

## TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG

### COUNCIL MEETING

December 29, 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, Councilwoman Schneider, Councilman Belcaro and Councilwoman McCabe. Attorney Campbell and Engineer Sterbenz.

**Resolution No. 14-157** – was adopted to hold an Executive Session. The Executive Session was held for approximately 35 minutes. Topics of discussion were EMS, Harmony/Lopatcong Municipal Court, Stormwater Management Training and November 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Session Minutes and Attorney/Client privilege.

**Public Comment:** Agenda items.

1. Orchefski – Highlands Way – questions in regard to appointments – comments - Shawn Leahy – if I cannot ask a question maybe I can ask after the meeting – I’m not sure under what an ordinance or whatever, why are we appointing members of the LAA, that is something which I just don’t understand. John Nicoll I have never seen the gentleman and I think you told me as Mayor we would not appoint people to boards who are participating into or to come regularly to meetings. I’ve seen John Nicoll, I think that is the person who helped Lori with her campaigning if I remember properly and that’s it. Thank you.

#### **Old Business:**

**Minutes** – Approve the minutes of October 27, November 12, November 19 and December 3, 2014. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call vote: Councilwoman Schneider yes to all but November 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Session meeting minutes. I object to the minutes presented because they are inaccurate and inappropriate for the reasons I explained in Executive Session.

Councilman Belcaro - Yes to October 27, November 19 and the 3rd. On the 12<sup>th</sup> if Councilwoman Schneider would like to amend it, I would like to give her the opportunity to do it on the minutes on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Councilwoman Schneider – I can’t do that today. I can amend that on the next meeting if you would like to put them on the table until next meeting.

Council President Ciesla – Well who amends the minutes since Katrina was acting as our scribe. I don’t think a.

Mayor Steinhardt – We essentially voted no.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, you essentially voted no.

Mayor Steinhardt – As to the 12<sup>th</sup>, so let's finish taking the roll. Um, Ms. McCabe.

Councilwoman McCabe – Yes.

Council President Ciesla – Yes

Mayor Steinhardt – I'm abstaining on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>. So the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> pass, so does the 27<sup>th</sup>. The 12<sup>th</sup> is therefore failed because it is two to two, um, and uh, it will have to be revisited on a subsequent date unless someone wants to make a motion to do otherwise.

Councilman Belcaro – Can we have it after the meeting, tonight's meeting?

Mayor Steinhardt – Have what?

Councilman Belcaro – To revisit that.

Council President Ciesla – Somebody, either Katrina

Mayor Steinhardt – No you can, you're gonna have to revisit cause at some point the meeting minutes are going to have to be adopted.

Councilwoman Schneider – I'm not prepared to do that this evening. You're asking me to make an amendment which I wasn't prepared to do. I would like some time, I would like to do a little bit of research on that.

Council President Ciesla – I think Katrina needs to amend them since she was the scribe. I don't think a Councilperson can write the minutes.

Attorney Campbell – You need to make a recommendation.

Council President Ciesla – You can make a recommendation but you cannot make the change.

Attorney Campbell – So, Councilwoman Schneider if you want to ask Council to put it on for next agenda, you want to make a recommendation, we can.

Councilwoman Schneider – I recommend it being put on the next agenda so I have time to amend the minutes.

**Ordinance No. 2014-13** – Second reading and public hearing to adopt the Highlands Area Exemption Ordinance prepared by the Highlands Council. Authorize Engineer Paul Sterbenz as the Exemption Designee to issue Municipal Exemption Determinations for applicants on behalf of the municipality at no additional fee.

Engineer Sterbenz said this ordinance would allow the municipality to process certain Highlands Exemption Applications for properties within the Planning Area only and those exemptions would be processed by me because I've had the training at the Highlands Council and have the certification as a result of that training. Motion to open the public hearing. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. All in favor.

Councilwoman Schneider – I have just one question Paul, based on my comments at the last meeting about um, making sure Council had copies of all um, applications coming in, does that need to be written in the ordinance or is that something, I don't have a copy of the ordinance in front of me, so I don't know what's on it um.

Engineer Sterbenz – My recollection is you would like to see the paperwork up front when it comes in and um, I'm going to give, if we get an application like that I'm going to get it to you when it comes in so and I think you may have wanted it before I issue the permit. It was two different times you wanted paperwork and I will provide that to you. Anybody else for that matter, to tell you the truth, so.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay. I just want to make sure it's on, we are okay with that. Okay good thank you.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, is there a cost to the Township for your services?

Engineer Sterbenz – There is going to be no cost to an applicant for this. Um, as you may be aware, I have a monthly retainer that's in the amount of \$1,700.00 it covers any and all meeting attendance and certain activities that I do on a monthly basis so this would be incorporated in that. This would not be a separate job number where I'd be charging for this. I'll incorporate into the monthly work that I'm doing.

Mayor Steinhardt – Motion to close the public hearing. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. All in favor.

## 2014-13

### SECOND READING 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 Monday, December 29, 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 LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE HIGHLANDS EXEMPTION ORDINANCE

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

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance No. 2014-14** – Second reading and public hearing to adopt an Ordinance to establish a Clothing Allowance for all Qualified Active Members of the Township's Fire Departments.

Council President Ciesla – What I did was create an ordinance to establish a clothing allowance for our active members of the fire department. This is a way to give back to the members, because they can damage their clothing in a fire particularly if they are coming straight there and they don't have a chance to change into like their sloppy clothes but it is also a way to increase participation in our fire department. It is a little incentive nothing huge but it is something that they know if they go to their meetings, they go to their drills, if they can try to get to as many calls as they can that they are going to be able to get this and it can just help them all around.

Mayor Steinhardt – It requires that they attend 40% .

Council President Ciesla – Forty percent they need to attend 40% of the meetings, drills and fire calls of their department.

Mayor Steinhardt – Motion to open Item 3 for a public hearing. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. All in favor. No comments from the public. Motion to close by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. All in favor.

#### ORDINANCE 2014-14

#### SECOND READING 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 Monday, December 29, 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 LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR ALL QUALIFIED ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG'S FIRE DEPARTMENTS

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Belcaro

**Ordinance No. 2014-15** – Second reading and public hearing to Update the Recreation Committee to include Wording Omitted When Created.

