

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – May 7, 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, Engineer R. O'Brien

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>
PBA Local No. 317.....	Contract Negotiations.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will be confidential
Maintenance Agreement..... Beekman Homestead Farm	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Grant Agreement SADC /..... Peters Farm (Block 39, Lot 49, Block 40, Lot 2)	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
2012-13 Hunting Properties.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Hunterdon Hills Animal Hospital	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes..... • April 16, 2012	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
388 Route 22 Readington Realty....	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 7:35 p.m.

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

Executive Session:

Contract Negotiations / PBA Local No. 317

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter remains in Executive Session

Contract Negotiations / Maintenance Agreement / Beekman Homestead Farm / Block 57, Lot 2

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to approve the form of the Maintenance Agreement, 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

Contract Negotiations / Grant Agreement SADC / Peters Farm / Block 39, Lot 49, Block 40, Lot 2

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Grant Agreement with the SADC, 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

Contract Negotiations / 2012-13 Hunting Properties

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the proposed list of hunting properties for the 2012-13 Season, 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

Attorney-Client Privilege/ Hunterdon Hills Animal Hospital

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to authorize Attorney Dragan to respond to this appeal, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded. Mrs. Fort recused herself from the vote.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / April 16, 2012

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 16, 2012 for content only, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

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

Mayor Auriemma 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 Auriemma stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS / POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Auriemma presented Sgt. Joseph Greco, Detective Alex Hoofatt, Detective Pat Gooley and Detective Will Federico with Exceptional Service Awards for their outstanding investigative efforts and dedication in apprehending burglar suspects operating throughout Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren counties.

2012 BUDGET FOR READINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mayor Auriemma stated that the Readington Board of Education worked diligently on their 2012 Budget and after careful review the Township Committee decided not to amend their budget.

Mr. Gatti stated that it was very bold of the Board of Education to not move the elections to November, allowing the resident's the right to vote on the school budget and was in support of not reducing their budget.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2012-59

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION FOR BUDGET FAILURE REDUCTIONS***

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education submitted the 2012-2013 budget to the legal voters of Readington Township on April 17, 2012 for approval, and

WHEREAS, the budget was defeated at the polls by 25 votes, and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education met with representatives of the Readington Township Committee to review the budget on May 3, 2012, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

(1) That the Readington Township Committee in cooperation with the Board of Education hereby certifies the tax levy for the General Fund of 2012-13 Readington Township Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$26,586,701.

Resolution #R-2012-59 cont'd:

(2) The Clerk of the Township of Readington is directed to provide a certified copy of this resolution by no later than May 21, 2012 to the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools, the Readington Township School District Board of Education and to such other parties as required by law to receive copies.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to adopt this resolution, 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

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 April 16, 2012

- * 2. **2011 Tonnage Grant Application**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2012-60

2011 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs, and to continue and expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, the recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2011 Recycling Tonnage Grant will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and indicate the assent of the Township Committee of the Township of Readington to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

Resolution #R-2012-60 cont'd:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Director of Public Works/Municipal Recycling Coordinator Scott Jesseman to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

* 3. **Tax Identification Statement for Tonnage Grant**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2012-61

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
TAX IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Recycling Enhancement Act, P.L. 2007, chapter 311, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage a local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, there is levied upon the owner or operator of every solid waste facility (with certain exceptions) a recycling tax of \$3.00 per ton on all solid waste accepted for disposal or transfer at the solid waste facility.

WHEREAS, whenever a municipality operates a municipal service system for solid waste collection, or provides for regular solid waste collection service under a contract awarded pursuant to the “Local Public Contracts Law”, the amount of grant monies received by the municipality shall not be less than the annual amount of recycling tax paid by the municipality except that all grant monies received by the municipality shall be expended only for its recycling program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Readington that the Township of Readington hereby certifies a submission of expenditure for taxes paid pursuant to P.L. 2007, chapter 311, in 2011 in the amount of \$22,203.27. Documentation supporting this submission is available at Municipal Building, 509 Route 523, Whitehouse Station, 08889 and shall be maintained for no less than five years from the date.

