

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 pm

February 7, 2018

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

Resolution 18-41 - Motion to come out of Executive Session by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

Attorney Campbell reported that Council was in Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes. The topics of discussion were personnel and contractual regarding the PBA and Nos. 3, 4 or 5 on the agenda. A second Executive Session to be held at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Mengucci stated “adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Gazette and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

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

Present – Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci. Also present were Attorney Campbell, Attorney Wenner and Engineer Sterbenz.

Public Comment: Agenda items only.

John Betz – Questioned No. 3 on the agenda relating to the Rent Leveling Board.

Old Business:

Minutes – Approve Executive and Regular Session Minutes for December 28, 2017 and January 3 and January 17, 2018. Corrections to Minutes of January 17 – Discussion of Rec. Committee Council President Pryor is listed as liaison but should reflect him as a member of the Committee. The December 28th minutes under the Change Order for the Pump Station – the vote should reflect Council President Pryor as abstaining. Under Council Reports thanked Clerk for administering the grant not administrate. Council President Pryor made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Mengucci – December 28th, 2017

Personnel Matter – discussion regarding Tax/Sewer Collector Rachel Moser. Action will be taken. This matter was put on hold until later in the meeting.

Ordinance No. 18-01 – Second reading and public hearing to Regulate, Control and Stabilize Rents in Creating Rent Leveling Board. Motion to hold a public hearing by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Wright. All in favor. Question from John Betz on changes in the rents. Motion to close public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Ordinance No. 2018-01

SECOND NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at

the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, the following Ordinance was presented and passed on the final reading. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law by title only.

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE, CONTROL AND STABILIZE RENTS IN CREATING A RENT LEVELING BOARD BY THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Said Ordinance may be read and inspected at any time at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, Lopatcong Township Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor.

Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 18-02 – Second reading and public hearing on Salary Ordinance – Amend Salary of Chief of Police. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor. No questions from the public. Motion to close public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Ordinance No. 2018-02

SECOND NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, the following Ordinance was presented and passed on the final reading. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law by title only.

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES, RETAINERS AND WAGE RATES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Said Ordinance may be read and inspected at any time at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, Lopatcong Township Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Wright.

Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

New Business:

Tilcon New York, Inc. – Approve payment for work completed on South Second Street in the amount of \$59,776.25. Recommendation by Engineer Sterbenz to pay this invoice. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Proposal for Professional Service – Transportation Alternative Program Project/Safe Routes to School Project - \$19,600.00 and \$20,600.00. Council President Pryor stated that he understood the proposals and asked if there is a firm commitment to the grants. Engineer Sterbenz stated we were awarded the grants but they are subject to proof that a federal aid grant could be managed. Clerk Dilts is in the process of putting together a procedurals manual that will be subject to the department's approval that shows the ability of the Township organization to manage this type of grant. The work should not be started until the commitment is established. Council President Pryor asked how long it would take to get this condition taken care of. Clerk Dilts informed the Council that the DOT gave the Township 19 months from the date of the award. We have the manual just about complete and there remains a questionnaire that has to be completed in order to qualify for the grant. Engineer Sterbenz said there is two years to prepare contract documents including plans and getting them approved. Council President Pryor asked Council to approve this tonight and get the paperwork done and the contracts and maybe hold the notice to proceed for a few weeks until we see where we are.

Mayor Mengucci asked for a motion for Nos. 2 and 3 – Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Wright to approve as discussed. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Berry Plastics Expansion Project – Reject request to release Performance Guarantee Release on expansion project on Block 99, Lot 2 per Engineer Sterbenz letter dated January 31, 2018. Engineer Sterbenz recommended the Council reject this request as his letter outlines a number of construction related items as well as a number of administrative requirements that need to be addressed before the Township will be in a position to release the bond. Motion by Councilman Belcaro to reject the request, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Blooming Glen Contractors, Inc. – Change Order No. 2 – Approve due to repair of leaks in manhole amounting to \$1,632.00 resulting in no change to total contract amount on the Stonehenge Drive Pump Station Improvement Project. Motion by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Council President Pryor

Blooming Glen Contractors, Inc., - Approve Payment No. 1 – Approve payment amount of \$154,664.72 on the Stonehenge Drive Pump Station Improvement project. Motion by Councilman Palitto, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Council President Pryor

