

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 pm

November 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.

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

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.”

Present: Councilman Palitto, Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, and Mayor Mengucci. Also present was Attorney Campbell and Engineer Sterbenz.

Public Comment: None

Swear In – Clerk Dilts swore in Tax/Sewer Collector Daniele Lattig.

Resolution No. 18-277 – Motion by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto to hire Daniele Lattig as Tax and Sewer Collector.

R 18 - 277

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINT DANIELE LATTIG AS A FULL-TIME CERTIFIED
TAX AND SEWER COLLECTOR

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby appoint of Daniele Lattig as a full-time Certified Tax and Sewer Collector pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-141; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to statute N.J.S.A. 40A:9-141, Daniele Lattig shall hold her office and serve a four- year term which shall run from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Daniele Lattig shall be paid a salary of \$62,000.00 pursuant to the Township Salary Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Daniele Lattig shall receive three weeks paid vacation and all other benefits afforded a full-time employee as outlined in the Township Employee Personnel Policy Manual; and

WHEREAS, Daniele Lattig shall work the following hours: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with a ½ hour lunch. Wednesday’s hours shall be 1:00 pm to 7:30 pm with a ½ hour lunch.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey appoint Daniele Lattig as a full-time Tax Collector for the terms detailed above.

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, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Public Comment – Agenda items only. No comments.

Old Business:

Minutes – Approve Minutes of October 3 and 25, 2018. Motion to approve with corrections noted by Council President Pryor by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Belcaro.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Wright – October 25, 2018

TWA Permit Application I-78 Logistics Park – Motion to authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute the TWA permit application to the DEP by I-78 Logistics Park Phillipsburg Urban Renewal, LLC by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Employee Policy and Procedures Manual – Update to add New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Act and any other discrepancies. Clerk Dilts explained the regulations with regard to this new law.

Motion by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

New Business:

Best Practices Checklist – Public Hearing. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor. An explanation of why this checklist is required by the state each year was provided to the public and any questions answered. The Township always scores with enough points to be awarded 100% of the state aid. Motion to close the hearing by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Wright. All in favor.

Jeep Willy Brush Truck – Delaware Park is interested in purchasing this jeep. There is a question as to who is purchasing the vehicle; the fire company or an individual member of the fire company. This matter will be tabled until next month. Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Wright. All in favor.

Planning Board Class IV Member – Mayor Mengucci appointed Kathryn Devos for the unexpired term of 12/31/2019.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 18- 280 - PHS Fireworks.

R 18-280

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN SUPPORT OF A FIREWORKS CELEBRATION LOCATED
AT PHILLIPSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey received a request from the Phillipsburg School District to support a fireworks celebration to be held on Wednesday, November 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, this celebration will take place at Phillipsburg High School located at 1 Stateliner Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Celebration Fireworks must obtain a permit as required by the Lopatcong Fire Subcode Official.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve the fireworks celebration upon obtaining permits from the Lopatcong Township Fire Subcode Official.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Loaptcong, 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, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-269 – Belvidere Road Speed Limit Reduction.

R 18-269

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO SUPPORT
SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION AND SCHOOL ZONE ESTABLISHMENT
BELVIDERE ROAD (COUNTY ROUTE 646)
TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, WARREN COUNTY, NJ

WHEREAS, Buckley Hill Drive serves as the major point of ingress/egress for approximately two hundred fifty (250) homes as well as the Lopatcong Township Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Buckley Hill Drive intersects Belvidere Road, which is also known as County Route 646 (“CR 646”); and

WHEREAS, a pedestrian crossing of CR 646 exists at the Buckley Hill Drive intersection to allow pedestrian movements between Buckley Hill Drive and a residential street named

Mountain View Road that will ultimately provide ingress/egress for fifty-four (54) homes; and

WHEREAS, some of the pedestrian movements between Buckley Hill Drive and Mountain View Road across CR 646 are related to the middle school at the intersection of Stonehenge Drive and Buckley Hill Drive; and

WHEREAS, the posted speed limit on CR 646 in the vicinity of its intersections with Buckley Hill Drive and Mountain View Road is 50 MPH; and