Council President Ciesla – Yes I sponsored that. This hasn't been published yet and we try to keep up with the accuracy of what we actually do here and want to reflect that the appointments are made by Mayor with the consent of Council and also to add a little wording to give people the right to bow out of a hearing if they don't want it.

Mayor Steinhardt – Motion to open Item 4 for public hearing. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. All in favor. Questions or comments from the public. No comments from the public. Motion to close by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor. Questions and comments from Council.

Councilwoman Schneider – Just one question, um, the uh, when you say wording omitted, you are actually saying wording changed. You're changing the wording, it wasn't omitted, it's changing cause it went from mayor and mayor with consent.

Council President Ciesla – Well (inaudible) you could argue it that it was omitted too.

Councilwoman Schneider – Which is fine.

Council President Ciesla – Cause it wasn't there previously and that's what omitted means.

Councilwoman Schneider – But the statute was only for mayor and now it's changed so it's just the omitted doesn't, it should be a change not omitted.

Council President Ciesla- Uh, it's six one way, half a dozen another. (Inaudible)

Councilwoman Schneider – It's not actually. It's not, it's not like you forgot to put it, you know that it was in the original and you forgot to carry it over. You're actually changing it not omitting it.

## ORDINANCE NO. 2014-15

### 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 Monday, December 29, 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 LOPATCONG,  
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
UPDATING THE RECREATION COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE  
WORDING OMITTED WHEN CREATED

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

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

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

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance 2014-16** – Second reading and public hearing to update the salary ordinance. Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to hold a public hearing. Motion by Councilwoman Schneider, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe.

Councilwoman Schneider stated that this is a hodgepodge of ordinance changes. I didn't have a part in doing the salary ordinance, cause I guess my portion stopped at the negotiation, so as with the last month, I wasn't prepared to say anything for that.

Mayor Steinhardt - Didn't want to exclude you.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yeah it's not, it was just um, they're salary changes I could just, there's salary changes in there for DPW, based on their new contract. There is salary changes for the Police Department based on their new contract and um, there were, I think there were one or two others in there that weren't of any significance so that was, that's the gist of what is in the salary ordinance.

Mayor Steinhardt – No problem, I just didn't want to exclude you. Motion to open the public hearing by Councilwoman Schneider, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. No comments from the public. Lee Rozycki stated that she just want to say she appreciated what (inaudible) congresswoman Schneider (inaudible). Motion to close the public hearing.

Councilwoman McCabe - asked if anyone did the math to check the numbers.

Councilwoman Schneider – I actually, I looked it over and I actually go it to the police that were part of negotiations to relook at the numbers, the chief looked at the numbers and they were all in agreement that they are accurate.

Mayor Steinhardt – Motion to close the public hearing. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor.

2014-16

## SECOND READING 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 Monday, December 29, 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 FIXING THE SALARIES, RETAINERS AND WAGE RATES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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 Schneider, 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. 2014-17** – Second reading and public hearing to provide Title 30 “Motor Vehicle and Traffic Regulations” at the Phillipsburg Athletic Complex.

Mayor Steinhardt – At the request of Phillipsburg High School we were asked to adopt an ordinance giving our Police Department the authority to write Title 39 which is Motor Vehicle Enforcement summons at the Phillipsburg Athletic Complex given that the property is privately owned, in this case by the School Development Corporation. We have no authority to do that until such time as the property owners consent and the town adopts and ordinance. Motion to open Item 6 for a public hearing. Motion by Councilwoman Schneider, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor. Council President Ciesla thanked him for the explanation. Motion to close the public hearing. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-17

## SECOND READING 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 Monday, December 29, 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.

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 227, "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC," SECTION 38, "CONTROL FOR THE MOVEMENT AND THE PARKING OF TRAFFIC ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY," SUBSECTION B, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG TO ADD SECTION B(5) TO REGULATE THE MOVEMENT AND PARKING OF TRAFFIC THROUGH TITLE 39 ENFORCEMENT AT PHILLIPSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

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

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Steinhardt asked the Clerk to communicate this Ordinance has been adopted with the Clerk responding she would.

### **New Business:**

**Traffic Control Device Baltimore Street and Red School Lane** – Engineer Sterbenz received quotes for yearly maintenance of this traffic control device after it broke down and had to be serviced. Council discussed the need for the maintenance quote for yearly service and decided not to proceed.

**Architects Golf Club** – Approve request for tax payment plan. Attorney Campbell explained that every property has the right to come to the town and ask for a one-time payment plan which by one time it means one time per property. So, someone sells a house, four owners later, you still can't get a payment plan. So, Architects has reached out to me requesting a one-time payment plan. At the time they made their request, they were delinquent \$108,440.96 on Lot 29. They were delinquent on their sewer about \$6,000 and they were delinquent on Block 12.05, \$8,000. Since that time, they have paid all of 12.05 \$8,000; they paid their sewer and they've paid \$25,000 towards Lot 29 what they think is a good faith showing that they are making these payments. The remaining balance is \$83,450.96 and they are proposing to make ten monthly installments of \$8,345.09 on this money that is due and they also asked if you have to charge them interest that you charge a nominal rate. We don't have to do that. The reason they are asking for this is if this money rolls over into 2015 and they are not in a payment plan and they have not paid in addition to interest they pay a 6% penalty which is over \$5,000. But on the \$83,000 they currently owe, it is a \$5,000 penalty so, um, they are making this request. I told

them it was completely up to Council. I warned them that if they get this approved by Council, they can never make this request again. Anyone owning this property can never make this request again. It goes in their tax file and it stays there. They understand and they are asking.

Mayor Steinhardt – What happens if they default?

Attorney Campbell – Well that would be part of the payment plan. If they default they have 30 days or 60 days to pay the balance in full or otherwise we can then go forward and put them on the tax sale list and we can even put in there that the interest that they would have paid, that penalty I should say, the penalty could be added to it. I would recommend you may want to continue with the interest and tell them that the interest is still going to accrue; we are just going to give you ten months to make those payments. This way it saves them, you know the \$5,000 in penalties but they would still pay the interest.

Mayor Steinhardt – Are they also, can they also be required as part of the same agreement to make sure they stay current on their current tax

Attorney Campbell - Yes.