Blooming Glen Contractors, Inc., - Change Order No. 3 – Addition of item S002 Backfill Embankment Sinkhole in the amount of \$3938.75. Also remove items 3, 9 and 10 resulting in decrease of \$148.39 changing the overall contract amount to \$221,051.61 on Stonehenge Drive Pump Station Improvement Project. Motion by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Council President Pryor

Blooming Glen Contractors, Inc., - Payment No. 2 – Approve payment in the amount of \$55,334.31 for work completed on the Stonehenge Drive Pump Station Improvement Project. Motion by Councilman Palitto, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Council President Pryor

Resolution No. 18-42 – Authorize refund of sewer overpayment on Block 99, Lot 44 C0248 in the amount of \$100.83.

R 18-42

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF AN OVERPAYMENT ON SEWER ACCOUNT FOR TAX YEAR 2017

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby authorizes a refund of an overpayment on taxes on a sewer account for the tax year 2017 for the following property.

<u>Block & Lot</u>	<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Block 99, Lot 44	Todd Robins 248 Bald Eagle Drive Stewartsville, NJ 08886	\$100.83

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have approved the refunds made rather than applying these payments to the 2018 taxes due.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

School House Village – Request for sewer service. Table this item until March. Motion by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Wright. All in favor.

Consent Agenda:

One additional item is being added by the Tax Collector for a refund of a sewer overpayment on Block 129, Lot 12 in the amount of \$4,053.00.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 18-43 – Authorize redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-030 on Block 85.02, Lot 17 in the amount of \$445.91.

R 18-43

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 85.02, LOT 17

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 85.02, Lot 17 also known as 587 Edward Street for 2016 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien ,known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-030 was sold to US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs for 18% interest; and

WHEREAS, mortgage company for property owner has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-030 in the amount of \$445.91.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RSOLVED on this 7th day of February 20178 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$445.91 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-030 to:

US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-44 – Authorize redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-070 on Block 113, Lot 17 in the amount of \$500.65.

R 18-44

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 113, LOT 17

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017 a lien was sold on Block 113, Lot 17 also known as 43 Woodbine Road for 2016 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-070 was sold to US Bank Cust for PC7 First Trust Bank for 18% interest; and

WHEREAS, title Source request for closing and was redeemed on behalf of the property owners and has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-070 in the amount of \$500.65.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$500.65 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-070 to:

US Bank Cust for PC7 First Trust Bank
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-45 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-006 on Block 20, Lot 4 in the amount of \$808.85.

R 18-45

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO
OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 20, LOT 4

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 20, Lot 4 also known as 204 Park Avenue for 2016 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-006 was sold to US Bank Cost BV002 Trst & Crdtrs for 18% interest; and

WHEREAS, Corelogic, mortgage company for property owner has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-006 in the amount of \$808.85.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$808.85 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-006 to:

US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, Pa 19102-2513

US Bank Cust for PC7 First Trust Bank
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-46 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2016-014 and Premium on Block 65, Lot 6 in the amount of \$1,964.74.

R 18-46

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO
OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 65, LOT 6

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on October 12, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 65, Lot 6 also known as 201 Edward Street for 2015 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2016-014 was sold to US Bank Cust for Pro Cap 4 & Crdtrs for a Premium of \$700.00; and

WHEREAS, Corelogic, mortgage company for property owner has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2016-014 in the amount of \$1264.74.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,964.74 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2016-014 to:

US Bank Cust for Pro Cap 4 & Crdtrs
50 S. 16th Street, Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-47 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-023 on Block 56, Lot 2 in the amount of \$1646.68.

R 18-47

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO
OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 56, LOT 2

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 56, Lot 2 also known as 3 Greystone Avenue for 2016 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-023 was sold to US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs for 18% interest; and

WHEREAS, the property owner has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-023 in the amount of \$1,646.68.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,646.68 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-023 to:

US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-48 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-065 and Premium on Block 134, Lot 8 in the amount of \$467.65.

R 18-48

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO
OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 105, LOT 33

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale Block 105, Lot 33 also known as 11 Raleigh Court was sold for 2016 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-065 was sold to US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs for 18% interest; and

WHEREAS, Wells Fargo, mortgage company for property owner, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-065 in the amount of \$467.65.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$467.65 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-065 to:

US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-49 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2016-045 and Premium on Block 134, Lot 8 in the amount of \$3496.76.