WHEREAS, a concern exists for the safety of pedestrians at the pedestrian crossing of CR 646 between Buckley Hill Drive and Mountain View Drive, including those travelling to and from the middle school due to the posted speed limit; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong would like to see the posted speed limit on CR 646 in the vicinity of the Buckley Hill Drive and Mountain View Road intersections reduced and a school zone established around the pedestrian crossing between Buckley Hill Drive and Mountain View Road to enhance safety for pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong commissioned a traffic engineering investigation to investigate the need to reduce the speed limit and establish a school zone along Belvidere Road (CR 646) in the vicinity of its intersection with Mountain View Road and Buckley Hill Drive to improve the safety for pedestrians, particularly school children, crossing at this location to walk to and from the Lopatcong Township Middle School; and

WHEREAS, the findings of the traffic engineering investigation can be found in a report prepared by the Township Engineer's office entitled "Traffic Engineering Study for a Speed Limit Reduction - Belvidere Road (CR 646), Lopatcong Township, Warren County, New Jersey" prepared by Adam W. Allen, P.E., PTOE, TSOS, IMSA II, of Maser Consulting P.A., dated October 16, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the investigation recommends the following in the interest of safe and expeditious movement of traffic and in compliance with the current Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD):

1. The current 50 MPH speed zone along Belvidere Road that encompasses the intersection of Mountain View Road/Buckley Hill Drive be revised.
2. The existing 40 MPH speed zone along Belvidere Road, which currently ends 800 feet north of Red School Lane (approximately 930 feet south of Mountain View Road/Buckley Hill Drive), be extended to a point 1000 feet north of Mountain View Road/Buckley Hill Drive.
3. Within this revised 40 MPH zone, a School Speed Limit 30 MPH When Flashing zone be created. This school zone will begin 400 feet south of Mountain View Road/Buckley Hill Drive and extend 800 feet north along both approaches of Belvidere Road.
4. Warren County passed an ordinance establishing the revised speed limit zones along Belvidere Road.
5. Lopatcong Township update its School Route Plan to include the intersection of Belvidere Road and Mountain View Road/Buckley Hill Drive as a school crossing.

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong is in agreement with the recommendations and conclusions of the traffic engineering investigation prepared by Adam Allen; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong has submitted the traffic engineering investigation to the Warren County Engineer's Office for review and approval of the recommendations summarized in the traffic engineering investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong also prepared and submitted construction plans and an application for a Highway Access Permit to the Warren County Engineer's Office to allow for the installation of flashing school speed limit signs and signage changes to allow for the recommendations in the traffic engineering investigation report prepared by Adam Allen to be implemented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Lopatcong is in agreement with the findings and recommendations outlined in the October 16, 2018 traffic engineering investigation report prepared by Adam Allen, P.E. with respect to a speed limit reduction and the

establishment of a school zone along CR 646 in the vicinity of the Buckley Hill Drive and Mountain View Road intersections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Lopatcong requests that the County of Warren expedite its review of the traffic engineering investigation report prepared by Adam Allen, P.E. and the associated construction plans and Highway Access Permit application to allow for the recommendations to be implemented in the field;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution, once adopted, shall be sent to the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Warren County Engineer's Office.

I certify that this resolution was memorialized by the Lopatcong Township Council at its meeting on Wednesday, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC
Township Clerk/Administrator

Resolution No. 18-270 – Refund of Sewer overpayment.

R 18-270

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

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 Ocwen Financial Corp. listed in the designated amounts representing sewer payments duplicated by the owner and the mortgagee.

<u>Block & Lot</u>	<u>Name of Payee/Mortgage</u>	<u>Amount</u>
86.02/11	Ocwen Financial Corp. 1661 Worthington Rd. Suite 100 West Palm Beach, FL 33409	\$2417.39

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have approved the refunds made rather than applying these payments and causing a shortage in the homeowner's escrow.

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, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-271 – Disabled Veteran Block 25, Lot 10.

R 18-271

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TO CANCEL AND REFUND TAXES DUE TO TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN STATUS BLOCK 25, LOT 10- 695 BELVIDERE ROAD

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has received the application for Total disabled Veteran Status on Block 25, Lot 10 commonly known as 695 Belvidere Road; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has deemed all necessary documentation for this allowance has been received and is in full compliance of the required qualifications; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has deemed this property as Tax Exempt as of August 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has requested the pro-rated portion of taxes from August 21, 2018 to December 31, 2018 be authorized for cancellation in the amount of:

3 rd Qtr. 2018	\$240.31
4 th Qtr. 2018	\$1799.77
Total	\$2040.08

WHEREAS, the homeowner has paid the 3rd quarter taxes in full that were originally billed, creating an overpayment of \$240.34; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that warrants be drawn to the homeowner listed below in the designated amounts representing tax payments overpaid.

