

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
COUNCIL MEETING

March 4, 2015

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

A moment of silence was offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Mayor McKay called for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor.

Attorney Lavery – We emerged from Executive Session at 7:25 pm where we discussed the three matters; the first was a personnel matter involving a Township employee, the second was a litigation matter dealing with Mr. Imhoff vs. Lopatcong Township and the third was a public safety/contractual matter dealing with the EMS squad. No official action was taken. Copies of the minutes will be available at such time as the Council determines there is no harm to the public interest.

R 15-45

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:

Personnel matter

Imhoff vs. Lopatcong Township and Margaret B. Dilts- Pending litigation

EMS matter- tactics/techniques utilized in protecting the safety of public and contractual

Larken Tax appeal (Belview, Delaware Crossing & Warren Heights) update from attorney - pending litigation

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 the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor McKay 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.

Present – Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Councilwoman Schneider, Council President Ciesla and Mayor McKay. Also present were Attorney Lavery, Engineer Sterbenz and CFO Rossetti.

Council President Ciesla – I need to interrupt with a call for the Orders of the Day. Um, let me explain, the township adopted at its Reorg. Meeting and follows Robert’s Rules of Order newly

revised 10th edition. We currently have a dispute over the proper agenda or the Orders of the Day. The mayor's agenda as it is being called is out of order and that it is not the mayor's agenda. Lopatcong is a Small Municipality Form C government established under the Faulkner Act, New Jersey, NJSA 40:69A-1, etc. Both the Faulkner Act and the township charter which incorporates relevant sections of the act are silent on the topic of who prepares the agenda. NJSA 40:69A-120 gives the council, the legislative powers of the township and gives the mayor the power to preside over the meeting. Neither function is further defined anywhere in the act. NJSA 40:69A-121 regarding the mayor's power is also silent on the agenda. However, when we go to NJSA 40:69-127 duties of the municipal clerk it reflects that the municipal clerk shall serve as clerk of the council perform such functions as maybe required by law of the municipal clerk generally have other such powers and duties as council may prescribe, yada, yada. Therefore, since the charter and our act are silent on the agenda and since NJSA 40:69A-127 gives the clerk the power to perform such functions as required by the law of municipal clerks pursuant to one of the laws of the municipal clerks which is 40A:9-133 (e) 2. This reflects that the municipal clerk prepares the agenda at the direction of the governing body that then that is the governing law and the agenda is the product of the entire governing body not just the mayor alone. We've been having a problem for the last couple of months getting items on the agenda. One of mine was pulled off, one was Maureen's pulled off. I just want to lay this to rest right now because I can't, I don't have the time to keep fighting with this. I have work to do for the town, so, and in the same fashion that we've come to expect our items are being refused to be placed on the agenda regardless of their necessity and the utter lack of transparency that that attitude promotes and it is potentially harmful to the township. The one item I wanted on here today was a resolution to authorize our bond counsel to refinance our bond to save us money. This needs to be done before we introduce our budget. So, therefore, in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order, Part I, Main Motion Second 18, I call for the Orders of the Day. It is a call that again, citing Roberts' Rules can interrupt the flow of business, does not require a second, cannot be debated or amended, it requires no vote. To the contrary, if anybody wants to avoid the Orders of the Day, you must make a motion, have a second and it has to be repealed with two-thirds majority vote. All I want to do is get our items on the agenda, so, I have additional agendas out there with our items on there and I just want to clear this up and I don't know if Attorney Lavery wants to weigh in on the agenda at this point but.

Attorney Lavery – Well, um, I will say this. I don't, the clerk's statute I think sets forth (inaudible) so even though that does reference governing body in that I don't think I can extrapolate from that, that's who sets the agenda. Now, I will say this, I think you all have to work together. You have Small C form of government which is Faulkner Act Form of Government which is unique in that, um, you have a mayor who also votes with the council, you know, Faulkner Act municipality special strong mayor form of government, the mayor only votes in case of a tie, um, and you don't normally have, when you have a council president on the other hand, only the council president runs the meetings in the form of government where the mayor actually sits off to the side. We're unique in that we have a council president and we have a mayor and we have a mayor who, while they don't consider, you know, Michael Pane who was, uh, brighter about these types of things (inaudible) in his practice, it's not a strong form of government, there are a lot of indications that some of the power are (inaudible) strong mayor form of government so I would also say this, that the normal practice is that whoever chairs the meeting which obviously the mayor chairs the meeting would normally have control over the agenda, however, I agree that that's not (inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – I think Robert's Rules of Order actually says the agenda is the entire committee.

Attorney Lavery – Yeah, that's true and as a matter of fact, I looked at Roberts Rules about that issue and it says, basically, the committee sets the agenda. The problem that we have as the municipality though is that Robert's Rules doesn't take into account the Open Public Meetings Act but we have to have the agenda. So, I don't disagree that I think that we have to work together, you know, the mayor and the council president because obviously, you know, even though the mayor is the administrator and you're the legislative, it is a unique situation. Um, so and that's my only concern as with the Open Public Meetings Act, you know, we have to have our agenda out in advance, obviously, so, the public can take a look at what the township is going to discuss and you can obviously add stuff to the agenda at the last minute if it just came up at the last minute you know, if you knew about it before then, obviously, you don't want

people keeping something off the agenda then springing it on someone at the last minute I'm not saying anybody would do that I'm saying that's the purpose.

Council President Ciesla – Right, no, no. I handed mine in last week.

Attorney Lavery – (Inaudible) in advance so, I would say if there's items to be added to the agenda, if those items that can wait to the next (inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – Well, what if they're added and then taken off. I mean who has the right to take anything off our agenda?

Attorney Lavery – Well, I don't know that, I mean, I think that's a decision of the mayor and council but like I said, normally, you know, whoever is in charge of the meeting, but like I said, (inaudible) is unique because you have a council president and you have a mayor. So, I think, but there isn't anything that says that the mayor has the authority to do it or the council. So, I think the answer is you have to work together.

Council President Ciesla – That's all I want to do. I just don't want to fight about it every month.

Councilwoman McCabe – Right, and I had an item in as of last week and it was pulled off. No discussion, no comments and I think that, that is wrong. It's improper, it's unfair and it shows lack of transparency and lack of team work. So, I think that we need to iron this out and then our agenda is changed. Now we have something called "New Business Council Items". Why isn't everything under New Business? Why do we need to split it out? If it is New Business Council Items why don't you have New Business Engineer Items, New Business Clerk Items? I mean it is ridiculous, you know, the, the

(Resident inaudible)

Councilwoman Schneider – Because the agenda was changed, again, at the last minute, so, um, it probably didn't get out to the public.

Mayor McKay – Much of this is because we have to have some kind of structure around how things get into the discussion.

Council President Ciesla – Well, mine was in in plenty of time. Plenty of time.

Mayor McKay – Yes, but yours

Council President Ciesla – and I never received an explanation.

Mayor McKay – Yours should have been, I think, first submitted to the finance committee, as we are required to have under our charter and

Council President Ciesla – But why?

Mayor McKay – the finance committee to the council.

Council President Ciesla – But why?

Mayor McKay – That's what I told Mrs. Dilts.

Council President Ciesla – So, does that mean that nobody can get anything on?

Mayor McKay – Because you don't have the authority to do that to my knowledge.

Council President Ciesla – I have the authority. If I want to put a resolution on the agenda to paint all the fire hydrants pink, I have the authority to do that. Whether you guys shoot me down because it was a ridiculous item, that's one thing. But I have the ability to put anything on this agenda. So does everybody on council. We all have an equal vote.

Mayor McKay - But things such as the financing of the debt which is part of a larger financial picture and strategy that we yet to have had put in to place, in this township, needs to go through the finance committee, it's needs to get a lot of thought because we have to, besides refinance the debt, we have to figure out how we're going to start repaying the debt. We have a big problem with that. A big problem that other townships around us don't have and I think that deserves not someone coming in and telling us we're going to do it but it deserves a very long conversation about what we're going to do.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, but we should investigate it. (Inaudible)

Councilwoman McCabe – Which is why it should be on the agenda.

Council President Ciesla – Yes, and you were emailed by our auditors too, on the same thing. We both received an email from our auditors suggesting that we investigate refunding our bonds.

Mayor McKay – Yes, and we, that's always been the attempt (inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – Okay, and that's why we need to authorize them though. They just can't do that. We need to authorize them so they can do it before the budget or else the savings will not be reflected in this budget. That's all I'm trying to do is save the town.

Mayor McKay – I'm not going to jump into a refinance of bonds until we have a larger discussion on the

Council President Ciesla - That's what Dave would do. We need to authorize them to investigate it for us that's all I was asking.

Councilwoman Schneider – The item on there didn't say to authorize, to discuss it, it was to execute.

Council President Ciesla – I didn't say to execute. It never made it on an agenda.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, it was on.

Council President Ciesla – I just put it on now.

Councilwoman Schneider – No, it was on the last, I believe it was on the last agenda that the meeting was cancelled. I believe it was on there. Um, also, you know, when you submit an item to be put on an agenda there should be backup documentation with it so each Councilmember knows exactly what it is that they are voting on, that they're looking at.

Council President Ciesla – I have Dave and John for backup here. That's why they are here.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's what, no it, we should have, well, if they were going to do this, then there would have been a plan put in place and for us to look at it and review it and understand it and ask questions.

Council President Ciesla – That's what I want to do, I want to authorize and have something on the agenda to authorize the bond counsel to investigate it so they can get us the documentation that we can look at to see if we want to execute that. That is what I'm trying to do.

Mayor McKay – The bond counsel.

Council President Ciesla – bond counsel yes that's what has to (inaudible).

Mayor McKay – is the bond counsel present?

Council President Ciesla – No, we would have to authorize them to do that. If you guys don't want to save the town money, that's okay.

Councilwoman Schneider – No, that's fine but also the auditor has not yet been hired for this year.

Council President Ciesla – I know but we still have to do this before we do the budget if we want to do it for this year. If you don't want to do it for this year, that's fine, I just want to put it out there. I don't want to lose sight of it.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yeah, and we need to know all the particulars; how much it is going to cost, who is going to do it.

Council President Ciesla – We would authorize him to investigate.

Councilwoman Schneider – Why do we need to authorize him to investigate that?

Council President Ciesla – Because we have to. Let's how our government works. They can't just do it on their own.

Councilwoman Schneider – But he sent an email out saying he was going to save the township money and that's all he said.

Council President Ciesla – He needs to, he said he has an opportunity for us that we can investigate. If you don't want to do it, that's fine. I'll will make (inaudible).

Councilwoman Schneider – It is not a question of wanting to do it or not wanting to do it.

Council President Ciesla – Okay, so what's the problem?

Councilwoman Schneider – Because there's never, typically, our agendas come to us with no backup documentation for a majority of the items and they're either put on last minute or there is no paperwork for anyone to come up to have it before hand to make educated choices up here.

Council President Ciesla – What kind of paperwork could I possibly have to say that I want to authorize the bond counsel to investigate refunding bond opportunities. A Wikipedia page on refunding bond opportunities.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's not what. Right, right, that's not what it said on there.

Council President Ciesla – Beth, was it ever on an agenda.

Mayor McKay – Yes.

Council President Ciesla – When.

Mayor McKay – There were at least a dozen agendas in the last few days.

Councilwoman Schneider – I don't have the last agenda item on there but I do know that I saw it on one of the emails.

Clerk Dilts – It was on the agenda that I made up on Thursday and then mayor asked to remove it.

Mayor McKay – Because I believe first it has to go to the finance committee because it is very important.

Councilwoman Schneider – But the wording actually made it sound like it was taking place tonight.

Council President Ciesla – No, it's just to authorize them (inaudible)

Councilwoman Schneider – but that's not what it said. It made it sound like it was being executed this evening and with no information to make an educated choice.

Council President Ciesla – Who made the decision to take it off?

Mayor McKay – Me.

Council President Ciesla – Okay, you don't have that authority.

Mayor McKay – I think I do.

Council President Ciesla – I don't think you do.

Mayor McKay – I think I do, I'm the chief executive

Council President Ciesla – and I'd like Mr. Lavery to look into that.

Mayor McKay – All right.

Councilwoman McCabe – My item was removed as well.

Mayor McKay – What is your item?

Councilwoman McCabe – my items to hire our computer technician.

Councilwoman Schneider – Right, that's the task force.

Mayor McKay – that's mine (inaudible).

Councilwoman McCabe – Uh no. It's not the task force either.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yes it is.

Mayor McKay – that's mine, my

Councilwoman McCabe – As a matter of fact that could be hired by the purchasing agent. It is under the \$17,500 and we can have this done.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, right now we have it as a bid process. Right now, they're required to submit an RFP.

Councilwoman McCabe – Who's required to submit an RFP? We have one already.

Councilwoman Schneider – Right.

Councilwoman McCabe – And you sent a document yesterday from another company that's working for Greenwich that we should consider.

Councilwoman Schneider – What does that have to do with anything, where they're working Maureen. They're, the mayor sent me out to take, do a task and to find other offers, you know, to not, not to just take the first hire.

Councilwoman McCabe – Its March, how much longer are we going to look?

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, Maureen because there are other things that we need to take care of and are

Councilwoman McCabe – Instead of hiring our attorneys.

Councilwoman Schneider – They are a holdover Maureen. We still have coverage, okay.

Councilwoman McCabe – Mmhhh.

Councilwoman Schneider – They are contracted to be a holdover.

Councilwoman McCabe – It's March. We can appoint them.

Councilwoman Schneider – Why and what would

Councilwoman McCabe – I don't know what the delay is.

Councilwoman Schneider – and what would that

Councilwoman McCabe - What the task force is doing

Councilwoman Schneider - What would that serve whether

Councilwoman McCabe - Is there a report tonight on the task force?

Councilwoman Schneider – you appoint or not appoint.

Council President Ciesla - We already paid, we already have to pay, um, our current computer guy because we're on his server as of January 1st so he already got paid.

Councilwoman McCabe – So, it is a non-issue.

Councilwoman Schneider – No, it's not a non-issue.

Councilwoman McCabe – It should be done and taken care of. We already paid our computer tech. There is no need to assign someone else or then we'll pay double. Is that what you want to do, cost the town money twice?

Councilwoman Schneider – No, Maureen. That's not what I want to do and let's not get into that. It is a task force. I was waiting for the bid and that's why we have not done anything and also, our meeting was cancelled last time. So, we have not had anything.

Councilwoman McCabe – It is still March. We had January, we had February and here we are letting another meeting go without a point.

Councilwoman Schneider – And, what is that costing the township right now? It's not. We are trying to make some decisions here without just taking the first person and we're trying

Councilwoman McCabe – (Inaudible) it is a lack of leadership.

Councilwoman Schneider – No it's not Maureen. It really isn't.

Mayor McKay – Mr. Lavery perhaps it would be useful if you could give just a thumbnail outline of the authority and powers of say the mayor and the council president.

Council President Ciesla – Council in whole. I'm not looking just for myself. I'm looking for the council as whole.

Attorney Lavery – The problem is the real answers are contained in cases that have been litigated. The powers overlap somewhat, so, the mayor runs the day to day operation of the town. He makes administrative decisions. The council president is the (inaudible) the council makes the legislative aspect. That's easy. Then (inaudible) who does what according to the municipal charter which states the language pretty much right out of the Faulkner Act Small C form of government and then there are certain people who the mayor appoints that are set forth in the charter, then there are certain people who the governing body appoints which would be the mayor voting with the council and, you know, obviously, this issue came up with regard to the auditor and because the auditor is in a position that is provided for in the general law that you are required to have one that made a governing body or mayor and council appointment so, basically, the various appointments you just got to take a look at the charter and see who has the ability to do that. Some of them are not that easy. Some of them may have to go through (inaudible) the law somewhere else and then if there not then (inaudible) the situation. But generally speaking, the council is the legislative end of the town and the mayor is the administrator who runs the day to day operation. The mayor makes certain policies during the day and then the council can make their own policy (inaudible) I guess at the end of the day we have to work together.

Council President Ciesla – Cause it says right here in Robert’s Rules, it is wrong to assume, as many do, that the president sets the agenda. It is common for the president to prepare a proposed agenda but that becomes binding only if it is adopted by the full assembly perhaps after amendments as just described. So, I mean, I don’t know what I do to get items on the agenda; that’s my question.

Attorney Lavery – Well, I think you are entitled as council president to get items put on the agenda and I think that I, you know, I can go and research it tomorrow. I’ve looked at Robert’s Rules I found the same thing that you found. I took a look at the statutes there is nothing in the municipal charter that says that who has the authority to prepare. I’ve said, you know, the kind of practice was the one who chairs the meetings is the one that, you know, basically oversees the agenda but, you know, I think here, it’s an interesting situation because you do have a council president and a mayor and I think that you ought to be able to get stuff on the agenda and I’ll be happy it research it further if you want me too, but I don’t know if there’s going to be anything else out there. Most of the stuff we have definitive answers on certain issues or on cases that have been litigated already with regard to who has what powers and then, they’re not so clear either because you have the Sharp/James case which that is a strong mayor form of government.

Council President Ciesla – Mhmm, yeah, I agree.

Attorney Lavery – (Inaudible)

Council President Ciesla – Right, yeah, it was what a mayor council

Attorney Lavery – There’s some general principles that apply but it all comes back to the municipal charter and it all comes back to what’s set forth in the charter which isn’t always clear either.

Council President Ciesla – And, how does NJSA 40A:9-133 et seq. fall into it. Does that weigh into it at all?

Attorney Lavery – I think I get to the same conclusion but I don’t think that is just for (inaudible) that’s the statute that says what the clerk’s powers are. I don’t know that you could extrapolate from the clerk’s powers to (inaudible) prepare the agenda at the direction of the, I think it’s the governing body but I don’t know if you can use that to say that the governing body does. Now I think ultimately because of our form of government, that’s the way it should work, but I don’t necessarily agree that that statute says.

Council President Ciesla – Okay, let me just look into it because

Attorney Lavery – It says that but I think it says it with regard to what the clerks do (inaudible) not necessarily that, you know, that’s who sets the agenda. – It’s not, yeah it’s not

Council President Ciesla – But I just don’t, I don’t know. Either that or we’ll have to come up with a policy because I’m not going to fight to put something on the agenda. I’ve, I love doing this. I love working for the town and I love getting things done and I’m not going to fight every single month to get something on the agenda, I’m not.

Mayor McKay – We put forth a proposed policy for getting things on the agenda. I sent it out to everyone but no one responded.

Council President Ciesla – Well, I think that has to be adopted by council.

Mayor McKay – I wanted to get the basic understanding of what people were looking for and no one responded so we are trying.

Council President Ciesla – We can’t discuss things in email.

Councilwoman McCabe – Right.

Mayor McKay - I can send it out and ask you to take what

Attorney Lavery – You can't make decisions.

Council President Ciesla – We should not, no we should not do that.

Councilwoman Schneider – No, he just sent it out.

Mayor McKay – I sent them out so they would have something to look at so we could discuss.

Council President Ciesla – And, yeah, to (inaudible) come up, I mean, again we want to put things, we want to get things done, we want to put things on the agenda so how do we do that?

Attorney Lavery – Well, I would make a suggestion if you had an agreement or policy that said that any agenda items have to be in X days before or by such and such a day and then everybody is aware

Council President Ciesla – And, then who, again, my other question, is that's great and I did get mine in earlier but who has the authority to pull it off? I would believe that everything should be, this is my, my idea of having everybody having a fair share as any councilmember up here should be able to put something on the agenda. If you want to set a day, by what time, that's fine and then if you want something pulled off, it should be discussed here as a group. I mean that's what I would assume to have a fully functional council that's working together and then like I said, if I put on a resolution to paint all the fire hydrants pink, I would think that you would all not want that on there, but that should be discussed here.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, things have changed actually because, um, before Mayor McKay took office, the procedure was that the mayor makes the final call on the agenda and when I sent in things that I would like on the agenda, I was told I have to check to see if it is allowed.

