

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 pm

December 28, 2016

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

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.”

Prayer followed by Oath of Allegiance

Present: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay. Also present Attorney Campbell and Engineer Sterbenz.

Resolution No. 16-165 - was passed to hold an Executive Session. Attorney Campbell stated Council was in Executive Session for 1 hour. Topics of discussion were one through five.

Proclamation: Chief of Police Jason Garcia presented Police Records Clerk Shirley J. Emery with a Proclamation on her retirement.

Public Comment: Motion for public comments on agenda items only. All in favor. No comments from the public.

John Betz – Agreed that the football field should be named after Douglas Steinhardt. Agreed that Council should approve the aerial spraying for the gypsy moths.

Motion to close public comment by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe. All in favor.

Old Business:

Minutes – Approve Executive and Regular Session Minutes for November 2 and 21, 2016. Council President Pryor noting a few corrections. Motion by Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay.

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 16-166 – Authorizing Lopatcong’s Municipal Park Football field to be named “Steinhardt Field” as recommended by Resolution adopted by the Lopatcong Athletic Association. Council shall adopt a similar Resolution representing a consensus between both the Council and the Association.

R 16-166

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG,
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY NAMING
OF THE LOPATCONG PARK FOOTBALL FIELD,
“STEINHARDT FIELD” IN HONOR OF DOUGLAS J.
STEINHARDT.

WHEREAS, the Lopatcong Athletic Association has made a request of the Township to name the Lopatcong Park football field “Steinhardt Field” in recognition of the numerous contributions to the Township and the Township’s Athletic Association by Douglas J. Steinhardt; and

WHEREAS, the Township joins the Athletic Association in recognizing that to have a successful youth sports organization it must rely on the contributions of its many volunteers and sponsors who generously give of their time and money; and

WHEREAS, the Lopatcong Athletic Association has suggested that there is one person whose contributions to Lopatcong Athletics are so remarkable that he deserves special recognition; and

WHEREAS, at its December 7, 2016 meeting, the Township Council reviewed the letter submitted by Lopatcong Athletic Association President Kenney Lutz listing many of the contributions made by Township resident Douglas J. Steinhardt; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed the Resolution of the Lopatcong Athletic Association dated December 13, 2016 which formally requests the naming of the football field; and

WHEREAS, attached hereto as Exhibit A is a copy of the Lopatcong Athletic Association Resolution dated December 13, 2106 which details some of the most significant contributions of Mr. Steinhardt; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council agrees that Mr. Steinhardt's dedication to the Township of Lopatcong and its youth sports association deserves special recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council agrees that naming the football field in the Township park is a fitting tribute to Mr. Steinhardt; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council wishes to ensure the that cost of the dedication sign is paid for by donations and not funded by tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council shall have the final approval for the design, size, and location of the sign; and

WHEREAS, the Township shall designate the Township Recreation Committee as the liaison between the Township and the Athletic Association for issues concerning the sign and its dedication.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby names the football field in the Lopatcong Park "Steinhardt Field" in honor of Douglas J. Steinhardt and his contributions to the Township of Lopatcong and the Lopatcong Athletic Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lopatcong Athletic Association shall:

1. Be responsible for soliciting private donations for the cost of the sign memorializing the dedication so that no tax dollars are used to purchase the sign.
2. Obtain approval from the Township Council for the design, size, and location of the sign.
3. Work with the Township Recreation Committee regarding the erection of the sign and any ceremony for its dedication.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at its Special Meeting held on Wednesday, December 28, 2016.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Pryor.
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Mayor McKay

New Business:

Retirement Notice – Accept retirement application submitted by John Fritts, Construction, Building Sub-code and Zoning Official for the Township. Motion by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 16-167 – Authorizing payment for clothing allowance to qualified Township Volunteer Firemen who attended and answered at least 40% of the fire duty in 2016 in an amount to be determined.

R 16-167

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR QUALIFIED ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2016

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council created Ordinance 2014-14 to establish yearly a clothing allowance for qualified active members of the Township's Fire Departments; and

WHEREAS, the amount shall be fixed from time to time a clothing allowance for damage and loss sustained in the line of fire duty provided the member attended and answered at least 40% of the fire duty during the preceding 12 month; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council decided the amount for the 2017 Budget would be \$175.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey shall fix a dollar amount of \$175.00 for the 2017 Budget to be paid to every qualified active member of the Fire Department.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, December 28, 2016.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay

NAYS: None

Department of Agriculture Gypsy Moth – Authorize Lopatcong's participation in the Department of Agriculture's 2017 Gypsy Moth Aerial Suppression Program in an effort to eradicate Gypsy Moth infestation in the area of Lows Hollow Road covering approximately 105 acres at a cost of \$5460.00. The cost would be reduced assuming a Federal Assistance Grant is approved in 2017. Motion by Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Councilwoman Reitemeyer. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 16-168 – Authorizing removal of interest charged on Block 116.01, Lot 5 in the amount of \$15.15 in error for taxes due on November 1, 2016.

