

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – September 19, 2011**

Mayor Gatti *calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor F. Gatti, Deputy Mayor T. Auriemma, Mrs. J. Allen, Mrs. B. Muir
Mrs. D. Simon

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Mekovetz, Attorney S. Dragan

ABSENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Teamsters Local Union No. 469. Department of Public Works	Contract Negotiations.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will be confidential
Block 10.01, Lot 1.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Cooperative Pricing System Agreement / East Hunterdon Solar Renewable Energy Co-op	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes..... □ September 6, 2011	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
Wilmark Building Contractors v.... Township of Readington, et al.	Litigation.....	“ “ “
Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 39, Lot 24 & Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation).....	Litigation.....	“ “ “

It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A.”

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Simon to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Gatti led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Executive Session:

Contract Negotiations / Teamster Local No. 469 / Department of Public Works

Mayor Gatti stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Block 10.01, Lot 1

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to authorize Attorney Dragan to draft a Conservation Agreement, seconded by Mrs. Simon with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Contract Negotiations / Cooperative Pricing System Agreement / East Hunterdon Solar Renewable Energy Co-op

Mayor Gatti stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney –Client Privilege/Executive Session Minutes (September 6, 2011)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 6, 2011 for content only, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Litigation / Wilmark Building Contractors v. Township of Readington, et al.

Mayor Gatti stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Litigation/Solberg Aviation / Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lot 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 39, Lot 24 and Block 67, Lot 2

Mayor Gatti stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Gatti read the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk “*” are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

- * 1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of September 6, 2011
- * 2. **Resolution to Adopt the Hunterdon County All Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan** (Entire File Available in Clerk’s Office for Review)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2011-99

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management and 9-1-1 Coordination has been engaged with the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of the State Police in conducting the Northern Delaware River Region All Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning process pursuant to a FY 08 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PMD) Planning Grant; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the PDM planning process was to develop all-hazards mitigation plans for the four counties of the Northern Delaware River Region, namely Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer, and all municipalities within the said four counties; and

WHEREAS, the period of performance to develop the PMD Plans with a six month extension was from January 9, 2009 through June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Sheriff's Office, Division of Emergency Management and 9-1-1 Coordination took the lead role in coordinating the development of all-hazards mitigation plans for all four counties and their municipalities through James Lee Witt Associates; and

WHEREAS, the spending plan included a 25% in-kind match in the form of non-supplanted employee salaries, wages and benefits, and expenses related to the planning process; and

WHEREAS, said 25% in-kind match was more than achieved by contributions of in-kind services from all four counties and approved by the New Jersey State Police, Hazards Mitigation Unit; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Police, Emergency Management Section, Hazards Mitigation Unit, approved said plans and forwarded them to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 2, New York City; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 2, has approved all plans developed under the FEMA grant; and

WHEREAS, all participating municipalities are urged to draft a similar resolution to adopt the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Readington does hereby adopt the Hunterdon County All Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (on file in Clerk's Office) directing applicable county agencies to pursue appropriate PDM project funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded:

1. The State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of the State Police, SFC Robert Little, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Post Office Box, 7068, West Trenton, New Jersey, 088628-0068
2. The Sussex County Sheriff's Office, Division of Emergency Management, 39 High Street, Newton, New Jersey 07860
3. The Sussex County Treasurer, c/o Laurie L. Gallant, One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey 07860

* 3. **Social Affairs Permit** – Polish American Citizens Club (October 13, 2011)

* 4. **Payment of Bills** – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk’s Office)

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND	1-01	\$1,175,536.13
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	1-02	\$ 1,996.00
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 64,684.93
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 3,731.50
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 153,031.26
DUE TO STATE OF NJ	X-09	\$ 90,203.66
2010 CAPITAL	X-10	\$ 3,470.66
2011 CAPITAL	X-11	\$ 657,667.21
2008 CAPITAL	X-88	<u>\$ 67,134.00</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$2,217,455.35

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mrs. Allen - Aye
- Mr. Auriemma - Aye
- Mrs. Muir - Aye
- Mrs. Simon - Aye
- Mayor Gatti - Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only
(Item #1 – New Business)

Tom Bridegum, 111 Foothill Road, commended the road department on the upkeep of the road. Mr. Bridegum further commented that he had mixed feelings about Foothill Road being paved and suggested the possibility of speed bumps to discourage excessive speeding.

Geraldine Bridegum, 111 Foothill Road, stated she wouldn’t want to see the trees or her fence, which are close to the road, come down if the road were to be paved.

Frank Stanziola, 122 Foothill Road, commented that the road has deteriorated over the last twenty years and is now becoming a safety hazard.