R 18-49

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO
OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 134, LOT 8

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on October 12, 2016, a lien was sold on Block 134, Lot 8 also known as 45 Byron Drive for 2015 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2016-045 was sold to FWDSL & Associates LP for a Premium of \$1,800.00; and

WHEREAS, Allied Title on behalf of lender for property owners has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2016-045 in the amount of \$1,696.76.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$3,496.76 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2016-025 an Premium to:

FWDSL & Associates LP
17 W. Cliff Street
Somerville, NJ 08876

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-50 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-003 on Block 14, Lot 10 in the amount of \$605.92.

R 18-50

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE
LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 14, LOT 10

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 14, Lot 10 also known as 27 Park Avenue for 2016 delinquent sewer taxes; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-003 was sold to US Bank Cust for BV002 Trust & Crdtrs at 18%; and

WHEREAS, Closing Escrow for the property owners has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-003 in the amount of \$605.92.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$605.92 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate NO. 2017-003 to:

US Bank Cust for BV002 Trust & Crdtrs
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 a meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-51 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-089 on Block 130, Lot 4 in the amount of \$383.53.

R 18-51

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 130, LOT 4

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 130, Lot 4 also known as 43 Kyle Drive for 2016 delinquent sewer taxes; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-89 was sold to US Bank Cust for BV002 Trust & Crdtrs at 18%; and

WHEREAS, Ocwen lenders for property owners has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-089 in the amount of \$383.53.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$383.53 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-089 to:

US Bank Cust for BV002 Trust & Crdtrs
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 a meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-52 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-103 and Premium on Block 139, Lot 30 in the amount of \$598.78.

R 18-52

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO
OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 139, LOT 30

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 139, Lot 30 also known as 10 Grant Way for 2016 delinquent sewer taxes; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-103 was sold to US Bank Cust for BV002 Trust & Crdtrs at 18%; and

WHEREAS, Wells Fargo, lenders for property owners, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-103 in the amount of \$598.78.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018 that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount \$598.78 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-103 to:

US Bank Cust for BV002 Trust & Crdtrs
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 a meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-53 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-060 and 061 on Block 100, Lot 5Q0047 and Lot 6.06 Q0047 in the amount of \$1200.00.

R 18-53

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE
NO. 2017-061 & 2017-060 ON BLOCK 100, LOT 5 Q0047 & BLOCK 100 LOT 6.06 Q0047

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, both liens were struck off to Township of Lopatcong on Block 100, Lot 6.06 Q0047 (id 22685) and Block 100, Lot 6.07 Q0047 (id22692) also known as Strykers Road for 2016 delinquent taxes; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-060 & 2017-061 were struck off at 18% interest; and

WHEREAS, the property owners have satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2017-060 & 2017=061 in the amount of \$1200.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018 that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign both certificates for cancellation on Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-060 & 2017-061.

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Contract Public Defender – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract with Public Defender Scott Wilhelm.

Contract Township Attorney – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract with Lavery, Selvaggi, Abromitis and Cohen to provide legal services – Township attorney.

Contract Bond Attorney – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract with Gibbons P.C. for legal service – Bond attorney.

Contract Auditor – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract with Nisivoccia, LLP for audit services.

Contract Internet/Website Services – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract with Nisivoccia Consulting, LLC for Internet/Website services.

Contract Township Engineer – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract with Maser Consulting P.C. for engineering services.

Contract Recycling - Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract with Lynda Gabel Certified Recycling Professional in the amount of \$500.00.

Contract Special Counsel – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract with Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor, LLC regarding sewer litigation.

Performance Guarantee Scenic Ridge – Reject request for return of Performance Guarantee to Garden Homes in the amount of \$4400.00.

Hearing Office – Appoint hearing office for conflict matter.

Block 24, Lot 3 – Approve correction that all payments were made in 2017 pursuant to a determination.

Resolution No. 18-54 – Authorize refund of duplicate payment on Block 133, Lot 28 in the amount of \$62.47 pursuant to back up documentation provided to the Finance Office.

