

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – June 20, 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>
Personnel Matters.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will be confidential
Recreation.....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes..... •June 6, 2011	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
Hunterdon Hills Vet. Corp..... Escrow Fees	Potential Litigation.....	“ “ “
388 Route 22 Readington Realty.. Holdings, LLC v. Twp. of Readington	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. Muir to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

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

Dr. Bob Gulick from the Readington Board of Education introduced Dr. Barbara Sergeant as the new superintendent, effective July 1st, and thanked the Committee for their support during his six month stay as interim superintendent. Dr. Sergeant stated that she is looking forward to continuing the positive working relationship with the school community and the Township.

Executive Session:

Personnel / Personnel Matters

Mayor Gatti stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Personnel / Recreation

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the following summer counselors for the summer recreation program, effective June 27th through August 5th, held at Whitehouse School, Holland Brook and Readington Middle School:

<i>NAME</i>	<i>HOURLY RATE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>HOURLY RATE</i>
Allison Addona	\$9.50	Anna Nicholas	\$8.00
Christine Armellino	\$9.25	Chelsea Paganessi	\$9.00
Emily Berstler	\$8.00	Paige Peterson	\$9.00
Hope Brembt	\$9.00	Kristin Polito	\$13.75
Tara Burgher	\$9.50	Maryjane Polito	\$10.00
William Campi	\$9.75	Jaime Rad	\$12.00
Nathan D'Adversa	\$9.00	Gregory Scassera	\$9.00
Donna Eckel	\$9.00	Jonathan Scher	\$9.50
Kelly Edwards	\$9.00	Jeffrey Schroder	\$9.25
Matthew Eitzen	\$9.50	Victoria Siegel	\$9.00
Jessica Fenton	\$9.50	Daniel Steinberg	\$9.00
Ariel Gilbert	\$9.25	Caitlin Szallai	\$8.00
Michael Hall	\$9.75	Caitlin Tarantiles	\$9.50
Denise Hawkins	\$12.50	Brenna Toman	\$9.25
Shaina Hawkins	\$9.00	Paige Turnquist	\$8.25
Marika Hyland	\$9.25	James Weidenbacher	\$9.25
Matthew Jurczek	\$9.00	Julie Weisman	\$10.00
Jaime Kindervatter	\$9.25	Heather Wuest	\$9.25
Andrew Laird	\$10.00	Liane Zielinski	\$9.00
Melissa Leopard	\$8.25	Daniel Weinick	\$9.00
Kyle Leopard	\$9.50	Patricia Marcine	salary
Vicki Marcine	\$16.50	Debbie Hill (driver)	\$16.85
Nick Marcucci	\$10.00	Jonathan Mellinger	\$9.25
Lauren McCarthy	\$9.75	Erin McKay	\$13.75

This Motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

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

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

Potential Litigation / Hunterdon Hills Vet. Corp., Inc. / Escrow Fees

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Simon requesting Attorney Dragan to draft a letter stating that the Township is unable to resolve this matter, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Litigation / 388 Route 22 Readington Realty Holdings, LLC v. Twp. of Readington

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 was not discussed 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 June 6, 2011

- * 2. ***Sewer Main Extension Permit for Block 36, Lot 48*** – Treatment Works Approval

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2011-59
TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is a need to extend the use of public sewers to accommodate an approved commercial and affordable housing development (Block 36, Lot 48); and

WHEREAS, Readington Township has consented to an application for a Treatment Works Approval Permit for the extension and use of such sewers from Route 22 Eastbound from Mullen Road to project location (Block 36, Lot 48); and

Resolution #2011-59 cont’d:

WHEREAS, the applicant, Readington Township, has filed application for the extension and use of such sewers from Route 22 Eastbound from Mullen Road to project location; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington reviewed this application at its regular meeting held June 20, 2011; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined and reported by our Township Engineer that this application is in order and may be filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington does hereby authorize the following action:

1. The Township authorizes the Administrator/Municipal Clerk, Mayor or Deputy Mayor to sign for the Governing Body at appropriate locations on the WQM-003 Statement of Consent Form for Route 22 Eastbound from Mullen Road to Block 36, Lot 48.