R 16-168

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF INTEREST ON BLOCK 116.01,
LOT 5

WHEREAS, Fourth Quarter Taxes were due on November 1, 2016. Property owner at Block 116.01, Lot 1 has proven that an attempt was made to pay taxes within grace period but was posted incorrectly causing interest to be charged at an amount of \$15.15 by the Tax Collector.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 27th day of December, 2016 that the Tax Collector is authorized to remove \$15.15 in interest from Block 116.01, Lot 1.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Tuesday, December 28, 2016.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilwoman Reitemeyer. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Councilwoman McCabe, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay
NAYS: None

Dept. of Transportation Municipal Aid Application – Seek State aid for a municipal road project. An application was discussed by Council to make application for Baltimore Street from Red School Lane to First Street - Hillcrest Mall Engineer Sterbenz will make the application and present Council with the Resolution for adoption at the next meeting. Motion by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor.

Dept. of Environmental Protection Green Acres Funding – Council discussed the Green Acres rules and regulations involving acceptance of funds from the Green Acres Program which were not favorable and would include the same rules and regulations towards all properties owned by the Township. The matter was tabled.

Resolution No. 16-169 – Authorizing transfer of appropriations of the 2016 Lopatcong Township Municipal Budget during the last two months of the year per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 – Current Fund \$195,150.00 and the Sewer Operating Fund \$33,340.00.

R 16-169

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS OF
THE 2016 LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET DURING THE LAST TWO
MONTHS OF THE YEAR PER N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to expend an amount in excess of the respective items appropriated in the 2016 Lopatcong Township Municipal Operating Budget.

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

CURRENT FUND:

FROM:

SALARIES AND WAGES:

TO:

SALARIES AND WAGES:

Municipal Clerk	\$15,000.00	Financial Admin.	\$24,450.00
Rev. Admin. (Tax Collector)	\$20,000.00	Police Dept.	\$27,000.00

Tax Assessment	\$2,000.00	Road Maintenance	\$38,700.00
Bldg. Sub-Code Inspector	\$5,000.00	Bldg. & Grounds	\$300.00
Swimming Pool	\$3,000.00	Animal Control Serv.	\$2,500.00
		Municipal Court	\$5,700.00
OTHER EXPENSES:		OTHER EXPENSES:	
Admin. & Exec.	\$1,200.00	Computer Services	\$2,300.00
Postage	\$1,900.00	Code Book Update	\$2,100.00
Financial Admin.	\$3,000.00	Audit Services	\$100.00
Fire Company No. 2	\$5,000.00	Zoning Brd. Of Adj.	\$1,600.00
Salt and Grit	\$15,400.00	Rent Board	\$2,000.00
Bldg. & Grds.	\$2,400.00	Shade Tree Comm.	\$250.00
Swimming Pool	\$29,000.00	Insur-Employee Grp. Health	\$60,999.00
Insur-Gen Liability	\$50,000.00	Insur-Health Benefit Waiver	\$2,501.00
Electricity	\$10,000.00	Police Dept.	\$4,000.00
Street Lighting	\$2,000.00	First Aid Organ.	\$100.00
Cable	\$2,750.00	Telephone	\$2,000.00
Gasoline	\$10,000.00	Water	\$3,000.00
Police and Firemen's Retirement System	\$14,000.00	Shared Svcs-Harmony Court	\$1,500.00
Social Security System (O.A.S.I.)	\$3,500.00	Public Employees Retirement System	\$14,000.00
		Pay't. of Bond Anticipation Notes	\$50.00
Total – Current Fund	\$195,150.00	Total-Current Fund	\$195,150.00

SEWER OPERATING FUND:

FROM:

OTHER EXPENSES:

TO:

OTHER EXPENSES:

Sewer Operating	\$33,344.00	Interest on Notes	\$28,394.00
		Social Security System (O.A.S.I.)	\$4,950.00
Total-Sewer Operating Fund	\$33,344.00	Total-Sewer Operating Fund	\$33,344.00

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, December 28, 2016.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilwoman Reitemeyer. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay.

NAYS: None

Special Business Consent Agenda:

USDA Loan/Grant Agreement Documents – Rt. 57 Pump Station Replacement Project

Resolution No. 16-170 – Authorize Mayor McKay to execute Loan Resolution to receive \$2,150,000.00 and \$850,000.00 from the USDA regarding the Rt. 57 Pump Station Replacement Project.

Assurance Agreement with USDA – Authorize Mayor McKay to execute.

Equal Opportunity Agreement with USDA – Authorize Mayor McKay to execute.

Water and Waste System Grant Agreement – Execute with USDA.

Motion by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Belcaro to approve. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay.

NAYS: None

Council Reports:

Councilwoman McCabe – No report.

Council President Pryor – Reported that the Township of Oxford signed a one-year agreement with Mansfield for court services. The refunding of the debt will yield \$16,000 to \$23,000 in interest per year.

Councilman Belcaro – No report.

Councilwoman Reitemeyer – The Recreation Commission has produced the Dog Calendar – it is for sale at the Clerk's Office for \$10.00.

Mayor McKay – Thanked the DPW, Police and anyone else who assisted in the remediation of the sinkhole on Wordsworth Lane.

Engineer Sterbenz – No report

Chief of Police Garcia – No report.

Audience Participation:

Motion by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor.

John Betz – Commented on the Piazza land.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

Thomas M. McKay
Mayor