Mayor Steinhardt – Their current taxes at least in-so-far, I'm sure you can't, obviously once they make all their payments, you can't enforce (inaudible) you know, beyond a ten month period but at least from the ten month period you can require with the current taxes as well.

Attorney Campbell – Absolutely, we always put that in there as and this particular property owner kind of the MO is they don't pay their taxes. They file a tax appeal. They have to pay their taxes and become current for their tax appeal but because we settled their tax appeal last year they didn't have to pay their taxes this year to get it so I think that's what got them in this predicament but um

Mayor Steinhardt – Is there no other tax year out there that they have left to appeal on?

Attorney Campbell – No.

Mayor Steinhardt – So, there does not have to be a clause in there that says that they waive any other appeals, the taxes that are the subject of this agreement correct?

Attorney Campbell – Correct. They are, we have, everything is all settled, everything's been credited.

Mayor Steinhardt – What about for the current tax year?

Attorney Campbell - They, we settled that one as well. They still have to make those payments for 2015. They would still have to make them. So, the fact that we put in the agreement they have to pay them, doesn't stop them having to pay them.

Council President Ciesla –How much are their taxes on a yearly basis?

Attorney Campbell – I think about \$100,000.00 on the golf course. The other lot that I was talking about that they owed \$8 is the little house that they own.

Council President Ciesla – Okay. They're going to have to pay like the \$8,000, plus a month plus about \$25,000 quarterly.

Mayor Steinhardt – Plus the sewer and the \$5,000 on the other lot.

Attorney Campbell – Do you want me to include on the agreement that they have to be current on both lots and their sewer?

Councilwoman McCabe- Yes.

Council President Ciesla – Yes.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yes.

Attorney Campbell – And you are okay with the ten month installment, the \$8,000. I would just ask that you make a motion.

Mayor Steinhardt – Someone want to make a motion. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Further discussion.

Councilwoman Schneider – I just want to say I you know although it's a better solution to be to get it all at once, you know, you don't want them to, I mean, they're a big part of the community and, you know, people like going there and they pay, you know, they're a rateable so, uh, I say we go forward with it and it's a yes.

Attorney Campbell – I also believe it helps your uncollected tax but Rachel can speak better to that but it doesn't show it as outstanding when you roll over into the next year. So because it is under a payment plan, that also helps Rachel's uncollected tax rate, it helps you, for budgeting purposes.

Mayor Steinhardt – How much you have to set aside to

Attorney Campbell – There is a little incentive to the town, you are not being totally.

Councilwoman Schneider – Right, yeah.

Mayor Steinhardt – All right Ms. Schneider voted yes, Mr. Belcaro right.

Continue the roll call - Councilman Belcaro – yes, Councilwoman McCabe – yes, Council President Ciesla- yes, Mayor Steinhardt – yes.

NAYS: None

**Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Steinhardt – Items 1 through 23 represent a Consent Agenda. Someone make a motion. We'll have a discussion after the motion. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe.

Mayor Steinhardt – Discussion.

Councilwoman Schneider – I have some discussion. On the three in-house promotions what has changed in their job duties from being a Keyboarding 1 to a Keyboarding Clerk 3, um and the Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics what has changed in their current position to create an in-house promotion.

Clerk Dilts – Well, you know, these three employees were employed Shirley 16 years, Eileen Apple probably 14 or 15 years and Phyllis since 2007 and they have both Phyllis and Eileen have taken on numerous responsibilities outside of the regular duties over the years at no additional

pay. So they support other departments. Shirley's position should really be two people in that department supporting the police. It has increased substantially, and I'm sure over the years with the OPRA law that's come into place has become a burdensome chore for her so she stays a lot of times over her regular hours to get her work done. They have supporting letters from myself on Phyllis, the Chief of Police for Shirley and John Fritts, the Construction Official have all made these recommendations.

Councilwoman Schneider – So from, so were they doing things as a Keyboardist I that should have been a three?

Clerk Dilts – They have progressed from Keyboarding 1 to the Keyboarding 3. Starting out working under close supervision and now, you know, under their own direction

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, fair enough. And No. 10 can somebody explain what the Municipal Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee is and did it require a council person or should it be a volunteer.

Mayor Steinhardt – It is a rotated committee from towns. Usually, a representative from each town and it's our turn in the barrel this month.

Clerk Dilts – Region 2.

Mayor Steinhardt – I don't remember when we last had representatives; it's been a couple years but we rotate amongst municipalities; it's our turn to designate somebody.

Councilwoman Schneider – Does it need to be a council person? Is that how

Mayor Steinhardt – Yeah, well not necessarily I think Beth's done it in the past.

Clerk Dilts – They do request a Council person.

Mayor Steinhardt – Bill did it forever.

Clerk Dilts – Bill Baker had it for many, many years.

Mayor Steinhardt – And then, I think after Bill left, Council, when the last time we had it available. I think you just took over for Bill. This is the first time we've had an opportunity to appoint somebody.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, um, I made a couple of calls today and I, my take on it was that it could be a resident and not a council person so I'm just wondering.

Clerk Dilts – That's correct, it could be a resident.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay.

Clerk Dilts – But it has never been. It's always been a council position or an employee of the town.

Councilwoman Schneider – For Lopatcong's choice. Okay, I'm just wondering why we wouldn't bring it to all these people that filled out volunteer forms; that would be a great opportunity for a volunteer.

Councilwoman McCabe – I think Lori would be a very good representative.

Councilwoman Schneider – I’m not questioning her qualifications; it’s just, you know, there is a lot of responsibility here on Council, um, just thought it would be nice to have another opportunity for a volunteer.

Mayor Steinhardt – Thank you. You had a couple others or other.

Councilwoman Schneider – Um, I think that is it.

Mayor Steinhardt – That’s it. We want to make one correction to No. 11. It was \$1250 if it wasn’t paid by February 15, so it’s only \$1100.00. Roll call:

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

NAYS: None

**Resolution No. 14-158** – Authorizing to transfer appropriations of the 2014 Municipal Budget during the last two months of the year as per NJSA 40A:4-58 in the amount of \$35,616.75.

R 14-158

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS OF THE 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR AS PER NJSA 40A:4-58

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as per NJSA 40A:4-58 that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to make the following appropriation transfers.

