

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – February 19, 2013**

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

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, THERFORE, 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>
Readington Library.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight...other information will remain confidential
Whitehouse Rescue Ambulance ... Repair	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Hunting.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Professional Services Wolff & Samson (Special Counsel)	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Fleck (Block 4, Lot 94).....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Maintenance Agreement..... Profeta(Block 75 Lot 19)	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
• February 4, 2013		

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. Fort to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

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

Executive Session:

Personnel / Library

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort to accept the resignation of Patricia Monroe from the Readington Library, effective February 22, 2013, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort to hire Diane Romano for a part time position at the Readington Library at a rate of \$12/hour for ten (10) hours a week, effective February 25, 2013, seconded by Mrs. Muir and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations / Whitehouse Rescue Ambulance Repair

A MOTION was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Agreement with Whitehouse Rescue Squad, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations / Hunting

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Muir to authorize Attorney Dragan to draft an opinion letter rearding the suggestion from Paul Sikoryak relative to the hunting bid process, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Wolff & Samson (Special Counsel)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-35

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
LEGAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Legal Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-8, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Wolff & Samson PC has submitted a proposal indicating they will represent the Township, under the direction of the Township Committee, in matters pertaining to the potential acquisition of Solberg Airport; and will perform all usual and customary legal services incident to such representation, and take ordinary measures required for the acquisition of this site, whether voluntary or otherwise, at a rate of \$335 per hour for Partners and \$285 per hour for Associates, not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/ adopted budget. In addition, Wolff & Samson PC shall retain all vendors or consultants necessary for such acquisition and shall pay all invoices and will be reimbursed for payments made upon submission of receipts.

WHEREAS, Wolff & Samson PC has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Wolff & Samson PC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Wolff & Samson PC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file - *N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2013 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Wolff & Samson PC as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

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

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

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

Contract Negotiations / Fleck (Block 4, Lot 94)

Mayor Allen stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Maintenance Agreement / Profeta (Block 75, Lot 19)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to extend the Maintenance Agreement for one (1) year, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / February 4, 2013

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 4, 2013 for content only, seconded by Mrs. Muir 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 Allen stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Allen 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 4, 2013
- * 2. ***Request to Hold Annual Whitehouse Rescue Squad Coin Toss Fundraiser***
(April 5th, 6th / Rain Date: April 12th, 13th)
(September 13th, 14th / Rain Date: September 27th, 28th)
- * 3. ***Request to Hold Annual Whitehouse Fire Company No. 1 Coin Toss Fundraiser***
(June 7th, 8th / Rain Date: June 14th, 15th)
- * 4. ***Somerset Wheelman Annual Readington Time Trail Event*** – permission to conduct time trial cycling event April 13, 2013
- * 5. ***Report on Variance Applications (2012)***

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON**

REPORT OF VARIANCE APPLICATIONS (2012)

WHEREAS, the Board of Adjustment of Readington Township, pursuant to 40:55D-70.1, has undertaken annual review of its decisions on applications and appeals for variances; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to set forth by Resolution its findings on zoning ordinance provisions which were the subject of variance requests and its recommendations for zoning ordinance amendments or revisions; and

Resolution of the Board of Adjustment cont'd:

WHEREAS, the Board directs its staff to forward copies of the report and Resolution to the Governing Body and Planning Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Adjustment of Readington Township as follows:

The following is a list of variances granted:

RESOLUTION	BLOCK	LOT	TYPE OF APP.	DATE MEMORIALIZED
Report of Variance				
Precision Graphics	39	58.01	Variance	March 19, 2012
Winfield Management	8	3	Amended Resolution	May 17, 2012
25 Ridge Road	38	52	denial	September 20, 2012
Quality Auto	39	53.19	Variance	October 23, 2012
Todd Sherry	4	13	Variance	December 11, 2012

- * 6. **Release of Board of Health Escrow** (Lori Potter / Block 8, Lot 38.31)
- * 7. **Resolution to Release the Original Title to the 2006 Ambulance to VCI (Whitehouse Rescue Squad)**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-36

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
 RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Readington Township holds title to a 2006 ambulance Vin # 1FDXE45P96HA37373, utilized the Whitehouse Rescue Squad (“Squad”), and