* 4. **Deed to State Regulated Property with Covenants Restricting Conveyance and Mortgage Debt** (137 Buttercup Court, Block 34, Lot 36.137)

* 5. **Designation of a Public Agency Compliance Officer**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2012-62

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
 RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey requires the designation of a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby appoints Vita Mekovetz, as the authorized Public Agency Compliance Officer to sign any documents necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

- * 6. **American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure** – letter dated April 18, 2012 From Taran Connelly requesting permission to use Township roads
- * 7. **5th Annual Buckman Sprint Distance Triathlon** – letter from Joseph Patanella requesting permission to use Township roads
- * 8. **Release of Funds** – Soil Witness Reimbursement / Block 13, Lot 67 (8 Carman Lane) \$200.00 / Carman
- * 9. **Refund of Permit Fees**– Over Estimated Cost of Work / Block 93, Lot 24.03 (550 Old York Road) \$1,645.00 / Niemiec
- * 10. **Release of Funds** – Traffic Duty Services Escrow / Elizabethtown Gas / \$996.37
- * 11. **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	\$ 105,786.00
CURRENT FUND	2-01	\$ 704,439.23
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	2-02	\$ 101,934.50
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 123,319.94
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$2,993,247.69
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 183,398.94
REG. & LOCAL SCHOOL TAX	X-07	\$5,678,585.28
DUE TO STATE OF NJ	X-09	\$ 4,339.44
2010 CAPITAL	X-10	\$ 6,702.64
2011 CAPITAL	X-11	\$ 2,960.10
2012 CAPITAL	X-12	\$ 7,153.30
2006 CAPITAL	X-66	\$ 2,169.72
2008 CAPITAL	X-88	<u>\$ 2,169.72</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$9,916,206.50

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

David Livingston, President of the Readington Board of Education, thanked the Committee on behalf of the Board of Education for their support and confidence in the budget and briefly explained their decision for holding the school board elections in April.

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 Amending Chapter 148 of the Land Use Ordinance of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey Pertaining to the RM-1 and ROM-2 Zones

Ordinance #14-2012

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

Greg Redington, property owner on Tannery Road, stated that he was against the ordinance in its present form and expressed concern in the change in warehousing.

Andy Norin, attorney for Drinker, Biddle and Reath, representing Hunterdon Brewing Company, a prospective purchaser of property owned by Fimbel Door Corp, stated that he is in favor of moving forward with the ordinance.

Jim Samonic, owner of a building on the corner of Tannery Road and County Line Road, stated that he would like to see the Committee refrain from passing the ordinance for at least thirty (30) days.

Jim Reddington spoke against the ordinance and encouraged the Committee to allow warehousing.

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

Mrs. Allen recommended that Mr. Greg Redington contact Michael Sullivan, Township Planner, with his suggestions. Mrs. Fort stated that the ordinance was amended in response to several situations in town to help property owners of vacant buildings utilize them without having an impact on the zoning ordinance. A discussion took place on whether to move forward with the ordinance as is and possibly clean it up further through amendments at a later date. Mrs. Fort proposed moving forward with the understanding that it be reviewed by the Ordinance Review Subcommittee and Planning Board to re-evaluate the warehousing use.

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 Amending Chapter 148 of the Land Use Ordinance of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey Pertaining to the ROM-1 and ROM-2 Zones

Ordinance #14-2012

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to adopt the ordinance and, as Chair of the Ordinance Review Subcommittee, pledge that the warehousing use will be revisited quickly and thoroughly as a result of the concern of the public who had voiced their concerns to address the warehousing matter, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Nay
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 Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements of the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, Appropriating the Aggregate Amount of \$1,171,400 therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,112,830 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost thereof

Ordinance #15-2012

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.

Wayne Borella, Foothill Road, commented that although he was pleased that the Committee is considering capital improvements for the drainage on Foothill Road he wanted to re-emphasize that he still wants the road paved.

Charles Gyscek, Somerset Street, questioned whether older equipment is dispositioned in any way to reclaim some of the costs.

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:

Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements of the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, Appropriating the Aggregate Amount of \$1,171,400 therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,112,830 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost thereof

Ordinance #15-2012

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

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Resolution from Colleen Eckert, Municipal Clerk, Township of Bordentown regarding ***Opposing Senate Bills 1451 and 1452 (Amendments to the OPRA Law)***.