TO:			FROM:		
10522020	Employee Group Ins.	\$15,761.97	10515520	Legal Services OE	\$11,592.56
10510220	Computer Services	\$1,754.78	10544020	Telephone	\$2,587.28
10524020	Police Dept. OE	\$15,000.00	10544620	Gas (Natural and Propane)	\$1,582.13
10515320	Tax Assessor OE	\$1,500.00	10510520	Human Resource Education	\$11.98
10531020	Bldgs. & Grounds OE	\$1,500.00	10512020	Municipal Admin OE	68.89
			10513020	Financial Admin OE	\$273.91
			10513010	Financial Admin. S&W	\$1,400.00
			10547220	Social Security	\$15,000.00
			10515010	Tax Assessment S&W	\$1,500.00
			10531010	Bldg. & Grounds. S&W	\$100.00

			10529010	Road Maint. S&W	\$1,500.00
TOTAL	FROM:	\$35,616.75	TOTAL TO:		\$35,616.75

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 Monday, December 29, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**LAA Softball Director** – Appointment of Shawn Leahy as Softball Director as recommended by the Lopatcong Athletic Association.

**Planning Board** – Appointment of John Nicoll to an Alternate on the Board.

**Rent Leveling Board** – Appointment of Jim Mengucci to fill vacancy of Frank Toltl who resigned December 16, 2014

**KeyTech Laboratory** – Authorize payment of \$1,300.00 to KeyTech for laboratory testing services for the South Third Street Construction Project.

**Resolution No. 14-159** – Approve Civil Service in-house promotions for Shirley Emery and Eileen Apple from Keyboarding Clerk 1 to Keyboarding Clerk 3 and Phyllis Coleman from Keyboarding Clerk 1 to Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics/Keyboarding Clerk 3.

R 14-159

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AUTHORIZE AN IN-HOUSE PROMOTION THROUGH THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR SHIRLEY EMERY, EILEEN APPLE AND PHYLLIS COLEMAN

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have authorized an in-house promotion through the Civil Service Commission for Shirley Emery and Eileen Apple from Keyboarding Clerk 1 to Keyboarding Clerk 3; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council has authorized in-house promotion through the Civil Service Commission for Phyllis Coleman from Keyboarding Clerk 1 to Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics/Keyboarding Clerk 3; and

WHEREAS, there will be no salary increase for these in-house promotions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey authorize a Civil Service in-house promotion for Phyllis Coleman from Keyboarding Clerk 1 to Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics/Keyboarding Clerk 3 and Shirley Emery and Eileen Apple from Keyboarding Clerk 1 to Keyboarding Clerk 3.

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 Monday, December 29, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

R 14-160

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING NJDOT INVESTIGATION OF NO PASSING ZONE CENTERLINE COMPLIANCE ON NEW JERSEY ROUTE 57

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) recently completed a traffic investigation on Route 57 in the Township of Lopatcong; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT investigation revealed the current centerline pavement markings on Route 57 meet and conform to current design standards; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT will update existing records to reflect current No Passing Zone conditions along (US) (NJ) Route 57.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Lopatcong, Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that it supports the use of a "No Passing Zone" on Route 57 in the Township of Lopatcong as recommended by NJDOT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to NJDOT as requested.

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Douglas J. Steinhardt, Mayor

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Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Dated: December 29, 2014

CERTIFICATION

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, December 29, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution No. 14-161-** Reappoint Gary Woolf as Emergency Management Coordinator and Patrick Rivoli as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator as required by Warren County Department of Public Safety.

R 14-161

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING GARY WOOLF AS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND PAT RIVOLI AS DEPUTY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Township of Lopatcong has decided to appoint Gary Woolf as Emergency Management Coordinator and Pat Rivoli as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and representatives to the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee for the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Township of Lopatcong has agreed to make the appointment of Gary Woolf as Emergency Management Coordinator and Pat Rivoli as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and representatives to the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee for a three-year term ending December 31, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Township of Lopatcong has appointed Gary Woolf as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Pat Rivoli as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and representatives to the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee for the Township of Lopatcong for a three- year term ending December 31, 2017.

#### 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 Monday, December 29, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**County-Wide Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Appoint Gary Woolf and Patrick Ravioli as point of contacts for the County Wide Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee** – Appoint Council President Lori Ciesla to serve as Region II representative.

**Morris County Co-op** – Renew membership at a cost of \$1100.00.

**Strykers Fire House No. 2** – Approve membership for Daniel Boerig and Stephen Kosar as recommended by Fire Chief Lou LaFord.

**South Warren Municipal Alliance Grant** – Authorize Mayor to execute contract for grant through the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

**Resolution No. 14-162** – Authorizing redemption Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-031 and Premium on Block 99, Lot 57 C0274 in the amount of \$19,092.86.

R 14-162

#### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 99, LOT 57 C0274

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on June 25, 2014, a lien was sold on Block 99, Lot 57 C0274, also known as 274 Bald Eagle Drive for 2013 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-031 was sold to John Lami for a Premium of \$12,000; and

WHEREAS, Lereta, escrow company for property owners has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2014-031 in the amount of \$7,092.86 on November 5, 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$19,092.86 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-031 and Premium to:

John Lama  
307 West Shore Trl  
Sparta, NJ 07871

CERTIFICATION

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, December 29, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution No. 14-163** - Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-074 and Premium on Block 139, Lot 52 in the amount of \$1,723.52.

R 14-163

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AN  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO  
OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 139, LOT 52

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on June 25, 2014, a lien was sold on Block 139, Lot 52, also known as 58 Powderhorn Drive for 2013 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-074 was sold to US Bank Cust as Cust for PC4First Trust Bank for a Premium of \$700.00; and

WHEREAS, M & T Bank for Residential Mortgage, escrow company for property owners, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2014-074 in the amount of \$1023.52.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,723.52 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-074 and Premium to:

US BANK CUST FOR PC4 First Trust Bank  
50 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 2050  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

CERTIFICATION

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, December 29, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**A&A Curbing, Inc.** – Approve Change Order No. 1 for A&A Curbing, Inc., for the South Third Street Improvement Project.

**A&A Curbing, Inc.** – Approve Partial Payment No. 2 in the amount of \$93,037.06 for work completed on the South Third Street Improvement Project.

**Vanguard Energy Partners, LLC** - Renew Annual Energy Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$2,402.00 covering six sites.