Council President Ciesla – Well, you should have argued with him.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay. Um,

Council President Ciesla – I sent my stuff in, I never asked him for approval. I sent it to Beth.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, you know, I sent my stuff in too and it never got on so, you know, what, um, that because I was told the mayor makes the final decision and now all of a sudden.

Council President Ciesla – Well, I don't think he was right either.

Councilwoman Schneider – Now, all of a sudden, things have changed.

Council President Ciesla – to be honest with you.

Councilwoman Schneider – Right, okay, but now, now you don't think he's right, so, now we're going to a different way and, you know, if you're going to keep going with the Robert's Rules, then you ought to follow Robert's Rules for everything else in there including the minutes and we're cherry picking Robert's Rules and either you adopt them or you don't adopt them.

Mayor McKay - That is a very strong point.

Council President Ciesla – Well, I'm relying more on the statute and I'm just saying, again, I don't want to have to come to every meeting and have to fight to have my items put on the agenda. I have worked very hard these last two years, you know, that regardless of politics, and I want to continue to do that, at least for the remainder of my term.

Attorney Lavery – Well, I think if the town enacts a policy that says that agenda items have to, you know, everybody spent time and they're going to be on there because otherwise you don't have to beat each other (inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – Right, mmhmm, yeah.

Attorney Lavery – Just a suggestion.

Council President Ciesla – So, what about my items for tonight? Are they on or are they off?

Attorney Lavery – Really, I would say is having them on for the next. That's a problem, is we have the impact of the Open Public Meetings Act. So, they are not on the agenda, so, what I would suggest is that they be placed on the agenda, if that's the new policy for the next meeting, and then go from there.

Councilwoman McCabe – Well, we're giving notice right now, we're putting them on the agenda, so, it's in on time.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, and I hope that all the backup documentation is with it.

Councilwoman McCabe – You already have it all, Donna.

Council President Ciesla – I won't have any back up for this. I have no backup to give you for this.

Mayor McKay – With respect to refinancing debts, is a serious issue and you have to give some kind of indication of what you're planning to do or what you think is appropriate to do. I mean what type of debt structure are you considering.

Council President Ciesla – I just want him to investigate it.

Mayor McKay – Do you want to do serial bonds?

Council President Ciesla – I want him to investigate it.

Mayor McKay – Do you want to have (inaudible) debt (inaudible)

Council President Ciesla – I want him to investigate it.

Councilwoman McCabe – Excuse me, she made her point already that she wants it investigated. That was the point.

Mayor McKay – You don't usually investigate something like that, you just determine what you want to do, what your goals, you're trying to accomplish.

Council President Ciesla – My goal is to save the taxpayers money.

Mayor McKay – I what regard? In interest rates or

Council President Ciesla – To save money paying interest, yes.

Mayor McKay – Well, how about fees, have we, um,

Councilwoman McCabe – So, are we going to put this on the agenda and discuss it now or are we going to wait until next meeting?

Mayor McKay – Well, I think its best that it gets run through the finance committee cause it is a very important financial matter. Talk to the financial committee and to the CFO and come in to one uniform way of thinking about what you want to accomplish then bring it to council and let council know what you want to do.

Council President Ciesla – It will be too late. It has to go, it's for this budget. For this budget it will be.

Councilwoman Schneider – We have a meeting in two weeks.

Council President Ciesla – We'll put it on the agenda for two weeks then, and we'll discuss it.

Mayor McKay – I want you to meet with the CFO and with the finance committee.

Council President Ciesla – I cannot meet with the entire finance committee that would be in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. I'll meet with the CFO and I'll talk to the auditors, again, and if there is any documentation, we can do this, but we have to at least get them looking at it. We have to authorize them to look at it; they can't do it on their own.

Mayor McKay – We have to know what we want to get. I don't know what you are trying to get? I don't know what a debt structure you are looking to put in place.

Council President Ciesla – I want them to come to us with some opportunities, some examples, some different options. I'm not doing that research myself. That's not my job. That's their job.

Mayor McKay – Well

Council President Ciesla – Well, it's my job to authorize them to do their job.

Mayor McKay – But you have to understand what you are asking them to do.

Council President Ciesla – I know.

Mayor McKay – And, I have to assume that you do understand that, okay.

Council President Ciesla – Yes. I majored in finance. I understand it.

Mayor McKay – Okay. I will give to Mr. Lavery, with council's permission, the proposed resolution on council meeting agenda and minutes process that I had circulated before and, so, he may want to look at that more. Thank you. I wanted to do that in a form of a well, it's a long story, but we didn't do it that way. We were going to have it as a less formal administrative policy.

Councilwoman McCabe – We would need to review and approve that as members of council.

Councilwoman Schneider – We did.

Mayor McKay – You did, you got it already.

Councilwoman McCabe – We did not approve it.

Mayor McKay – We didn't approve it. I said I'm giving it to him as a basis for him to come forth and create an acceptable policy so that we can move forward. Don't you agree that is a good idea?

Councilwoman McCabe – I think we should create our own acceptable policy and review the one you gave and give you our comments on it.

Mayor McKay – I asked you to do that months ago and you didn't want to or nobody did it, so.

Councilwoman McCabe – You didn't bring it back up and I did have some issues with it and I think we talked, we discussed it.

Council President Ciesla – But, it wasn't on our agenda to discuss.

Councilwoman McCabe – Right.

Mayor McKay – Because it was intended to be an informal administrative policy. Everyone thought that would be best.

Council President Ciesla – But we have to make administrative policy here. We can't have any informal policies. I mean we can review it. We can save attorney's fees. We can review it if

you could send it out again and we'll review and see if there is anything we want to add and then we can adopt it at the next meeting.

Mayor McKay – I'll make a note send out again. Okay, and then we'll have a structure by which we can operate. That would be very good.

Council President Ciesla – Thank you.

Mayor McKay – Thank you. Okay, now we can, let's see. We can open the meeting for the public. Agenda items only. Um, I, um, I need to ask for a motion to do that.

Councilwoman Schneider – Motion.

Mayor McKay – Second.

Councilman Belcaro – Second.

Mayor McKay – All in favor. The meeting is open for public comment on agenda items only.

Juniper Leifer – 32 Jade Lane. I just wanted to check as chair of the Environmental Commission that under Old Business No. 3 we will be completing the appointments for the environmental commissioners that you had in mind. Juniper requested council start working together and thanked Mayor McKay for the job he is doing.

Louis Cartabona – Stated his was address is 1119 Fifth Avenue in Alpha, New Jersey and that he was an elected Councilman in Alpha. He questioned agenda item No. 8 under New Business listing the pool membership rates include swim team, pool party rates and pavilion rates for 2015 but noticed it didn't actually list that for the public. If asked if it would be posted on the website and also referenced Roberts' Rules for guidance during a meeting?

Eric Johnson – 361 Stonehenge Drive. Stated he was confused about the same item which is Old Item 10 and New Item 8 that's the resolution or discussion for the pool memberships and that he would make a recommendation after he completes his analysis.

Bruce Hall – 187 Stonehenge Drive. Discussed the ordinance regarding taping of meetings and the requirement to post them on YouTube. Attorney Lavery felt there was no mandate that they must put them on YouTube.

Carlos Correa – 82 Puddingstone Way. Wanted to clarify that the ordinance did not require that the videos have to be available on YouTube. There is another person that is also allowed to video tape and thought Mr. Hall should check the ordinance. Would like council to post the videos right after the meetings and Council President Ciesla said she would bring this up under her report and ask council to make a policy for that.

Mayor McKay – Thank you. Are there any other persons who wish to speak in this public period? Having seen none or heard none, I hereby take a motion to close the public period.

Councilman Belcaro – Motion.

Mayor McKay – Second.

Councilwoman Schneider – Second.

Mayor McKay – All in favor. Okay, our next item is the swearing in of a new police officer here in the township. Christopher Petrella. If Mr. Petrella is present, would he please come forward?

Clerk Dilts swore in Christopher Petrella.

Mayor McKay – All right we now go into Old Business. Before we do that or as we do it. I want to read a prepared remarks about going forward with the council. There was recent press coverage over my desire for civility at town council meetings and it is absolutely true that I posted civility guidance from the New Jersey League of Municipalities in the public doorway.

This genuine effort to attain a greater knowledge of civility among our attendees has apparently offended some people. It is unfortunate, and it is all very frustrating. Um, I want to do my utmost to bring the necessary changes to this township and that's why the people put me here. The council is here to serve the taxpayers and honestly, get the business of the township done. Its meetings need to be civil and I firmly believe that local officials need to be less politicians and more public servants and that they need to encourage conversations rather than arguments. Unanticipated gavel noise, level notwithstanding, my problem, I'm sorry; I believe I've generally been endearing to do that why trying to keep some control over these proceedings. Admittedly, I am new and it is not easy. Nevertheless, the chair must exercise control over a public meeting not to be autocratic but rather to ensure successful dialogue. We must and will have order so that all are heard. I am hopeful that all present also desire the council meetings to be more civil and I'm sure they do. So, let's all work towards obtaining this goal. As a reminder, we all need to refrain from things like disruptive side conversations, insulting comments, speaking out of turn, high pitch rhetoric, interpreting a colleague, interrupting colleagues mid-sentence and resorting to zingers that are just designed to embarrass somebody but not really get any kind of substantive point across. You know, I plan on stopping the proceedings if I observe this sort of disruptive behavior. I'll point it out and then we'll sit there until they're finished and that's how we'll do it from now on in this, such a peaceable way. Um, I hope I don't have to do that but if we have to then we will. Um, one other point that I should make is that for the record I may have inadvertently approved the November 2014 minutes when my name was called on the roll I was not on the council in 2014 and should have not have voted on approving the minutes. So, that's an errata and a correction and thank you Mrs. Devos for pointing that out to me. Um, let's see now the rest of Old Business okay we have the first item is to approve Executive Session and Regular Session minutes for January 21st and February 4th 2015. Does anyone want to make a motion to do that?

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Mayor McKay – Does anyone wish to second?

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

Mayor McKay – Discussion.

Councilwoman Schneider – I have, um, some comments about the minutes for January 21st and for February 4th. Last meeting, we had quite a bit of debate up here regarding, um, how we take minutes whether they be verbatim or whether they be in accordance with Robert's Rules where you put a general comment about what the discussion was about and if anybody wanted to know about the comment further they could look at our video. Um, the council up here agreed other than myself and I believe the mayor that they wanted to stay on track with doing verbatim minutes which are like transcripts, every single word um, uh, anything is put into the minutes. Um, that's really not minutes, they're transcripts but however, and the council did decide that they wanted the minutes to be that way. When reviewing the next, these two past meetings, they're not verbatim. Some of its verbatim, some of it isn't, some comments were put on, some weren't and, um, I, this is not consistent with what these folks had wanted to accomplish with getting the minutes verbatim. So, I'm asking that these minutes be, um, pulled and either we continue to go forward with the Robert's Rules of the way minutes should be taken or we do it verbatim and we do it verbatim. Everything verbatim so, I would like to pull these minutes and make a decision on how we would like to move forward and be consistent.

Mayor McKay- I had a similar observation that there parts of the minutes that were verbatim and then other parts that were just summary and that's the problem with trying to do verbatim minutes. It takes; it just takes so long, it's time consuming. Mrs. Dilts is typing away in there for days on end and to what end. Do we really need that kind of thing? Um, I think people acting in good faith don't need that. I think you need honest minutes that just reflect what the people are trying to get done up here. So, I would like to see us go where we follow Robert's Rules of Order and do the minutes the way they kind of say it that we should. Rather than try to keep up with this verbatim thing because I think's that just gonna need to hire somebody just to do that, um, and it's really not consequential. I mean who cares how many um's, and uh's, and things like that came into the conversation. It is just silly. So, I would like, you know, the council to consider maybe not to vote on them now, but to consider either going to one way or the other but not to have this combined thing that makes no sense to me.

Councilwoman McCabe – Well, I think that we’ve already voted on this.

Mayor McKay – We did.

Councilwoman McCabe – So, um,

Mayor McKay – Then we have to strike the minutes because they are a combination of both. They are not verbatim.

Councilwoman McCabe – I don’t think we should strike minutes. There was some long hours spent on those minutes. We’ve all reviewed them. We have a vote tonight to take. Either you approve of them or you don’t. Uh, you know, again.

Mayor McKay – But, they’re not verbatim minutes. They don’t meet the criteria.

Council President Ciesla – Did anyone bring that to the clerk’s attention?

Councilwoman McCabe – Is there an issue? Is there something missing that you wanted to have put in to it?

Mayor McKay – A lot of it just, is like summary, it says like so and, so, wanted to buy a new clock but it doesn’t go into the endless debate over buying a new clock. Um, other things are word for word of exactly what folks are saying when they were here. We need to do it one way or the other is all I’m saying. I think verbatim is just entirely (inaudible).

Councilwoman McCabe – Well, are you referring to the word for word on the council discussions and then just comments on the public comments which is what we have been doing. We’ve haven’t been giving verbatim on the public comments.

Mayor McKay – Sometimes, it’s verbatim, and sometimes it is not.

Councilwoman McCabe – I think again, we have the right to vote. If we don’t like them that we vote not but we’ve already voted on our procedure on taking these and I disagree with pulling them.

Mayor McKay – (Inaudible) verbatim minutes and I disagreed but three voted for it so it’s now our rule. Now, if you want to follow that rule, let’s follow it. If you don’t want to follow it, let’s change it.

Councilwoman McCabe – But, here we are. Here’s our vote up for the regular, the minutes for these two dates so we have a vote right now.

Mayor McKay – (Inaudible) not verbatim.

Council President Ciesla – I don’t think we said they had to be verbatim. I think we said we wanted as much as council verbatim and then other comments

Councilwoman Schneider – It was just a straight verbatim. We did not distinguish

Mayor McKay – You may wish to modify them.

Council President Ciesla – We can modify it right now, however, we have a motion and a second on the floor so, we should vote on the minutes and then we can go back if you want to do a new policy. Make another motion.

Councilwoman Schneider – But why would you approve them after last month you just said.

Council President Ciesla – Well, we made a motion and a second and it needs to finish.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, um, um, I’m not finished. Um, I would like to say that last month you guys were very adamant about making the minutes verbatim for the reasons of

transparency and, um, accused me of not wanting to be transparent by wanting to do the minutes according to our Roberts Rules. Now, when, uh, we are faced with minutes that are not verbatim, you are now choosing to say well we are just going to vote on them and then we'll change our policy yet again. So, I don't understand if last month you were very adamant on making them verbatim why the decision now to say yes to these minutes when they are not what you asked for last month.

Council President Ciesla – Didn't we make an actual policy and vote on it. I have to be honest like that meeting (inaudible).

Clerk Dilts – I can't recall but if I can just say that, um, I do verbatim minutes on what council on the, against the agenda but public comment is normally summarized and I have been doing it that way for months. So, um,

Councilwoman Schneider – They've cherry picked comments from the public. Some people have more in there than what others have. So, you cannot have that in your minutes. These are the official record of the township and either they're done one way or they're done the other. You cannot just cherry-pick what you decide to put in and not put in.

Council President Ciesla – Well, they are given to us for review, so, if at that point if you feel that she put too much in one comment, you can have her come back and change it or if you want her to add to another comment. She gives them to us before hand for that purpose.

Councilwoman Schneider – But that's not the way it's supposed to be.

Mayor McKay - There is not enough time; they're so voluminous that you know.

Clerk Dilts - I mean sometimes under public comment it takes a little, a few more sentences to get the person's gist across and that's all that I'm trying to do.

Mayor McKay - Right.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, you can say, um, Mr. Smith had distaste or had, uh, or discussed his frustrations with the mayor. Um, and then you can say Mr. Smith really liked what the mayor said but you can't say Mr. Smith called the mayor a loser and then turn around and say just one small thing about the other one, just a general comment. You are not being specific when you are telling people words that they said. So, that is not a generalization. So, either it needs to be one way or it needs to be the other and if we are going to argue the fact that Robert's Rules on the agenda need to be done, we should also argue the fact that Robert's Rules on taking minutes should be done and I am asking for consistency . This is not consistent this is being cherry picked and it is not the official minutes should reflect.

Councilwoman McCabe - But again

Clerk Dilts - I don't believe that I am cherry-picking. I believe that I am summarizing. Um, they are my minutes; it is up to me to summarize the best I know how. If you want to change that you want to have public comment just a topic that is fine with me, um, but as of right now, I am summarizing it the best I know how.

Councilwoman McCabe – And, again, these minutes are given to us ahead of time.

Mayor McKay - But

Councilwoman McCabe – And, then we can review them.

Mayor McKay – A half hour ahead of time.

Councilwoman McCabe - No, no I didn't get them a half hour ahead of time.

Mayor McKay - An hour, two hours, five hours.

Councilwoman McCabe – No, not at all.

Clerk Dilts – You got them, you know, days ahead of time.

Councilwoman Schneider - We just got them yesterday.

Clerk Dilts - I think on February 13th, February 13th you got the January 21st minutes and then I think it was Monday night.

Councilwoman Schneider - We just got them yesterday.

Clerk Dilts - Two to three business days, okay.

Councilwoman Schneider - One day. It was one day.

Mayor McKay – The whole thing is in order to properly read them because they are so voluminous, you need to have the tape. You need to be able to listen to the tape and see if what's said was said word for word for word and it makes it almost impossible. Where as if it done under Robert's Rules, you have kind the general context and then that's much easier to review. So I, you know, I don't care which way you want to go. I just want to make it as easy and as accurate as possible so that the minutes, you know, do what they are supposed to do.

Council President Ciesla – Well, I'm going to make a policy during my report to post the videos the weekend of the meeting so that you guys will have them for the review.

Councilwoman McCabe – Your review.

Mayor McKay – I think this is something where I think it's again, it's the civility thing. We all know that the minutes don't have to be like this. They can be, the way they are in almost every other organization and we can do this. I'm willing to do it, we'll let's go, we have to go to our vote. We're in the middle. I guess I'll call for a vote then on the approval of the minutes.

AYES: Councilman Belcaro (I'll vote them yes this time), Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Ciesla

NAYS: Councilwoman Schneider, Mayor McKay

Clerk Dilts – Mayor McKay if you want to just backup Resolution No. 46 to hire Christopher Petrella has to be done; we swore him in but we did not do the resolution.

Mayor McKay – Do we need to read the resolution in its entirety, is that what you are suggesting.

Clerk Dilts – No, you can do it by title only.

Mayor McKay – Okay. It's Resolution 15-46 – Resolution of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey authorizing the appointment of Christopher Petrella as Police Officer in the Police Department pursuant to Certified List of Eligibles from the Civil Service Commission.

Council President Ciesla – We have to vote.

Mayor McKay – Yeah, we do. Yes.

Council President Ciesla – So, we need a motion.

Mayor McKay – Motion.

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Mayor McKay – Second.

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

Mayor McKay – Discussion. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

R 15-46

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER PETRELLA AS POLICE OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO CERTIFIED LIST OF ELIGIBLES FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby authorize the appointment of Christopher Petrella as Police Officer in the Police Department per Certified List of Eligibles from the Civil Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Petrella will be paid a salary according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Christopher Petrella is hereby appointed Police Officer in the Police Department pursuant to Certified List of Eligibles OL141665 and shall be paid pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor McKay – Moving right along Ordinance 15-0, second reading and public hearing.

