

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – February 21, 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>
Award of Lake Cushetunk Pump..... Station Upgrade Bid	Contract Negotiations.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will be confidential
Bergold / Block 52.01, Lot 22.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
404 Dove Cote Court..... Goyo-Shields	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Block 55, Lot 13.24 (Tsai).....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Developers Agreement / Homeowners Association Documents / Ridge Road Realty / Block 38, Lots 54, 74 & 75	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes..... • February 6, 2012	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
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. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

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

Executive Session:

Contract Negotiations / Award of Lake Cushetunk Pump Station Upgrade Bid

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to award the Lake Cushetunk Pump Station Upgrade bid in the amount of \$65,225 to Pumping Services, Inc., seconded by Mrs. Muir and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations / Bergold / Block 52.01, Lot 22

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / 404 Dove Cote Court / Goyo-Shields

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Block 55, Lot 13.24 (Tsai)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve authorizing a reply letter not to purchase the land owners interest and the land within the right of way, seconded Mrs. Muir and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations / Developers Agreement / Homeowners Association Documents / Ridge Road Realty / Block 38, Lots 54.11, 54.12 and 54.02

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Developers Agreement and Homeowners Association documents, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / February 6, 2012

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 6, 2012 for content only, seconded by Mr. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded. Mrs. Fort abstained since she was not present at that meeting.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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.

- * 1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of February 6, 2012
- * 2. **Tax Lien Redemption**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 95, Lot 1.01 and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to refund to the lienholder the redemption amount.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$128,800.26, plus a premium paid in the amount of \$13,000.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate #621, to the lienholder, Tad J. Dabrowski.

- * 3. **Division of Land Use Regulation Application Form** – Stream Bank Stabilization Project

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2012-40

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is a need to stabilize the bank to an unnamed tributary to the South Branch of the Rockaway Creek near an existing sewer line; and

WHEREAS, Readington Township has consented to the NJDEP Land Use Regulation Application; and

Resolution #R-2012-40 cont'd:

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington reviewed this application at its regular meeting held February 21, 2012; 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 LURP-2 form, Natural Heritage Data Request form and Bog Turtle certification for the bank stabilization to an unnamed tributary to the South Branch of the Rockaway Creek near an existing sewer line.
2. The Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of the resolution and supporting documentation to the Township Engineer for submission to the Department of Environmental Protection.

- * 4. **Release of Police Escrow** – WalMart
- * 5. **Firemen’s Membership Application** – Christine Castle
- * 6. **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	\$ 3,591.89
CURRENT FUND	2-01	\$ 345,165.87
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	2-02	\$ 102,620.84
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 17,386.91
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 163,064.45
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 147,572.87
REG. & LOCAL SCHOOL TAX	X-07	\$5,678,585.30
2010 CAPITAL	X-10	\$ 21,662.87
2011 CAPITAL	X-11	<u>\$ 6,621.52</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$6,486,272.52

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

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTY KNOWN AS 404 DOVE COTE COURT IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Ordinance #01-2012

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTY KNOWN AS 404 DOVE COTE COURT IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Ordinance #01-2012

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

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

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS EASEMENT ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 94, LOT 17 TO THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

ORDINANCE #02-2012

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

Mrs. Allen stated that this property on Summer Road is part of the former Toll property.

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

There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS EASEMENT ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 94, LOT 17 TO THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

ORDINANCE #02-2012

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

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

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

Clerk read by Title:

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS A .968+/- AC. PORTION OF BLOCK 74, LOT 7 (TO BECOME KNOWN AS BLOCK 74, LOT 7.03) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

ORDINANCE #03-2012

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

Mrs. Allen stated that this is a portion of the State Wildlife Management area that has a historic house on it which the State had purchased from Readington Township in order to preserve it and the agreement stated that Readington would take ownership of this house; therefore the Township is moving forward with this to utilize county grants to restore the house.

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

David Simpson, 651 Route 523, spoke against the ordinance due to the cost involved in renovating and maintaining the house and would rather see some of the current projects, such as the Lomar house, be completed first.

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

Clerk read by Title:

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS A .968+/- AC. PORTION OF BLOCK 74, LOT 7 (TO BECOME KNOWN AS BLOCK 74, LOT 7.03) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

ORDINANCE #03-2012

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

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

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN ACCESS EASEMENT ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS A PORTION OF BLOCK 39, LOT 49 AND BLOCK 40, LOT 2 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PURPOSES

ORDINANCE #04-2012

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

There were none.

