

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

Mayor Auriemma *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 T. Auriemma, Deputy Mayor J. Allen, Mrs. B. Fort, Mr. F. Gatti, Mrs. B. Muir

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>
Police Department.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will be confidential
Block 63, Lot 66 (Yard Smith).....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Block 63, Lot 68 (Smith)		
Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
• September 4, 2012		
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 Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Mr. Gatti left the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

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

Executive Session:

Personnel / Police Department

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Block 63, Lot 66 (Yard Smith) & Block 63, Lot 68 (Smith)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the contract for Catherine Yard Smith at \$13,000 per acre, for a total of 6.662 acres in the amount of \$80,860.00; whereby 50% will be reimbursed by Green Acres, 25% will be reimbursed by the County Cooperative Program and 25% for the Municipal Grant Program, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Auriemma	- Aye

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the contract for Justin Smith at \$13,000 per acre, for a total 8.23 acres in the amount of \$106,990.00; whereby 50% will be reimbursed by Green Acres, 25% will be reimbursed by the County Cooperative Program and 25% for the Municipal Grant Program, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Auriemma	- Aye

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / September 4, 2012

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 4, 2012 for content only, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

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 Auriemma stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Mayor Auriemma 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.

Administrator Mekovetz requested that the minutes of the September 4, 2012 meeting be removed from the Consent Agenda.

- * 1. **Readington Trail Association Annual Trail Pace** – request to hold event on Township property (October 21, 2012)
- * 2. **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	2-01	\$ 450,952.35
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 156,153.44
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 63,078.31
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 142,206.15
CAPITAL ORD.	X-88	\$ 16,500.00
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 828,890.25

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
- Mrs. Fort - Aye
- Mrs. Muir - Aye
- Mayor Auriemma - Aye

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the September 4, 2012 meeting

Administrator Mekovetz requested to amend the minutes under *Executive Session / Personnel / Police Department / Lieutenants*, to reflect the effective date of the promotion to the position of Lieutenant as *to be determined*.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2012 meeting as amended, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Letter dated August 30, 2012 from Frank X. Simpson, NJ American Water Company regarding ***I/M/O the Petition of NJ American Water Co, Inc. to Change the Levels of its Purchased Water Adjustment Clause and Purchased Wastewater (Sewerage) Treatment Adjustment Clause.*** No action taken.
2. Memorandum dated September 4, 2012 from Molly B. Adams, Government Regulatory Affairs Manager, Comcast of Central NJ regarding ***Channel Changes.*** No action taken.
3. Letter dated September 7, 2012 from Frank X. Simpson, NJ American Water Company regarding ***I/M/O the Petition of NJ American Water Co, Inc. for Authorization to Implement a Tariff Supplement Establishing a Distribution System Improvement Charge.*** No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ***An Ordinance Amending Chapter 96, Entitled “Construction Codes, Uniform” of the Code of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey***

Mayor Auriemma requested that this matter be deferred until the next meeting since Mike Kovonuk, Construction Code Official, did not have the opportunity to review the ordinance and be in attendance to answer any questions.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to postpone this discussion, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Animal Control Account Deficit*** - memo dated September 11, 2012 from Tom Carro

Mayor Auriemma stated a memo was received from Tom Carro, CFO, reporting that the Animal Control Trust Fund has been running a deficit for years, thus requiring a contribution from the budget for support. Mayor Auriemma continued that the trust fund should be self-liquidating and in order to rectify the situation, a recommendation was made that the Committee consider increasing the 2013 dog licensing fee from \$12 to \$21, the state mandated maximum. Mayor Auriemma suggested increasing the fee in increments so as not to create a burden on the dog owners. The Committee discussed the current situation of licensing dogs along with the consequences of failing to license the dog. Administrator Mekovetz stated that in many municipalities there are considerable fines for not licensing dogs in a timely manner and suggested that the Committee consider increasing the late fees. Mayor Auriemma requested that Administrator Mekovetz look into the penalties from other municipalities and bring this matter back to another meeting for further discussion.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to increase the dog licensing fee from \$12 to \$15, effective January 1, 2013, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Auriemma	- Aye

2. ***An Ordinance Amending a Portion of Chapter 112 of the Code of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey Pertaining to Emergency Services Agency Members***

Mayor Auriemma stated that there was not sufficient information to move forward with this matter and proposed to postpone this discussion to a later date.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort to postpone this matter to a later date, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

3. ***Resolution Consenting to the Proposed Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan Amendment Entitled “Amendment to the Upper Delaware and Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP)”***

Mrs. Allen stated that a few years ago the County was given the responsibility of updating the wastewater management plans for each of the towns and now the County is requesting that each town approve the statement of consent. Mrs. Allen further stated that there is consensus among those who worked on this and also the Planning Board that this is in compliance.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2012-106

Resolution Consenting to the Proposed Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan Amendment Entitled “Amendment to the Upper Delaware and Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP)”

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Hunterdon County desires to provide for orderly development of wastewater facilities with Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requires that proposed wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities and wastewater treatment service areas, as well as related subjects, be in conformance with an approved WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has established the WQM plan amendment procedure as the method of incorporating unplanned facilities into a WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, a proposed WQM plan amendment noticed in the New Jersey Register on September 4, 2012 for the above Amendment has been prepared by the Hunterdon County Planning Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 17th day of September, 2012, by the governing body of the Township of Readington that:

1. The Township of Readington hereby consents to the amendment entitled “Amendment to the Upper Delaware and Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP)”, and publicly noticed on September 4, 2012, prepared by the Hunterdon County Planning Department, for the purpose of its incorporation into the applicable WQM plan(s).
2. This consent shall be submitted to the NJDEP in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort to adopt this resolution consenting to the Proposed Water Management Plan Amendment, seconded Mrs. Muir and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Auriemma	- Aye

- * 4. **Readington Trail Association Annual Trail Pace** – request to hold event on Township property (October 21, 2012)

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

Thomas Auriemma

Mayor Auriemma reported that the Recycling Program, which has been in effect since March, is doing extremely well; the number of visits, in addition to the amount of recycling, has dropped significantly and requested that the Committee consider having the Recycling Center open only two Saturdays a month. The Committee briefly discussed the impact of scheduling alternating weekends at the recycling center. Administrator Mekovetz stated there are several other issues to be addressed, other than just hours and requested to having this discussion continued at another meeting.

Mayor Auriemma reported that on October 10th Jersey Central Power and Light will be holding a meeting at the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. to discuss how they provide power and improved changes to their engineering for the Township's power. Mrs. Fort requested that a sign board or something similar be placed in front of the municipal building to advertise this meeting.

Julia Allen

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

Betty Ann Fort

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

Beatrice Muir

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

There were none.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to return to Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Mr. Gatti returned to the meeting.

The Committee returned to Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

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 Police Department.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will be confidential

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 Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

Executive Session:

Personnel / Police Department

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

As there was no further business, A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti at 10:07 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Muir with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Municipal Clerk