Council President Ciesla – 01.

Mayor McKay – 01 15-01. Second reading and public hearing authorizing the sale of a 1986 GMC Value Van and 1997 HME Central States Pumper to Oxford Fire Company owned by the township and not required for public purposes. So, that's the second reading on this. Now, I think I have some good news on that issue because I was looking in I guess on the internet and we don't know how accurate this is but I found very similar fire apparatus on the internet to what we are selling, actually one here that is a year or two older and this piece of apparatus is, um, they are asking \$55,000 for it. So, I'm wondering maybe if we shouldn't get an appraisal done on the fire truck to determine whether or not we can get a much better price rather than give it and another truck up for \$6,000.

Council President Ciesla – I think, yeah, we have to open this for public hearing and is anyone from the fire department here because I think those have probably been like with a used car, your cars falling apart, you bring it to a car dealer, he puts in a lot of money and then he tries to get his money back.

Mayor McKay- It could be but you don't know. But I'm saying that's what I'm seeing and that gives me a little bit of concern. Now, I'll distribute it's just one that you can look at.

Councilwoman McCabe – Now this is.

Council President Ciesla – Do we have to open it for public comment?

Attorney Lavery – There is a couple of things you can do; number one if you are calling to delay this then somebody can make a motion on the ordinance and you don't get a second it dies and then if you decide to do it later, you have to do it on first reading again and do the second reading and public hearing. Um, otherwise you can make a motion and a second.

Mayor McKay – I guess the motion I would like to make is that we give this a little more time, maybe get an appraisal done on that fire engine and see if we can get back any monies similar to what they are showing on that. (Inaudible) one year old pumper.

Councilwoman McCabe – This looks like a very good condition truck here. I mean you can't compare

Mayor McKay – Well, I'm sure the Fire Department keeps our trucks in excellent condition.

Councilwoman McCabe – I don't know that's the whole point. This is the truck that practically ran into a house. There was no breaks on it. Someone is taking it as is. This thing looks like a brand new polished cleaned up truck. Of course it's \$55,000. We wouldn't get near that and you want to spend money on an appraisal. How much money would that cost?

Mayor McKay – I'm sure if you called some of these companies that deal in used fire trucks they might come in and tell you. I just don't think, I think it was something that probably should have done.

Councilwoman McCabe – No, I think our firemen know what they're doing. If we can get more, they would have.

Mayor McKay – Well, this isn't their issue. This is the fire trucks belong to the municipality.

Councilwoman McCabe – Yeah, but I'm not a fireman. I don't know. I'm trusting their expertise so to pull something off the internet seems a bit

Councilman Belcaro – Mayor if I may. At the last meeting, I spoke with the two assistants of the fire chief outside after the meeting and I asked them about that what would it cost to bring this apparatus in compliance, you know, how much would you have to invest and they gave me a rough estimate about \$30/35,000 so now we could have them come in here and verify that what they believe would cost to, you know, to get this thing up and running again and to be compliant with the state and all fire fighters codes to again, it is like purchasing any kind of vehicle you know, you could buy a lemon, I mean you could buy something that needs a lot of work or you could buy a car that's in decent shape or in mint condition. It's, the variables are different if (inaudible) so, you know, you just can't go and base it on this.

Mayor McKay – Oh no, no I realize that.

Councilman Belcaro – base it on that, I mean (inaudible)

Mayor McKay – but I'm saying that's an indicator, it's an indicator.

Councilman Belcaro- You know, and I don't have a problem either to bring in someone an independent, come here and do an assessment of the vehicle. I don't have a problem with that either, you know, to get a true, you know, what would it cost to fix this truck up and sell it. You know obviously, we don't want to invest the money into it.

Mayor McKay – Sell it as it.

Councilman Belcaro – (Inaudible) get the money back.

Mayor McKay – but you know, if those are the kind of numbers they (inaudible) I don't know.

Councilwoman McCabe – We are selling it as is so we're going to spend money on an appraisal, um, you know, no one's going to give the fire department \$35,000 to bring their truck up to code so we have a buyer, um, we have someone that's willing to take it and I think we should we take it. You know

Council President Ciesla – I think we need the fire chief.

Councilwoman McCabe – Yeah.

Councilwoman Schneider – I think it would be worth just exploring it and, uh, you know, if I guess the last meeting we pretty much told, um, someone who came up to the microphone I don't remember that, this was an, Eric, yes, thank you and unusable truck, it can't even be used and now we are seeing that it is going to cost about \$30/35,000 to get it running up to snuff so, um, we bought a new fire truck because this was supposed to be something that was not even usable anymore and yet now, um, we're saying it is only \$30,000 to fix it and have it become compliant.

Council President Ciesla – No, no.

Councilwoman Schneider – But I think in the long run. What was that?

Councilman Belcaro – No that's, you are misinterpreting the whole (inaudible).

Mayor McKay – Let her speak (inaudible).

Councilwoman Schneider – I think it would just be a smart thing to do to just make sure we are getting a decent price for it that's all I'm asking is I agree to just have, uh, just have somebody come in and say yeah, you know, what \$6,000 is a good deal, take it for both trucks.

Council President Ciesla – Can we table the second reading until we can get the, the chief in here or at least talk to the chief?

Mayor McKay – Are you motioning that?

Council President Ciesla – I'm just asking, uh, yeah, cause I know the dealer wouldn't take it from us would he, no.

Mayor McKay – Okay, are you making a motion that?

Council President Ciesla – I'm making a motion to delay the second hearing.

Attorney Lavery – Till the next meeting?

Council President Ciesla – Mmhmm, yeah.

Attorney Lavery – What's the date (inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – March 18, um, mmhmm, yeah, March 18th.

Attorney Lavery – Okay.

Councilwoman McCabe – This won't, uh, penalize our sale of our truck will it? Does anybody know?

Council President Ciesla – I think it would be more of a hindrance if we were trying to buy it, if your postponed it, yeah.

Councilwoman McCabe – Instead of selling?

Council President Ciesla – Mmhmm.

Mayor McKay – Okay, do I have a second on that?

Councilwoman McCabe – I second it.

Mayor McKay – Thank you. Um, any further discussion? Lou did you want to add something? (inaudible) Donna was speaking you wanted to add something.

Councilman Belcaro – Yeah, I just, uh, I think she misinterpreted what I was saying. Um, again these are just rough estimates, what the two assistant chiefs were saying. Now, I don't know,

okay, so, um, it is not a bad idea to have someone independent come in here, look at it, you know, find out everything that is wrong with it and then give us a fair market assessment.

Mayor McKay – That’s all. That’s what I’m thinking, you know.

Councilman Belcaro – See what it’s worth as is.

Mayor McKay – These are hard times. Okay, thank you, Lou.

Council President Ciesla – Do you need to vote on that?

Mayor McKay – Yes. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor McKay – Okay, now we have Mayor McKay’s non-consent appointments that were tabled from the February 4th meeting. Um, these are appointments to the Environmental Conservation Commission. We already made two appointments to this; Juniper Leifer and Mark Gural but now we have some more. Um, appointing Gerald Harkin- he’ll be replacing Earl Clymer, Jr. with a term that expires December 31, 2016. I’m appointing Twyla Bartlett she replaces Charles Warner and her term will expire December 31, 2016. I’m appointing Elora Nowak she replaces Frank Brockerhoff and her term will expire December 31, 2015 and Frank Jankowski whose term had expired who was on the commission has indicated that he would like to come back and replace his son, fulfill his son’s terms, and his son’s term expires December 31, 2015. So, in the interest of continuity, we ask that, you know, he come back and stay on the commission and this commission has not met, I don’t think there’s any record they met. They didn’t have any minutes so, and they are supposed to do an annual report so, um, Juniper has her work cut out for her here and we expect big things out of the commission. Thank you.

Council President Ciesla – Why is, why is Frank not taking his old seat? Why is he (inaudible). I’m confused.

Mayor McKay – Because he, he expired.

Council President Ciesla – So, why didn’t he just get his new seat for the full term? Why is he

Mayor McKay – Because he didn’t indicate at first he wanted to be on, so, somebody else was appointed to that spot and then he came back and Juniper actually contacted him and he said, I guess I’ll stay – is that pretty close? So, he said let me take my son’s spot.

Council President Ciesla – So, he’s okay with just the one year because now he just has a one year.

Juniper Leifer – Yeah, yeah, I didn’t speak to him specifically about which term (inaudible) I had suggested that (inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – Oh, great and then I guess I’ll just get your information for the website. When you have your meeting and you get that all together that would be great.

Mayor McKay – Okay, very nice now we move onto New Business. Now we have first item of New Business is our 2015 preliminary budget discussion. We’re going to let our new CFO take over and give you a little bit of how it’s going in the budgetary (inaudible).

CFO Rossetti – Hi there, I think we should all do some calisthenics just to make sure we are all awake and ready to go. Um, excuse me, before we actually start our, um, our budget update I just want to give you a little bit of a background; just a little bit of a brief history. On February 11th I distributed our first preliminary draft of a budget being that it was my first look at the budget there were several things that I missed some of them large things. One of them was the 1/5th note payment for the tax appeal. Others were an over expenditure from last year and also the emergency appropriation that came from last year. There were some interest charges and some debt charges that were adjusted so those are all effective in the new preliminary budget

draft that you have this evening. I apologize for the late distribution but I just finished it about 5:15 this evening. Some of the things that we did do for this year so far, um, we had wanted to and had spoken to the auditors about changing the pool to a full utility. That's a relatively, sounded like a long process which several ordinances that we need to be put in place and, uh, since it wouldn't be complete until maybe half way through this year, the decision had been made preliminary at least to put in as a separate department for this year. Excuse me, and then to set it up effective January 1st for a full utility. One of the other things was administration and the clerk had all been lumped into together, so the clerk now has a separate departmental budget and administration is strictly your generalized administrative expenses. The sub-accounts for most of the departments have been standardized so that everyone has the same categories of office supplies and dues and subscription, education, software and such. One of the items that, um, we took note on at first was our grants receivable. We had about \$200,000 in open grants receivable and in speaking to the auditor, I've learned that it has been an audit recommendation for at least the last five years and uh, probably more that those receivables be cleared up. We were able to locate a small one for about \$12,000; the revenue was just misposted to a body armor grant and that is a pretty easy cleanup; it won't have any negative impact on our surplus. So, the other ones we are still searching on; the larger one is a DOT grant for \$40,000, we are not sure if it had come in like the other grant and just been misclassified or if it, um, is really still outstanding. Some of them may have to be cancelled and that will have a negative impact on our financials.

The deferred school tax, I think we're going to talk about it; at the last meeting that was unfortunately cancelled. Just a brief explanation on that; since we are at calendar year and the school is on the state fiscal year we're permitted to defer one half of the school tax levy and I'm sure the auditor could explain it in much more technical terms but it is a common practice to defer one half of that levy. I would caution about maxing that out because if the school tax every year should miraculously decrease then on paper, we would lose some surplus balance. It was unfortunately, a necessity to do that last year because if we didn't, we would have had an operational deficit. That is a really big red flag that is screaming to me that our budgeting practices need a lot of work on them we need to get a lot more conservative to restructure a little. In 2014 we used \$290,000 of surplus as revenue to balance our budget. We only replenished \$98,000. The only reason that we did replenish the \$98,000 is because \$284,000 of deferred school tax was adjusted. If we hadn't done that, we would have had an operational deficit and our surplus balance would have only been about \$39,000. In our budget this year, we are anticipating either \$100 or \$150,000 so you can see that that would have put us at a huge disadvantage from where we are right now. Our surplus balance is alarmingly low and it should be significantly higher than it is. We need to take a long hard look at the budget this year, our budget practices and come up with a strong surplus use policy so that we can start to rebuild that and replenish it and get it to a more sustainable level to offset taxes like it is supposed to be used to do.

I'm not sure if anyone's ever discussed the RUT before the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes. Is everyone familiar with what that is? Okay. I was going to explain it for the public. Would you like me to do that? The RUT, the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes is a non-spending appropriation. It acts like in a non-commercial establishment an allowance for doubtful accounts. In New Jersey it is unique that the municipality collects taxes for all three of the taxing districts; for ourselves, the county and the school. Tax payers pay 100% of their property taxes to us as the municipality and, unfortunately, they hold us accountable for 100% of that even though we only receive 17% of that for our local coffers. As if that view didn't make us bad enough sometime to our residents, we have to charge those taxpayers that do pay their taxes to the taxpayers that don't pay their taxes. We have to pay the school and the county 100% of their tax even if we don't collect 100%. So, in 2014, the entire levy was a little over \$24 million; it was \$24,376,000. We had some valiant efforts from our tax collector and she was able to, uh, collect or have otherwise credited almost \$23 million; \$22,994,000. That gave us a collection rate of 94%. While it sounds great, that still leave \$864,000.00 in uncollected taxes. Since we had to pay the school and county 100%, all of that \$864,000.00 comes out of our small 17% share of the overall pie. Since we have to have a balanced budget, we have to raise that much more than what we really need to make sure that we have enough to pay the school, the county and meet all of our own expenses as well. Last year, in 2014, our RUT was \$647,000.00. In 2015, it has increased by over \$90,000.00 where it is \$730,000.00 now. Just for a little fun fact, that's 8 ½ cents on your taxes. So, if everyone in Lopatcong Township paid 100% of their taxes, by December 31st they would have an 8 ½ cent conceivable tax reduction. Not that (inaudible) but it could be a huge, huge bonus if our tax collection rate comes back up. There was some

extenuating circumstances last year where things just didn't come in on time. So, normally, our tax collection rate is around 97%. It tanked a little bit last year. We expected it to come back up this, excuse me, from 2013 to 14 our local tax levy went up \$449,000.00. That, uh, with a cent being last year a little over \$86,000. That's about 5 cents.

So, looking at our budget for this year, it appears pretty certain that we will have a tax increase. Um, that's up to council whether you want to make that the minimum increase that we could possibly get away with or if you want to make it more of a moderate increase that would help us get at a more sustainable level to have a little bit more efficiency in our whole process. Right now we are trying to look at a more comprehensive plan so that we don't have a big increase this year and no increase next year and I think in the past there were several years of no increases and that just kind of piles up so, that you have a big increase at once. I'm sure everyone would agree that is a lot less easy to manage in your personal budget than a small one or two cent every year. So, when we look at our budget, it is really important to look at our recent history and understand how New Jersey budgets work. It is a pretty strange little beast there. We have two caps on our budget; we have one on our appropriations and one on our revenue. In general, the appropriation cap limits our spending to 1 1/2 % from our budget from last year. Most towns will adopt an ordinance to permit an increase of, I don't know if it 3% or 3 1/2%; it's called the cap rate ordinance and um, just passing that doesn't mean that the town will necessarily increase appropriations that much but it gives them the flexibility that if they don't increase that, they can bank that. They can bank the difference of what they do increase versus what they would have been allowed to increase. That money then sits for several years in a cap bank so a lot of towns normally accumulate quite a bit of money there and it just gets lapsed, doesn't get used because they don't increase taxes that much. In Lopatcong, we have a cap bank of \$172.00. That's really, really small. Um, to me, it looks like we are maxing out our appropriations each year and that's why we don't have anything left for bank. I'm definitely not an expert in Lopatcong Township but that's just a little bit of a warning flag that we are not saving anything per a rainy day, so to say. If we had a big event like the sinkhole, we wouldn't have the available reserves to draw from. The other cap is our levy cap and that limits the amount that we can raise the tax levy; the amount that we ask our tax payers to contribute to sustain our municipal budget. That levy bank is available for 4 years and our balance in that is -\$207.00. A negative \$207.00, so looking at that again, I'm not an expert in Lopatcong but it would appear as though the amount that we are maxing out, the amount that we can charge our taxpayers each year. We are not leaving anything there on the table. So, uh, those are two of the reasons that we are looking to start revamping the entire budget process. We wanted to make sure that we were planning for the future to have a sustainable level of spending and to even out and hopefully, avoid any kind of large tax increases by keeping everything as moderate as possible. Another point is the tighter we make our budget, the less surplus that we'll have to regenerate. At the end of each year, you lapse the following years unspent appropriations and the tighter your budget is, the lower that figure will be and the less surplus you'll create and earn. That cause and effect relationship makes it pretty imperative that we not only budget wisely but that we try to maintain a healthy surplus level. We do have cash flow issues. That is another bit of a red flag. We normally don't have enough money to pay our school taxes on time. If we had a more healthy surplus balance, we wouldn't have that issue where the school has to wait to get paid until the tax revenue comes in. Our current budget draft, as I mentioned, does have a pretty small tax increase but because of our very low surplus and the problems that that creates with the inability to cover emergencies and inability to potentially pay the larger bills that we have, school and county taxes, um, we are looking at an increase that may be a little bit more than the smallest amount that we could get by with just to help to rebuild us a little bit. Some of the things that the budget draft, again I'm sorry for the late delivery, some of the things that that does not address is the sink hole expenses. I'm not sure where that's going or where council is with

Mayor McKay - Just starting

CFO Rossetti - Where that is, yeah, so, um, that doesn't, this budget does not put anything in there to cover the sinkhole or any of the associated expenses; capital expenses and repair costs. Um, it also uh, does not provide any kind of adequate capital plan. We have \$250,000 going into the Capital Improvement Fund. We don't really have a capital program. We are supposed to have a five-year plan. We should have a; I saw a great fixed assets thing

Council President Ciesla – I thought we did.

CFO Rossetti – Yeah, there is not much on it, it's not very detailed. We are not setting aside money each year for a truck or \$200,000 for road improvements just for general paving. Um, we should be making a lot more capital plans in both our current fund and in our sewer. Um, bringing up the sewer, in the past couple of years we have been utilizing about \$450,000 to kind of subsidize our current fund. That is a legal allowable thing to do; there's, there's, it's not a loan, it is not borrowing. The current fund and the governing body is 100% allowed to take money from any utility that you would have. The problem is, is that I don't think the sewer system is new. I didn't see any kind of capital planning other than the big huge project that's going on now. I don't see any capital planning being done for that either. I didn't see anything for cameraing the lines or routing cracks or jetting; I didn't see anything like that and those are all things that you need to do to maintain the health of your sewer system to avoid a huge, huge project as opposed to a standard kind (inaudible).

Mayor McKay – Had we kept that money over the years in the sewer utility there could be millions there to do this but it was taken out over the years and used to subsidize the township's operations. Now, we have to find a way to put it back or we have to go out and borrow money to fix the sewers and that's what's generally been done is that they go out and borrow money to do things or make capital acquisitions on an emotional basis not pursuant to a plan of, um, long-term plan for capital improvements and capital acquisitions so, um, you know, it is all things that we have to factor into the budget.

CFO Rossetti – I didn't have a chance to go back and add up how much was taken from the sewer but, again, it is an allowable thing to do.

Council President Ciesla – Right.

CFO Rossetti – It is not uncustomary but when your sewer utility has needs as well, you want to try and replenish that as much as possible so that draft in front of you now is trying to utilize as little from the sewer as possible. We're trying to kind of wean ourselves off of that reliance.

Mayor McKay – And build reserves up in that utility for future projects.

CFO Rossetti – To have them there. So, I just wanted to remind you that we are facing statutory deadline for introductory of our budget, um, I was kind of hoping that we would have a couple of budget meetings/sessions to go over in detail each department. Um, we've met independently the, um, finance committee with the department heads to go over their budgets but I know council really hasn't had much input into the whole budget itself. I don't know what we can do our statutory

Councilman Belcaro – You think we can have a workshop a budget workshop meeting?

CFO Rossetti – That, uh, that would be great. I don't know at what point you'll be able to fit that in though because

Councilman Belcaro – I know.

