

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – October 17, 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>
Environmental Commission.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will be confidential
Recreation.....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Award of Sewer Extension..... Pulaski Road Bids	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Sewer Agreement / Pulaski Rd..... (Helfman)	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes..... □ October 3, 2011	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
Nahvi / Block 39, Lot 3..... Escrow Fees	Potential 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..... “ “ “
Readington Realty Holdings,..... Litigation..... “ “ “
LLC v. Twp. of Readington

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:

Personnel / Environmental Commission

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to accept the letter of resignation of Laura Simon from the Environmental Commission effective October 31, 2011 and send her a letter of thanks for her service, seconded by Mrs. Simon with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Personnel / Recreation

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to accept the letter of resignation from Jill Harris, Program Coordinator for the Recreation Department, effective October 11, 2011 seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Contract Negotiations / Award of Sewer Extension Pulaski Road Bids

Mayor Gatti stated that this matter will be deferred to a future meeting.

Contract Negotiations / Sewer Agreement / Pulaski Road (Helfman)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Sewer Agreement for Block 42, Lot 3.03, 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 (October 3, 2011)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Simon to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 3, 2011 for content only, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation / Nahvi / Block 39, Lot 3 / Escrow Fees

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.

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

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 October 3, 2011
- * 2. ***Postponement of Mortgage, etc.*** – Talita Moraes (123 Dove Cote Court)
- * 3. ***Emergency Management Performance Grant Through Exercise Support Subgrant Program***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2011-103

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington, desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey State Police, for the FY2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant Exercise Pass Thru Grant; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Police is offering a grant in the amount of \$40,000.00, including \$20,000.00 Federal Award and a local matching award of \$20,000.00, to enhance the Readington Township Office of Emergency Management ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other catastrophic events and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, in order to obtain such a grant, it is necessary that the Township of Readington submit an application to and enter into an agreement with the New Jersey State Police with regard to any such grant which may be offered to the municipality; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Readington, that the Township of Readington shall submit an application for such a grant in accordance with all pertinent terms, conditions and requirements which may be established for such an application and, further, shall accept and agree to comply with and fulfill each of the understandings and assurances contained in said application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrator/Municipal Clerk of the Township of Readington are hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents necessary for the submission and completion of such application on behalf of the Township of Readington; and

Resolution #R-2011-103 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrator/Municipal Clerk of the Township of Readington are hereby authorized and directed to provide any and all information which may be required in order to obtain such a grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the New Jersey State Police determines to offer the Township of Readington and FY2010 Emergency Performance Grant Exercise Pass Thru Grant, pursuant to its application, the Township of Readington shall enter into a grant agreement with the New Jersey State Police for the amount of the grant, which grant agreement shall incorporate the terms and conditions set forth in the Township of Readington’s application as such terms and conditions may be modified by the Township of Readington and the New Jersey State Police during the course of the evaluation of the application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the New Jersey State Police determines to offer the Township of Readington FY2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant Exercise Pass thru Grant and pursuant to this application, the Administrator/Municipal Clerk of the Township of Readington is hereby authorized and directed to execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey State Police on behalf of the Township of Readington for the amount of the grant.

- * 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	\$ 527,856.69
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 9,949.18
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 14,059.00
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 180,085.32
DUE TO STATE OF NJ	X-09	<u>\$ 450.00</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 732,400.19

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

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Resolution from Sue Dziamara, AICP/P.P, Director, Hunterdon County Planning Department regarding **Supporting the Designation of October 2011 as Community Planning Month**. No action taken.
2. Memorandum dated October 5, 2011 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Hunterdon regarding **Recognition of October, 2011 as Community Planning Month**. No action taken.
3. Memorandum dated October 11, 2011 from Mary E. MacConnell, Township Clerk, Township of Kingwood regarding **Resolution in Support of OPRA Amendment**. No action taken.

4. Resolution from Robert A. Brassard, Municipal Clerk, Township of Tewksbury regarding *Tree Clearing by JCP&L*. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Request to Use Dobozyński Cabin as the Location for Badge Work, Including a Sleepover*** – letter dated October 12, 2011 from Bette Higley, Troop Leader of Readington Girl Scout Troop #429

Mrs. Allen stated that the cabin is well suited for this use and this is what it was intended for.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to approve this request for the evening of November 9th, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

- * 2. ***Postponement of Mortgage, etc.*** – Talita Moraes (123 Dove Cote Court)

This matter was addressed under Consent Agenda.

- * 3. ***Emergency Management Performance Grant Through Exercise Support Subgrant Program***

This matter was addressed under Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz reported that the Township had received funding from the Hunterdon County Open Space Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund in the amount of \$737,000 for the open space portion of the Toll property.

Administrator Mekovetz requested guidance from the Committee on how to proceed with the sidewalk/tree issue on Main Street. Mayor Gatti stated that the Committee had requested Scott Jesseman to provide an estimate to repair the assessed problematic sidewalks on Main Street. Mayor Gatti stated that given the cost of the estimate of approximately \$15,000 to repair the 30 identified areas, including removal of trees, the Committee decided to focus on those areas that needed immediate attention while some other areas could be temporarily patched. The Committee agreed to move forward with the seven areas in need of immediate repair and then address the other areas on a need by need basis. Mayor Gatti also requested to move forward with a proposed sidewalk ordinance to address this issue for the future and asked Administrator Mekovetz to redistribute the information on the previously rescinded ordinance.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan stated that she had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Frank Gatti

Mayor Gatti stated that he had nothing further to report.

Julia Allen

Mrs. Allen reported that there is an application for Direct State Acquisitions that came in for three farms totaling approximately 360 acres in Block 75.

Mrs. Allen reported that the Open Space Walk at East Whitehouse took place yesterday.

Tom Auriemma

Mr. Auriemma asked about a recycling bicycle program at the Department of Public Works rather than paying the cost to remove the bicycles.

Mr. Auriemma reported that at the last Recreation meeting he had seen a plan for trees to be planted in Summer Road Park and felt that this should be reviewed by the Committee first. Mrs. Allen stated that this was a preliminary concept plan from Garden Associates and the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Task Force is still in the early planning stages of this project and would be presented to the Committee when it is ready for implementation.

Mr. Auriemma stated that he had received an email from Joel Kerwin requesting a retired police Chevy Tahoe as an Emergency Management Command vehicle. A discussion took place on the necessity of the Office of Emergency Management to have a vehicle. Mrs. Muir stated that she felt there were several things to consider, including the additional expenses of a vehicle and wanted to defer this matter to another meeting before making a decision. Mayor Gatti stated that he was in favor of granting the vehicle to the Office of Emergency Management.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Auriemma to support the vehicle for the Office of Emergency Management, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Beatrice Muir

Mrs. Muir asked that since Senior Services no longer meets as a group, should this particular arena be dropped.

Mrs. Muir reported that the Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is coming up and they are looking for volunteers interested in assisting with the drive.

Donna Simon

Mrs. Simon reported that Readington Board of Education, Town of Clinton and Milford Board of Education are participating in the Solar Project and we are still waiting on word from Flemington Borough. Administrator Mekovetz reviewed the proposed timeline for the solar project.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ted Peters, County Line Road, stated that cars are parking behind the *No Parking* sign and asked that the Committee consider putting up two posts in the path around the sign on the public right of way to block cars from parking there.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

As there was no further business, **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma at 9:15 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