**Resolution No. 15-164-Sewer Rate Dispute** – Authorize one-year extension on Contract with John Inglesino over sewer rate dispute with Town of Phillipsburg.

R 14-164

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A ONE YEAR EXTENSION TO A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH JOHN INGLESINO OF INGLESINO, PEARLMAN, WYCISKALA & TAYLOR, LLC FOR LEGAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey entered into a Non-Fair and Open Contract for professional services with John Inglesino of Inglesino, Pearlman, Wyciskala and Taylor, LLC with offices at 600 Parsippany Road, Suite 204, Parsippany, NJ 07054 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20-4 or 20.5; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Inglesino is hereby granted a one-year extension to serve in connection with a matter involving the Town of Phillipsburg. The terms of this agreement shall reflect an hourly billing rate of \$175.00 for services provided; and

WHEREAS, as per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57, NJACS:34-5.1 Chief Financial Officer Betty Dobes does hereby certify funds are available and encumbered; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one year and may be extended as approved by the Governing body; and

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 Monday, December 29, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Dept. of Public Works Truck 16** – Authorize Truck 16 “1987” International Dump” to be scrapped as requested by Brian Weeks, Superintendent due to unsafe conditions.

**Rt. 57 Pump Station Project** – Approve payment of \$88,931.70 for work completed on the Rt. 57 Pump Station Project to Dulaine Contracting, Inc.

**Resolution No. 14-165** – Authorize hire of a Police officer to replace retired Sergeant William Spencer in the Police Department.

R 14-165

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE HIRE OF A POLICE OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF SERGEANT WILLIAM SPENCER

WHEREAS, Lopatcong Township Police Chief Scott Marinelli wishes to replace retired Sergeant William Spencer; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey recognize the need to replace retired Sergeant William Spencer; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of Sergeant William Spencer will not increase the number of Police Officers in the Police Department but shall maintain the current force at 14 officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey authorize the hire of the 14<sup>th</sup> Police Officer in the Lopatcong Township Police Department.

#### 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 Monday, December 29, 2014.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution No. 14-166** – Approving application to participate in the Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program in the amount of \$30,000.00.

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

R14-166

SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Grant P-6080-15

RESOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY SAFE 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  
Applicant's Unit of Government

for funding for a project under the Safe and Secure Communities Program, and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_ Lopatcong Township Mayor and Governing Body \_\_\_ have reviewed the  
Applicant's Governing Body

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  
Applicant's Unit of Government

in the application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the \_\_\_ Mayor and Council \_\_\_ that  
Applicant's Governing Body

1. As a matter of public policy \_\_\_ Lopatcong Township wishes to  
Applicant's Unit of Government  
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.

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

SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

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 the meeting of the

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG held on the  
Applicant's Governing Body

29 day of December, 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 29th day of December, 2014

SEAL

*Margaret R. Vito, CME*  
Signature of Certifying Officer Title of Certifying Officer

**Council Reports:**

Councilwoman Schneider – Two things. The last Board of Education meeting I attended there was a lot of discussion about the new high school and, um, discussion about the secondary road; the emergency access road to the high school. From what Mr. Steinhardt said, last meeting, that there was no discussion, you didn't hear anything about that coming up and I believe the board also confirmed that, however, there's many residents, many parents in the town that are very concerned about that. Um, there was a suggestion to have a letter go out to the Township of Phillipsburg with some residents requesting it and maybe with the support of, um, the board and possibly Council it was just a brief discussion, um, nothing was in stone it was just something we may explore. Um, but that was a very important topic that was discussed that night.

Um, DPW, we are, they are finished with their leaf collection and they will be picked up soon by the company that comes and gets our leaves. Unfortunately, the cost of picking up our leaves is around \$7,000 which I think is kind of steep for picking up a bunch of leaves but there is not many choices out there right now for a company. Perhaps next year we can find something a little more economical. Um, you know, your hands are tied when you have no other option but to have a company come in and take the leaves but we are hoping maybe there might some different companies next year that could do that for a little bit less.

Um, the Christmas Tree pickup will be for the entire month of January. Please try to get your trees out on the curb. Please don't put them out before a huge snowstorm is about to occur because your tree will be under the snow for many months and uh, we would hate to have the DPW guys have to come back in March or April to pick up your tree. That's it. One more thing, the truck is still not in for DPW. The new truck that we purchased. Apparently, we were pushed back a little bit because of the way we had to approve it through Council. So, we are hoping that the truck comes in within the next couple of weeks or before a snow storm whichever comes first. So, we are still waiting on that. Thank you.

Council President Ciesla – I have a question. Do we pick up trees in March if they are buried under snow or is it a done deal?

Councilwoman Schneider – They, they will try. Well yeah, I can't say yes. They will try.

Brian Weeks – (Inaudible) We are not going to say no to you (Inaudible).

Councilman Belcaro – I was anticipating that all this digging would be completed by the end of this month. As I said earlier, the last couple of meetings so it hasn't, I believe is a few weeks of digging left and that's determined by the weather as well. So any of these snow storms they'll continue with construction until it is completed. That's it for the sewer reports but uh, I want to flip to the other side now and just want to say a few words to Doug only because last month I didn't have the opportunity. Doug, for the past couple of years I got to know you and I want to thank you for the 15 years of service to this Township. In the two years I've got to know you and I, uh, as a person in my heart I believe you have the utmost integrity even with some of the allegations that went on the past couple of years. I've seen a different side of you. I hope that that sort of nonsense, those sorts of accusations, that is forgotten because there is no validity or truth to that and I can testify to that. It is an honor to, I've learned a lot working up here with you, seeing you in action and saying that, no one up here is a punching bag. Everyone has a right to defend themselves. When fingers are pointed, when there is allegations, when you are accusing, not to be taken and that's the truth and I know some people are making faces out there right now Pete, you know, but that's the kind of person you are. Um, so Doug, you know, those are big shoes to fill, big responsibility and this Township loses a valuable asset. Fifteen years is a long run for anybody. Having said that, I just want to thank you.

Maher Steinhardt – Thank you. I appreciate it.