WHEREAS, the Squad advises that the Ford 6.0 liter power-stroke diesel has not stood up to the demands of ambulance use, and

WHEREAS, the Squad has contracted with VCI Emergency Vehicle Specialists (“VCI”) in February of 2013, a copy of which is on file in the Municipal Clerk’s office, to move the existing ambulance package over to a new chassis, with safety upgrades such as high visibility “chevron” reflective tape over the entire rear of the vehicle, and

WHEREAS, the new chassis has been delivered to VCI, 43 Jefferson Avenue, Berlin, NJ 08009 and the Squad intends to deliver the ambulance on or about March 5, 2013, and

WHEREAS, the process requires Readington Township to turn over the title it holds for the old chassis/ambulance to VCI when the work is completed on the new ambulance, so the old chassis can be disposed of at the conclusion of the project, and

WHEREAS, when the work is completed, it is understood that VCI will issue a new title to Readington Township for the new chassis/ambulance module.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, Hunterdon County does hereby agree to release the original title to the 2006 ambulance Vin #1FDXE45P96HA37373 to VCI when the work is completed on the new ambulance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Readington Township will accept the title for the new chassis when the work is complete on this ambulance and will arrange for the insurance coverage under the Township’s fleet policy for the new chassis/ambulance.

* 8. ***Resolution to Appoint Joel Kerwin as Emergency Management Coordinator***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-37

***TOWNSHIP OF RESOLUTION
READINGTON TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON***

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington is currently in need of an Emergency Management Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, *Joel Kerwin* is qualified for this position;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Readington to appoint *Joel Kerwin* to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator for a three year term beginning January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015.

* 9. ***Resolution to Appoint Sebastian Donaruma as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-38

***TOWNSHIP OF RESOLUTION
READINGTON TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON***

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington is currently in need of an Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, *Sebastian Donaruma* is qualified for this position;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Readington to appoint *Sebastian Donaruma* to the position of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for a one year term beginning January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

* 10. ***Resolution to Appoint BJ Apgar as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-39

***TOWNSHIP OF RESOLUTION
READINGTON TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON***

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington is currently in need of an Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, *BJ Apgar* is qualified for this position;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Readington to appoint *BJ Apgar* to the position of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for a one year term beginning January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

- * 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	2-01	\$ 14,012.45
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	2-02	\$ 19,399.62
CURRENT FUND	3-01	\$ 815,096.23
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	3-02	\$ 19,860.26
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$33,308,118.13
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 519,378.15
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 186,652.76
	X-12	<u>\$ 197,280.50</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$35,079,798.10

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

- Mr. Auriemma - Aye
- Mrs. Fort - Aye
- Mr. Gatti - Aye
- Mrs. Muir - Aye
- Mayor Allen - 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 Mr. Gatti to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Authorizing a Licensing Agreement Between the Township of Readington and Sunesys, LLC to Permit the Installation, Use and Maintenance of Telecommunications Facilities within Certain Public Rights-of-Way for the Purpose of Providing Telecommunication Services

◆ **Ordinance #01-2013**

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

There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Authorizing a Licensing Agreement Between the Township of Readington and Sunesys, LLC to Permit the Installation, Use and Maintenance of Telecommunications Facilities within Certain Public Rights-of-Way for the Purpose of Providing Telecommunication Services

◆ **Ordinance #01-2013**

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

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort 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 a Licensing Agreement Between the Township of Readington and United Federal Data, LLC to Permit the Installation, Use and Maintenance of Telecommunications Facilities within Certain Public Rights-of-Way for the Purpose of Providing Telecommunication Services

◆ **Ordinance #02-2013**

Mayor Allen asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mrs. Muir questioned the progression of the route and time frame that this company would be following.

Anthony Ulacco, representative from UFD, explained that the prescribed route was designated in the plans and construction would not begin until the third quarter of this year.