CFO Rossetti – We're kind of up against the clock to introduce and I want to make sure that everybody's comfortable and knowledgeable and 100% familiar with the budget before it is introduced so that nothing would come up later.

Council President Ciesla – I know I've been sending, uh, I've been going over it and anything I can find from last year and I think you know because I did call the auditors. I sent my stuff over to them and it looks like it changed cause originally we had a huge deficit and the budget gap is down so I'll go through because this is the first time I am seeing this. So, I'll go through and see if there is anything that I hadn't yet, um, explained to John and Dave because there were a couple other little things that I think there might be a duplication here or there and then I don't know if my Shade Tree is on here but, um, I guess they were able to meet with you to go over some

CFO Rossetti – Yep.

Council President Ciesla – Okay, that's good and then, uh, I yeah, we could go, I've been trying to go through everything line by line, um, the one question I did have to is on our receivables, the

grant receivables, I know our AFS from this last year, we have the \$204,691.33 in receivables but on the other side of the balance sheet we had, I think it was \$175,169.85 in reserves and if, I don't know if Paul, the money that Paul has found is in addition to that. I mean, if we did want to start over it looks like if we got rid of the reserves on the one side and the receivables on the other, we would be looking at what maybe like \$20,000.00?

CFO Rossetti - Um, if they could be cancelled against each other.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, they could be cancelled. Yeah, cause it looks like, I mean I was just looking because I was, you know, just going through it. Um, I know P'burg has over a million in receivables, Pohat has \$212,000.00, Greenwich had \$195,000 so, I know these are a big problem. The grants are just a very difficult to manage because sometimes you have to spend the money before you can even get it and you have to spend it in full to the penny before they'll even consider your application and sometimes it's just a lot of paper

CFO Rossetti - A lot of times you get a grant a year before you're ready to start the project, so.

Council President Ciesla – Right, like with Shade Tree, yeah.

CFO Rossetti – Yeah, for Pohatcong, they have a large historic trust that has been sitting, waiting for the project to start and that may not even happen this year, so, that would sit there (inaudible) quite a while.

Council President Ciesla – So, those are, and those we don't have to I mean, I know Paul's been helping you and you've been doing that and I appreciate that.

CFO Rossetti – The ones that are still active projects, there not a problem, it's the older ones that

Council President Ciesla – The older (inaudible) yeah.

CFO Rossetti – (Inaudible) from a completed project that we should have had a final submission on and should have gotten that money off, off the books, so.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, looks like there was a bunch of old ones that totaled like \$10,000 that we should probably just wipe out because some of them are like \$300.00, yeah. We should probably get rid of those. So, I would definitely like to, I mean, if we can't have a budget meeting, I would definitely like to sit down with you because I did go through, I was going through line by line and I found some things in the computers and some things in garbage and stuff like that that maybe could go down a little but at least it is definitely something that's going to, uh, I was losing sleep over this, so.

CFO Rossetti – The biggest change was, um, for employee medical. Okay, last year it had been budgeted at \$510,000.00 and I thought I was calculating it wrong so I went with a comparable price but I did just speak with Beth today I was thinking I was missing a whole policy or something but that dropped by \$160,000.00. The employee's contributions have increased a little not dramatically from last year it's the same percentages because everyone is maxed out at the fourth year contribution rate but since the cost of the plan went up the cost of the contribution will also go up.

Council President Ciesla - I know we had a few people take that payment in lieu of benefits so that definitely helps us because that's a lot cheaper. What is it \$5,000 a person instead of whatever ridiculous amount it is for (inaudible).

Councilwoman Schneider – There's also some pending, um, there's, there's, uh, two or three pending budget's that we have not sat down with the budget owners so there are still some additional cuts that I'd like to make and, uh, we need to, uh, some of those departments heads are having a hard time so we've just put in a budget for them. Um, but there are some cuts additional cuts that can be taken out. We have not gone through all of the HR courses and the seminars and things that are not a requirement but we've been giving the employees the courtesy of paying for; we don't, we can't afford that courtesy anymore so what we are trying to do is on a need basis for training and making sure all of our employees have the proper CEU's and credits to uphold their certificates, um, but there are still some additional cuts on that. As far as the

grants receivables, we, there, there was \$204,000.00 worth of uncollected grants receivables on our books. They've been there since, collectively, about since about 2003, I think the first one is showing uncollected and the process, I don't know how the process was with the collecting of the grants but there's doesn't seem to really be a process. Um, these grants have been out there; we've, um, got the okay for the grant. We've spent the money and yet, we've never gone to go collect that money so it's been sitting on our books as an open item and, uh, you know, after it's, this has now become a liability for us. They should have been written off. Somebody should have researched them in the years that they've, that they were, they could have been corrected, they could have been found, they could have been, right now you probably, the probability of collecting any of that money is, um, probably not a possibility because they are so old and unfortunately, some of those things go on an annual basis if you, um, if you don't collect it for the year the money is not available to you anymore. Um, this is a big issue and unfortunately, yeah, but the comments have been in our audits for the past five years but not really a red flag was raised or, um, or were they written off to, um, you know, to avoid another tax hike so, unfortunately, the auditor that I, we interviewed for the auditor position kind of went through our books in a day and found this, sent me an email, raised the red flag to me that hey these grants have been sitting on your books for a while uncollected, this could be a 2 ½ cent increase in your taxpayer dollars and because of that red flag raised by auditor that we have not hired, or we have not made a decision on, this has come to light and we can fix this problem but because it's been there for so long, it's unfortunate that a red flag was never raised prior to this.

Council President Ciesla – Did he also explain to you the reserves?

Councilwoman Schneider – Yes.

Council President Ciesla – Okay, so, you didn't mention that last time though. I mean it is important to know that we have money that also we need to clean up on the other side and if we just wiped it out, we're talking like \$15/20,000.00 at the most and I don't know Paul's already found probably another \$40,012.00. It might actually be in our favor now. I mean that's important to note too, and it is actually in our audits. I printed out our audits from the last year; there was grants receivable and the reserves and I know it is an issue and I know they've raised the red flag every time they have been very diligent in doing that. I did look at Greenwich's audit which was done by the auditor you want to hire, it was filed three months late and he failed to make the recommendation even though they too have outstanding grants.

Councilwoman Schneider – How long were their outstanding grants?

Council President Ciesla – Some of them don't have dates, so I don't know. A lot of them don't have dates.

Councilwoman Schneider – So, so, we don't know if they are in the current year or not.

Council President Ciesla – It should always be a red flag though.

Councilwoman Schneider – Right, but it was not every a red flag raised here. When

Council President Ciesla – In every audit, it is in our recommendations.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yes.

Council President Ciesla – They're here, you can ask them,

Councilwoman Schneider – It is. It is a very innocuous, um, um, item on the, on the comments and, uh, you know, for an auditor to send an email saying hey this is a problem, you need to take care of it that's raising a red flag. Just putting a comment in the back of the book is not raising a red flag and some of these things are, you know, \$40,000.00 apiece.

Council President Ciesla – They made their comment on the recommendations which is the part that we look, that Betty, our CFO, has to answer to and that we do, it's not

Councilwoman Schneider - Yes. There comes a point in time where

Council President Ciesla – it's where it's supposed to be.

Councilwoman Schneider – right there comes a point in time where you need to write them off and for to say that well, you know, the comments been there for five years plus, that doesn't, um, fix the problem or also address the problem that hey someone here's not collecting the grants in the way that they should be so, there's more than one red flag that's raised for these grants receivables that, um, have not been raised to me up until this point when um, Mr. Morrison had raised it.

Council President Ciesla – Well, it's actually, you could of asked our auditors anytime what our recommendations are, you know, I mean they are sitting right in front of you.

Councilwoman Schneider - I did actually. I asked about our recommendations. Actually, it's funny you say that because last year I asked our attorney why we continually have the same recommendations.

Council President Ciesla – You should ask them, not the attorney.

Councilwoman Schneider – I'm telling you the conver, I didn't have a conversation with them, I had a conversation with the attorneys, so, when I spoke to our attorney, um, I asked her the question, she said well I called and they said there really just small items, there's nothing really to be alarmed about. It is basically, comparing how many, the scenario was, well, you know, if you had ten open credit cards some people say it's bad, some people say it's good so, it's really not a comment that's, you know, something that should be alarming to you.

Council President Ciesla – So you, you charged, the township was charged to call to the attorneys, the attorney to call the auditor when you could have just called the auditor yourself and he would of explained it to you probably in better detail.

Councilwoman Schneider – No, actually no, I don't recall why I was talking to her about the audit, I think it was because you wanted, we were signing a paper saying we agreed with the audit and I was trying to understand that and she offered to make the phone call and that she could probably better explain it to me.

Council President Ciesla – Of course, they're going to offer it, they bill us. It's a billable hour.

Councilwoman Schneider – Sure.

Council President Ciesla – I'm just saying, they're right here if you have any questions. I've looked at all the other towns, no offense to the other people from other towns that are in the audience but I mean it is an on-going problem. It is a lot and when you are short staffed it is hard to get to these and if it's not your thing, you know, I'm not going to talk about the past CFO does. I commend Lorraine for her diligence and her desire to clean this up and again, if we thought we could and we wanted to like, remember in accounting there's two sides to the sheet. If we want to wipe out the reserves and the receivables, right now, it is a very small difference.

Councilwoman Schneider – But that doesn't fix the problem of we are going out and getting grant money, we're spending it and no one's collecting it. So because

Council President Ciesla – (Inaudible) CFO

Councilwoman Schneider – So because there's a reserve

Council President Ciesla – will do that for us.

Councilwoman Schneider – that doesn't fix the audit problem. I want to address another thing which is the deferred school tax. Um, what, it is a very, uh, it's kind of a difficult thing to explain but, um, you know, the State of New Jersey has allowed municipalities to defer 50% of the collected school tax because we are on a January/December fiscal year and the school is not, we continually collect taxes and when it is time for them to receive theirs, they get the money albeit late from what I hear, a lot times but they do get the money to keep the school running. However, we are allowed to defer the 50% and use that to our benefit, to the taxpayers benefit to

kind of use it for our shortfalls in our budget so, you know, if we are short a certain amount of money we can use the deferred school tax to cover that and not pass on that onto the taxpayer. So, it can be used, is a good thing, um, but, you know, when you continually deferred it, and right now when we passed the resolution tonight to defer the remaining portion of our 50% school tax we have now maxed out. Um, so, which means we can't borrow anymore deferred tax money from the school unless there, uh, the tax levy goes up. If it stays flat, we can now not take anymore. So, next year when we try to plug in our shortfalls, we will not be able to utilize that. So, uh, you know, it's going to be a very touchy year next year and what your tax increases may be. It, um, you know, like I said, it is not illegal but it is something that we've now become dependent on and we can now no longer use that to our advantage now it is, um, it's something sitting there that we will need to pay to the school and if the tax levy for the school goes down, we're going to have to owe some of that back because we've drained all of our resources because we have no more levers to pull, no more buttons to push, we are in a situation that we, um, we cannot borrow any more money so your tax levy could be in jeopardy and maybe next year, the year after, um, you know, it is a situation that we really shouldn't be in to try and to say it is a common practice, it is a common practice and that, you know, uh, this is okay to do and we've done it before. Um, I don't know how many years we've been doing it and, you know, we can ask that question to the auditor, but, um, there's a kind of a, it seems a little contradictive because there is an article on their website that says they have a couple of issues with deferring school tax, so I don't know, um, it's been an acceptable practice for us but it seems like they do have some issue with it, um, within their firm.

Council President Ciesla – What's the alternative though if we were not to do this?

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, you, um, the alternative would have been if you needed to defer some, yes, but curb your spending, try and

Council President Ciesla – I mean for this year.

Councilwoman Schneider – For this year?

Council President Ciesla – Yeah.

Councilwoman Schneider – There's not, um, we literally, we have no alternative this year, we have no alternative, we have to defer the tax because

Mayor McKay – but we must begin to wean off of these kinds of things.

Councilwoman Schneider – We're dependent on it.

Mayor McKay – We examine. We're starting with this budget. It's the first time the budget was done in a way that you could probably gain from it and in the future, we're going to look for ways to pay down the debt in maybe an accelerated way, we're going to look for ways to rebuild the reserves and

Council President Ciesla – We could refinance them.

Mayor McKay – Yeah that could be part of the plan. But it's part of, it's not the plan.

Council President Ciesla – Right.

Mayor McKay – All right.

Council President Ciesla – I know, I know. I mean I've lived here for 15 years and there is, believe it or not, there's times when I opened my tax bill and be like, really they're not raising the taxes, I really think they probably should cause they're going to get themselves in trouble and they did.

Mayor McKay – That's what happens. It's very tempting, you know, makes you look like a great, you know, council if you don't raise the taxes but it is irresponsible and again,

Council President Ciesla – I'm sure Maureen the democrat would have a lot to say about that. As far as a republican, we won't go there.

Mayor McKay – All right.

Council President Ciesla – So, as far as, are we going to try and have a budget meeting or no, I mean who do we, who do you have left to meet with? I don't know if

CFO Rossetti – Um, Beth, the pool and we did go over the DPW portion of the pool but we haven't had a chance to sit with Beth to go over the big portion of it and, um, clerk and administration we should go over.

Councilwoman Schneider – I have some questions on some supplies, um, in some of our boards, um, they're, um, there's a, I have a couple of questions on some of the other budgets that I wasn't there to be a part of the budget process for them, So, um, we probably have Lori, about maybe four departments left.

Council President Ciesla – I've been going through, I've been looking at everything from past and I did find some things that we could whittle down. I don't think we are going to have \$90,000 in litigation this year. I mean, last year, we went to trial and I don't think anything is going to trial this year, so, we can definitely whittle down. I see duplicates in computer services, I think office supplies, I think we should probably try to round up all together, see how much. It might be a little high.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yes.

Council President Ciesla – The garbage is a, we're actually going into a new contract now that includes a pool so that the number needs to be lowered. Um, and I think some electricity too might be able to lower that and, again, I haven't looked at everything but a lot of my changes I gave to the auditors and they've already (inaudible).

Councilwoman Schneider – You know, I, I, we've sat down with the department heads and, um, when I reported last time there was some frustration; they didn't really know how to do a budget cause they've never been part of our budget process, ever. Um, they've actually kind of embraced it and, um, many of them come in and they're excited to say hey I can cut this in my department or, you know, I don't need this anymore and, uh, you know, we've, uh, we've had a little running joke in there that you get the gold star for whoever can cut their budget the most. So, it's been a little bit of fun, uh, you know, we're doing it and they're understanding their money. They're having a little control and, uh, you know, having some say in what is going on in their departments and it's benefiting the township greatly by having all these folks be part of the process.

Mayor McKay – Yes, yes, it has. Lori, I would very much appreciate it if you have the time. If you could find some time and meet with her. You have the knowledge

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, definitely, yeah (inaudible) no problem (inaudible).

Mayor McKay – If we can find another \$100,000 in cuts.

Council President Ciesla – We'll try.

Mayor McKay – We like that.

Council President Ciesla – No problem.

Mayor McKay – Okay, so thank you for your presentation. Um, okay, New Business No. 2 okay, this is the first reading of an ordinance of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey creating Chapter 63 "Volunteers", Article I "Criminal History Background Checks," of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong. Essentially what this is is to create a resolution that empowers the township to get criminal background checks mostly in cases where, um, the person is going to be working with children or the elderly.

Attorney Lavery – Would that be it?

Mayor McKay – That’s, essentially, it. Uh, it’s putting it in the proper format that it’s coming out of an ordinance. This is the way it is supposed to be done. So, this is the first reading on that.

Council President Ciesla – Do we need a motion for first reading?

Mayor McKay – Yeah, we do need that.

Council President Ciesla – Uh, motion.

Councilwoman Schneider – Second.

Mayor McKay – Discussion.

Councilman Belcaro – Yeah, I had a question. Um, you know (inaudible) volunteers. A lot of different volunteers that are in this township and you just stated that this is just applied directly more to people who are volunteering just for coaching, you know, dealing with children only.

Attorney Lavery – (Inaudible).

Councilman Belcaro – Okay, so what about other, what about other volunteers, committees?

Mayor McKay – Um, it is my understanding that, um, the laws of the State of New Jersey do not preclude felons to serve on this kind of committee. So, if we found out about it, it wouldn’t be any purpose to finding out because we couldn’t remove the person. So, um, but if it is dealing with children, then, if they have problems, you know, in the past dealing with children and found problems that we would want to remove them from dealing with the children.

Councilman Belcaro – So, we could (inaudible) say someone has a criminal record, uh, from volunteering on other committees, we couldn’t stop that?

Attorney Lavery – I can check that, I don’t believe so. This particular statute (inaudible) criminal background checks for people (inaudible) statute and I can check to see if you can do it for other (inaudible) as well.

Councilman Belcaro – Because you just don’t know, I mean, you have someone who just came out of prison, you know, twenty years served, whatever, and, uh, someone wants to volunteer in an organization so you have to be clear like that.

Mayor McKay – There was an attempt in the legislature to do that but I think it failed.

Councilman Belcaro – It’s interesting. Okay.

Mayor McKay – Okay, so, now we get, I guess we have a roll call on it.

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

NAYS: None

ORDINANCE 15-02

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CREATING CHAPTER 63 “VOLUNTEERS”, ARTICLE I “CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS,” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:48-1.4 allows municipalities to require a criminal history background check of any person, for any official governmental purpose, including but not limited to, employment, licensing and the procurements of services; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 15A:3A permits nonprofit youth serving organizations to conduct a criminal history record background check on each prospective and current employee or volunteer of its organization; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong wishes to safeguard its residents, specifically its children, elderly and infirm by ensuring that all Township volunteers who work with these categories of residents are subject to a criminal history background check; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council is desirous to implement a standard procedure for conducting these criminal history background checks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 63 of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong is hereby created as follows:

Section 1.

Chapter 63 Volunteers

Article I Criminal History Background Checks

§63-1 Authority to Request Background Check; Exemption; Cost

- A. The Township Administrator and/or Clerk and/or Chief of Police are hereby authorized to require a criminal history background check of any person, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:48-1.4, for any official governmental purpose, including but not limited to all adults, those persons eighteen (18) years of age or older, including but not limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, umpires or similar positions involved in educating, directing or supervising youth in a Township-sponsored youth program and those volunteers of a Township-sponsored program involving the elderly or infirm, or those volunteers serving with the fire and rescue operations of the Township. All persons subject to the mandatory criminal history background checks under this article shall submit to being fingerprinted in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. The Township Administrator and/or Chief of Police are authorized to exchange fingerprint data with and receive criminal history from the State Bureau of Identification in the Division of the State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Any person who has submitted to a criminal history background check, upon request, shall be permitted to review the results of the check. All fire and squad volunteers who were active prior to enactment of this article shall be exempt and not required to have a criminal history background check.
- B. The Township, in its discretion, may charge to any person required to submit to a criminal background check the actual cost paid to outside agencies for obtaining the criminal history or any percentage thereof.

§63-2 Background check required; disqualification from service for certain crimes and offenses; enforcement; appeals procedure

- A. All adults, those persons eighteen (18) years of age or older, including but not limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, umpires or similar positions involved in educating, directing or supervising youth in a Township-sponsored youth program, or in a Township-sponsored program involving the elderly or infirm, or those volunteers serving with the fire and rescue operations of the Township, shall submit required information for the purpose of obtaining a criminal history background check. Refusal by individuals required to submit the background checks will result in a dismissal of the individual from any Township-sponsored activity requiring background checks.
- B. Upon receipt of a completed background check conducted by the State Bureau of Identification in the New Jersey State Police, the Chief of Police of the Township of Lopatcong or his designee shall notify the applicant, as well as the appropriate department head or volunteer organization of affirmative or negative results.