Councilwoman McCabe – Wow, it's tough to follow. I just have two short things. One in keeping the lines of communication open with the seniors. I have reached out to the senior homes and made some contacts there and some people got, you know, I can keep in the loop if anything that needs to, that we need to advise them of. Um, continue to work on some of the other locations and come up with some other ideas and trying to keep our seniors in the loop as to what is going on with the town because we all know that and it is a surprise to everyone not everybody has computers and access to the website and things like that so I do want to make sure of that and especially in case of an emergency that we work on our lines of communication and try to reach as many residents as possible. So, I will continue to work on that and um, you know, try to establish a protocol when something occurs that, that needs to be followed.

Secondly, on a happy note, our EDAC Committee we finally got our cards. Miracle of miracles. This is our discount card. They are five dollars each and we've got discounts from about 13 businesses and yes bring your glasses but we got some good ones. We got some from Friendly's, from Pizza Hut, UPS Store, Brass Rail. We've got some nice deals in here. You'll get your \$5 back with one use. So, if you would like, you can purchase one tonight, again, \$5 if not they will be available at the office on an ongoing basis. These are good for one year so from 12/31 this year to 12/31 of next year. So, you know, this was a lot of work, you know, you look at a little card and think nothing of it but let me tell you there was a lot of footwork involved and a lot of tracking and thank you to the EDAC Committee, there was a lot of contributions from our EDAC members that really, you know, stepped up and did the work cause there is work involved in these things. So, um, if anyone is interested in buying one tonight, they are available.

Also, I would like to say thank you to the Mayor for his years of service. It's, it's quite an accomplishment and we will miss you and we thank you for running our meetings and keeping us moving forward and um, oh thank you for the five dollars. So that's all.

Mayor Steinhardt – Thanks.

Council President Ciesla – The first thing I would like to do is I have to make a motion. As you know, we are going to a paid EMS service. It is taking a lot longer than they anticipated to go through the hoops and red tape that they need to do. Right now Phillipsburg is covering for us during the day. Um, Phillipsburg as you know is a paid force as well. However, Phillipsburg it needs to cover Phillipsburg itself. It's become a drain on their resources. What the EMS wants to do is they want to go and look at different towns, like Mansfield, Hackettstown and a couple of others and get some quotes from them, just get a contract basically and see, enter into an agreement with us to cover us for the next three months. What they would do is, um, they would do the same thing, they're paid, they're going to bill the person who's getting picked up. It is no cost to the Township. However, what they will do is they will make sure that they have an ambulance and staff here in Lopatcong so they won't answer the calls from 6 am to 6 pm. Like I said their getting their paid service up and running. It's taking longer than what we expected. We are really draining Phillipsburg's resources and we need to make sure that our response time is, um, what it needs to be for the health of our residents. So what they are doing, is they are going out and getting contracts and I just want to make a motion to allow Katrina to review them to make sure they are acceptable for the Township to enter into and don't open us to any additional ability. Mayor Steinhardt seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

The LAA – everything is going well. Dave Lubert retired. He was our Softball Director for many years. He really, he took that program and raised it up to where it is getting a lot of recognition; put softball on the map so to speak. For the first time ever, we had the softball all-star game here which is a big thing. They loved being here. He was part of the Pagsl League and he was very influential getting this program some recognition. However, his daughter that plays softball I think is now going to, I don't know, she's a freshman or sophomore in high school, he is more into the competition leagues now and the high school leagues. Shawn Leahy has been his Assistant Director for the past year. He was our only applicant for softball but he was our strong internal candidate because he is very dedicated to this program. Not only this program, but also other programs within the LAA and we appointed him in the consent agenda.

Also the LAA in conjunction with the LEA is having a fundraiser for a child in our Township that has been diagnosed with Leukemia. This fundraiser is going to be on January 10<sup>th</sup> at the

middle school from 4 to 8 pm. It is a spaghetti dinner. Again, the LAA, LEA and the PTA but there are many, many volunteers throughout the town that are helping out. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and for seniors and for a family of four you can get a \$20 family pack and you just pay \$5 additional for any other family members. If you want any information, feel free to reach out to Kenny and Sara Lutz from the LAA.

Councilwoman Schneider – The girl scouts are also part of that, they are coordinating that as well. So they are part of the LEA, LAA and um,

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, groups are involved.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yeah, but the girl scouts have had a major contribution to that spaghetti dinner and things as well.

Council President Ciesla – Recreation - our calendar is being printed and should be here soon. I'll let you know once that is and put that up on the website, how you can get that. I am working on my year-end report. We did a lot this year. We didn't do as much as we wanted to because we got involved with some other great events like the veterans but we are moving forward and we have some great things for next year.

Technology – As far as the EDAC card goes, we actually created a page for this card and it's going to list all the businesses that are on this card with linking to their website and a little bit about their discount on there. Also, we are upgrading our website next year. We'll be talking about that in January. Email list will be coming very shortly probably within the next week or so.

On-line payments I'm working on and should have in place for February for your sewer and tax and eventually we'll get to dog licenses. Oh, and as a reminder, your dog license is now due. Make sure you get those rabies shots, if you didn't you can look for the free clinic on the door.

I just have two questions for Paul. I know that we were going out to bid for Reservoir Road. I don't know if you've gotten anything back on that yet or.

Engineer Sterbenz – The bid documents are being worked on. The pricing is going to be sought in the next week or so.

Council President Ciesla – Oh great, and the only other question I have for you was the Baltimore and First Street, the four-way stop, do you know when we will be putting those up or do we need to authorize the DPW to do that?

Engineer Sterbenz - We have to get the ordinance down to the commissioner in the Department of Transportation so that's the first step and then once the commissioner approves it then, then the ordinance is approved and we can make that installation.

Council President Ciesla – Do we need to do anything to get that ordinance down or

Engineer Sterbenz – I just need a certified copy from Beth and we can make that submission.

Council President Ciesla – Okay, for Baltimore and First and then, um, I would respectively ask if I could, after we go through, I would like to finish. I have something else to say. I would like to finish up after public comment if I could. I would like to be the last one to speak.

Mayor Steinhardt – Ms. Schneider mentioned that the DPW truck hasn't come in yet but I do want to acknowledge Chief LaFord despite the way it was handled at Council, the engine was delivered when

Chief Lou LaFord – December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Steinhardt – December 12<sup>th</sup>. I was there when it came in as were most of the volunteer firemen and for those of you who had a chance to see Santa riding around the neighborhoods probably saw the truck in, at least in volunteer operation but as we said to those guys that night, hope you never had to use it except in a parade and wished them the best. I'm sure it will be well taken care of.

