency appropriation is hereby made for legal, other expenses in the amount of \$16,631.66.
2. That said emergency appropriation shall be provided for in full in the 2015 budget and is requested to be excluded from CAPS, pursuant to NJS 40A:4-53.3c (1).
3. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

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 Special Meeting held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

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

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

NAYS: None

Council President Ciesla – Next we need to establish pay rates for our seasonal workers. This includes DPW leaf pickup and also snowplowing for the upcoming seasons. We are looking to \$20.00 per hour for appropriately eligible workers correct? They need to have their CDL. Any discussion from Council.

Councilwoman McCabe – You know, we were discussing that, um, the current rate is about \$15. So I guess we have a problem finding people that are qualified and now the rate is \$20. So, we only need to hire them for a couple of weeks or how long.

Council President Ciesla – For the leaves just a couple weeks. Snow plowing is as needed.

Councilwoman McCabe – That's different, so would that have a different fee, rate or?

Council President Ciesla – No, we are looking to do the same rate.

Councilwoman McCabe – Okay, okay.

Council President Ciesla – It is still quite a savings over having overtime for our employees.

Councilwoman McCabe – And, it is as needed on the storms. Okay.

Council President Ciesla – And, if they don't need to bring them in, they won't bring them in. Any other comments. Motion.

Councilwoman Schneider – Actually, I do have one. I just want to um, let everybody know that pretty much the \$20 an hour, um, brings us, it's one person we are looking for. We only need one person for this job so it's \$20 an hour for one person for this entire leaf season which will bring it to about \$640.00 per week which will be about \$3,000 for the leaf season to hire this person to do that. So everybody is aware of the cost.

Council President Ciesla – How many hours are you calculating that on. Seventy-five a pay check.

Councilwoman McCabe – So, that's not as needed. That's, we're hiring

Brian Weeks – (Inaudible). We're gonna bring him in different hours, whatever, but that doesn't work because the machine needs it all day long. All right, you know what I mean; you need four people to run the machine and one for the street sweeper. So, if I shut them down, I have to shut them down an hour, go back, you know get everything and then go back out. We've lost our manpower. So, we need them that extra bit to keep things moving.

Council President Ciesla – So, if you are saying 75 hours a paycheck times 15 is \$1,125.00. You're saying six weeks.

Brian Weeks – That's around where leaf season runs. Somewhere in that range.

Council President Ciesla – Okay, so times three paychecks, well how many pay checks is that?

Brian Weeks – We run till the snow hits.

Council President Ciesla – So, that would be \$3,375.00 at a rate of \$15. It would be 75 times \$20. The new bi-weekly pay check is \$1500. Actually comes to \$4500.00. So, it is about an increase of \$1125.00. Do you have in your budget?

Brian Weeks – I don't do the salary and wages.

Council President Ciesla – That's for the leaves and for snow you guys do as much as you can handle and then you bring them in.

Brian Weeks – When it comes to snow, we usually try to handle as best we can with the, uh, salt and keep the big trucks fired and everything. When it comes to putting a plow and the blade on the ground, all right, your object is to get every truck moving at the cheapest price we can. Because once you put me on overtime, it's different than putting a guy in the truck on no overtime. So, the object is to get as many in and get it done before the hours accumulate and that's always how we've always done it. Right Betty and Beth.

Council President Ciesla – They all have to have their CDL license correct? And they use our trucks.

Brian Weeks – Well, that's the, yeah, they have to have the CDL for, you know, what I mean and that enables us at any time (inaudible) so it protects the town is what it is doing, you know, what I mean, it's not just a random walk see you ha, ha.

Council President Ciesla – Right. If we had to hire somebody like, you know, a landscaping company, like how would that run us.

Brian Weeks – They're about \$125.00 an hour. All right, and then it goes on depending on what piece of equipment, it could go up to \$200.00 an hour. We used it at one time. You couldn't afford it. You were spending \$5/6,000, \$7000 a storm for them alone.

Councilwoman Schneider – I just want to clear this up, so \$640 a week that, um, we were talking about and \$3,000 total so that's not.

Clerk Dilts – We might have based that on four days because on average you might not have a full week, you know, everybody might be calling off for hunting season, bad weather.

CFO Betty Dobes – Four days.

Councilwoman Schneider – So, now it is about \$4500 and do we decide if there if we they're only in for three days that's all we use them for, is that how this works?

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, it's part-time

Brian Weeks – (Inaudible).

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, per Brian it's five days a week. Okay so \$4500.00.

Council President Ciesla – At most because if it is a bad weather day, he's not going to call him in, yeah. Motion by Councilwoman Schneider, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Schneider, Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Ciesla.

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 14-128 – Pay rates for seasonal part-time employees.

R 14-128

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PAY RATES FOR SEASONAL PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey shall establish rates of pay for seasonal part-time employees; and

WHEREAS, Council authorized \$20.00 per hour for part-time employees working leaf season and \$20.00 per hour for part-time employees who hold a CDL for snow plowing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby authorize the pay rate of \$20 per hour for part-time seasonal employees working through leaf season and \$20.00 per hour for part-time seasonal employees for snow plowing.