<u>Block & Lot</u>	<u>Name of Payee/Mortgage</u>	<u>Amount</u>
25/10	Gary & Patricia Laugherty 695 Belvidere Road Phillipsburg, NJ 08865	\$240.34

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 cancellations and refunds requested by the Tax Assessor and Tax 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 a meeting held on Wednesday, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-272 – Extension for billing Added/Rollback Taxes.

R 18-272

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING EXTENSION FOR PAYMENT OF ADDED/ROLLBACK TAXES WITHOUT PENALTY UNTIL DECEMBER 3, 2018

WHEREAS, the added/rollback tax bills were not mailed in time to meet the due date pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-63.7 because of a vacancy in the Tax Collector's office; and

WHEREAS, the mailing of the added/rollback tax bills occurred on or before November 7, 2018; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Statute, no interest may be charged for twenty-five (25) days after mailing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong that the 2018 added/rollback tax bills shall be due and payable without penalty by December 3, 2018. Any payment received after that date will accrue interest back to November 1, 2018.

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, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

K & A Curbing Contractors – Approve payment in the amount of \$24,500.00 for completion of drainage work.

Resolution No. 18-273 – Budd Agency, Inc., risk Management Consultant for 2019.

R 18-273

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING BUDD AGENCY, INC., AS RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS FOR 2019

WHEREAS, Township of Lopatcong (hereinafter "Local Unit") has joined the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the "Fund"; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk Management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the "Fund" has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of "Local Unit", in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Township of Lopatcong (Local Unit) hereby appoints Budd Agency, Inc., its Risk Management Consultant.

2. The Township of Lopatcong (authorized representative of the public entity) and Risk Management Consultant are hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant's Agreement for the year 2019 in the form attached hereto.

Name of Entity – Lopatcong Township

Attest:

Name

Name and Title

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, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Risk Management Consultant's Agreement 2019 – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute.

Resolution No. 18-274 – Appoint James Palitto as Fund Commissioner and Beth Dilts as Alternate Fund Commissioner for 2019.

R 18-274

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER FOR 2019

WHEREAS, Township of Lopatcong (hereinafter "Local Unit") is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund's Bylaws require participating member to appoint a Fund Commissioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Lopatcong (Local Unit) that James Palitto (entity's elected official or employee) is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the Fund Year 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Margaret B. Dilts (second elected official or employee) is hereby appointed as the Alternate fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the Fund Year 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit's Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

Name of Entity: Township of Lopatcong

ATTEST:

By: _____

James E. Mengucci, Mayor

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, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-275 – Appoint temporary violations clerk, Barbara Peterson until permanent violations clerk is hired.

R 18-275

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA PETERSON AS VIOLATIONS CLERK IN THE COURT

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey authorize the temporary hire of Barbara Peterson as Violations Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this temporary appointments shall be until the position is filled through the Vicinage; and

WHEREAS, the Violation Clerk will be paid at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey authorize the temporary hire of Barbara Peterson until the position is filled.

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 scheduled on Wednesday, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-276 – Authorize Towers List for term of three years – 2019-2021 for H&K Auto Body repairs and Rossnagle’s Service Center.

R 18-276

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TOWERS LIST FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS – 2019 THRU 2021

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey received application from companies meeting the criteria set forth in Chapter 223 of the Code to provide motor vehicle towing and wrecker services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 223 of the Code of the Township of Loaptcong, approved applicants shall be authorized to provide services for a period of three years; 2019, 2020, and 2021; and

WHEREAS, the following companies have been approved and placed on the “Official Towers List”:

H & K Auto Body Repairs

Rossnagles's Service Center

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 above named companies are approved to provide towing and wrecker services to the Township of Lopatcong for a three-year period.

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, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 18-278 – Authorize correction to tax account on Block 139, Lot 4.