Administrator Mekovetz requested that the Committee consider passing a similar resolution. Mrs. Allen stated that the Open Public Records and Open Public Meetings Act currently in place are working well and to expand on them would be very expensive for municipalities.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2012-63

Resolution Opposing Senate Bills 1451 and 1452

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced to reform and modernize both the Open Public Meetings Act (S-1451) and the Open Public Records Act (S-1452); and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Readington agrees with and supports the statement that “the right of the public to be present at all meetings of public bodies, and to witness in full detail all phases of the deliberation, policy formulation, and decision making of public bodies, is vital to the enhancement and proper functioning of the democratic process”; and

WHEREAS, the changes, however, proposed in S-1451 will not only be a cost driver for local and State government but make government less effective; and

WHEREAS, S-1451 includes a number of proposed requirements which involve costly unfunded mandates, impractical requirements and impediments to the democratic process, including the following:

- A new definition of subcommittees that expands subcommittees to be overly inclusive so that, for example, even research projects assigned to one member of a public body could be covered; and
- A new requirement that all subcommittees meetings include notice of their meeting and the preparation of minutes, which would, among other things, necessitate additional administrative support for all meetings of subcommittees as well as increased legal advertising cost; and
- A new requirement that agendas provide a description of all agenda items, including the names of parties to and approximate dollar amounts of any contracts to be acted upon, which will delay the award of contracts and could lead to the loss of grant monies; and
- A new requirement that the governing body may discuss, but not act upon, an item brought up by a citizen at a public meeting if it was not published as an agenda item, that not only runs contrary to the time honored tradition of holding a public meeting for the very purpose of soliciting such input and acting upon it but is impractical, ineffective and unnecessarily inhibits the operations of municipal government; and
- A new requirement for advance notification of estimated start times for the public portion of the meeting and the portion of the meeting from which the public is to be excluded that is unworkable and disruptive; and

Resolution #R-2012-63 cont'd:

- A new requirement that recordings of meetings become a part of the minutes that renders the recordings a permanent municipal record and is not only counter to the already-established records retention schedule of Division of Archive and Records Management for such records but which will be costly to preserve the records to ensure that they are permanent; and
- A new requirement that electronic communications, such as e-mails and text messages, concerning public business among an effective majority of the members that occurred prior to a meeting become part of the minutes and renders the recordings a permanent municipal record, is unworkable and unmanageable as the technology does not always exist to make “hard copies” or digital copies of text messages and the records custodian does not always have access to them, and which is an unprecedented expansion of the meeting concept; and
- A new requirement that public bodies be permitted to exclude the public from discussion of personnel matters only with the written consent of the employee and potentially affected employees which will inhibit the public bodies’ ability to take necessary actions on personnel matters and could lead to costly litigation; and
- A new requirement that comprehensive minutes that must include each member’s stated reason for their actions or vote, the identity of each member of the public who spoke, and summary of what was said, be made available to the public as soon as possible but no later than 45 days after the meeting that will not only be costly but the historical value of minutes will be lost in order to meet an arbitrary deadline; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Readington agrees that government records should be readily accessible and transparent but there must be an appropriate balance between the need for openness and transparency in government and citizens’ reasonable expectation of privacy; and

WHEREAS, among the costly unfunded mandates and impractical new requirements of S-1452 are the following:

- The expansion of the definition of government record to include records that are required by law to be made, maintained or kept on file by any public agency that will lead to a records custodians to be in violation of OPRA for the non-existence of a government records created before their tenure with the public body; and
- The creation of a definition for “advisory, consultative or deliberative” material that may be contrary to the well established definition in case law leading to costly litigation; and
- The expanding of the definition of government record to include electronic communications, such as e-mails and text messages, concerning public business among an effective majority of the members that occurred prior to a meeting that is unworkable and unmanageable as the technology does not always exist to make “hard copies” or digital copies of text messages, the records custodian does not always have access to the electronic communications and certain cell phone carriers will not provide this information without a subpoena; and
- The inclusion of a subjective definition for “reasonable” that may be contrary to the well established definition in case law leading to costly litigation; and
- A new requirement that any video or audio recordings or public meetings should be available in unedited form will be in direct violation of the Open Public Meetings Act requirement that requires the redacting of discussions in closed session until the matter can legally be released; and

Resolution #R-2012-63 cont'd:

- A new requirement on how to handle redactions and special services fees is time consuming and costly, especially considering that the Government Records Council has already addressed these procedures in their Custodians' Toolkit, which should be codified; and
- A provision that permits the records custodian to advise a requestor that a government record is readily available on the public agency's website; however, the bill requires the records custodian to directly provide the records to the requestor if they do not have access to a computer but does not define what is meant by "access to a computer"; and
- A new costly requirement that when there is a special service charge the requestor must be provided, at no cost, an index generally describing the responsive government records to be provided and to the greatest extent possible the index shall include the name of each record or brief description of the record or general categories of records, a detailed breakdown of how the special charges were assessed and if records are exempt or redacted, the records custodian must provide a description of those records; and
- A provision that prohibits the assessment of a special service charge for requests for budgets, bills, vouchers, contracts and public employee salaries and overtime unless the request is deemed voluminous, which is undefined and subjective; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of S-1451 and S-1452 place financial, time, manpower and other burdens on municipalities at a time when municipalities are forced to layoff municipal employees, impose furloughs and reduce departmental budgets so that municipalities can meet the strict CAP requirements with decreased revenues and increasing operating expense; and

WHEREAS, the totality of the new requirements of S-1451 and S-1452 will be a significant cost driver for local and State government with no known appropriation contemplated or any alternate means to offset these costs, such a reasonable increase in fees; and

WHEREAS, while the governing body of the Township of Readington strives for and agrees that open and transparent government is essential to the democratic process, the provisions of S-1451 and S-1452 will make government inefficient;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, and State of New Jersey for reasons stated above, does hereby oppose S-1451 and S-1452, as currently drafted, and strongly urges the State Senate and Assembly to oppose these bills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this duly adopted resolution be forwarded to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Senator Loretta Weinberg, Senator Barbara Buono, Senator Shirley Turner, Assembly Speaker Shelia Oliver, Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, the legislators of the 16th State Legislative District, Governor Chris Christie, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey.

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

2. Memorandum dated April 13, 2012 from Jamie Sunyak, Township Planner, Township of Readington regarding **Proposed Amendment to the Township Master Plan**. No action taken.
3. Memorandum dated April 17, 2012 from Rose Sollena, Township of Raritan regarding **Resolution Supporting Governor Christie's Proposal to Create Veterans Haven North Facility in Hunterdon County**. No action taken.

4. Notice to Public Service Electric and Gas Company Customers from Martin Rothfelder, Esq., Associate General Regulatory Counsel regarding ***Matter of Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of Electric and Gas Base Rate Adjustments Pursuant to Capital Infrastructure Investment Program Extension and for Changes in the Tariffs for Electric and Gas Service, B.P.U.N.J. No. 15 Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-23 and 48:2-21.*** No action taken.
5. Letter dated April 18, 2012 from Don Purdy, Mayor, Township of Galloway regarding ***Support of the Jessica Lunsford Act.*** No action taken.
6. Memorandum dated April 17, 2012 from Rose Sollena, Municipal Clerk, Township of Raritan regarding ***Resolution in Support of the Restoration of the PARIS Grant Program.*** No action taken.
7. Letter dated April 19, 2012 from Shana Goodchild, Land Use Administrator, Township of Tewksbury regarding ***Resolution Memorializing Approval of the 2012 Periodic Reexamination Report of the Master Plan and Development Regulations.*** No action taken.
8. Letter dated April 25, 2012 from Laurie Gompf, Township of Hopewell regarding ***A Resolution Calling on the State Legislature and the Governor to Restore Municipal Energy Tax Receipts.*** No action taken.
9. Memorandum dated April 26, 2012 from Roberta Brassard, Municipal Clerk, Township of Tewksbury regarding ***An Ordinance of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, to Amend, Revise and Supplement Article V of the Tewksbury Township Development Regulations Ordinance by Including a New Section 519 Entitled Applications for Development in the Highlands.*** No action taken.
10. Memorandum dated May 2, 2012 from Mary McConnell, Township Clerk, Township of Kingwood regarding ***Resolutions Opposing Forest Harvest on State Lands, Urging Restoration of Funding to Paris Grants Program, and Opposition to A1338 & S743 Extending and Expanding Permit Extension Act of 2008.*** No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***2012 Budget*** - introduction

Mayor Auriemma stated that for 2011 the budget was \$17,158,114 and the proposed budget for 2012 is \$17,713,348, representing a .01¢ increase from .43¢ to .44¢. Mayor Auriemma continued that this also represents a tax rate increase of 2.3% and a tax budget increase of 3.2%; however the important thing to realize is the tax levy increase is 0.7% which represents approximately \$85,000.