Mayor Auriemma 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 Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN ACCESS EASEMENT ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS A PORTION OF BLOCK 39, LOT 49 AND BLOCK 40, LOT 2 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PURPOSES

ORDINANCE #04-2012

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

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

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE VACATION OF PORTIONS OF SOPHIE STREET IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PREVIOUSLY DEDICATED FOR PUBLIC ROADWAY PURPOSES

ORDINANCE #05-2012

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

There were none.

Mayor Auriemma 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 Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE VACATION OF PORTIONS OF SOPHIE STREET IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PREVIOUSLY DEDICATED FOR PUBLIC ROADWAY PURPOSES

ORDINANCE #05-2012

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

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN SIGHT EASEMENTS ON BLOCK 36, PORTIONS OF LOT 47 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM WHITEHOUSE MANAGEMENT, LLC

ORDINANCE #06-2012

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN SIGHT EASEMENTS ON BLOCK 36, PORTIONS OF LOT 47 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM WHITEHOUSE MANAGEMENT, LLC

ORDINANCE #06-2012

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

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

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN SIGHT EASEMENTS ON BLOCK 36, A PORTION OF LOT 48 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM THE FARM PROPERTY, LLC

ORDINANCE #07-2012

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

There were none.

Mayor Auriemma 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 Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN SIGHT EASEMENTS ON BLOCK 36, A PORTION OF LOT 48 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM THE FARM PROPERTY, LLC

ORDINANCE #07-2012

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

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

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

Mrs. Allen recused herself from the consideration of passage of this ordinance.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT ON A PORTION OF BLOCK 66, LOT 24 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE #08-2012

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

Mrs. Muir stated that she felt this was a very nice thing to do to connect the open space trails.

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

A resident agreed with Mrs. Muir's comment.

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT ON A PORTION OF BLOCK 66, LOT 24 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE #08-2012

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

Mrs. Allen	- Recused
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Auriemma	- Aye

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Notice from Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso LLC regarding ***An Application Of 21 County Line Road, LLC & Precision Graphics, Inc. for Variance Approval and Preliminary and Final Site Plan Approvals to Permit the Installation of a Solar Panel Canopy.*** No action taken.
2. Resolution from Catherine M. Miller, Municipal Clerk, Holland Township regarding ***The Need to Perform More Intensive Cutting of Vegetation, Trees and Branches Above Utility Lines.*** No Action taken.
3. Letter dated February 9, 2012 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, regarding ***Resolution to rescind the fixed weight limit on County Bridge RQ-164 located on Rockafellows Mill Road.*** No action taken.
4. Letter dated February 8, 2012 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholder, regarding ***No Stopping or Standing along County Route 523 (Main Street, Readington Township).*** No action taken.
5. Letter from James Weinstein, Executive Director, NJ Transit Corporation, regarding ***Fiscal Year 2012 Request for Federal Financial Assistance.*** No action taken.
6. Letter dated February 9, 2012 from Donna J. Burham, Township Clerk, Township of Clinton, regarding ***An Ordinance Supplementing and Amending Chapter 165 Entitled "Land Use Regulations of The Code of the Township of Clinton, 2003, as heretofore Supplemented and Amended, is hereby further Supplemented and Amended to Revise the Sign Regulations of the Township of Clinton Pertaining to Temporary Signs.*** No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank***

Mr. Gatti stated that this is an ordinance that needs to be adopted prior to the introduction of the budget, not to necessarily to exceed the cap; however allows the Township the ability to bank up to 3.5%.

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

**CALENDAR YEAR 2012
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

ORDINANCE #11-2012

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington in the County of Hunterdon finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2012 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby determines that a 3.5 % increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 454,503.00 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2012 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Readington shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$ 454,503.00, and that the CY 2012 municipal budget for the Township of Readington be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

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

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

The Public Hearing was scheduled for March 19, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

2. ***Board of Adjustment Vacancy***

Mrs. Fort stated that a full vacancy seat has been created on the Board of Adjustment by her resignation and recommended filling the vacancy with an alternate position.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to appoint Meredith Goodwin from alternate to a full member to complete Mrs. Fort's term to expire 12/31/14, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

* 3. ***Division of Land Use Regulation Application Form*** – Stream Bank Stabilization Project

