

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – March 15, 2010**

Mayor Shamey *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 G. Shamey, Mrs. B Muir, Mr. F. Gatti, Mrs. J. Allen
Mr. T. Auriemma

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 Anticipate When Disclosed to Public</u>
Police.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will remain
Recreation.....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Museums.....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Planning and Zoning Office....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
114 Main Street (Block 34, Lot 8)...	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Block 94, Lot 17.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Lackland (Block 64, Lots 26 & 40)..	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes..... (March 1 and March 10, 2009)	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33, Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block Lot 24 and Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation/Hromoho)	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. Muir to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Shamey announced that the following business was completed during Executive Session:

Personnel/Police

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to hire Steven J. Rindock as a 5th year Patrolman at the base rate of \$68,764, effective March 26, 2010 seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to promote Cpl. Vincent Corsentino to Probationary Sergeant as per Article XV of the Sergeant’s contract effective March 22, 2010, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to promote Special Police Officer Robert Quinlan as a full-time Probationary Patrolman at a base rate of \$52,053 effective April 5, 2010, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Personnel/Recreation

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to accept the resignation of Bill Keefe from the Recreation Committee and send a letter of thanks for his three years of service, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Personnel/Museums

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to accept the letter of resignation from Amy Hollander as Museum Administrator and send a letter of thanks for her service, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Personnel/Planning and Zoning Office

Mayor Shamey stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/114 Main Street (Block 34, Lot 8)

Mayor Shamey stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Block 94, Lot 17

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to amend the contract of sale between Readington Township and Karen Elbert for the purchase of this property in accordance with the addendum prepared by the Township Attorney, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations/ Lackland/Block 64, Lots 26 & 40

Mayor Shamey stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney –Client Privilege/Executive Session Minutes (March 1 and March 10, 2010)

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 1, 2010 and March 10, 2010 for content only, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Litigation/Solberg Aviation/Hromoho (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 Shamey stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Shamey 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 March 1 and March 10, 2010
- * 2. ***Social Affair Permit*** – Polish American Citizens Club – March 27, 2010
- * 3. ***Firemen’s Membership Application*** – Paul J. Stramaglia
- * 4. ***Red Light Permit*** – Matthew Hoffman
- * 5. ***Payment of Bills*** – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk’s Office)

Fund Description	Fund No.	Received Total
CURRENT FUND	0-01	\$ 486,238.68
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	0-02	\$ 507.00
CURRENT FUND	9-01	\$ 3,156.74
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 4,591.91
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 26,933.01
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 147,061.80
2006 CAPITAL ORDINANCES	X-66	\$ 1,190.00
2008 CAPITAL	X-88	\$ <u>11,780.37</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 681,459.51

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

As it was after 8:00 p.m., A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF A PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED ORDINANCE #06-2003 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD

ORDINANCE #05-2010

Mayor Shamey stated that this amended ordinance would update the Open Space Plan annually as opposed to semi-annually and there would be nine members on the board as opposed to seven.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the Governing Body.

There were none.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF A PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED ORDINANCE #06-2003 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD

ORDINANCE #05-2010

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Mrs. Allen requested that the Committee appoint two (2) members to the newly created positions.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen appoint to Kim Yousey for a three year term , expiring 12/31/2012 and Robert Becker for a two year term, expiring 12/31/2011 to the Open Space Advisory Board, seconded Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to move Al Villani from 2nd Alternate to 1st Alternate on the Open Space Advisory Board for a two year term to expire 12/31/2011, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Muir adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A FEE SIMPLE INTEREST
IN A PORTION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 93, LOT 1 TO SHELLEY L.
FILISZAR***

ORDINANCE #06-2010

Mrs. Allen stated that there is an existing driveway and easement on the twenty four (24) acre property which could not be funded through Green acres and the neighboring property owner has negotiated to purchase this strip of land.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the Governing Body.

There were none.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A FEE SIMPLE INTEREST
IN A PORTION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 93, LOT 1 TO SHELLEY L.
FILISZAR***

ORDINANCE #06-2010

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Muir adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #33-2008 AND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AND VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES TO CLEAN UP OR ABATE DISCHARGES OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND TO OBTAIN REIMBURSEMENT FOR TIME AND MATERIALS EXPENDED IN CLEANINGUP OR ABATING ANY SUCH DISCHARGES FROM OWNERS OF NON-RESIDENTIAL REAL AND BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY

ORDINANCE #07-2010

Mayor Shamey stated that the amendment to this ordinance would clarify the definition of *real costs* under Section 1.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the Governing Body.