- C. In the event the criminal background check reveals any prior convictions for crimes or offenses set forth in N.J.S.A. 15A:3A-3 in the case of a Township-sponsored youth organization, or for all other Township-sponsored programs, any crime or disorderly person's offense involving danger to others or dishonesty, including, but not limited to the following: N.J.S.A. 2C:11-1 et seq. (Criminal Homicide); N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1 et seq. (Assault; Endangering; Threats); N.J.S.A. 2C:13-1 et seq. (Kidnapping and Related Offenses); N.J.S.A. 2C:14-1 et seq. (Sexual Offenses); N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1 et seq. (Robbery and Carjacking); N.J.S.A. 2C:16-1 et seq. (Bias Crimes); N.J.S.A. 2C:20-1 et seq. (Theft and Related Offenses); N.J.S.A. 2C:21-1 et seq. (Forgery and Fraud); N.J.S.A. 2C:24-1 et seq. (Offenses Against the Family, Children and Incompetents); N.J.S.A. 2C:25-1 et seq. (Domestic Violence); N.J.S.A. 2C:34-1 et seq. (Public Indecency); and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-1 et seq. (Controlled Dangerous Substances), or in any other state or jurisdiction, conduct which, if committed in New Jersey would constitute any of the crimes or disorderly persons offenses set forth above or of a similar nature, then that individual shall be prohibited from participating in any Township-sponsored youth programs or Township-sponsored programs involving the elderly or infirm, or with serving with the fire and rescue operations of the Township, all subject to the appeal process set forth below.
- D. In the case of Township-sponsored youth programs, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the start of the Township-sponsored activity, the head of each volunteer youth organization must submit to the Director of the Recreation Department, the Chief of Police and the Township Clerk, a certified list of volunteers who the volunteer organization expects to be involved in the activities with the youth. The Director of the Recreation Department shall not release equipment, fields or facilities to a volunteer organization until such time as all identified participants have demonstrated compliance with 140-9(A).
- E. In the event that a volunteer continues to participate in a Township-sponsored youth program requiring background checks despite being advised of the inability to do so, the Director of the Recreation Department shall prohibit, in the Director's sole discretion, the use of Township fields and equipment by the offending youth organization until such time as the youth organization prohibits the ineligible volunteer from participating in the Township-sponsored program or the ineligible volunteer is made eligible as set forth in this Chapter.
- F. All results of criminal background checks shall be filed and maintained in a secure and locked cabinet or room under the control of the Lopatcong Police Department and shall not be available to the public. The records shall be exempt from public disclosure under the common law or the New Jersey Right to Know Law. The records shall only be retained for such period as is necessary to serve their intended and authorized purpose, and in conformance with the State of New Jersey Division Retention Schedule.
1. All Township-sponsored programs that have individuals subject to this Chapter shall ensure that background checks are renewed no less than every three (3) years.
 2. If the criminal history background check will result in the disqualification of a volunteer or applicant for any reason, such person shall be provided an opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the information contained therein. The person shall be afforded a reasonable period of time to correct the record and provide an amended record. Failure to do so within a reasonable period shall result in disqualification.
 3. The Administrator is hereby designated as the person for any appeal that is brought forth by any person deemed disqualified as a result of a criminal history background check. The person shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of the notice of disqualification to petition the Administrator for a review.
 4. A current volunteer or applicant for a volunteer position need not be automatically disqualified from serving as a volunteer on the basis of a conviction disclosed in a criminal history background check if said person has

affirmatively demonstrated to the Administrator clear and convincing evidence of his or her rehabilitation. The Administrator may consider the following factors:

- a. The nature and responsibility of the position which the convicted person would hold;
- b. The nature and seriousness of the offense;
- c. The circumstances under which the offense occurred;
- d. The date of the offense;
- e. The age of the person when the offense was committed;
- f. Whether the offense was an isolated or repeated incident;
- g. Any social conditions which may have contributed to the offense; and
- h. Including, but not limited to, any evidence of rehabilitation, including good conduct, counseling or psychiatric treatment received.

Section 2 - Severability

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

Section 3 - Repealer

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

Section 45 - Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect as required by law.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong held on March 4, 2015, at 7:00 PM and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 1, 2015, at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Beth Dilts, Township Clerk

Mayor McKay – Item 3 Resolution 15-47 – Deferred Local School Tax. We already discussed that. I make a motion that we, um, adopt the resolution.

Council President Ciesla – Second.

Mayor McKay – All in, no discussion.

Councilwoman Schneider – I, I just, uh, one more quick thing. I know we touched on it already. Um, I would just like to say I would like to see us wean ourselves off, we, actually, can't take any more money at this point so we have no choice but to wean ourselves off, but I would like to see next year if our school tax does increase, that we try not to use the deferred school tax method and try to do other things with our budgets and our spending to curb that, so.

Mayor McKay –Excellent, excellent thank you. All right, so, then we ask for roll call.

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

NAYS: None

R 15-47

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING DEFERRED LOCAL DISTRICT SCHOOL TAX

WHEREAS, the local district school tax for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 was raised in the 2012 tax levy in the amount of \$13,086.852.00; and

WHEREAS, the statutes permit the deferral of the cash liability of such school tax up to 50% of the school tax levy or \$6,543,426.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, that the differed school tax for the local school district be increased from \$6,258,572.00 to \$6,543,426.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two 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 Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor McKay – Resolution 15-48 – Authorizing Engineer Sterbenz to prepare application an authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund Municipal Aid Program for Fiscal Year 2015 – Discretionary Aid to help construct the roadway improvements that are required to facilitate ingress/egress from the new high school on Upper Belvidere Road. Do I have a motion?

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Councilman Belcaro – Second.

Mayor McKay – Any discussion?

Council President Ciesla – This is, essentially, for the traffic light, so, we're trying to get the money for, yeah.

Mayor McKay – Okay, roll call please.

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

NAYS: none

R 15-48

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER TO PREPARE AN APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION – NJDOT TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 – DISCRETIONARY AID

WHEREAS, the NJDOT makes funds available to municipalities and counties for roadway infrastructure projects through the municipal aid portion of New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Phillipsburg Board of Education is required to install roadway improvements including a traffic signal within Upper Belvidere Road (aka County Route 646) in accordance with a 2000 agreement with the Township of Lopatcong and approvals granted by the County of Warren to facilitate ingress/egress into Lot 44 in Block 2 in Lopatcong Township, which is the site of the new Phillipsburg High School; and

WHEREAS, the new Phillipsburg High School is currently under construction on Lot 44 in Block 2 in Lopatcong Township; and

WHEREAS, funding for the project is being provided by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Phillipsburg Board of Education received assurances from the NJSDA that it would cover the costs of the required roadway improvements within the Upper Belvidere Road Right-of-way to facilitate ingress/egress into the new Phillipsburg High School; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Phillipsburg Board of Education was recently informed by the NJSDA that the NJSDA will not participate in the construction of the required Upper Belvidere Road roadway improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Phillipsburg Board of Education is now in need of funds to allow for the construction of the required roadway improvements within the Upper Belvidere Road right-of-way so that same can be built concurrent with the construction of the building; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Phillipsburg Board of education contacted the Township of Lopatcong to determine how it might obtain funds to help defray the costs of the required roadway improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong consulted with its municipal engineer to determine how funding could be obtained to assist the Town of Phillipsburg Board of education in the construction of the roadway improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has recommended that the Lopatcong Township Council apply to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for discretionary funds that are available under the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, Fiscal Year 2015 Municipal Aid Program for the purpose of constructing improvements within Upper Belvidere Road and Roseberry Street in the Township of Lopatcong and Town of Phillipsburg as depicted on plans prepared by Daniel J. Frank entitled “Intersection Improvement – Upper Belvidere Road (CR 646) and Roseberry Street – Township of Lopatcong and Town of Phillipsburg, Warren County, New Jersey”, including a traffic signal; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has considered this recommendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong that the Township Engineer be and hereby is authorized to prepare an application and

the Mayor and Township Clerk be and hereby are authorized to execute the application for discretionary aid available to municipalities under the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act and the Township Engineer is authorized to submit said application to the District Local Aid Office of the New Jersey Department of Transportation in Mount Arlington for the following project:

1. Improvements to the intersection of Upper Belvidere Road (CR646) and Roseberry Street in the Township of Lopatcong and Town of Phillipsburg, Warren County, New Jersey.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

My signature and the Clerk's seal serve to acknowledge the above resolution and constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement as authorized by the resolution above.

Attest and Affix Seal

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

Thomas McKay
Mayor

Mayor McKay – Resolution 15-49 – authorize award of contract for base bid to Howard Burd & Sons for storm sewer work on Reservoir Road in the amount of \$31,800 and this is on Paul's recommendation. Correct Paul?

Engineer Sterbenz – Yes.

Mayor McKay – Okay.

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Mayor McKay – Any discussion?

Councilman Belcaro – They're going to be happy.

Council President Ciesla – Yes they are.

Mayor McKay – They are. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

R 15-49

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO HOWARD BURD & SONS FOR THE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR RESERVOIR ROAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,800.00

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong Engineer Paul Sterbenz received and opened bids on January 16, 2015 for Storm Sewer Work on Reservoir Road; and

WHEREAS, the low base bid for the project was submitted by Howard Burd & Sons of Hackettstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the low bidder has been found to be qualified and the bid was found to be in compliance with the contract documents and technical specifications; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, at its meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, that a contract be awarded to Howard Burd & Sons in the amount of \$31,800.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chief Financial Officer certify to availability of funds in the amount of \$31,800.00 for this project.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor McKay – Resolution No. 15-50 approve quote from LMR Disposal, a local company, in the amount of \$680.00 per month for removal of trash and recycling services at various township owned locations. Motion.

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Councilman Belcaro – Second.

Mayor McKay – Second. Any discussion?

Council President Ciesla – This is, this includes the entire township, it also includes the pool.

Mayor McKay – Yes. Okay, no further discussion roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

R 15-50

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING LMR DISPOSAL TO PROVIDE TRASH AND RECYCLING SERVICES AT VARIOUS TOWNSHIP OWNED LOCATIONS AT A COST OF \$680.00 PER MONTH

WHEREAS, Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey sought quotes for disposal of trash and recycling at various Township owned locations; and

WHEREAS, both Raritan Valley Disposal and LMR Disposal submitted quotes for consideration; and

WHEREAS, LMR Disposal submitted a quote lowering the monthly fees the Township currently pays for trash and recycling collection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that LMR Disposal be awarded the quote to provide trash and recycling collection in the amount of \$680.00 per month.

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 the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor McKay – We're skipping to eight including swim team, pool party rates and pavilion rates for 2015.

Mayor McKay – Now I noticed in my packet that this is a 2014 document. I guess we are just using it as a

Clerk Dilts – This is the time of year in March where I come to the council and, um, go over the rates for pool parties, pool membership and various memberships and the pavilion rental because in May we do start renting the pavilion. Um, I'm not recommending any changes of, you know, our base, of our operating budget doesn't support lowering the cost. I think that, Lori and I had discussed, um, maybe the rates during the week Monday through Thursday although could be dropped a little bit because we don't seem to, you know, most people have parties on the weekends but we might attract some through the week if we lower the rate a little bit. So, Lori will go back to the Rec. Committee to talk about that and also, um,

Council President Ciesla – Um, the senior mornings.

Clerk Dilts – We thought maybe we would have a senior rate maybe in the mornings we could get seniors to come in and use the facility, you know, we are chlorinating it, there is a manager on board, we have the swim team.

Mayor McKay – It's a great idea, great idea.

Clerk Dilts – They could maybe use the pool facility and maybe increase the, you know, the revenue.

Mayor McKay – Love it, love it. Maybe the pavilion for a periodic seniors meeting during the summer months.

Clerk Dilts – Right. So, maybe at the next meeting?

Council President Ciesla – Yes, at the next meeting, what we'll do, we have a Rec. meeting before that and then we'll go over that and you are more than welcome to come to our meeting.

Mayor McKay – That might include some thought about what the seniors use the building maybe one morning a week.

Council President Ciesla – Oh, yeah, mmhmm, yeah because I don't think we really, we don't typically rent them in the morning. A lot of camps and stuff use that, so, yeah, they could definitely.

Mayor McKay – I'd like to see that, thank you. All right, so, this doesn't require a vote I guess.

Council President Ciesla – No it was just a discussion.

Mayor McKay – Okay, moving along, resolution No. 15-52 approving the emergency addition to our Temporary Municipal Budget for year 2015 in the amount of \$653,500.00 and we have to do this until such time as we put the permanent budget in place. So it's like a perfunctory thing. Do I have a motion?

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Mayor McKay – Second.

Councilwoman Schneider – Second.

Mayor McKay – Any discussion? A roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

R 15-52

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING THE EMERGENCY ADDITION TO OUR TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR YEAR 2015

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen in that the Township of Lopatcong is expected to enter into contract, commitments or payments prior to the 2015 budget adoption and no adequate provision has been made in the 2015 temporary budget for the aforesaid purposes, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose to add to the temporary budget, and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriation resolutions adopted in the year 2015 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$653,500.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, with not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring, that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A.40A:4-20:

1. Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made in the amount of \$653,500.00 as follows:

10510220	Computer Services	6,500.00	10524010	Police S&W	300,000.00
	Mayor & Council				
10511010	S&W	1,500.00	10524020	Police OE	10,000.00
10512010	Administration S&W	40,000.00	10529010	Roads S&W	35,000.00
10512020	Administration OE	7,500.00	10529020	Roads OE	25,000.00
				Building & Grounds	
10513010	Finance S&W	10,000.00	10531020	OE	3,000.00
10513020	Finance OE	1,500.00	105375095	Garbage & Trash OE	2,000.00
10514510	Collection S&W	3,000.00	10543020	Electricity OE	10,000.00
10515010	Assessment S&W	6,000.00	10544020	Telephone OE	5,000.00
10515520	Legal OE	15,000.00	10544620	Gas-Propane/Natural	5,000.00
10520010	Zoning S&W	1,500.00	10544820	Fire Hydrant Service	15,000.00
10521021	Liability Insurance	40,000.00	10544920	Water	500.00
	Workers				
10521520	Compensation	25,000.00	10546020	Gasoline	10,000.00
10522520	Unemployment Insur	500.00	10546620	Court S&W	25,000.00
			10547220	Social Security	50,000.00

2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2015 budget.
3. That one certified copy of the resolution be files with the Director, Division of Local Government Services and the CFO for her records.

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 the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor McKay - Resolution No. 15-53 authorizing the extension of the grace period for sewer bills to April 6, 2015. I believe this occurred because there was, I don't know what happened, our meeting was cancelled, so, they couldn't get the bills out.

Council President Ciesla – They needed postage.

Mayor McKay – Yeah, that’s right we couldn’t authorize the purchase of stamps because we didn’t have the meeting, so, okay and we took measures to help that out in the future. Um, all right so any, um, motion.

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Mayor McKay – Second.

Councilwoman Schneider – Second.

Mayor McKay – Okay, any comments?

Council President Ciesla – The only thing Rachel wanted me to say is that they should be mailed out Thursday, she said.

Clerk Dilts – No Friday.

Council President Ciesla – Friday, okay Friday sewer bills will be mailed out Friday. Have a happy weekend. Until April 6th.

Mayor McKay – All right, very good then I might ask for a roll call on that.

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

NAYS: None

R 15-53

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF THE GRACE PERIOD FOR SEWER BILLS TO APRIL 6th

WHEREAS, sewer bills were calculated and printed to mail for February 27th; and

WHEREAS, the Council meeting scheduled to approve the disbursement of funds on February 19th was canceled; and

WHEREAS, the grace period is standardly 30 days from the mailing of said bills to our consumers; and

WHEREAS, the bills have been held until payment can be made on March 6th;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the standard 30 grace period reflect a due date of April 6th rather than the originally printed due date of March 27th with interest being charged on April 7th; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new due date of April 6th be posted in the municipal building and on the municipal web site to further advise our consumer and that a certified copy of this resolution be provided to the Sewer Collector.

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 the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor McKay - Resolution No. 15-54 authorize the Execution, Severance, Settlement and General Mutual Release Agreement. This has to do with an employee who has left the township through resignation.

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Mayor McKay – Yes, second.

Councilwoman Schneider – Second.

Mayor McKay – Discussion. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

R 15-54

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION, SEVERANCE, SETTLEMENT AND GENERAL MUTUAL RELEASE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong (“Township”) has issued a Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action against one of its employees; and

WHEREAS, said employee has offered to tender said employee’s resignation in exchange for the dismissal of the Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action; and

WHEREAS, the Township has agreed to accept said employee’s resignation in exchange for the dismissal of the Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action; and

WHEREAS, a Severance, Settlement and General Mutual Release Agreement has been negotiated by and between the Township and said employee; and

WHEREAS, the Township is desirous of executing same; and

WHEREAS, the details of the facts giving rise to the issuance of the Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action and subsequent negotiations regarding the resignation of said employee were discussed in Executive Session, as appropriate pursuant to the statutory exemption permitting closed discussion regarding personnel matters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Severance, Settlement and General Mutual Release Agreement in the form disclosed in the Executive Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resignation of the Employee which is the subject of said Agreement is hereby accepted.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Mayor McKay – Next item is to authorize Tax Payment Plan for the property known as 103, Lot 14 – Authorize Tax Payment Plan. This person has approached the township and asked that they be put on a special payment plan for a short period of time, a relatively short period of time to enable them to bring their taxes current. It is my understanding that this is permitted for any lot but only one time for the lot forever. This is the first time for this lot. It is my understanding that the tax collector thinks we should do this and, so, I would ask for a motion.

Councilwoman Schneider – Motion.

Mayor McKay – That was beautiful. How about a second?

Councilman Belcaro – Second.

Mayor McKay – Okay, any discussion? Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor McKay – Next item to approve raffle application by Knights of Columbus to raise funds for the Southwick family. Motion

Council President Ciesla – Motion

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

Mayor McKay - No further discussion right? All right roll.

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

NAYS: None.

Mayor McKay – I understand Bruce you are involved in that. The community thanks you. Okay we have more new business which I titled New Business Council Items but maybe we are not going to have that title next time I think we are going to work to not have it. I guess at this point we are dealing mostly with the hiring of the um, accountant or the auditor and it is, you know, this is a contentious matter and I think I'd like to begin the discussion by nominating Mr. Morrison who has come in and has spoken to us, um, I feel it is time for us to, I've said this before and please respect me and I mean this from the bottom of my heart, we've had the same audit firm for ten years. I'm not sure, whose fault but a lot of things went awry with our finances and I want to have with me and I think the Council wants the same things, a firm that is going to be pushing for us to fix all this. It is almost impossible for small towns like this to operate any more. It is very difficult, especially; if you have debt and we've got too much debt. So, our plan has to involve a mechanism by which we build reserves, we pay debt and try to operate the township; not an easy thing to do and we need the best help we can get. Um, I don't want to get too much into the details, um, we've talked about taking money out of the sewer utility and in the ideal world you leave the money in the sewer utility there would have been, and there would have been several million dollars there and then when we had to fix the sewers, well, we have the money but instead we rolled it into the township and this is before anyone here was on council probably and I think it was at the time, thought this was a great thing, we won't have to raise taxes. Well, that's true, they didn't raise taxes but now we are paying for it. So, it's, you know, a conservative way that I'd like to see things done in the future is that we have adequate reserves, that we can meet our requirements that we don't seek to artificially lower taxes or keep them steady, that we raise them gently and that we take care of the needs of the community. So, um, you know, I've made my nomination, my motion to hire the new firm. I'd like to hear if there's a second.