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

There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Authorizing a Licensing Agreement Between the Township of Readington and United Federal Data, LLC to Permit the Installation, Use and Maintenance of Telecommunications Facilities within Certain Public Rights-of-Way for the Purpose of Providing Telecommunication Services

◆ **Ordinance #02-2013**

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

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort 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 to Provide for the Acceptance of Certain Easements on Portions of Block 31, Lot 37 in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey from Fallone Properties, LLC

◆ ***Ordinance #03-2013***

Mayor Allen asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance to Provide for the Acceptance of Certain Easements on Portions of Block 31, Lot 37 in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey from Fallone Properties, LLC

◆ ***Ordinance #03-2013***

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

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

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort 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 Amending and Supplementing the Readington Township 2012 Salary Ordinance for Officers and Employees of the Township of Readington

◆ ***Ordinance #04-2013***

Administrator Mekovetz stated that the salary ordinance was introduced earlier this year as a result of the negotiated union contracts with increases ranging from 2%-2.75%.

Mayor Allen asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mrs. Fort praised Administrator Mekovetz and Mr. Gatti for negotiating fair contracts.

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

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing the Readington Township 2012 Salary Ordinance for Officers and Employees of the Township of Readington

◆ ***Ordinance #04-2013***

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

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

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort 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 Amending the Code of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon an State of New Jersey to Include Provisions on Disorderly Conduct

◆ ***Ordinance #05-2013***

Mayor Allen stated that this ordinance is replacing an antiquated ordinance in order for it to be more practical for enforcement.

Mayor Allen asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Amending the Code of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon an State of New Jersey to Include Provisions on Disorderly Conduct

◆ ***Ordinance #05-2013***

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Letter dated January 22, 2013 from Shana Goodchild, Land Use Administrator, Township of Tewksbury regarding ***Land Use Board Master Plan Public Hearing Land Use Element Amendment***. No action taken.

2. Resolution from William Dressel, Jr., Executive Director, NJLOM regarding ***Opposing Senate Bill 2511 Amendments to Open Public Meetings Act.***

Mrs. Fort stated that she was in favor of adopting this resolution since on occasion subcommittees are formed as working groups, required to report back to the appropriate committee or the governing body anyway, thus requiring these subcommittees to produce agendas and minutes would make it very difficult to organize these groups.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-40

RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 2511 AMENDMENTS TO OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced to reform and modernize the Open Public Meetings Act(S-2511); 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-2511 will not only be a cost driver for local and State government but make government less effective; and

WHEREAS, S-2511 includes a number of proposed requirements which involve costly unfunded mandates, impractical requirements and impediments to the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, S-2511 creates a new definition of subcommittees that expands subcommittees to be overly inclusive; and

WHEREAS, subcommittees would be required to provide public notice of subcommittee meetings, if the governing body determines them to be open; and

WHEREAS, subcommittees would be required to submit at least one report to the governing body detailing the number of meetings, names of members of the committee and a concise statement of the matters discussed. The governing body would be required to establish a schedule of when the subcommittee reports shall be filed; and

WHEREAS, subcommittees do not commit the governing body to action or expend public funds; and

WHEREAS, the requirements for subcommittees meetings would, among other things, necessitate additional administrative support for all subcommittees as well as increased legal advertising cost; and

WHEREAS, the 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, will delay the award of contracts and could lead to the loss of grant monies; and

WHEREAS, the new requirement that the governing body may act upon an item brought up by a citizen at a public meeting if it was not published as an agenda item only if: (1) there is a vote of 2/3 of the members present to proceed, (2) the municipality demonstrates that it is in the public's best interest and includes the reasons why it is in the public best interest in the minutes; is impractical, ineffective and unnecessarily inhibits the operations of municipal government and runs contrary to the time honored tradition of holding a public meeting for the very purpose of soliciting such input and acting upon it; and

Resolution #R-2013-40 cont'd:

WHEREAS, the 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

WHEREAS, the new requirement that comprehensive minutes 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 60 days after the meeting will not only be costly but the historical value of minutes will be lost in order to meet an arbitrary deadline; and

WHEREAS, the new requirement that the public be allowed to speak for a minimum of three minutes, at the start of the public meeting, without the ability of the public body to limit the length of the public comment could disrupt public meetings, lead to filibustering and prevent the governing body from conducting business; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of S-2511 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-2511 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, the provisions of S-2511 continue to exempt the Legislature from the requirements placed on municipalities; and