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 Special Meeting held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

COAH Hardship Waiver – Council President Ciesla stated that Council on Affordable Housing sent a letter requesting a waiver from Council. We have some time before we have to issue the hardship waiver so what we are going to do is help advertise the property. Something will be placed on the website and Facebook page. Katrina will get the exact information of the unit, the size and whether it is low income or moderate and at the next meeting, we're going to, uh, if they haven't had any takers, then we can issue the hardship waiver to them.

Attorney Campbell – It is 98 Overlook. We're just not sure if it is a low or moderate income and how many bedrooms or bathrooms it has because low or moderate would depend on the income level and people.

Council President Ciesla – Because if it is low, they can only sell to low and if they have no low buyers coming in, then they ask for the hardship waiver, so they can open it up to moderate. Um, I guess we can make a motion just to advertise and vote on the hardship waiver at the next meeting. Motion by Councilwoman Schneider, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

H-GAC Buy Co-op – Council President Ciesla stated it is another co-op we can enter into to make purchases at much cheaper prices. It is similar to Morris County Co-op. Does anyone have any questions?

Councilwoman Schneider – This uh, we are entering this for the purpose of purchasing the fire truck. Is that correct?

Attorney Campbell – We can use it for other things but yeah.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah we can use it for other things.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay.

Council President Ciesla – The more co-ops we are in the more money we can save. Anybody else have any questions. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: Councilwoman Schneider

R 14-131

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP WITH THE HOUSTON-
GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (H-GAC)

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey desires to become a member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) effective October 14, 2014 and, that such membership shall be for the period ending October 14, 2015, and each renewal, thereafter of the system, unless the Township of Lopatcong elects to formally withdraw from the system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey are hereby authorized to execute the attached agreement for such membership.

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 Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Field Use Contract – Council President Ciesla stated that we introduced an ordinance for our fields. I'll do two parts and we have a contract now that has been approved by our attorney and we just want to make it official so we can post it on the website. People can download it, fill it out and bring it in if they want to rent the field. Do we have any questions from Council? Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Council President Ciesla- The next part of that is we had issued a resolution I believe back in June that went over the fees for the field and what I did is, basically, it is the same resolution I just added an item. Groups run by Township volunteers will received a fifty percent discount off the calculated fee rates. If the group is run by a Township volunteer or volunteers and that group is accessed a fee for field usage, that group will received a fifty percent discount off of the calculated fee rates as outlined in Section 1 and 2 of this resolution. That we did because uh, throughout the Township we offer our volunteers because we respect and regard them very highly, we offer them discounts on everything else from their pool memberships to tennis and all that and we wanted to do the same because we are finding that we do have a lot of our volunteers who are extending themselves beyond their regular season and now they are running travel teams and stuff for the Lopatcong children and since it is not actually under the LAA yet, it is, basically, it is our LAA director and our coaches

doing it. We wanted to offer the same, the same thing if the firemen or the EMS were to run something like that.

Councilwoman Schneider – So you're basically talking about like you said fire, EMS and you're talking about people who volunteer to coach.

Council President Ciesla – Coaches and any of our directors.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, and is there any other volunteer? If there's another volunteer group that maybe we are not sure of right now, that applies also?

Attorney Campbell- That would be like a member of the Planning Board who wants to run an event.

Council President Ciesla – Right mmhmm. Anybody who is involved in the Township that does not get paid.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay.

Council President Ciesla – Because we do that now, they get ½ off of pool membership and other things like that which probably isn't even enough at this point for what they do but any other questions? Motion by Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Council President Ciesla – Okay, we have some meeting date changes because of some things we need to do. We have another meeting, a special meeting which will be held on October 27th. That is a Monday at 4:00 pm and then our November meeting will be moved to November 19, executive starting at 7:00 pm, regular session starting at 7:30pm. So, again, that is October 27 at 4:00 pm and November 19th at 7:00 pm. There is no November 5th meeting.

Councilwoman Schneider – For the October 27th meeting, in case anyone is kind of wondering why it is mostly because we had a few additional questions for the CBA Agreement that we said we talked about in Executive. Um, there was just one more question on there that we could not get answered tonight so that is, basically, the reason for having the special meeting. There may be a couple other things added to it but it is mostly because of the bargaining agreement.

Council President Ciesla – Um, that's it so we can open up public comment.

Audience Participation:

Joe Imhoff – 240 Aurora Street in the Township and talked about the facts regarding the municipal portion of his tax bill.

Orchefski – Highlands Way asked about one of the foreclosed properties promised for a Veterans home and fall cleanup insurance question.

Fran Aiello – Lynda Road – Weapons for the Police Dept. and checked with Mr. Verone about a thank you letter.

Councilwoman Schneider – Asked about the March 11th minutes and Planning Board Minutes.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

Douglas J. Steinhardt
Mayor