R 18-278

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO REFUND PAYMENT BY LIENHOLDER FOR BLOCK 139,
LOT 4

WHEREAS, Block 139, Lot 4 was advertised for the December 6, 2018 tax sale for 2016 delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, at least ten days prior to the tax sale, the taxpayer paid all delinquent sewer charges through fourth quarter of 2017; and

WHEREAS, US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs sent the Township payment in the amount of \$814.47 for the tax sale certificate on Block 139, Lot 4; and

WHEREAS, at some point after December 6, 2017, the Tax Collector notified the lien holder that the arrears had been paid prior to the tax sale and therefore, the lien had been sold in error. The Tax Collector agreed to return the payment made by the lienholder; and

WHEREAS, to date, the payment has not been returned to the lienholder; and

WHEREAS, the tax sale certificate was never sent to the lienholder and therefore, it was never recorded as a lien on the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes the refund of \$814.47 made payable 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, November 7, 2018.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Council Reports:

Councilman Palitto – EDAC - Access Self-Storage had their grand opening. LAA – asked about status of contract and are looking to work with the Recreation Dept. Congratulated Councilman Pryor and Councilman Belcaro.

Councilman Belcaro – Thanked everyone who supported him and Council President Pryor in the election.

Councilman Wright – Reported that he would like to start a sub-committee to include Township Attorney Campbell, one council member and auditor as well as Lori Ciesla to set up new cash controls, check out the computer system as well as tax/auditing controls and procedures. Councilman Palitto accepted Mayor Mengucci’s invitation to sit on that sub-committee. Councilman Wright also congratulated Councilman Belcaro and Council President Pryor in their election.

Council President Pryor – Applauded all who turned out to vote in the election. Noted the ribbon cutting at the new storage facility and commented that the business is a fine addition to Lopatcong. A community forum was sponsored by the Chief of Police and the Mayor and he both attended and found it was very informational and encouraged the public to attend them in the future. Council President Pryor indicated that he would like to resurrect “Council Corner” on the website which has been dormant for the last few years to in order to promote an idea or explain a piece of legislation.

Mayor Mengucci – Reported a busy ten months for him and felt that there was a loss of three years in the Township where nothing was accomplished. He indicated he is moving forward with the Road Program; Red School Lane, Lows Hollow Road and Fox Farm Road are on the radar. A grant application went into the Dept. of Transportation to seek \$200,000.00 for the remainder of Red School Lane and Baltimore Street is scheduled to be paved in the spring. On a different note, Mayor Mengucci reminded the public that he mailed out a letter regarding the Tax Collector’s Office in June to inform the public as to what information he had available; this was an investigation that took eleven months to complete through the Prosecutor’s Office and State Police and although the arrest was made right before the election, he indicated that this was something the Prosecutor’s Office was in charge of and the Mayor and Council were not privy to any information regarding the timing of the arrest. The two gentlemen who ran for the offices are fine gentlemen and one is a long time Township resident who has served on some boards and from his standpoint, there would be no loss of time with return of the incumbents and congratulated both Councilman Belcaro and Council President Pryor.

Autumn Ridge Developer’s Agreement – Attorney Campbell instructed the Council to approve the agreement and authorize the Mayor to execute the documents. Motion by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Engineer’s Report – Paul Sterbenz reported that the 2018 Resurfacing Program work has been completed through Tilcon, the contractor. There are some punch list items outstanding. The request to lower the speed limit in the vicinity of Buckley Hill Drive and Mountainview Road has been filed as well as a permit application to the County to change the speed limits and establish a school zone. Bids are out for installation and include the signs on Strykers Road as well. Mayor Mengucci thanked Paul for his hard work and also mentioned Dana Street would be reconstructed next year also.

Department Reports: Motion to approve by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor.

Payment of Bills: Council President Pryor noted he would abstain from JMT bills and also noted there is a \$30,000 water bill on the bills list from Aqua New Jersey for hydrants throughout the town. 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:

Chief of Police Garcia – Informed the public to lock their cars because there is car burglaries going on.

Laura Richter – Administrator for the Warren County Dept. of Human Services and the County along with the Mental Health Board and local chapter is doing a stigma free initiative and she asked that Council consider adopting a resolution.

Mr. Strouse – 100% disabled Veteran and requested a handicap parking spot in front of his home. Requested Engine Breaking sign on Rt. 57. Attorney Campbell informed him that this is a state highway. Also the rules are not enforceable. He suggested that the Chief of Police talk to the trucking company in town.

Mr. Imboden – Thanked all involved with the cleanup of Liberty Road.

Riccardo's – Home located on Lower Low's Hollow Road. They are facing a problem with accessing one side of the property. They've asked for assistance with the neighbor. Engineer Sterbenz made some suggestions to Council about looking at the property and Attorney Campbell to look at the title.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

James E. Mengucci
Mayor