WHEREAS, while we appreciate Senator Weinberg's efforts to address our concerns, we must continue to oppose the amendments to the Open Public Meeting Act as the changes proposed in S-2511 will not only be a cost driver for local and State government but make government less effective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE Township of Readington for reasons stated above, does hereby oppose S-2511, as currently drafted, and strongly urges the State Senate and Assembly to oppose these bills, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the Township of Readington does hereby strongly urge the Legislature, in the interest of transparency and openness, to remove the various exceptions in the Open Public Meetings Law that apply to the Legislature. The rules that the legislation makes applicable to other governmental bodies should apply equally to all governmental levels and officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this duly adopted resolution be forwarded to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Senator Loretta Weinberg, Assembly Speaker Shelia Oliver, Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, the legislators of the Township of Readington State Legislative Districts, Governor Chris Christie, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey.

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

3. Resolution from Karen Dysart, Municipal Clerk, Borough of Milford, regarding **Support of Legislation Ensuring that the Mortgage of Property found in Disrepair or in Contravention of Both Local Ordinances and the New Jersey Building Code is to be Declare the Responsible Party in the Repair and Remediation of any Condition Violating either the New Jersey Building Code or Local Ordinance.** No action taken.

4. Letter dated February 1, 2012 from Peter Palmer, Chairman, Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, regarding ***Resolution Supporting the Implementation of One Seat Ride Service on the Raritan Valley Line.***

Mrs. Fort requested to adopt a similar resolution.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-41

***Resolution Supporting Implementation of One Seat Ride
Service on the Raritan Valley Line***

WHEREAS, all Raritan Valley Line trains currently terminate at Newark Penn Station and riders destined for midtown Manhattan and Penn Station New York must transfer trains; and

WHEREAS, the Raritan Valley Line is one of NJ TRANSIT's major rail lines, carrying almost 12,000 riders per weekday; and

WHEREAS, the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition has advocated for one seat ride service to midtown Manhattan on NJ TRANSIT's Raritan Valley Line since 1998; and

WHEREAS, NJ TRANSIT is acquiring 36 dual powered (diesel and electric) locomotives and is currently testing them in a variety of settings prior to permanent deployment; and

WHEREAS, these dual-powered locomotives would offer the Raritan Valley and other currently diesel lines a one seat ride option through the Hudson River passenger rail tunnels into Peon Station in midtown Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, NJ TRANSIT has not indicated what process it will follow in determining the permanent deployment of these dual powered locomotives;

WHEREAS, New York City is connected to the global economy in unique ways, continues to experience substantial job growth and its jobs pay higher median wages than those in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Hudson River Crossings have increased significantly in recent decades, and fast and efficient commuter service to New York City is a critical factor in making an attractive place for Manhattan workers to locate; and

WHEREAS, studies across the United States have demonstrated that proximity to high quality transit is associated with increased property values; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Regional Plan Association estimated that one seat ride service would lead to a 15% (35.1 minutes) reduction in commuting times on the Raritan Valley Line by eliminating the need for a transfer at Newark Penn Station; and

WHEREAS, the same study by the Regional Plan Association estimated that every minute saved on the morning commute to Manhattan increases nearby home values by \$3,000; and

WHEREAS, reduced train travel times to midtown Manhattan will increase the reliability of Raritan Valley Line, increase the attractiveness of train travel on the line, and boost home values in proximity to the line; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon calls upon NJ TRANSIT to undertake a transparent process for permanent deployment of the dual powered locomotives,

Resolution #R-2013-41 cont'd:

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NJ TRANSIT, with all deliberate speed, permanently deploy dual-powered locomotives to the Raritan Valley Line to allow for one seat service for: all trains operating during weekday off-peak hours; all trains operating on weekends, and an equitable allocation of peak period trains (morning and evening).

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

5. Resolution regarding **Supporting the Expansion of New Jersey's Medicaid Program as Provided under the federal "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act."** No action taken.
6. Memorandum dated February 7, 2013 from Rose Sollena, Municipal Clerk, Township of Raritan, regarding **Resolution Requesting that the NJBPU Hold Hearings on Jersey Central Power & Light's Reponse to Super Storm Sandy and take the Appropriate Actions as May Be Authorized.** No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance Appropriating \$80,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Repair of the Whitehouse First Aid and Rescue Squad Ambulance in and by the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey and Authorizing a Loan to the Whitehouse First Aid and Rescue Squad in Connection therewith**

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$80,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE REPAIR OF THE WHITEHOUSE FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUAD AMBULANCE IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING A LOAN TO THE WHITEHOUSE FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUAD IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

ORDINANCE #006-2012

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. \$80,000 is hereby appropriated from the Capital improvement Fund for the repair of the Whitehouse First Aid and Rescue Squad (the "Rescue Squad") ambulance, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, in and by the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey (the "Township").