There were none.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #33-2008 AND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AND VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES TO CLEAN UP OR ABATE DISCHARGES OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND TO OBTAIN REIMBURSEMENT FOR TIME AND MATERIALS EXPENDED IN CLEANINGUP OR ABATING ANY SUCH DISCHARGES FROM OWNERS OF NON-RESIDENTIAL REAL AND BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY

ORDINANCE #07-2010

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION

1. Letter dated February 4, 2010 from Zakrollah Asadpour, Acting Supervisor, Office of Environmental Solutions, New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding ***An Application for Freshwater Wetlands General Permit Authorization and a Flood Hazard Area General permit for Route 22 EB over South Branch Rockaway Creek.*** (Entire File Available in Clerk's Office for Review) No action taken.
2. Letter from Mary Mastro, Tax Assessor, Readington Township regarding ***Consideration of Passing a Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill S-458.***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2010-54

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL S-458**

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S-458, if signed into law, would remove the municipality's responsibility for assessing real property within the corporate bounds; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S-458; if signed into law, would remove the municipality's responsibility for collecting property taxes within the corporate bounds; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities within the County will inherit additional costs shifted to them from other municipalities within the same county particularly when costs pertain to the defense of the tax appeals; and

WHEREAS, if signed into law, the bill deprive the municipality's of efficient and diligent control of property taxes and expenditures, which, as has proven time and again, is best left to municipal government officials; and

WHEREAS, a municipality is a corporate body organized to provide local government services designed to most effectively and efficiently serve the residents of that jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, there exists no empirical data or factual studies showing a transfer of the assessing and collection functions to a county authority will in any way reduce the taxes for the municipality or the county; and

WHEREAS, a basic tenet of American political philosophy is that local governments have the inherent right to exercise authority to provide local services to its constituents and adopt ordinances and regulations for the good of the general public; and

WHEREAS, in New Jersey, municipalities are dubbed creatures of the State with the State exercising its supremacy in granting both implied and express powers to local government while at the same time reserving unto itself the indispensable right to legislate mandates to be implemented by counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, local taxpayers will be at a loss of service they are accustomed to that they would typically receive from the tax assessment and tax collection offices; and

WHEREAS, other municipal departments and the business community will be a t loss of services they are accustomed to receiving from the assessor's and collector's office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington that:

1. They hereby adopt the facts and determinations as set forth in the preamble of this Resolution as if the same were more fully set forth herein at length.
2. They hereby memorialize their vigorous opposition to the pending legislation known as S-458 and the inherent additional costs and dilution of services associated with it.
3. The Municipal Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Shelia Oliver, Legislative Representatives, the Tax Collectors and Treasurer's Association of New Jersey (TCTANJ), the New Jersey Association of County Boards (NCACTB) and Association of Municipal Assessors of New Jersey (AMANJ).

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

3. Resolution from Donna J. Burham, Township Clerk, Township of Clinton regarding *Opposing a Proposed “Bloomsbury Industrial Park” in Franklin Township, Warren County*. No action taken.
4. Notice of Public Hearing from NJ Transit regarding *Proposed Changes to Bus, Rail, Light Rail, Access link and Bus Contract Carriers’ Fares, Fare Policies and Service Levels*. No action taken.
5. Letter from Marilyn Hodgson, Municipal Clerk, from Borough of Glen Gardner regarding *Resolution Supporting Governor Christie in his Efforts to Reduce State Spending and the Burden on every Taxpayer in New Jersey*. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *An Ordinance Amending Chapter 197 of the Code of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon Pertaining to Soil and Surface Water Management* – introduction

Mayor Shamey stated that this proposed ordinance pertaining to soil and surface water management would require that prior to issuance of a building permit; a property owner would provide review and inspection escrow fees in the amount of \$1,500. The Committee asked that Attorney Dragan review Chapter 197 for additional information. This matter was carried.

- * 2. *Social Affair Permit* – Polish American Citizens Club – March 27, 2010

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 3. *Firemen’s Membership Application* – Paul J. Stramaglia

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 4. *Red Light Permit* – Matthew Hoffman

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz reported that she received a resignation notice from Jackie Oliphant of the Environmental Commission.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to accept the resignation and send a letter of thanks for her years of service, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Dragan stated that she had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Gerard Shamey

Mayor Shamey stated that he had nothing further to report.

Julia Allen

Mrs. Allen reported that there will be an Open Space hike on Sunday, March 21st on Round Mountain.

Thomas Auriemma

Mr. Auriemma stated that he had nothing further to report.

Frank Gatti

Mr. Gatti reported that he had received a letter inviting the Committee to the High School for a budget overview on March 25th and he would be attending.

Beatrice Muir

Mrs. Muir stated that she had nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Christopher D'Antonio, a Graduate Planning student from Rutgers University, asked the Committee if there was any intention to completely update the Master Plan. Mayor Shamey stated that several elements of the Master Plan have been updated and there are still some elements that will need to be updated.

As there was no further business, **A MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen at 8:25 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Muir with vote of all ayes, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/RPPO
Administrator/Municipal Clerk