Councilwoman Schneider – Second.

Mayor McKay – Thank you. Um, is there discussion?

Council President Ciesla – Um, I mean, I agree that you do need some change. I feel however that the pieces of the puzzle; you have the CFO, you have the auditor and you have the politicians and the politicians have changed a lot, the CFO has changed. Um, right now, I feel like the auditor is the one who knows all the history. He, they're the ones who know and, actually, I sent them the budget, I was going over it; I had all my changes in there. I wasn't sure of it; I went to them because they know. I mean, previously, we had a \$900,000 deficit and we're now down to almost \$200,000 and a lot of that, you know they went over it; they understand where we've been where we're going. One of the things with the budget and debt is, they can

only advise what to do; both the CFO and the auditor can only advise what to do. At the end of the day we are the ones who vote on it and it's a constant battle which I'm sure both Lorraine and John and Dave will tell you that they give us a recommendation on the, what they think is best for the financial security of the town and then the politicians either go with that or they do what's best for their political career and it's a constant battle between the two, so, like I'm sure and I know that our previous CFO was constantly telling them one to two cents, one to two cents every single year and they were like no we don't want to be the ones that raise the taxes, so, we're not going to do that. So, it is a constant battle. I don't, I and I think that right now, they have knowledge there also. I know one of the concerns is, is fraud and I know, I think they could answer to that, that they do have a very good history with fraud. Didn't you just have a big case that you did? How much in fraud did you find in Ridgewood?

John Mooney – (Inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – So, they do have the expertise. They have fraud controls here correct?

Mayor McKay – From parking meters.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah.

Mayor McKay – Lots of quarters.

Council President Ciesla – They always filed their audits on time and like right now, I just feel that they are the only ones who have the financial history of our town. They're the ones that have the knowledge at their fingertips without having to root around a lot.

Councilwoman McCabe – I agree with Lori. I think that, you know, it would be to our benefit to keep our auditors in place, again, we've had a lot of changes this year in the township and I think we need someone who understands the background. They've given us their recommendations in the past whether we followed it or not is our own fault. Um, you know, getting an auditor that's from a neighboring town who already filed the audit there three months late, I don't think that is beneficial to us. Uh, so I, I would, um, prefer to keep the current auditor.

Mayor McKay – All right, of course, we don't know why the audit report is late it could have been the township but

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right.

Mayor McKay – Yeah, we don't know but, okay, I understand your feelings on the matter.

Councilman Belcaro – If I may

Mayor McKay – Yes.

Councilman Belcaro – I have the floor. I have full confidence, okay; I have, well, let me start over again. I had confidence in our previous CFO and as I do right now with our new CFO. You have two people doing things two different ways. I'm a contractor and I could be on the job and can have ten different guys doing the job ten different ways. The point is getting to that, you know, to the finish, the completion. That's the point. Betty did, you know, even though it was not illegal what she did, it was perfectly within the law, it worked for her and it worked for the township. There'd be people here that disagree with that, however, it still worked. We have Lorraine here and she has her way of doing it and I have confidence in her that it will work. We have the auditors that have been in town which I believe have been doing an outstanding job. They've been diligent, again, have to agree with Lori, that they can only recommend after that, it's just like when your town gives you your tax papers right, you have to sign off, you have to review it and sign off. You have any problems, you go back to your accountant so and this is exactly what's happening here; they give a recommendation. Who signs off, it's the CFO and the Mayor and Council, you know, would agree with that and that's where we place our confidence, so, in order to keep stability in this Township on what's going on here with a new CFO and new Mayor, we need stability and, um, we need the existing auditors that's been in town. The one that they are proposing to bring in, to be honest with you I was not very impressed with the interview with them, I was not. To me, personally, he sounded more like a

salesman than anything else. That's my opinion. Um, because in the beginning, uh, the argument was well after ten years, they should be replaced. However, he's approaching ten years in Raritan Township and he's been in another municipality approaching thirty years. So, and I failed to ask because the meeting had concluded, but I wanted to ask him what his opinion would be, I want to ask any auditor what is your opinion of the state saying they would recommend ten years and you change. It would be interesting to find out what his answer is especially, being in a township for thirty years and that's all I have to say.

Mayor McKay – Thank you Lou.

Councilwoman Schneider – Um, I would like to just comment on, on that, you know, the township they are in for thirty years; if they are going to continually hire him, he's going to continually stay there. Um, it is not his job to say well, I don't think I should be here anymore, so you have to find someone else. It's the township, if they want him there for thirty years; they are going to keep him there for thirty years. That's what they decided. What this new mayor and what I would like to see as well is to have a change, it's been a while, it's time. Um, to say that hiring a new auditor, a new CFO and having a new mayor is, uh, is dangerous, is really an argument that does not hold any water. Our CFO has found and uncovered so many errors, inconsistencies, mispostings, haphazard budget systems, no budget process and, you know, we've all agreed that she's done a great job and so, to have a new CFO is a good thing because look at what she's done so far. Um, I was not, I voted no for our auditor, I'm sorry, our CFO. I voted no for her. I had some reserves and all these folks here voted yes for her. Um, I stand corrected. I am very glad she's here. I am very glad and happy for the work that she's done and the things that she's unfolded and no one is saying anything, that anyone did anything illegal prior but what we are saying is what happened is one of the causes of why we are twelve million dollars in debt. There was no budget process; errors were carried over year after year. Um, things were misposted haphazardly. You've got this grants receivables out here with, you know, that's been there forever, uh, collectibles. You've um, you know, we got clean opinions, we've got three comments in our audits, um, yeah when I sit with our CFO I can tell you that she said that she said she has never seen anything so unorganized and haphazardly conducted in any job that's she's ever been in with the CFO, it being a CFO in a municipality. So, uh, you know, to have a new auditor would be a good thing. Um, it is broken Lou as you've said, you know, why fix it if it is not broken; it is broken. We've had issue after issue after issue here, it's broken, we need someone to come in and to say that well he sounded like a used car salesman or a salesman or whatever, you know, that doesn't have any bearing on the job that he performs and if you took some time maybe to go and, um, call some of his folks that he does their work for, you know, you may have found that. Um, the way things are now, it has to change. This mayor is here, he is a new mayor. He has, as well as I have, some concerns, some trust issues regarding the auditor that have been conducted and, you know, to say that you don't want to allow him to try and do his job as a new mayor and to have some folks that he trusts around in some new, um, professionals in here, is really an argument that doesn't hold water. So, I would like to try and have someone new and give this mayor the opportunity to do his job and to do it the way he would like to do it and, you know, to get clean opinions on our audits when there is so much going on is really not something we need and, you know, I don't know why we have such clean opinions, I really don't understand it when there is so many issues that we've all, that we've just uncovered. So, I'm asking to give someone else a chance and give this mayor the opportunity to do his job the way he would like to do his job. That's all we're asking. That's all I'm asking. I'm sure that's all the mayor is asking. Um, I don't think it is unreasonable to try a new auditor.

Council President Ciesla – What exactly are you saying the auditor didn't do because his recommendations, everything you just said that Lorraine found are the recommendations that he made. They always told her not to do the transfers or misappropriations and the grants and there was another one. What didn't he do; he's right, they're right there.

Councilwoman Schneider – I know and you know they're not on the agenda to be here tonight. Um, I don't know understand why they are here.

Council President Ciesla – They're here on the agenda. Yes, they were on.

Councilwoman Schneider – No, they were not. They're not on our agenda.

Council President Ciesla – No, they are. They're on both agendas.

Councilwoman Schneider – No, they're not. Where?

Council President Ciesla – Hire the township auditor.

Councilwoman Schneider – Right hire the township auditor not presentation by the township auditor.

Council President Ciesla – They usually like to come here when they're being hired. That's the normal practice for the professionals is to come to meeting where they think they are going to be hired so they can answer any questions.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, you know, if, had we had known that you were going to invite him, perhaps we would have invited Mr. Morrison to come and defend himself as well.

Council President Ciesla – You could have invited him, it was on the agenda. It's been on the agenda since last week.

Councilwoman Schneider – It's been on to hire a township auditor not

Council President Ciesla – Yeah.

Councilwoman Schneider – presentation or township auditors present to ask questions.

Council President Ciesla – I'm just saying they are here if you want to ask them questions on their practices.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yeah, they are here and it, it's not

Council President Ciesla – And, what's the trust level?

Councilwoman Schneider – What's the trust level?

Council President Ciesla – What's the trust level? You said that you don't trust them.

Mayor McKay – Um, let me stop this. I think what the trust level is and that's, I don't know if that's the right word but we see ourselves in the situation were within huge debt, no reserves, borrowing money from the school system, um, taking money out of the sewer authority. I would have hoped that over the years good counsel would have come from our audit professionals. Don't do that, that's not good stuff to do, um, and put us on a better path financially. I don't know if they said that and it was ignored. I don't know but I know how it has to be done in the future and I think all of you know too. We can't pursue this road. We must be more conservative in our, in our financial dealings and, so, I probably would feel more comfortable with somebody that I'm rather certain would agree with that situation and put us on that road and we have to restore our reserves, we have to stop taking money out of the sewer utility, we have to start to pay down the debt, we have to refinance the debt too, if we can do that in a logical sequence, um, and this has to be our biggest priority along with appropriate budgetary means and I think we've got that well under way so that, that's from my heart, that's what I'm thinking. I want to be able to do that. Now, I think at this point we should, you know, we'll go to a vote. I, um, you know, why I want it. Ten years is too long I think just from a businessman kind of standpoint. I wouldn't let anything go that long. I just don't think it makes sense and I just feel let's go to the vote. Anyone else want to speak?

Councilwoman McCabe – Motion to.

Council President Ciesla – No, we have to finish this motion. We have a motion and a second. We need to vote.

Councilwoman McCabe – Well, then again, on the auditor issue, it's their job to give us recommendations. It's not their job to do our job.

Council President Ciesla – The budget, yeah.

Councilwoman McCabe – So, we can't blame the auditor for that.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right.

Councilwoman McCabe – The job is to give recommendations and they did do their job.

Councilwoman Schneider – They did give recommendations and that is their job to do recommendations, but at some point in time, there has to come a time where they tell you that if you have \$200,000 worth of uncollected grants out there what are the collectability rates of these grants? Have they been pursued? Um, if not, you need to write them off and that has not been done and if it was done, there is no comment saying that it was done. There's been no corrective action that seems to have been done. Um, when I question posting errors, I mean we are not talking about, uh, a \$1,000 item here; we're talking about \$35,000, \$40,000, you know, in an audit these things should be caught. They're, you know, they're, they're high ticket items and yet they were not detected, not caught or if they were they were overlooked. Do I know, I don't because there's no comment there to say which way it went and there are, it, there's too many inconsistencies. The way we budgeted, the way we did our books it, there are things that were overlooked that I found, um, in general ledger posting errors that should have been caught by the auditors. Um, they were done in 2013, they were done in 2012, there were general ledger posting errors and you know, there's posting errors throughout the entire budget, so, you know, I think it gets to a point in time where, you know, they get kind of comfortable and there's a comfortable working relationship and I do believe that we need to have someone else in, you know, like I said Morrison raised a flag, he sent me an email. I've never received an email from our auditors until this year, until this issue was brought to light. I've never heard from them and, you know, I, uh, did not reach out to them but they've never reached out to me. It's their job to reach out to me and let me know what the issues are and I've never received an email saying there were issues about anything. So, for now, to start receiving an email saying hey your grants are uncollected from 2014, it's a little, it falls, you know, it's a little too late, it's too late to do that.

Mayor McKay – Donna, Donna.

Council President Ciesla – Now I want to make a comment first if I may. Um, the auditor's job is to audit our books, it's not to do our books. They are not in here every week looking at what the CFO posted and saying you did that wrong, you did that wrong.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right.

Council President Ciesla – At the end of the year they go through and they do, they give the recommendations to the CFO. The CFO then does the adjustments that they have to do and it's a recommendation every single year in our books and I've seen that and then they prepare the audit for us. Then they come and if you have any questions about the audit they're usually here and they've discussed what's in the audit. That is their job. Their job is not to tell us how to do our budget.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right.

Council President Ciesla – It's there, it's not their job to tell us whether to borrow money or not borrow money.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right.

Council President Ciesla – That's all from the CFO and then it goes to the Council.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right.

Council President Ciesla – The budget is actually created by the CFO with the mayor, with the consent and input of Council.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's correct.

Council President Ciesla – Nowhere does it say it's the auditor. I feel they are doing their job. I feel that it's in there and he was trying to and again, with the grants, yeah he told you about the receivables and there are also reserves because there are two sides to every balance sheet and there is money over there to offset those. Whether they match, it's not, yeah they're a mess, they're a mess in Pohatcong, Greenwich, Phillipsburg, towns all over the State of New Jersey because of the nature of grants

Councilwoman Schneider – Right.

Council President Ciesla – and that's what I know our CFO last year was trying to say like she doesn't like them and that's why but that, again, they have done their job to tell us. It's in the recommendations and if you read the whole comments, if you go through the whole audit you'll see it. I mean I have the pages where they list out every single grant. It's there. It's our job to read that and if you have questions to go to them.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, yeah, exactly Lori, it is not their job but when there are \$35,000 and \$40,000 misposting errors, it is their job to say

Council President Ciesla- They told her.

Councilwoman Schneider – They did, so, why wasn't it fixed?

Council President Ciesla – The end of the year.

Councilwoman Schneider – Then why wasn't it fixed?

Council President Ciesla – They fixed it.

Councilwoman Schneider – So, when I asked about the \$35,000 general ledger posting error that I found it was dismissed and it was oops, um,

Council President Ciesla – It was done by the person who came in here while the prior CFO

Councilwoman Schneider – right it doesn't matter

Council President Ciesla – and it was by the time she got back here it was over.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay. It should have been caught.

Mayor McKay – Enough. Enough granularity. Enough granularity. Um, I'll call for a vote.

AYES: Councilwoman Schneider, Mayor McKay

NAYS: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Ciesla

Council President Ciesla – So, at this point, I'd like to make a motion to hire Nisivoccia as our auditors.

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

Council President Ciesla – Any discussion.

Mayor McKay –We already had it as far as I'm concerned. Anything else? Okay, um,

Council President Ciesla – The only thing I'll say is that I have been working at the same company now for almost twenty years; it's the same thing over there. Part of what corporations try to do is they try to downplay your knowledge because they really want that smaller salary because the people that know the most, get paid the most and they try to justify that why we really don't need you and I can tell you that it backfires and right now I feel like we need somebody who has the history, the financial history of the town, in their head, in their records and, and that's why I have full confidence in them. I have full confidence in all these auditors; they do not, it takes a lot of work to get that CPA, and to get that RMA; a lot of work, they're not going to throw it away for anybody or do a sloppy job.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, that’s debatable and, um, private corporations is very different, it’s very different then what we’re looking at right here and no one’s down playing anything to have someone else make more money so that’s totally irrelevant. That’s an irrelevant comment that you just made.

Council President Ciesla – I was just giving you an example of what, how corporations try to justify getting rid of those with experience.

Councilwoman Schneider – Of course they do. Sure, I

Council President Ciesla – and you’re trying to justify why we need change and I think right now we need the experience more than the change.

Councilwoman Schneider – No, I’m not justifying it by change and I’m not questioning their experience. What I am questioning, is the way things have been run in this township and it is time for a change.

Mayor McKay – All right Donna. Let’s hear the vote.

Councilman Belcaro – Before I vote, I just want to say that there is a lot, Councilwoman Schneider’s arguments don’t hold any water in anything she just said about our current auditor okay um, so having said that I vote yes.

Councilwoman Schneider – It’s an incorrect statement.

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Ciesla

NAYS: Councilwoman Schneider, Mayor McKay

Mayor McKay – Okay, we got by it.

Council President Ciesla – Congratulations you are still here.

Mayor McKay – Yeah, um,

Councilwoman Schneider – It is a disgrace.

Council President Ciesla – So, we are not going to discuss the bond thing, we’ll do that the next meeting, the bond refinancing.

Mayor McKay – Yes.

Council President Ciesla – We’ll go onto the Volunteer Policy discussion?

Mayor McKay – Yes Volunteer Policy. I don’t know what this is but what I was given for this was a copy of about a five or six year old Volunteer Policy, um, that I don’t know why I got that, there was no indication it was being updated and I suspect that Maureen you want to update that.

Councilwoman McCabe – I put this yes, I put this item on the agenda and it stayed. Um, my issue here is that we have some valuable volunteers in this town and it’s not to update the current policy but to insure that we treat our volunteers with respect. So, recently, one of our volunteers who does a lot of work for this town has worked for this town for over ten years, who reviews records in the office, was told by the mayor that she now has to review her records in the kitchen. So, I believe, first of all it has to be decided whether he has the complete control to make a policy like that singlehandedly without consulting the governing body, the council, I think that that is a blatant disregard and disrespect for our hardworking volunteers. Someone has records that need to be reviewed, they are in the office and that’s where they should be reviewed. No one should be banished to a kitchen for political reasons or for any other reason. I think that if we’re going to be trying to work together here, I think that that policy needs to be overturned and that person needs to be allowed to review records in the manner that they’ve been reviewing for their prior time here and they’ve been here for a very long time. So, this is my issue. This is a disgrace that we are treating a volunteer like this.

Mayor McKay – Okay, may I respond to that.

Councilwoman McCabe – Yes, please.

Mayor McKay – Um, it is my view that the internal records of the township should be only assessable by elected officials and township employees. I checked with our counsel on that and they concurred with me. Um, the situation you are speaking to me of, no one was told to go to the kitchen. I believe it was requested that they work at a table out in the lobby that you can see from the glass windows and that would be a good place to work for all volunteers so they don't have to go back into the, um, into where the records are and such.

Councilwoman McCabe – Well, this person needs to access the records.

Mayor McKay – I think the person you speak of looks at deeds, not deeds, uh leases to determine whether or not the amount of increase on the leases is within the ordinance that we have for rent stabilization. Is that correct?

Councilwoman McCabe – I would have to confirm with the Rent Leveling Board person but, again, it's accessing.

Mayor McKay – I think that's what it is not exactly, you know,

Council President Ciesla – Well then, what about the LAA Treasurer, um, if we are making a policy for one, we need to make it for all. So when the LAA Treasurer comes in here and he wants to go over his bills, they're going to have to meet outside of the CFO's office in order to be fair, otherwise we're going to be accused of discrimination.

Mayor McKay – Yeah, it was never otherwise. It was said that's for the volunteers.

Council President Ciesla- So, then, he has been back there.

Mayor McKay – Not to my knowledge.

Council President Ciesla – They come in all the time and the same thing unfortunately with Gary our Planning Board Chairman, he should not be allowed back there either then. I mean it has to be across the board.

Mayor McKay – I'll ask Mr. Lavery to speak to this because I did consult with him at the time.

Attorney Lavery – Well, listen, mayor runs the day to day operation in the municipal building. If the council who is the legislative end, and you want to develop a policy or amend the volunteer policy, whatever, I will say this, that you have to obviously apply consistently, so, there are other people that are allowed back there everybody has to be treated the same, so, it's a policy determination for the mayor and council as to whether or not letting volunteers or whoever else back behind the counter is (inaudible) and then once you do that, whatever decision you make, you got to apply it equally.

Mayor McKay – All right. Now when we spoke, I think it was kind of a consensus that that's not generally a wise thing to do because, you know, there's litigation issues, legal issues.

Councilwoman McCabe – That's not generally a (inaudible).