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

* 4. ***Release of Police Escrow*** – WalMart

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

* 5. ***Firemen's Membership Application*** – Christine Castle

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz stated that at the last meeting the Committee had introduced an ordinance by recommendation of the Tax Collector for a fee for redemption calculation. Administrator Mekovetz stated that after Attorney Dragan had reviewed the recommended format with the Tax Collector it was decided to continue to research other sample ordinances and requested that the Committee consider rescinding the introduced ordinance.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort to rescinded *Ordinance #10-2012*, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan reported that she had followed up with the attorney for Anderson House and he will be attending a future meeting to address the questions the Committee had and she also provided a letter to the Committee regarding the inspection of the property by Zoning Officer, John Barczyk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Thomas Auriemma

Mayor Auriemma stated that he had nothing further to report.

Julia Allen

Mrs. Allen stated that there is a concern that the Hunterdon County Freeholders may be reducing the County Planning Board staff to two people and will no longer be a separate entity which will negatively impact the Cultural and Heritage Commission and also the Farmland Preservation Program. Mrs. Fort stated that she and Mrs. Allen have drafted a letter and requested that the Committee consider sending a letter to the Freeholders.

Mrs. Fort read the letter for the record:

Dear Director Walton and Hunterdon County Freeholders:

In this climate of economic difficulty, the Freeholder Board has been an enthusiastic promoter of Shared Services as a way to save money. Readington Township, along with other boroughs and municipalities, is pleased with having the County assume this important leadership role and is looking forward to meaningful progress toward a very appropriate goal.

In this context, the Readington Township Committee was surprised and very concerned to learn of your plan to do away with the Hunterdon County Planning Department. While this might save some money for the county, this just means that individual municipalities will have to spend more and be left with fewer services. The County Planning Department has led the move to Regional Planning as could be seen in its work with Cross-Acceptance of the State Plan and more recently, with the Wastewater Management Plan and mapping of Sewer Service Areas. Their informative Breakfast Meetings with municipal leaders on topics such as COAH and the Date of Decision law have kept everyone informed on current legislation. The day-to-day work of the full staff of the Farmland Preservation Program is no less than essential to this important program's future in our County. Equally as important to the very fabric of Hunterdon County's lifestyle is the work of the Cultural and Heritage Commission, whose existence is dependent on having supportive staff within the County Planning Board office.

In this case, your attempt at cost-cutting by removing a successful Shared Service will result in greater cost for the municipalities as well as the loss of valuable resources and the demise of both the Cultural and Heritage Commission, and the Farmland Preservation Program. The Township Committee of Readington Township respectfully requests that the Freeholders delay this decision and broaden the discussion of how best to cost effectively provide these important shared services to the twenty-six boroughs and municipalities in our County of Hunterdon.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to send this letter to the Board of Chosen Freeholders and all twenty-six Hunterdon County municipalities, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Betty Ann Fort

Mrs. Fort reported that she had met with Administrator Mekovetz and Scott Jesseman and is looking forward to meeting with Historic Preservation and the Municipal Court.

Frank Gatti

Mr. Gatti reported that a letter dated February 6th was received from Harold Bush regarding his evacuation from the tree stand on Round Mountain and commended Patrolman Ferreiro and Rindock, along with the many other rescue responders, for their efforts in rescuing him.

Beatrice Muir

Mrs. Muir also expressed concern over the Board of Chosen Freeholders in their desire to cut costs regarding the Board of Health and further stated that the State Department of Environmental Protection mandates that there has to be a County Board of Health under which under the local Board of Health operates.

Mrs. Muir reported that a rabies clinic was held in Readington a few weeks ago and reminded everyone that residents may attend any of the various rabies clinics throughout Hunterdon County.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Greg Raymond, Foothill Road, commented on referenced letters regarding risks and hazardous conditions on Foothill Road.

Wayne Burella, Foothill Road, reiterated the Mr. Raymond's concerns of safety on Foothill Road.

Frank Stanziola, 122 Foothill Road, commented that the road material that is currently being used for the road is different and turns to mud when it rains, clogging the existing drains and asked the Committee to clarify the process of funding a road paving.

Steve Spalatro, 18 Foothill Road, commented that every time it rains a grater is run down the road and the road never sets up but merely gets higher.

David Simpson, 651 County Road 523 questioned whether road improvements would raise a resident's property taxes.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

There were none.

As there was no further business, ***A MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort at 9:25 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