

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
MINUTES  
February 21, 2008**

**A. Chairperson Fort called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised.**

<b>Mrs. Fort</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mrs. Flynn</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Ms. Hendry</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mr. Hendrickson</b>	<b>absent</b>
<b>Mr. Simon</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mr. Stettner</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mr. Shepherd</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mr. Thompson</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mr. Denning</b>	<b>present</b>

**Donald Moore, Esq., Kelleher & Moore  
John Hansen, Ferriero Engineering  
Michael Sullivan, Clark\*Catton\*Hintz**

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**1. January 17, 2008 - Mr. Denning made a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Flynn seconded the motion. *Motion was carried with a vote of ayes, nays none recorded.***

**C. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**There was no correspondence read into the record.**

**D. TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

**1. Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless  
State Highway 31 & Foothill Road  
Block 61, lot 5.02  
Variance  
Action date: March 1, 2008**

**The TRC determined that the application is still incomplete.**

**E. RESOLUTIONS:**

**1. Report on Variance Applications for 2007 – carried to the next meeting.**

**F. VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

**Mr. Denning made a motion to approve the vouchers. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. *Motion was carried with a vote of ayes, nays none recorded.***

**G. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**RESOLUTION  
(Open Public Meetings Act – Executive Session)**

**WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 2:4-12, Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and**

**WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist:**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Adjustment in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:**

**The public shall be excluded from discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matters. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:**

- 1. Pending and potential litigation.**

**It is anticipated at this time that the contents of the above discussions will remain confidential.**

**This Resolution shall take effect immediately.**

**Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted on February 21, 2008.**

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**Linda Jacukowicz, Coordinator**

**Mrs. Flynn made a motion to adjourn the open session and go into closed session at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. *Motion was carried with a vote of ayes, nays none recorded.***

**Mrs. Flynn made a motion to open public session at 8:50 p.m. Ms. Hendry seconded the motion. *Motion was carried with a vote of ayes, nays none recorded.***

**H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 1. CharDham Hindu Temple/Readington  
Use Variance & Preliminary Site Plan  
25A Coddington Road**

Lloyd Tubman stated for the record that she is with the law firm of Archer and Greiner. This is a continuation of the public hearing for the CharDham Hindu Temple. At the end of the last hearing, the board was handed an Exhibit that was marked D-4. The assertion to the board was that Mr. Bhatt had been “untruthful” to the board in the past and in fact had built another temple. This was based upon records that were pulled from the internet. Ms. Tubman requested an opportunity to rebut that information.

Piyush Desai stated that he has been an interpreter for more than 8 years. He works for Mercer and Middlesex County courts. He stated that Gujarati is his native language. Mr. Moore informed the board that he was satisfied with Mr. Desai’s credentials.

Yogeshkumer Bhatt was previously sworn and testified through the interpreter. Ms. Tubman showed Mr. Bhatt an Exhibit that was marked D-4 on January 17, 2008 which was information from Florida. Mr. Bhatt stated that this is the registration of the temple in Florida. This is the same corporation that is registered in New Jersey for the years from 2003 through 2007. The last page of the exhibit shows a computer print out from the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations and it is a foreign non-profit corporation name search for Hindu Sanatan Dharma Seva Mandal. Mr. Bhatt answered that it was filed on October 22, 2002. He stated that this is the date the corporation was filed in Florida. Mr. Bhatt stated that he is listed as the chairman and Bharat Shah is listed as the secretary. The vice chairman is Pradeep S. Patel. Mr. Bhatt stated that he knows Mr. Patel and he met him in 2002 in Florida. Ms. Tubman stated that within Exhibit D-4 there is information about a temple in Quincy and Mr. Bhatt’s name is associated with that temple. Mr. Bhatt answered that during the installation in 2004 of the deity his name was mentioned.