Wayne Barilla, 110 Foothill Road, commended the road department on maintaining the road; however, stated that with the inclement weather over the past year the potholes have increased.

Bill Ogle, 150 Foothill Road, echoed the concerns of the previous residents and commented that the erosion of the water is breaking up his driveway.

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Resolution from Lora L. Olsen, RMC, Township Clerk, West Amwell Township regarding ***Current Open Public Records Act be Amended to Preserve its Original Intent and Reduce Expenses to the Public by Providing that in Situations Where the Requested Documents are Already Available to the Public on a Download Government Website, Regardless of Format, a Referral of the Requestor to the said Website Shall Fully Comply with the OPRA Obligation of the Government Unit, with No Needs to Convert the Data Contained therein to any other Format.*** No action taken.

2. Legal Notice from Kenneth L. Pape, Attorney for the Applicant, regarding ***Advance/GLB Development Partners, LLC as Owner and Applicant Making an Application to the Branchburg Township Zoning Board of Adjustment for Conversion of a Previously Approved Age-Restricted Community to a Non-Age Restricted Community in Accordance with the Sarlo Act N.J.S.A. 45:22A46.3 et seq.*** No action taken.
3. Memorandum dated September 9, 2011 from Ella M. Ruta, RMC, Township of Union regarding ***Opposing Northeast Supply Link Project, Docket No. FP11-4-000, Stanton Loop Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company LLC.*** No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Petition from the Residents of Indian Run, Cherry Court and Van Pelt Drive Requesting to Repave the Neglected and Potentially Unsafe Roads***

Administrator Mekovetz stated that she spoke with Scott Jesseman and Engineer O'Brien about these roads being considered for reclamation next year, if there is a general improvement ordinance. Administrator Mekovetz stated that currently the roads for this year are still being worked on and in the event a road is not completed this year, it would become a priority for the following year. Mrs. Muir stated that in the petition it mentions that the roads have developed a significant number of transverse fissures approximately every ten (10) yards and possibly a hot pack could be done to fix the fissures until the roads can be considered for reclamation. Mrs. Simon stated she would speak with Scott Jesseman to see if this could be done. Mayor Gatti requested that Administrator Mekovetz communicate this to one of the residents listed on the petition.

2. ***Petition from the Residents of Foothill Road Requesting Paving Due to Erosion Causing Deep Ruts and Flooding on Road***

Mayor Gatti stated that one of the questions that he had was the length of the road that would need to be paved. Mrs. Allen stated that would require input from the Engineer, both on drainage work and also what would be involved in paving the road. Mrs. Muir suggested that the road be looked at first and advised the residents that when a connector road does get paved, the traffic increases dramatically along with increased speeding and also the residents need to think about the pros and cons of speed bumps. Mayor Gatti requested that Scott Jesseman take a look at the road and offer his recommendations.

- * 3. ***Resolution to Adopt the Hunterdon County All Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan*** (Entire File Available in Clerk's Office for Review)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 4. ***Social Affairs Permit*** – Polish American Citizens Club (October 13, 2011)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz stated that she had nothing further to report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan stated that she had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Frank Gatti

Mayor Gatti reported that Senator Doherty held a Town Hall meeting last week to discuss equitable school funding. Mayor Gatti stated that the continued socio-economic adjustments are affecting the property taxes and there needs to be a more equitable type of funding for schools in the state. Mayor Gatti suggested posting some of this information on the website for the residents to see the disparities.

Julia Allen

Mrs. Allen reported that she had attended the Parks, Recreation and Leisure sub-committee meeting of the Recreation Department and stated that the girl scouts will be wrapping the new trees in Pickell Park to protect against deer damage and DeMarco Brothers will be donating river stone to be spread over the creek area.

Mrs. Allen reported that the Open Space walk on Sunday was well attended and will continue every third Sunday of the month.

Tom Auriemma

Mr. Auriemma reported that the Memorial Service on September 11th was quite a moving event.

Beatrice Muir

Mrs. Muir stated that she had nothing further to report.

Donna Simon

Mrs. Simon reported that the Solar Meeting has been rescheduled to September 26th and the deadline has been extended to that date. Mrs. Simon also reported that the County is having a Shared Services seminar next Thursday.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bruce Fuller, 145 Main Street, commented on the condition of the sidewalks on Main Street questioned who is responsible for the sidewalk on Main Street.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Mrs. Muir commented that she had read in the Democrat that chestnut trees were to be planted near the museums and advised that this could be problematic if they are planted in the middle of the lawn.

As there was no further business, ***A MOTION*** was made by Mr. Auriemma at 9:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Simon with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/RPPO
Municipal Clerk