Mr. Gatti stated that based on the average home value of \$367,300 this would represent a \$36 increase. Mr. Gatti further stated that over the last two years the township has dropped its rateables by approximately 5.5%. Mr. Gatti commended Administrator Mekovetz and Tom Carro for holding down expenses in the Township.

Mrs. Allen stated that last year our tax levy dropped a little of over \$300,000 from the prior year and this year it increased by \$85,000, so essentially the tax levy has been staying flat but what has been changing is the value of the assessments.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to introduce the 2012 Municipal Budget, 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 June 4, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

2. ***An Ordinance Amending the Code of the Township of Readington, to Create a Comprehensive Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance***

Engineer O'Brien stated that the proposed ordinance was created to compile all the traffic regulations into one ordinance. The Committee discussed the purpose of the ordinance and which roads were to be included. Mayor Auriemma suggested researching the ordinance more thoroughly and deferring it to another meeting.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Muir to defer the ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

3. ***Request for Sewer Service Area Revision for Readington Holdings, Whitehouse Plaza / Block 14, Lot 49 (3576 Route 22) - memorandum from Linda Jacukowicz, Planning Coordinator***

Engineer O'Brien stated that the intent of WalMart is to expand their on-site treatment area in the event that if they ever wanted to expand the building footprint they could do that. Mrs. Allen stated that they are asking for the Township's support in the change of the sewer service area. Attorney Dragan advised that it should be clear that this is not an allocation for sewer and the wording needs to be more specific.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Muir to defer this requested until more specific language is received, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

4. ***Request to Hang Banner Over Intersection of 523 and Kline Boulevard-*** Email dated April 23, 2012 from Rob Nonni, President of Readington Community Theater

Mayor Auriemma stated that Mr. Nonni coordinated the efforts to hang the banner for the Memorial Day Parade Banner as well as this banner if permission has been granted for this request.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the request to hang the banner both banners, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

* 5. ***2011 Tonnage Grant Application*** – resolution

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

* 6. ***Tax Identification Statement for Tonnage Grant*** – resolution

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

* 7. ***Deed to State Regulated Property with Covenants Restricting Conveyance and Mortgage Debt*** (137 Buttercup Court, Block 34, Lot 36.137)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 8. ***Designation of a Public Agency Compliance Officer*** – resolution

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 9. ***American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure*** – letter dated April 18, 2012
From Taran Connelly requesting permission to use Township roads

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 10. ***5th Annual Buckman Sprint Distance Triathlon*** – letter from Joseph Patanella
requesting permission to use Township roads

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 11. ***Release of Funds*** – Soil Witness Reimbursement / Block 13, Lot 67 (8 Carman
Lane) \$200.00 / Carman

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 12. ***Refund of Permit Fees***– Over Estimated Cost of Work / Block 93, Lot 24.03
(550 Old York Road) \$1,645.00 / Niemiec

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 13. ***Release of Funds*** – Traffic Duty Services Escrow / Elizabethtown Gas / \$996.37

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.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer O'Brien asked the Committee for further direction on the Sophie Street Pedestrian Walkway. Several Committee members discussed visiting the site and Mrs. Fort requested that Engineer O'Brien provide a map so that they would be able to see what they are reviewing.

Engineer O'Brien reported that the Road Reclamation 2012 will be advertised this week.

Engineer O'Brien reported that a letter was received from the NJDOT requesting verification from the police that they were aware of the Memorial Day Parade and responsible for trafficking the intersection at Route 22.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Thomas Auriemma

Mayor Auriemma stated that he had nothing further to report.

Julia Allen

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

Betty Ann Fort

Mrs. Fort reported that there will be a barn dance on May 19th at the Bouman Stickney and the 5th grade school program will be starting next Monday.

Mrs. Fort also reported the Department of Public Works will begin work on the sidewalks and trees on Main Street this week.

Frank Gatti

Mr. Gatti reported that the Police Department will be receiving another \$17,000 in forfeited funds which can be used towards the purchase of new cameras for the patrol cars.

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.

As there was no further business, ***A MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort at 9:40 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gatti with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/RPPO
Municipal Clerk