* 3. **2011-12 Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2011-60

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington that the following Readington Township Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals for 2011-2012 be approved:

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION:

<u>LICENSE NUMBER</u>	<u>LICENSE HOLDER</u>	<u>MUNICIPAL FEE</u>	<u>STATE FEE</u>
1022-44-008-005	Bishop & Bishop Bar & Liquors	\$1,845.50	\$200.00
1022-44-015-004	Readington Wine & Spirits LLC	\$1,845.50	\$200.00

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION:

<u>LICENSE NUMBER</u>	<u>LICENSE HOLDER</u>	<u>MUNICIPAL FEE</u>	<u>STATE FEE</u>
1022-33-001-004	Stanton Ridge Hospitality Corporation	\$1,845.50	\$200.00
1022-33-009-006	Kalli 2 LLC	\$1,845.50	\$200.00
1022-33-007-006	Bensi of Whitehouse Station, LLC.	\$1,845.50	\$200.00
1022-33-005-006	Readington Diner, Inc.	\$1,845.50	\$200.00
1022-33-006-006	SAR II Inc.	\$1,845.50	\$200.00
1022-33-003-006	Whats Cookin Inc	\$1,845.50	\$200.00

CLUB:

<u>LICENSE NUMBER</u>	<u>LICENSE HOLDER</u>	<u>MUNICIPAL FEE</u>	<u>STATE FEE</u>
1022-31-012-001	Polish American Citizens Club	\$ 150.00	\$200.00
1022-31-010-001	Whitehouse American Legion Post 284	\$ 150.00	\$200.00
1022-31-014-001	Three Bridges Volunteer Fire Co 1 Inc.	\$ 150.00	\$200.00

- * 4. ***Firemen’s Membership Application*** – Nicholas Graber

- * 5. ***Resolution in Recognition of Charles A. Almer Attaining Rank of Eagle Scout***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2011-61

***TOWNSHP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, Charles W. Almer, a valued member of Boy Scout Troop 1969, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout Candidate Charles A. Almer’s project was to construct a bluestone patio Prayer Garden to benefit the members of the Whitehouse United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the Whitehouse Methodist Church has long desired a location where visitors could relax and pray; and

WHEREAS, the Prayer Garden will also be used to hold outdoor classes for its nursery and Sunday School programs; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2011 Charles A. Almer will be presented with the coveted Eagle Scout Award and is well deserving of this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby commends Eagle Scout Charles A. Almer for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulates him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

- * 6. ***Resolution in Recognition of Trevor H. Ciccarino Attaining Rank of Eagle Scout***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2011-62

***TOWNSHP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, Trevor H. Ciccarino, a valued member of Boy Scout Troop 1969, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout Candidate Trevor H. Ciccarino’s Eagle Project consisted of creating a trail that links up to the Lachenmayr Trail in Readington Township; and

WHEREAS, Trevor’s goal was to create an “environmentally friendly project” using existing trees and rocks to create and mark the trail properly; and

WHEREAS, the improved and safer trail will be enjoyed by hikers and nature lovers.

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

Resolution #2011-62 cont'd:

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2011 Trevor H. Ciccarino will be presented with the coveted Eagle Scout Award and is well deserving of this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby commends Eagle Scout Trevor H. Ciccarino for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulates him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

* 7. **Resolution in Recognition of Jeremy F. Neumann Attaining Rank of Eagle Scout**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2011-63

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
 RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Jeremy F. Neumann a valued member of Boy Scout Troop 1969, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout Candidate Jeremy F. Neumann’s Eagle Project consisted of building a bocce ball court and a kiosk at Pickell Park; and

WHEREAS, Jeremy constructed the 60 ft. x 12 ft. court; and

WHEREAS, Jeremy completed the project with the help of fellow scouts, friends and family who volunteered their time to assist on the project; and

WHEREAS, the bocce ball court is a welcome addition to Pickell Park and can be enjoyed by all who participate in this recreational activity, and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2011 Jeremy F. Neumann will be presented with the coveted Eagle Scout Award and is well deserving of this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby commends Eagle Scout Jeremy F. Neumann for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulates him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

* 8. **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	\$ 602,446.34
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	1-02	\$ 5,066.62
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 6,836.15
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 9,709.02
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 194,191.77
REG. & LOCAL SCHOOL TAX	X-07	<u>\$2,498,178.06</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 3,316,427.96

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Muir 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

Anthony Kearns, Hunterdon County Prosecutor, stated that he was appearing before the Committee to encourage them to pass the proposed ordinance listed on this evening's agenda, prohibiting the underage consumption and possession of alcohol on private property. Prosecutor Kearns stated that the purpose of this ordinance is provide a mechanism to deal with the problem that the police are addressing when they confront underage individuals consuming alcohol on private property in addition to sending a message to the young people with very real consequences.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 204 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ADD
NEW PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT AND
REPAIR OF SIDEWALKS***