The Municipal Court Shared Service Agreement with Harmony Township expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>, therefore, it is necessary to enter into a temporary agreement so the court continues in operation on January 1<sup>st</sup> until such time as the new administration can negotiate if they choose to do so a new court agreement whether it be with Harmony or with anybody else but so as not to have a lull in court coverage in either of the two towns. Um, we have, Ms. Dilts identified a temporary administrator, court administrator to come in and take over two days a week, 8-hours a day or seven hours a day. Eight hours plus an hour for lunch, from Alpha.

Clerk Dilts – She retired from Alpha.

Mayor Steinhardt – Because our Court Administrator is going to be out for some medical leave for a period of time. She's going to come in and help get the summons and things together so there is really two items. First we need a motion to provide a three month time period for now correct?

Clerk Dilts – Yes.

Mayor Steinhardt – For the next three months pending Irene's return at \$25/per hour two days per week. Correct.

Council President Ciesla – Yes.

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

Mayor Steinhardt – Second is to authorize Council to entertain a temporary agreement with Harmony Township pending a permanent agreement regarding the shared court between our two municipalities. Correct

Clerk Dilts – Yes.

Council President Ciesla made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Councilwoman Schneider, Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Ciesla and Mayor Steinhardt.  
NAYS: None

Mayor Steinhardt – One last thing, a couple quick legal updates. About two weeks ago, ten days ago, we received, I received a copy of the order from John Inglesino's office; John Inglesino office is the attorney that's handling for us the litigation against the Town of Phillipsburg on the roughly 1.2 million dollars we alleged that they owe us on sewer charges. Phillipsburg had made

a motion to dismiss our complaints, called a Summary Judgment motion and they argued that there was no legal or factual basis for our claims. I am happy to inform you guys that we were successful, the motion was dismissed, the matter will now move forward based on our claims and will afford the new administration an opportunity if they wish to do so, to enter into some meaningful discussions with P'burg. I don't think they ever felt one, that we would move forward and two, I don't think they really took it seriously that the fact that they are now headed to a court date unless they sit down and entertain some discussions with us and would suggest that they may wish to do so. That came in a week or two ago and I would say that a couple of weeks prior to that we also received the second asphalt plant complaint, the one filed by the handful of residents, the roughly 21-count complaint that alleged a lot of the same things that the first one did although this had to do with meeting notices and a couple more allegations about my conflicts and some of the other conflicts that the various folks involved much as the first complaint ended up in all I think roughly 16-counts of that one and all 21-counts of the second complaint were also dismissed in their entirety and summarily as having no basis. Again, so in there end that at least for the trial court level. The question will remain as whether or not there will be an appeal and in any event, it goes wherever it goes but that is the status of that as far as the two outstanding pieces of litigation. I don't think I have anything else in terms of Council Reports.

Engineer Sterbenz – I just want to report to the Council and the public that the South Third Street Improvement Project is complete at this point. We will be holding about \$6300.00 of the contractor's money because the contractor needs to come back and re-top soil and stabilize some of the lawn areas that were disturbed during that project. We hope to get that done in April and early May once the weather turns here and suitable time to grow grass. Just so to let the Council know the final dollar figure for that contract is \$227,574.00. The original contract amount was \$227,051.00 so there was a \$523.00 increase in the contract; it is .23%. The cause of that, we did a little bit more curb and sidewalk work and there was a little bit more asphalt work that was done on the project. A lot of that was counter balanced by some savings we achieved. Again, there was a net increase of \$523.00 that is all covered by the grant. We had \$265,000.00 in grants from the DOT so it will all be covered and will closed out the project after we get the top soil work done in the spring. Any questions on that. Thank you very much.

**Department Reports** – Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. Roll call.

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

NAYS: None

**Pay Bills:** - Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. Roll call.

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

NAYS: None

**Public Comment:**

Ed Schuster – I know there is a lot of people here that are unhappy with mayor and council and the way things are done and I said last time, the best thing you can do is run for office and try and change it. Nobody's perfect and I think if anybody gets up there, they'll find out. It is not a cakewalk up here; it is not as easy. It is very easy for us, even me, to sit back here and complain and say why don't you do this, why don't you do that. Till you are up there and see how things are. Grants from the state are mandated by the state and comply with the state requirements. Council's hands are tied in a lot of situations and think they do their best in the interest of the Township and a lot of decisions being made, they don't like to make but their hands are tied and

they do the best they can for us and the Township and I don't know how many people realize that but I think we all have to realize that. Not all decisions that they make over the years and I think not all would admit that are not decisions that they are happy with but sometimes that is what they have to do. Mayor I said something last time. Thank you for your service. It has been a pleasure. I think most people don't know everything that gets done is not just here. This is not a job were they leave here and they go home and show up next month and I think a lot of people if they get up there are going to find that out. That's worse than a fulltime job and I just want to thank him for all the years of service dealing with everybody, else included in the public, different council members to try and make things work and I think you done a heck of good job over the years trying to appease everybody and the last thing is it is really not fair to down him or other council members. If people have legitimate complaints and a lot of us do, there is no problem being upset but you have to get upset with the right people and the right situations. You can't just can't go off halfheartedly and say this, that one and the other one. Study your things, figure out what's wrong and go to the right people and get things done. Mayor thanks very much.

Marla Endick – And actually my comment is for Mr. Schuster. I'm not even addressing Council. Mr. Schuster I appreciate your comments and I just want to echo that I agree with you and if people, you know, aren't happy with things they should voice them in a proper forum or they should run for office. I just don't know if you are aware that 1, 2, 3, three people who are currently setting up on Council and our Mayor elect are people that many people in this audience supported and campaigned for so, we have done exactly what you suggested. So, I just don't want you to think that we just show up and complain unnecessarily. We've actually motivated, moved together and actually made a huge impact on the makeup of the current Council and also, I think many of us have submitted volunteer forms; we would love to be part of the process and put our intellect and research skills to work for the Township and we're hopeful that in the future, our desire to do good work for the benefit of the Township will be appreciated and we will be able to do that in the future. So, I thank you so much for your concern. I just wanted to make you aware of those facts. Thanks.