R 18-54

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF A DUPLICATE PAYMENT MADE
ON BLOCK 133, LOT 28

WHEREAS, the property owner and mortgage company both made a payment to the sewer account in December 2017 on Block 133, Lot 28 also known as 34 Byron Drive for delinquent sewer taxes; and

WHEREAS, the resident has requested a refund of \$62.47 be returned to the mortgage company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018 that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$62.47 for the refund of a sewer payment on Block 133, Lot 28 to:

Bank of America
P.O. Box 15222
Wilmington, DE 19886-5222

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-55 – Authorize refund of duplicate payment on Block 116.08, Lot 5 in the amount of \$582.65 pursuant to back up documentation provided to the Finance Office.

R 18-55

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF A DUPLICATE PAYMENT MADE ON BOCK 116.08, LOT 5

WHEREAS, the property owner and mortgage company both made a payment to the sewer account in December 2017 on Block 116.08, Lot 5 also known as 10 Dogwood Lane for sewer taxes; and

WHEREAS, the resident has requested a refund of \$582.65 be returned to the homeowner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018 that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$582.65 for the refund of a sewer payment on Block 116.08, Lot 5 to:

Rizman & Maleeha Ali
10 Dogwood Lane
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-56 – Authorize redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-0893 on Block 131, Lot 16 in the amount of \$309.48 pursuant to backup documentation provided to the Finance Office.

R 18-56

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON Block 131, Lot 16

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, a lien was sold in error on Block 131, Lot 16 also known as 5 Kyle Drive for sewer; and

WHEREAS, the sewer account for said block and lot had payment on it and deposited by staff but sewer collector was not aware of payment which not taken off tax sale file, therefore, lien was sold to US Bank Cust for BV002 Trst & Crtrs for \$309.48; and

WHEREAS, Tax Collector has determined this needs to be refunded to lien holder for Certificate No. 2017-093 for \$309.48 have Certificate cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2018 that the Tax Collector be authorized to send cancelled Certificate No. 2017-093 to County Clerk's Office for cancellation and the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$309.48 for the refund of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-093 and transfer fund from Sewer Utility to Current for the same mail refund to:

US Bank Cust for BV002 Trst & Crdtrs
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-57 – Refund of duplicate Sewer payment on Block 116.12, Lot 17 C0061 in the amount of \$485.51 pursuant to backup documentation provided to the Finance Office.

R 18-57

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT MADE BY MORTGAGE COMPANY AND HOMEOWNER FOR 2017

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that warrants be drawn to the mortgage company Bank of America made payment toward sewer and homeowner already paid and created a credit on account.

<u>Block & Lot</u>	<u>Name of Payee/Mortgage</u>	<u>Amount</u>
116.12, Lot17 C0061	Bank of America Account 243734613	\$485.51

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have approved the refunds made rather than applying these payments to the 2018 future sewer taxes due pursuant to backup documentation provided to the Finance 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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-58 – Authorize refund of duplicate tax payment on Block 99, Lot 22 C0204 in the amount of \$1495.00 pursuant to backup documentation provided to the Finance Office.

R 18-58

RESOLUTION TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT MADE BY MORTGAGE COMPANY ON A NON-ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR 2018 TAXES

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that warrants be drawn to the mortgage company Corelogic Tax Collection

Services listed below in the designated amounts representing tax payments as follows for the tax year 2017 on a non-escrowed account.

<u>Block & Lot</u>	<u>Name of Payee/Mortgage</u>	<u>Amount</u>
99/22/C0204	Corelogic Refund Dept. P.O. Box 961230 Fort Worth, Tx 76161-0230	\$1,495.42

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have approved the refunds made rather than applying these payments to the 2018 future taxes due.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-59 – Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-077 on Block 116.02, Lot 2 in the amount of \$361.85.

R 18-59

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER ON BLOCK 116.02, LOT 2

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 6, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 116.02, Lot 2 also known as 23 Hope Street for 2016 delinquent taxes; and

WHEREAS, Corelogic, on behalf of lender for property owners, has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2016-077 in the amount of \$361.85.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February 2018, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$361.85 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-077 to:

US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs
50 S. 16th St., Suite 2050
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-60 – Authorize redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2017-077 on Block 116.02, Lot 2 in the amount of \$361.85.

R 18-60

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT MADE BY MORTGAGE COMPANY AND HOMEOWNER FOR 2017

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that warrants be drawn to the mortgage company PHH Mortgage made payment toward sewer and homeowner already paid and created a credit on account.