Mr. Moore stated that basically a summary of the documents in D-4 indicates that Mr. Bhatt did not build the temple, but he participated in the opening ceremonies in 2004. In 2005 an individual for Pradeep Patel conveyed the property that holds the temple to the non-profit corporation. There are appraisal records on that transaction, including construction permits, etc.

Ms. Hendry asked if that corporation is the applicant that is before this board. Ms. Tubman answered yes. Ms. Tubman asked Mr. Bhatt what was the purpose of registering in 2002. Mr. Bhatt answered that it was for the purpose of helping people and for any natural disaster. Ms. Tubman asked if the corporation got involved with the day to day operation of a temple. Mr. Bhatt answered no.

Mrs. Flynn asked if the original owner of the temple involved in Mr. Bhatt’s temple in 2002. Mr. Bhatt answered yes. Exhibit D-4 indicates that Mr. Patel was involved in 2003. Mr. Bhatt answered that was correct.

Mrs. Fort wanted to know in how many states is the Hindu Sanatan Dharma Seva Mandal registered. Mr. Bhatt answered Florida, Georgia, California, New York and New Jersey. Mrs. Fort wanted to know how many of these temples have become a part of the corporation. Mr. Bhatt answered that there is one temple and that one is in Florida and the other will be in New Jersey.

Mrs. Tubman stated that D-4 consists of business reports and promotional material for the Quincy Temple.

Mr. Simon asked what was the purpose of filing for the corporation in Florida. Mr. Bhatt answered that it was for the purpose of social services.

- Exhibits D-5 – (a) Building Permit Records from the City of Quincy  
(b) Gadsden County Property Appraiser's Office, County Appraiser Transaction report.  
© Warranty deed from Pradeep Patel to the corporation.  
(d) Mr. Patel's tax write off

Ms. Tubman stated that the purpose of this exercise was to counter the statement that was placed on the record at the prior meeting that Mr. Bhatt had previously constructed a temple.

The board took a recess at 9:55 p.m. The board reconvened at 10:04 p.m.

Mrs. Tubman wanted to clarify for the record that Mr. Bhatt was asked if he was a business partner of Mr. Patel and he answered yes. Ms. Tubman referred to the Uniform Business Report forms that were filed with the Secretary of State and she asked Mr. Bhatt if he was involved in business with Mr. Patel. Mr. Bhatt answered that he is not involved as a partner with Mr. Patel in any way.

Mr. Denning asked if Mr. Bhatt could read English. Mr. Bhatt answered that he can read a little.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

Fred Barden 9 Tunis Cox Road – He asked if Mr. Bhatt has been the chairman and president of Hindu Sanatan Dharma Seva Mandal, Inc. since 2004 in the State of Florida. Mr. Bhatt answered no.

Mr. Thompson stated that earlier this evening he had asked if Mr. Bhatt had any involvement with the temple in Florida and his answer was no, now he indicates that he does have some involvement. He asked for Mr. Bhatt to clear this confusion. Mr. Bhatt stated that since they give the charities to the temples, and since that time they have an association dating back to November 2005.

Savita Sani 6 Tunis Cox Road wanted to know if Mr. Bhatt has recently sponsored new priests to work at the building. Mr. Bhatt answered no. She did not accept his answer and stated that she will bring her own witnesses.

Catherine Petrakis – 8 Tunis Cox Road – She asked what are the states that Hindu Sanatan Dharma Seva Mandal corporations are registered in. Mr. Bhatt answered, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Florida and California.

**Michele Jaunaraajs – 101 Pulaski Road - Wanted to know if Mr. Bhatt was going to register in any other States in this country. Mr. Bhatt answered no.**

**Amy Broderick 9 Tunis Cox Road – Wanted to know if the temple in Quincy was a traditional temple. Mr. Bhatt answered yes.**

**Dan Sargent 1 Pearl Street requested that the public be allowed to have more time at the next meeting.**

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Denning made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Flynn seconded the motion. *Motion was carried with a vote of ayes, nays none recorded.***

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Linda Jacukowicz**