Council President Ciesla - At the last meeting, I, we wanted to recognize Mayor Steinhardt. I, we felt, Beth and I and other members that it should be his prior Council that presented him with his proclamation because of all of the work that they did together and because of the fact that it wasn't a contentious bunch of people but people that came together and worked well together. So now, however, it is my turn. I first moved to Lopat in November of 1999. The same month that Mayor Steinhardt was first elected to the office of Mayor. For the last fifteen years he has been our Mayor. I like many of you, have known no other mayor. Tonight marks the last meeting of his tenure. Before being on Council, I must admit I had no real interaction with him. Everywhere I went I saw Councilman Mengucci. He was obviously the outgoing member of our previous Council. I knew Mayor Steinhardt through the Mengucci family. So, I knew of his professional and political successes. I knew he was a good friend to him as well. Even though I know for a fact that I was on the football field at the same time as him, for an entire season and also at school events together, our paths did not cross. I did see him once at Community Day, years ago, and recognized that he was my mayor and only got a little sort of grunt in reply that only further solidified my theory that Mengucci was the outgoing one. That, however, was the gist of my interaction with the Mayor. So, I really only got to know Mayor Steinhardt here in this room. As you all may know, I became involved in town politics when the asphalt plant was before the Planning Board in 2012. I always wanted to be more involved but when my kids were young I was very involved in the PTA, their schools, and their activities and never got to a meeting, although I did want to attend. Thankfully, Mr. Mengucci kept me informed but still in hindsight, I wish I had come to meeting prior to 2012 because seeing this man in action is truly amazing. Even though we are on different sides of the aisle with the asphalt plant, I came to admire him. Up here on the dais is where he belongs. He has a wealth of knowledge and knows how to use it. Quick on his mental feet, the answers come with little prodding and they are

accurate and on the mark. When someone is being politically obnoxious, he can see through the nonsense and deliver a rebuttal immediately and effectively. He will vigorously defend anyone unjustly accused of anything and will lend a hand to help anyone in need. I had prided myself on being a person that was open minded and gave everyone a chance and didn't judge. I'm not sure what happened to me in 2012, but I was not myself. I got caught up in the hysteria and I judged people without knowing all the facts or knowing them personally. I did shake that behavior off relatively quick but still it embarrasses me. I am much smarter than that and my parents raised me to be a better person than that. I have already made my private apology but now I will make my public apology. I thought the worst of this man sitting next to me without having all the facts and I sincerely apologize. I fell for the conspiracy theories without doing my homework. I apologize for any pain that I may have caused him or anyone else involved. Since then, I've been doing my homework diligently and can tell you, there is nothing going on here. This man may be an excellent attorney and not one you want to spar with because he will not hold back but he is an honorable man. I sincerely apologize for ever thinking otherwise. This may not be apparent to everyone in town or in this room due to the malicious gossip mongering that is rampant but outside of here it is well known, he is going to kill me for this, but this year alone he was nominated by his peers to be Mayor of the Year and also Dare's Man of the Year. After I was elected, I came to Council in a professional manner and put my best foot forward. I truly believe that you get back what you put out in the world and that was proven true here. I was not mistreated or maligned at all. I have to imagine it was not easy meeting with someone who seemed to think the worst of you but he did anyway and he took my lead and kept it professional and somehow both of us, not only survived our first meeting together, but we also laid down a foundation of a productive working relationship. Not that he didn't get his lumps in; he did by giving me the most difficult board of them all; the LAA but here is a great example of who Doug really is. Yes, if he thought that if I thought I could do a much better job than him, he'd give me the opportunity to do so by giving me the notorious LAA but when I did have a really difficult moment with them, not him, the LAA, he had my back so quickly and forcefully that it actually left me breathless. This is a man you want on your side, on your defense. Lopat has been very lucky to have him on her side for the last 15 years. That I can say for certain. We don't agree on everything but he always gives me the space to explain myself. In the two years that we have worked together, I'm proud to say that he only hung up on me once. There's a good probability that he threw the phone across the room after doing so, but I don't know that for sure. I do know that he is actually interested in why I'm thinking the way I'm thinking and he is that way with everyone who deserves such respect. His intellectual ability and curiosity are a benefit to everyone and he generally cares. His passion is unmatched as so is his loyalty and loyal to this town he really has been. Time will show that. I have since taken some lumps for defending him rather than attacking him but that's okay. You can't be a successful lawyer without ruffling some feathers and making some enemies and that is exactly what is really going on here folks. Time will show that the lies and false conspiracy theories about this man have their baseless roots in personal vendettas and personal hatred. Truth is the light that always shatters the lies of darkness. I know the truth now and one day so will everyone. The foundation we began working on in January 2013 has turned into one of the best working relationships I have ever had the pleasure of being a part of and I thank him greatly for that. I thank him for giving me a chance. I thank him for giving me the space to share my ideas. I thank him for supporting me as I brought them to life but most of all I thank him for all he has done for me not as a Councilwoman but as a fifteen year resident of Lopatcong. It has been my absolute pleasure to be his Council President but more importantly it has been my absolute pleasure to have had him as my Mayor. I will greatly miss having him up here on this dais beside me. To quote Dr. Seuss "Congratulations today is your day, you are off to great places, you are off and away. You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any direction you choose. You are on your own, and you know what you know and you are the guy who will decide where you go. Oh the places you'll go, you'll be on your way up, you'll be seeing great sites. You'll join the high flyers who sore at high heights. You won't lag behind because you'll have the speed. You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead. Wherever you fly you'll be the

best of the best, where ever you go, you will top all the rest”. God Bless and good luck in all you do and most of all thank you.

Mayor Steinhardt – Thank you very much. I has been a pleasure. I wish Mr. McKay the best of luck. I hope he, despite the controversies, I hope he enjoys it as much as I did. It certainly was well worth it and it’s made me a better person and I hope in some small way despite the issue that seems to divide us the town’s a better place as a result of something that I did while I was here. Um, that’s it, thank you to Ms. Dilts, to Phyllis and to all the other folks who have worked here over the years, as I said; it has truly been a pleasure. You, my colleagues on Council, I still have the utmost respect for each and every one of you for having the courage to sit up here so that said, make a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Belcaro made a motion seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret B. Dilts  
Clerk/Administrator

Douglas J. Steinhardt  
Mayor