Attorney Lavery – It's really a policy decision for you

Mayor McKay – Non-employees, not elected officials have access to all township records.

Councilwoman McCabe – This is this person's job to access the records.

Mayor McKay – She only has to access the copies of the leases to my understanding.

Councilwoman McCabe – Which is accessing records that are kept in the course of business in this township.

Mayor McKay – You take the box and put it and sit here and go sit at that table out there.

Councilwoman McCabe – So relegating someone to the kitchen, someone who's been working this job.

Councilwoman Schneider – nobody said the kitchen.

Mayor McKay – You are doing the zinger thing

Councilwoman McCabe – no, you know, what this policy is, is upsetting. It is not a zinger thing. This is my opinion and I feel that this person was targeted and I think it is discriminatory and I disagree with it and I think you should take that policy off.

Council President Ciesla – We need to be consistent one way or the other. All volunteers or no volunteers and that means absolutely no volunteers and it means so anybody who does not get paid from this township cannot be back there; friends, family, anyone, ex-councilmen, anyone.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's fine by me.

Council President Ciesla – When, here's the thing though, when they do need to access records, some of those records can't leave the view of the clerk which means now the clerk has leave as well with the records.

Mayor McKay – I don't know, the table that I speak of is clearly visible through the windows.

Council President Ciesla – But if she's sitting down, she can't see so now she has to stand.

Mayor McKay – What is she supposed to be looking at?

Council President Ciesla – She needs to make sure they're not taking the record.

Mayor McKay – There not taking them.

Council President Ciesla – Yes.

Mayor McKay – So, we let them sit in the place where all records for the municipality are kept

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, because if they take them, they'll see them.

Mayor McKay – And, you know, I just hope

Councilwoman McCabe – Because there is open view.

Council President Ciesla – I mean you can argue that our volunteers actually are employees because some of the things that are in the Volunteer Policy they're actually covered under a workman's comp. insurance.

Councilwoman Schneider – They are not paid; they are not employees.

Councilman Belcaro – Volunteers are township employees.

Councilwoman Schneider – No they're not.

Councilwoman McCabe – They're to be treated as employees.

Council President Ciesla – That would include the fire chief too. I mean, technically, he's a police officer but if he wasn't, he wouldn't be allowed in here either.

Councilwoman Schneider – In behind the counter, not in the building.

Councilman Belcaro – Volunteer firefighters are township employees. They fall under the same workman's comp.

Council President Ciesla – And, that's just behind the counter, we're talking behind the doors too. No CFO, nobody back there.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's fine. That's fine.

Council President Ciesla – But then and then that leads you to, you need to give them an area that's comfortable to work at.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well I, you know, quite honestly I don't see, I see Gary in there a couple of times in a couple of weeks there's maybe one or two times he's been in there. Um, I haven't seen any other volunteers come in the building except for this one particular person who comes in two and three and four times a day.

Councilwoman McCabe – Are you here 24/7?

Councilwoman Schneider – I am here in the building a lot yes and when I do come, that person is here. So, yes, I am here Maureen.

Councilwoman McCabe – That person has work to do, uh, and really it is not us to question.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right, it's not but once they are answering township telephones and helping residents, that is now beyond the realm and, you know, employees are having issues. If you've talked to the employees within the building, there are many other facets of this problem that then just coming in and accessing the records. There are other things that have gone on and, you know, if you'd like to have this conversation we can have it.

Councilwoman McCabe – I'm having it right now.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, well that's fine right so, um, you know, there's other things that are going on here with this and it is not, um, it is not a political anything. It is a reason, there are things here that are going on that shouldn't be.

Council President Ciesla – Well, here's the problem. One policy needs to be made by council. So, we need to vote on it. So, anything that's, you know, and it needs to be applied consistently so we need to figure out a consistent policy or we will be hit with a lawsuit because the person in question is a senior citizen and she's also a female.

Councilwoman Schneider – Sure, yep.

Council President Ciesla – Your talking discrimination lawsuit here.

Councilwoman Schneider – I, actually, have a problem with this whole entire Volunteer Policy that I'd like the attorney to review it because there are many things in there that should not belong in a Volunteer Policy and Procedure Manual. So I'd like to actually have this whole thing looked at by our attorney's before decisions are made for anything.

Council President Ciesla – Well, if there are things you feel you don't want in there perhaps you could look at them before we spend the money to have

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, there are legalities, you can't just take and add things to policy without having a legal opinion.

Council President Ciesla – Right, but

Clerk Dilts – That was created by an attorney. Our township attorney a few years ago. If I could just let you know and we do have a Recreation Policy and a policy that we hand out to the people who work at the pool that might needs to be reviewed also.

Mayor McKay – This policy calls for drug testing of these employees, breathalyzer testing of the employees, there not employees of the, their volunteers and I don't think we can have volunteers drug tested.

Clerk Dilts – There are volunteers that work in the town and use our township equipment

Mayor McKay – In that case yes, but this is kind of (inaudible). I'm not a lawyer but all I'm trying to do is keep the records safe and let the public know that who they are dealing with are people that are employees of the township.

Councilwoman McCabe – The volunteer in question has been a volunteer for over ten years. The records have been safe all that time. Suddenly, it's an issue.

Council President Ciesla- We just need some consistency here. It's been brought to our attention so we need to have something (inaudible) for policy or are you going to make a policy to not allow any volunteers behind the double doors or into the clerk's office or

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, no the clerk's office and, and where there are documents that the public should not have access to.

Councilwoman McCabe – We're putting someone in a hallway where the public are coming in and out.

Councilwoman Schneider – Wouldn't be a safer idea just to have no one behind the counter so there is no questions on anything that is being done back there?

Councilwoman McCabe – Then let's take our records out to the hallway so the public is coming in and out.

Councilwoman Schneider – Yes. Well you know what; perhaps there is another area we can designate. Okay, perhaps there's somewhere we can find but I think we need to discuss it first before we just allow people to come and go.

Councilwoman McCabe – (Inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – Right, so we need to figure out our policy and until that point, I think it should be as it is now and then when we determine a policy and where we think they can go, and again, looking at the records because there are a lot of records because there are a lot of records that can't, can't leave our clerk's (inaudible).

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, you know, I have to protect the employees in the building also and these employees have come to me on multiple times, uh, with a lot of complaints, okay, so, you know, we do need protect our employees.

Council President Ciesla – (Inaudible) different avenue.

Councilwoman Schneider – Well, we still need to protect our employees and they don't feel safe in their offices, they don't feel that, uh, you know, that they

Councilwoman McCabe – All right that's a whole different

Mayor McKay – Donna (inaudible).

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, that's a whole different thing. Again, we can't think about one person.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right we cannot.

Council President Ciesla – (Inaudible) then maybe you want to press charges against that person, you take another avenue.

Councilwoman Schneider – No.

Council President Ciesla – Either it's all volunteers or no volunteers.

Councilwoman Schneider – I think it's smart business just to not.

Council President Ciesla- Then for everybody. Then make up a policy and we have to vote on the policy.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right. That's what I said. Right. That's exactly what I said.

Councilman Belcaro – Until then, it will remain right now as status quo.

Councilwoman Schneider – Do you understand that the employees have had issues and that's okay with you.

Council President Ciesla – Have they filed complaints.

Councilman Belcaro – Have they filed any formal complaints.

Mayor McKay – Donna enough (inaudible).

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay.

Council President Ciesla – Until we determine a policy and put something in place, then the sanction that was put against one person, is lifted.

Councilwoman McCabe – Yes, yes.

Councilwoman Schneider – I don't agree with that.

Councilman Belcaro – You have to be consistent.

Attorney Lavery – Whatever you do you have to be consistent either all is allowed behind there or nobody's allowed behind there.

Mayor McKay –That's what it is was. If other people are back there, I don't know, I'm not there but that was the policy and that was Ms. Dilts' policy I understand. Mrs. Dilts didn't you have a policy that forbid anyone from going behind the glass doors there unless they were an employee?

Councilwoman Schneider - Not even employees weren't allowed. I was told there was.

Mayor McKay - Didn't you write a memorandum on that?

Clerk Dilts - I've had numerous, if I could just say, I had numerous volunteers over the years that I meet with in this, in my office, um, the Planning Board Chairman, the Zoning Board Chairman, um, you know, the Rent Leveling Board Chairwoman, the Fire Chief actually uses a desk in my office, the Emergency Squad representative comes into my office and goes into the CFO's office to do business. Um, in fact, uh, Mr. Imhoff who wanted to view my minutes records I felt much more comfortable that he come into my office and view them under, you know, where I could see him then to send him back to the kitchen or somewhere else where I couldn't see him.

Mayor McKay – No one was ever sent to the kitchen. They were asked to go to the table.

Clerk Dilts – No, I'm just saying I wouldn't want to send him to the kitchen, I needed him to be in my office so that I could watch him, I could answer his questions cause he did have questions and I even said to you the other day, that I would invite Juniper in because if she's working on her agenda and resolutions and rather her stand at the counter while we're working, trying to, you know, take care of business to set her up and answer her questions as we are waiting on the public.

Council President Ciesla – You shouldn't have to though.

Mayor McKay – Well, all right if we are going to formulate a policy like this, it needs to be an amount of time.

Clerk Dilts – The Planning Board I did talk to you about it mayor and I suggested that maybe a couple times a month during a certain time period that could be something that you could accommodate the person. I did talk to you about it.

Mayor McKay – Yes, and now it's here and we are talking about it in the full glory of the council.

Council President Ciesla - I personally think the volunteers should be allowed there. I don't want the LAA Treasurer to have to stand in the hallway. I just don't.

Councilman Belcaro – Listen let's work up a policy okay. What I don't want to see is anyone being targeted. That's not going to happen.

Councilwoman Schneider – That's right.

Councilman Belcaro – not as long as I'm here. So, let's stop with that, let's create a policy that's going to be uniform, it's going to be fair for all of our volunteers. That's it.

Mayor McKay – All right. You're going to undertake to create the policy.

Councilwoman McCabe – Lou, I'll help you with that.

Councilwoman Schneider – I think we should all be a part of that.

Mayor McKay – We must have organization and all that good stuff. Approval of the LAA Bylaws revised by LAA on 2/24/15 and, essentially, what I seen in here is you have changed the mechanism by which people who are elected or want to be elected into positions in the LAA.

Council President Ciesla – They did have two changes; one was because they do want control over who they select for their board of directors and they wanted that for some time and then the other one, the big one was the fundraising, um, they made a decision that they wanted to approve every single fundraiser and then they came back and realized that they do fundraisers like even selling M&M's at a game. They don't want to have to wait for a meeting to do that approval. So, they are going to submit their budget. In that budget they're going to put what their fundraisers are and what they're doing. Special fundraisers then they'll go to the LAA Board and get approval for that. So, those were the two and I know Maureen is the liaison.

Mayor McKay – Now, now the one about the appointments, that was under Steinhardt's days; he made all those and now you want it taken away so that, um, it goes to who, council?

Council President Ciesla – It's actually going to be the board, the LAA Board is going to ultimately make the decision and we'll just approve their decision unless we feel and then if we don't like it, we'll send it back and then they'll pick another guy. It won't be our choice, it will be theirs.

Councilwoman McCabe – Sounds fair.

Council President Ciesla – Since they're involved in the sports, they know. They also have to live with one another.

Mayor McKay – Okay, um, is there a motion to approve these revised bylaws?

Council President Ciesla – Motion

Mayor McKay – Second.

Councilwoman McCabe – Second it.

Mayor McKay – Discussion. Roll call please.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor McKay – Okay, now we go to the Consent Agenda. Now I'm going to read them all and we'll vote them all in at once. That's how we try to do the Consent Agenda in the interest of time.

Now we have a proclamation commending Norwescap on the occasion of celebrating its 50th anniversary of communication action and the proclamations I think we'll put on the website (inaudible) all right, so, we won't read them they're very long.

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, they are very long

Mayor McKay – Proclamation for recognizing Congress for designating the third full week in March as National Poison Prevention Week. Um, Resolution 15-55 to authorize refund on Tax Sale Certificate 2014-078 and Premium in the amount of \$4,024.56 on Block 142, Lot 6, Resolution No. 15-56 authorization on Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-071 and Premium in the amount of \$1,403.42 on Block 135, Lot 14, Resolution No. 15-57 authorize refund on Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-040 and Premium in the amount of \$2,475.78 on Block 136, Lot 17, approve donation of individual pool membership requested by the Greenwich Township PTO, approve donation of an individual pool membership requested by the Bloomsbury School PTO. I might have to, my son-in-law is the head of the Board of Ed in Bloomsbury – does that make a conflict?

Attorney Lavery – You know what you can do, is vote on that separately.

Mayor McKay – All right. Um, okay so we'll hold that one aside that one about Number 7 and approve payment to Dulaine Contracting in the amount of \$62,536.27 for work completed on the Rt. 57 Pump Station Project. Okay um,

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

Mayor McKay – Any discussion?

Engineer Sterbenz – Just on No. 8 I noticed in the agenda package tonight that the certification form for Item No. 8 that the sewer engineer needs to sign. It is not signed.

Clerk Dilts- I do believe he did sign it and it was sent.

Engineer Sterbenz – Okay, I just want to make sure.

Mayor McKay – Do you have the signed one?

Clerk Dilts – I believe so, yes. I do believe Lorraine just signed off.

Councilman Belcaro – They won't get paid until it's signed anyhow.

Mayor McKay – Okay, so any discussion other than Paul. No, good, okay, motion. Roll call.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor McKay – Seven we're doing separate right and No. 7 is to approve donation of individual pool membership requested by the Bloomsbury School PTO. I can't be involved in that my son-in-law is the President of the PTO.

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

Mayor McKay – Discussion. Roll call.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor McKay

Consent Agenda:

Proclamation Norwescap –

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION commending Northwest NJ community Action Partnership, Inc. (NORWESCAP) upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Community Action WHEREAS, it is the sense of Lopatcong Township Council to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across northwestern New Jersey are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of the organization and individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend NORWESCAP, upon the occasion of celebrating their 50th Anniversary of serving the community. WHEREAS, Since 1965, Northwest NJ Community Action Partnership, Inc. (NORWESCAP) has been providing invaluable and outstanding service to the citizens; and WHEREAS, NORWESCAP is one of 23 Community Action Agencies in New Jersey State and one of over 1,000 nationwide founded on a common purpose: to support low-income households as they develop their abilities to be self-supporting and develop family and community relationships that will sustain self-reliance; and WHEREAS, Community Action was born out of the Equal Opportunity Act of 1964 that was initiated by President John F. Kennedy and brought to fruition by President Lyndon B. Johnson who, during a memorable State of the Union address 50 years ago, declared unconditional war on poverty; the Economic Opportunity Act was signed into law on August 20, 1964, and not only spurred the birth of Community Action, but also inspired the introduction of Head Start one year later; and WHEREAS, NORWESCAP was created through these efforts and; WHEREAS, Half a century later, NORWESCAP operates fifteen major programs: has grown to 270 full and part-time employees and more than 30,000 individuals are served each year through a multitude of anti-poverty services; and WHEREAS, NORWESCAP is a community leader; its positive action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes New Jersey a better in which to live; and WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations and individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of New Jersey; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Northwest, NJ Community Action Partnership, Inc. (NORWESCAP), upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Community Action; and be it further RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution, suitably endorsed, be transmitted to Northwest NJ Community Action Partnership of Phillipsburg, Inc.

Proclamation National Poison Prevention Week –

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially poisonous medicines, household chemicals, and other substances; and
 WHEREAS, poison centers across the country will focus the public’s attention on identifying poisoning hazards at home as well as learning ways to prevent poisoning emergencies; and
 WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey; and
 WHEREAS, approximately half of all reported poison exposures involve children under six (6) years of age; and
 WHEREAS, the majority of poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20to 59; and
 WHEREAS, every poisoning is preventable! From the youngest to the oldest all people and even pets are at risk.
 WHEREAS, poison experts urge parents and caregivers to keep “single-load liquid laundry packets” out of sight and reach of young children. These products can cause serious harm if ingested; and
 WHEREAS, consumers must be aware that e-cigarette devices, hookah pipes and liquid nicotine may contain very high doses of nicotine in enticing colors, aromas and flavors – increasing the likelihood that small children and pets will be drawn to them. These products pose serious risk of poisoning; and
 WHEREAS, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES), a division of the Department of Preventative Medicine and Community Health/NJ Medical School at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey provides free, expert medical advice, drug information, and poison prevention education to NJ residents through the 800-222-1222 Poison Help Hotline; and
 WHEREAS, all services are free, confidential multilingual and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year even during bouts of Mother Nature; and
 WHEREAS, poison centers save time and money by managing most cases at home, not requiring a visit to an emergency room; and
 WHEREAS, poison centers save time and money by managing most cases at home, not requiring a visit to an emergency room; and
 WHEREAS, NJ Poison Experts encourage all residents to program the Poison Help Line 800-222-1222 into home, office, and cell phones because a rapid response can make a difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives; and
 WHEREAS, NJPIES is involved with the state’s efforts in homeland defense, counter-terrorism, emergency preparedness and response and bio surveillance, and surveillance for clusters of poisonings and their sources (products, food and beverages, chemicals in the workplace and at home, environmental toxins, drugs and medicine and animal and insect bites and stings; and
 WHEREAS, the poison center is instrumental in managing exposures during major storms like Superstorm Sandy; and
 WHEREAS, the use of poison center services saves residents both time and money. Most cases are managed in the convenience of the caller’s home, requiring no hospital visit.
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I Thomas M. McKay, Mayor of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim the week of March 15-21, 2015 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families and their community.

Resolution No. 15-55 – Authorize refund on Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-078 and Premium in the amount of \$4,024.56 on Block 142, Lot 6.

R 15-55

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 142, LOT 6 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,024.56

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on June 25, 2014, a lien was sold on Block 142, Lot 6 also known as 27 Jade Lane for 2013 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-078 was sold to US Bank Cust as Cust for PC4 First Trust Bank for a Premium at \$1,400.00; and

WHEREAS, Wells Fargo Bank, escrow company for property owners, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2014-078 in the amount of \$2624.56.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 4th day of March 2015, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$4,024.56 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2047-078 and Premium to:

US Bank Cust For PC4 First Trust Bank
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 15-56 – Authorize refund on Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-071 and Premium in the amount of \$1,403.42 on Block 135, Lot 14.

R 15-56

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 135, LOT 14 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,403.42

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on June 25, 2014, a lien was sold on Block 135, Lot 14, also known as 9 Melanie Lane for 2013 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-071 was sold to US Bank Cust as Cust for PC4 First Trust Bank for a Premium of \$600.00; and

WHEREAS, Wells Fargo Bank, escrow company for property owners, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2014-071 in the amount of \$803.42.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 4th day of March 2015 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,403.42 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2014-071 and Premium to:

US Bank Cust for PC4 First Trust Bank
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 15-57 – Authorize refund on Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-040 and Premium in the amount of \$2,475.78 on Block 136, Lot 17.

R 15-57

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 136, LOT 17 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,475.78

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on June 19, 2013, a lien was sold on Block 136, Lot 17 also known as 3 Windsor Lane for 2012 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-040 was sold to US Bank Cust as Cust for PRO CAP II, LLC for a Premium of \$1,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Wells Fargo Bank, escrow company for property owners, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2013-040 in the amount of \$1,475.78.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 4th day of March 2015 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$2,475.78 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2013-040 and Premium to:

US Bank Cust for PRO CAP II, LLC
50 S. 16th St., Suite 1950
Philadelphia, PA 19102

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Greenwich Township PTO – Approve donation of individual pool membership requested by Greenwich Township PTO.