<u>Block & Lot</u>	<u>Name of Payee/Mortgage</u>	<u>Amount</u>
129 12	Re: Vito Saggese Refund Dept. Corelogic P.O. Box 961250 Fort Worth, TX 76161	

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have approved the refunds made rather than applying these payments to the 2018 future sewer taxes due pursuant to backup documentation provided to the Finance Dept.

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Council Reports:

Jim Palitto – No report.

Lou Belcaro – Stonehenge Drive Pump Station Project has been completed on the 25th of January. Attended quarterly meeting in Phillipsburg regarding sewer and on the agenda was a rate study, odor control study and solids handling study. They also discussed the Roseberry Metering Station. He spoke to Dan Madden, Sewer Engineer, regarding this. The meter is not providing accurate readings. They are requesting new flume be installed along with a new meter to rectify the problem. Council President Pryor suggested that Dan speak to Mr. Yoder and they come to some kind of agreement on how to fix the problem. Councilman Belcaro said there was discussion over a rate increase – back four years ago there was also discussion of a 2% increase every year for five years. This was not approved at the time from the surrounding communities. On Rt. 22 there was a sewer blockage which cause an overflow. It is now cleaned out.

Bill Wright – Recreation Committee still has pet calendars available for \$5 at the Clerk’s Office. They send out about four letters per year requesting donations and would like to stream that down to two letters per year; one for community day donations and one for the Easter Egg Hunt, Music and Movies at the Park. So they will do tiered donations. Motion to permit two letters by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

Council President Pryor – The Recreation Committee submitted their 2018 budget and it is more than double their 2017 budget. They have a couple of requests – one for an RFP to sponsor a new sound system at the pool and an RFP to sponsor the cost of an electronic sign at the park. The donations currently come in through MRNA and disappear in the accounting system so they would like a trust account setup.

Jim Mengucci – Reported on a wish list for what he would like to see accomplished – roads including Baltimore Street, Red School Lane, Strykers Road, Morris Park, Greystone, Briarstone, Anna Place, and Grandview. Some have not been done for 40 years. Stated the year started off rough due to sinkholes on Harwich and Lynnfield. Thought the sign at the pool would be a great idea. Would like the park promoted more.

Engineer Sterbenz – Close out of the Phillipsburg High School Roadway Improvement Project with the County – some progress has been made; mainly with JCP&L. There is a meeting setup at the site of the signal with Service Electric and Verizon to do some work to rectify items in the

Counties letter as well as deeds to be completed. DOT signed off on the project and the Township has \$75,000.00 out of the \$300,000.00 grant was received by the Township.

Harwich Road has had progress toward remediating the situation there in terms of opening the roadway. The water main work is essentially finished. It took quite a long time to get the work done. Friday is the goal to open the road. Engineer Sterbenz met with Verizon and JCP&L for work to be completed between 14 and 20 Harwich Road on damaged utility lines under the sidewalk to be completed in March. He will also contact water company for a more durable barriers around that area.

Morris County Co-op has awarded a contract for milling and paving work for 2018 and the prices are very favorable again.

Department Reports – Motion to approve by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

Payment of Bills – Council President Pryor asked to confirm the Greater Lehigh Valley invoice is for the Chamber of Commerce and Randolph is the Morris County Co-op invoice. Clerk Dilts confirmed both. Motion to approve payment of bills by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Audience Participation:

John Betz – Asked if EDAC is functional. Councilman Palitto addressed this confirming it is functional. Meeting with Pohatcong EDAC next week as well as talk with the County EDAC. Asked if the Environmental Commission was also functional and this was confirmed by Council President Pryor.

Lisa Nolan – 21 Harwich Road – Expressed concerns regarding the repair of the road. Four homes cannot park in their driveways still. The first incident happened on January 2nd and now at February 7th and still have a closed road. Utilities are now expanding the date till March to complete their work. She indicated she is worried about the value of her home and other sink holes.

Motion to go back into Executive Session. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

Attorney Campbell stated there will be action taken.

R 18-61

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

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, February 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to resume Regular Session. Motion by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

Mayor Mengucci asked for a motion to authorize the actions discussed in Executive Session based on Attorney Campbell's recommendations. Motion by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret B. Dilts, CMC
Clerk/Administrator

James Mengucci
Mayor