γ Ordinance # 13-2011

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

Mrs. Muir expressed concern for those homeowners suffering from economic hardship who have sidewalks in front of their homes and would be facing a costly mandated sidewalk repair. Mayor Gatti stated that when a sidewalk is in such disrepair, the Township may have some liability if a person trips and falls, which could be far greater than repairing the sidewalk and felt there needs to be an ordinance in place to protect the walking public. Attorney Dragan stated that only commercial owners, not residential, would be liable for failure to maintain sidewalks. Attorney Dragan further stated that in the cases where individuals sue for injuries to the Township, it all comes down to who actually controls that sidewalk and is a fact based situation, including factors such as who initially constructed the sidewalks and who would be responsible for removing trees uprooting the sidewalks. Attorney Dragan requested direction from the Committee as to where they would like the responsibility to fall. A discussion took place on the ownership of sidewalks and trees and the various ways the costs could be distributed to maintain the sidewalks.

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

Charles Gyecsek, Somerset Street, asked what defines a defect in a sidewalk.

John Kalinich, Monfort Lane, stated that in his neighborhood the sidewalks are in the Township right of way and been considered a public thoroughfare and with this ordinance he would now have to take responsibility for a 27 year old sidewalk that has not been maintained.

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Muir to withdraw this ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Simon and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Mayor Gatti requested that he would like the Township Committee to work with the professionals to work something up to ensure the safety of the traveling public on Main Street.

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Mayors Advisory dated June 8, 2011 from William G. Dressel, Jr., Executive Director, NJLOM regarding ***S-2794, Shared Services Bill That Threatens Local Discretion Up in Committee on Monday.***

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to send a letter to our legislators asking them not to pass A-3918 and S-2794, seconded Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

2. Memorandum dated June 13, 2011 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk of Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Hunterdon regarding ***All Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.*** No action taken.
3. Memorandum dated June 13, 2011 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk of Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Hunterdon regarding ***State Aid for Education to School Districts.*** No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ***Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting the Underage Consumption and Possession of Alcohol on Private Property*** – discussion

After Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony Kearns further explained the purpose of the proposed ordinance and addressed concerns brought before him, the Committee discussed whether to move forward with the introduction of the ordinance. Chief Donaruma stated that when the police are alerted to a situation where there is underage drinking on private property, this ordinance will give them a tool to charge that individual under the proposed ordinance rather than a disorderly conduct charge and also provide consequences for violations thereof. Attorney Dragan stated that at the last meeting she would be requesting clarification on some of the language in the proposed ordinance and after reviewing the sample ordinances, she felt that the one from Clinton Township mirrors the prosecutor's sample ordinance with the wording clarified and stated that the ordinance from Borough of Dunellen is a little different with respect to the penalties being somewhat more lenient, such as involving community service and monetary fines. Attorney Dragan stated that she also consulted with the municipal prosecutor who was in favor of some community service as a consequence and allow the judge discretion to choose between the two. The Committee discussed the various penalties for the first and subsequent offenses. The Committee requested that Attorney Dragan to draft a similar ordinance to the one from the Borough of Dunellen modifying the penalties as discussed and bring it back to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- * 1. ***Sewer Main Extension Permit for Block 36, Lot 48*** – Treatment Works Approval (resolution)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 2. ***2011-12 Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals*** – resolution

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 3. ***Firemen's Membership Application*** – Nicholas Graber

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 4. ***Resolution in Recognition of Charles A. Almer Attaining Rank of Eagle Scout***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 5. ***Resolution in Recognition of Trevor H. Ciccarino Attaining Rank of Eagle Scout***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 6. ***Resolution in Recognition of Jeremy F. Neumann Attaining Rank of Eagle Scout***

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 June 24th at 7:00 p.m. the Museum Director, Kimberly Costas, will present *The 18th Century Kitchen*.

Julia Allen

Mrs. Allen stated that she had nothing to report.

Thomas Auriemma

Mr. Auriemma stated that he had nothing to report.

Beatrice Muir

Mrs. Muir stated that she had nothing to report.

Donna Simon

Mrs. Simon reported that the Shared Services from the county and the taxpayer group from Readington will be meeting next Saturday to further discuss referendums and additional shared service opportunities.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

There were none.

As there was no further business, A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Auriemma at 9:48 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Muir with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/RPPO
Municipal Clerk