Bloomsbury School PTO – Approve donation of individual pool membership requested by Bloomsbury School PTO.

Dulaine Contracting Rt. 57 Pump Station Project – Approve payment to Dulaine Contracting in the amount of \$62,536.27 for work completed on the Rt. 57 Pump Station Project.

Council Reports:

Mayor McKay – Council Reports. Hope that they are brief. I'll make the first one. I guess on the sink hole it's kind of old news now, but as you know, there's a very large sink hole and, um, I was very, very pleased with the way the township police, engineer, his designee's and everyone who worked together to remediate the situation. The thing was about as big as a three car garage, two stories; that was the cavity, plus, it had a throat that went down about 50/60 feet. It took 19 cement trucks to fill the throat. Yeah, and then they have to put back the soil compacting soil and packed it down six inches at a time and compact it down until they got to the level where the sewer pipe was, laid new sewer piping where the truck hit it and did the same thing, go up a little higher, reconnect everybody's water. There was a lot of stuff going on there. For some insane reason, it became national news and I got calls from people in California. One of the families that was right there by, by the their house was right there facing it, they're from Utah and their phone ran off the hook all day from Utah people saw them, so, that was interesting. But, anyhow, everyone did a really good job and I was very pleased with it and now, of course, we have the bill. We'll, see how that goes. It's our position, of course, that it was a water leak; we shouldn't have to pay for it. We did lose a truck and, of course, we all know Brian is okay. That was the first thing. Um, and I think he must of felt a bit like an astronaut falling into that ditch and facing straight up and the way he describes it to me the back of the truck where the, um, the salt spreader is, that started to crumble from the weight of the truck and he's like this and he thought he was going down into the throat and he thought he was finished. So, how he got out of the truck and we all know Brian is a very small guy and he had to open the door against gravity, get out onto the cab somehow climb out of the cab and then jump to safety. It was a miracle but anyhow and all the nice people on the block came with cookies and cupcakes and coffee, bagels. One guy came with Mr. Joe those Joe things from Dunkin Donuts with bagels and he must of spent for \$70/80 bucks just because he was so happy to see everybody out there, so, real good job from all the employees, volunteers that were at the sinkhole scene and I was proud of them. That is my report, um, next report.

Councilwoman Schneider- Um, I'll, I can just go quickly for DPW Reports. Um, we are very thankful that nothing major happened to Brian. He was a little sore. He was right back on the scene as Brian would do and I am just thankful and very thankful that he wasn't hurt or injured in a big way. The truck was hurt and injured in a big way but, thankfully, it was one of our older trucks, so, I'm kind of happy for that. Um, right now we are not replacing that truck. As Mayor McKay said we're waiting to see what happens with the bills and who is responsible and insurance and all of those things. So, we are down a truck right now during these months still of snow and sleet and hail and everything and they've got to go out and try and get this down. We are down a truck, so, if you can please just be a little patient with the guys plowing the roads here. Um, as far as the task force, I did send out a proposal for another IT person, um, just to compare to what our current services are. He did send that in, so, I did send that off to the council members and hopefully everyone will take a look at that and if there's any questions, please feel free to ask. Um, to call him to call me. Send me a message, whatever you need me to do to, um, understand his proposal and I think that's all I have for tonight.

Council President Ciesla – I did have one question for the tech guy, I called him today. He, we're, if um, in order to make a comparable to our current guy, you're going to have to get a quote for email hosting and also, web hosting because that is not included in his quote.

Councilwoman Schneider – Um, yeah, what, you know, you have to get the receipts I believe for our guy because we don't have a contract; his bid did only include an hourly rate.

Council President Ciesla – I can get you numbers, it was under \$10,000 for everything from him for our current computer guy.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, and yeah, and all the computer supplies and everything to get a read on how much his supplies would cost versus what our current one is.

Council President Ciesla – Our current costs from our guy is \$125.00 per hour. Within the money we paid out to him are our computers; actual hardware. He does have his anti-virus in there, webhosting, email hosting and email archives so.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, yeah, we just, uh, yeah, if I, I'll get some detailed reports on that and see if we can come up with some kind of comparable before next meeting.

Council President Ciesla – Okay.

Mayor McKay – Lou.

Councilman Belcaro – I'll keep it short –we are waiting for two things. Uh, one is a permit from the State of New Jersey so they can continue digging right across the exit ramp off 22 that goes onto Roseberry Street. Right now they are stopped right at the curb there in the Hillcrest parking lot. That should be there any day now and the next thing is the pole being installed from Verizon. The time frame with that would be in the first/second week of March and then the hookup.

Mayor McKay – Do we still have a temporary pump running? We're still paying for that too.

Councilman Belcaro – Well, right, exactly but, uh, I think, listen we see the light at the end of the tunnel right now, you know, we're good.

Mayor McKay – Thank you Lou.

Councilman Belcaro – One more thing, I know Baltimore is a real mess right now. I mean it just gets worse and worse.

Council President Ciesla – It gets worse during the day.

Councilman Belcaro – I know the asphalt companies are still closed, you know, they will probably open up, obviously, after the snow melts in June.

Councilwoman McCabe – My turn. I have a couple of things. Uh, EDAC Committee we did not have a meeting in February due to weather and scheduling so, we will schedule a meeting later in March. Don't forget we still have our SHOP Lopatcong cards.

LAA we had a meeting last week. I was unable to attend due to previous scheduled appointments so Lori attended and she'll give you an update later with her report.

Um, additionally, I met with some senior citizens last month to discuss their concerns and any issues that they may have. Uh, one of the issues that they had was that their fire hydrants in their development were being covered by their own private snow plow company been covered up and unable to be seen. Um, we had a call into Kathy Devos who got that taken care of immediately and she had it remedied right away and in this day and age, there is a lot of fires out there. This is an important thing to make sure this is in site and doesn't delay if there happens to be a fire. Another issue we talked about, is snow shoveling and I really didn't think at our March meeting that we would still be talking about snow shoveling but I am. What I'd like to do and if this snow ever ends, maybe next year or soon, set up some type of a program where our senior citizens can call in so maybe the clerk or maybe directed to, somewhere, somehow, to say that they need help, that they need to be shoveled out. Possibly work with the Boy Scouts; possibly get a connection to do that.

Mayor McKay – Good plan.

Councilwoman McCabe – Sure. Whoever wants to shovel. So, whoever does it, they can get their free credits and the senior citizens will be truly grateful. Um, lastly, I'm putting together a list for the senior citizens of discounts in the area from restaurant, stores, diners and things like that and once I have it completed, substantially enough, we'll put something on our website so the senior citizens have access to see what's out there and what's available. Some people might not be aware.

Um, lastly, and you may have seen this already on our website but the senior citizen, the senior freeze they call it is out for the 2014 requirements. It is on our website. So, if you are a certain age and you meet a few other requirements, you may be able to have your taxes frozen. So, I have a few copies if anyone is interested, if it is on the website and also please contact Rachel with any questions regarding that.

Um, lastly, I am also happy that Brian who's not here tonight that he is okay and well. I appreciate that.

Lastly, I have one short statement to make concerning our last meeting. Our last meeting was a tough one as all of you know. I was extremely concerned with the attitude and the actions of the mayor at our last meeting. He consistently showed some disregard and contempt for our fellow employees, our valued volunteers and even members of this council. His actions at our last meeting were unacceptable and showed complete lack of control and complete lack of respect. I was as was everyone else up here elected by the residents of this township. We have all earned the right to be here. I do not appreciate the actions of a mayor who claimed at our first meeting that he wants to work together as a team but every action he has since taken, and continues to take he's showing that he wants nothing to do with the team. He wants to be in complete control with no other member's opinions or votes involved. The mayor has created a toxic work environment. He's created policies that seem to have no better purpose then to disgrace or humiliate people. He's constantly requesting of our township attorney where can he make appointments, decisions and create policy on his own and without consent of the members of council. These are actions of a dictator and a bully. He continues to play these games by pulling off items off the agenda that are requested to be there by council again, he wants complete control. These meetings have become chaotic spectacle. The township meetings should be a chance to get work done, share different opinions respectively and find out what is going on with our residents and assist in any way we can. This has got to stop. We need to have respect for our mayor and for all of us to work together. This meeting tonight seemed to go very well and I'm happy with that and I truly hope that in the near future that we can build bridges instead of putting up fences. That's all.

Council President Ciesla – Am I up. Shade Tree, um, we met. We had our first meeting this year. Uh, Joe Bichler was elected Chairman and Victor Camporine is the Vice-Chairman. I've

talked with Alex down at the state and assured him that we would get back to approved status this year. We did manage to submit our report by the deadline. I think we had two days after the meeting but Joe did a really good job of coming in here and getting that done. We still have the grant money available to us. We have \$3,000 we can utilize until April of 2016, um, so we are looking to get the Forestry Management Plan finished soon. We are looking to see though how much we can do on our own, so, we don't have to spend that money and we can put it somewhere else but we're going to discuss that at our next meeting. I'll update our the ordinance the next month too, so, we are back in compliance with the state ordinance which also, just as an aside, the Environmental Commission ordinance has to be done too, so, I'll do that, so, we are in compliance with the state with that.

Um, Recreation, our goal this year is to raise money to go towards a bathroom and a snack shack closer to the baseball fields. We have a lot planned, um, it will take us a while and hopefully, eventually, we might have some money to do this you know, from the township side too and some grant money and just donations. We also want to start a thermometer. We're going to figure out how much we need and get one of those thermometers and paint it when we get some more money so we can track our progress and get everybody involved.

There is a lot of interest in a dog park. If there is any volunteers that want to help us with that, just give me a call. We might have to start a separate sub-committee for that.

Community Day is set for Saturday, August 15th with a rain date of August 16th. More details on that to follow.

The Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 28th at 10:00 am and its rain date is Sunday, March 29th at 2:00 pm. All children, infants to 9 years old, can come as long as they come with a Lopatcong resident. Saw a little funny joke on Facebook it was snow and a bunch of white eggs and they're we're just throw them out there and let them find um. Yeah, there is nothing I can do Easter is Easter; I don't the Pope is going to move the date for snow, so.

Tech – the email lists are live. Right now we are using a free service, uh, MailChimp which is recommended. We have a very big threshold on that, so, we shouldn't have to do it. I can export it if we ever get over to a platform, a newer platform and it has something built in. Right now you can go to the website or Facebook page to sign up and you can sign up for email reminders on your sewer, taxes, dog licenses and community events. Um, once we hire a computer guy, we're going to go forward with upgrading the website. We can't do it from where we are because we are so far behind we need to jump over a few steps and we're probably going to go to a different platform anyway. Online payments have taken a back seat to the budget but we'll have those up next. All the paperwork is almost done.

Animal Control – there is a lot of lost pets out there. I think because of the snow. I don't know if they are getting confused, they don't know where they are, um, and I'm seeing posts on Facebook all the time just around in my neighborhood alone. So, if you see one wondering around, please call animal control. They'll pick it up and take it to a vet or a shelter. If you are missing one also call animal control maybe he has seen your pet or he's brought it to a shelter or the vets in the area. It's really cold out there for them so, please don't hesitate to call and there's not a lot for them to eat either.

Board of Ed – Superintendent Chando was at the last meeting discussing the progress of the high school. He's helping to plead our case for a light with the Department of Transportation Commissioner Jamie Fox and I thank Paul for all the work he has been doing on that as well. We did the resolution tonight to go after funding and let's hope it is a done deal. Lots of people workings behind the scenes to get this done. The next hurdle is I know there's some interest of members of the BOE and the town and everybody on a second means of egress from that school in case of an emergency. It is a huge cost, but I think we do need to at least try to, you know, even if we put together some sub-committee and try to figure out something because it could be a huge issue. Um, also I noticed that, um, full-day kindergarten didn't pass on the referendum item but what they are doing is there seeing if there any interest in full-day kindergarten and there would be a fee for it. So, um, they're asking that you call Ginny Remetta at the Elementary School so they want to see how many want to do that.

LAA – I attended the meeting for Maureen and I was going to help her transition anyways. They approved their bylaws. Um, I do have from Baseball, signups are going on right now. Baseball, softball and T-ball. T-ball is low. If you have anybody interested in playing T-ball they need some players. They've actually removed the late fee because they are trying to get some kids in. Um, basketball had their Community Basketball Day. I thank Andy Horun, who's in the back, for running that again. It is a lot of fun. Also, once again, their wrestling team won the PAWL League which they usually do every year so congratulations to them. Um, I, I went to the hole after this happened and I saw Brian there and all I could think was this man is a superman and I'm just very glad that he is okay and he really loves his job in this town and just thank goodness he's okay. Truck we can replace, we can't replace Brian.

As far as the last meeting, I want to put it behind us. I thank the Mayor for his apology. It was, we all need to, whether we like each other or not doesn't really matter. I mean, you're going to work with people all the time that you like, you don't like, you love, you could care less about. I should have, as Council President, I should have taken some actions at that meeting which I didn't and apologize to the audience for that and I will make sure that regardless of whatever is going on, I'll always do my duty to you. And, that's all I have.

Mayor McKay – Is that it for reports. I think we have bills. Oh yeah, the bill list. Okay, the bill list with addendum aggregates.

Engineer Sterbenz – That's okay mayor. I'll try to be very brief because of the lateness of the hour here. Just regarding the DOT grant application for the intersection of Belvidere Road and Roseberry Street that will be submitted on Friday to the Department of Transportation. Regarding grants receivable there were three grant receivables that concerned engineering. Two of the three have been solved already. I provided the information already to the finance office. The third one which is the \$40,000 one, I think I have a very good hunch as to the when that occurred and what it pertains to and my next visit to town hall I'm going to meet with Lorraine. I've already given the mayor some information on that so, uh, please be assured that every DOT grant that I've been involved with and there is a total of seven, have been closed out properly and I believe you've been reimbursed so, uh, but I think I know what this \$40,000 anomaly is and I'm going to meet with Lorraine about that. Regarding the Reservoir Road Project, tonight you've awarded a contract. Those contracts will be out by Friday to the contractor who will have to wait for the weather to be a little bit better to get the work going but, hopefully, in early April we'll get that pipe installed out there. I talked to the contractor tonight before the meeting regarding South Third Street which we finished last fall, there are some punch list items that are remaining at this point. Ordinarily, you do not close a project out if there's punch list items remaining but I did talk to the Dept. of Transportation and they are willing to close this project out so I will be working with the DOT to have that happen. I'll need some help from Lorraine on that. We are owed about probably \$70,000 in grant monies on that, so, that will be helpful if we get the reimbursement request in and we get that closed out with the department and lastly, on the sinkhole, I do have a draft invoice from the contractor that we hired to remediate the sanitary sewer which included bypass pumping over a 48 hour period which is very expensive by the way. Um, I have a number of questions and concerns over the draft invoice, so, there will be a communication going out to the contractor tomorrow. I'm not ready to make a recommendation on payment for that invoice. So, um, there is some loose ends that need to be dealt with on that before you see a recommendation from me. So, we'll see if we can get that accomplished between now until the 18th. That's my report. Thank you very much.

Mayor McKay – Now it's time for the list of bills to be approved. Long, long list. The list aggregates \$1,817,361.05. I would like a motion to approve the list of bills?

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

Mayor McKay – Second, okay. Any discussion on the list of bills? Okay, having no discussion, I ask for a roll call.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor McKay – I guess that’s the next thing. There was one little thing oh, yes, Fellowship Church, just across the street, sent us a letter, um, I’ll just read it, it’s only a paragraph. “Dear Mayor McKay and Council Members on behalf of Fellowship Church, we would like to express our gratitude for your decision to replace a portion of our sidewalk with the renovation of Third Street. Please convey our thanks to the engineers and the construction department as well. The work was done quickly and efficiently with no inconvenience to our congregation and our school families and we are grateful for your generous gesture and blessing. William Seiple, Pastor. I thought that was a nice letter, a nice positive letter to get into the township and things are going along real well.

Um, I guess it’s time to open the meeting to the public. So, I make a motion to do that, do I have a second.

Councilwoman Schneider – Okay, all in favor. Aye. Meeting is open to the public.

Council President Ciesla – Oh, I have one more thing, I’m sorry. I have to just get your approval if I could just have a motion to post the videos after the meeting, so, this way it will accommodate Carlos Correa.

Mayor McKay – Okay, so, you want to do a vote?

Council President Ciesla – Yeah, if we just do a vote.

Mayor McKay – We’ll do a vote on Lori’s, um,

Council President Ciesla – I’ll post the meeting after the meeting and not wait for the minutes.

Mayor McKay – I’ll make a motion. Second.

Councilwoman Schneider – Second.

Mayor McKay – Discussion. I think it is a very good policy. I think we should get them out there as soon as we can. Um, vote.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor McKay – Okay, now we are back to public comment. Mr. Hall.

Bruce Hall – 187 Stonehenge Drive - Former chairman of the Rent Leveling Board reminded the mayor and council that our Rent Control Ordinance needs to be readopted. It expires every three years. First reading will be March 18th and second reading April 1, 2015.

Devos 2 Sundance Way – Conducted a meeting today with the landlord from Brakeley Gardens and met recently with Larken another landlord in town and they both asked for changes to the ordinance and that is why she had not brought the ordinance forward for renewal.

Attorney Lavery – We’ll look into it but so not to delay the renewal, any changes can be made in the future.

Eric Johnson – 361 Stonehenge Drive - Asked about the sewer overpayment to Phillipsburg and where the litigation stood. Talked about the fire truck and asked that the value be rechecked as he brought this to the attention of council a month ago that his research showed the value to be greater than what was being offered to Oxford Township. Asked council to consider an increase in pool credit as the sewer rates have increased over the years. Finally, Eric felt that volunteers are critical to the Township and serve on different levels and, therefore, should be a consideration to their access within the municipal building.

Juniper Leifer – 32 Jade Lane – Spoke to Maureen regarding her speech and that she agreed with Maureen that the meeting went well, but the rest of her speech was inconsistent with what she

has seen. She noted that the mayor made promises to the voters of this town to replace some of the township employees, replace people on board's who made decision's that were not inconsistent with their feelings and Maureen should consider and respect that the mayor is working for the voters. Juniper agreed that council should consider getting an appraisal on the fire truck. Consider a reduction in the pavilion rates for the Boy Scout Day Camp and asked about tips on the arrows for the archery exercise.

Lee Rozycki – 56 Puddingstone Way – Encouraged the Council to communicate better on the agenda items in an effort to move the meetings along smoothly. She liked the idea that Eric Johnson put forth regarding volunteers and thought restrictions should be put in the policy.

Ed Shuster – Said be glad you have volunteers and thought putting them at a table could be a problem with exposure to the public and people removing documents.

Rob Larsen – 26 Browning Court – Told Councilwoman McCabe her statement was spot on. Asked Council President Ciesla if she considered suing the mayor to settle the dispute regarding the control of the agenda. Council President Ciesla would not want to get to that point and come to a consensus. She said she had the right to censure Mayor McKay for his actions but decided not to do that in an effort to work together.

Louis Cartabona – Thanked Councilwoman Schneider for her admitting that she voted the wrong way when the CFO was hired. Talked about the fire truck and suspected there was some value there but also mentioned the ISO rating the township has and its importance to the taxpayers insurance bills being lower because of it.

Councilwoman Schneider – Commented on the ISO theory and she called her insurance company who indicated that they don't look at the ISO rating for insurance rates. She also noted that some other people indicated the same thing.

Mayor McKay – Motion to close public comments.

Council President Ciesla – Motion.

Councilwoman McCabe – Second.

McKay – Roll call. All in favor. Motion to adjourn.

Councilman Belcaro – Motion.

Council President Ciesla - Second. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

Thomas M. McKay
Mayor