Section 2. The Township hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 3. The Township Mayor is hereby authorized to negotiate, enter into and execute a loan agreement with the Rescue Squad, provided that the loan agreement provides, among other things, that the Township loans the Rescue Squad money in an amount equal to the cost of the project set forth in Section 1 hereof bearing interest at a rate not less than 1.00%, and that the Rescue Squad shall repay the Township over a period not in excess of 48 months.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication and otherwise as provided by law.

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

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

The Public Hearing was scheduled for March 4, 2013 at 8:00 p.m.

2. ***Appointment of Green Team Members***

Mayor Allen stated that the Green Team was a group of people that were initially appointed in 2009 to assist in furthering the requirements of the Sustainable Jersey Program. Mrs. Allen continued that she met with Administrator Mekovetz and Stephen Foster to discuss the need to continue to comply with some of the suggestions within Sustainable Jersey and also to better interact with the Board of Education's Green Team.

The following members were recommended for appointment to the Green Team:

Vita Mekovetz
Julia Allen
Stephen Foster (Chairman of Environmental Commission)
Cheryl Filler (as Liaison to Board of Education)
Rob O'Brien
Irene Sabin
Robert Becker

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Muir to appoint the members to the Green Team, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

- * 3. ***Request to Hold Annual Whitehouse Rescue Squad Coin Toss Fundraiser***
(April 5th, 6th / Rain Date: April 12th, 13th)
(September 13th, 14th / Rain Date: September 27th, 28th)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 4. ***Request to Hold Annual Whitehouse Fire Company No. 1 Coin Toss Fundraiser***
(June 7th, 8th / Rain Date: June 14th, 15th)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 5. ***Somerset Wheelman Annual Readington Time Trail Event*** – permission to conduct time trial cycling event April 13, 2013

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 6. ***Report on Variance Applications (2012)***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 7. ***Release of Board of Health Escrow*** (Lori Potter / Block 8, Lot 38.31)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 8. ***Resolution to Release the Original Title to the 2006 Ambulance to VCI (Whitehouse Rescue Squad)***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.
- * 9. ***Resolution to Appoint Joel Kerwin as Emergency Management Coordinator***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.
- * 10. ***Resolution to Appoint Sebastian Donaruma as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.
- * 11. ***Resolution to Appoint BJ Apgar as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz reported that she met today with the FEMA representative and the application was completed for submission to FEMA for review and consideration.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan reported that the two (2) Yard Round Mountain acquisitions closed last Friday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Julia Allen

Mayor Allen requested that the Committee consider adopting a resolution in support of Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance Application to the County of Hunterdon to obtain funding through the Hunterdon County Open Space Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Cooperative Program for funding the purchase of Block 63, Lots 21 and 57 in Readington Township.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-42

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance is currently pursuing the preservation of two wooded parcels of land known as Block 63 Lot 21 and Block 63 Lot 67, Readington Township, and

WHEREAS, Lots 21 and 67, 11.45 acres and 12.90 acres respectively, are located on Round Mountain in Readington Township, and as such, are a portion of one of the largest mature forests In Hunterdon County, and

WHEREAS, Lots 21 and 67 are both directly contiguous to Hunterdon County parkland preserved for public open space purposes, and

WHEREAS, Lot 67 is also directly contiguous to public lands preserved by Readington Township for public open space purposes, and

Resolution #R-2013-42 cont'd:

WHEREAS, the preservation of these parcels for passive recreational and conservation purposes would be a valuable addition to Hunterdon County's Deer Path Park, Round Mountain section, and

WHEREAS, mature forest habitat is a premium in Hunterdon County, which was historically an agricultural county, and

WHEREAS, mature forest habitat supports flora and fauna that are both threatened and endangered and also that qualify as a species of concern, all of which require large un-fragmented tracts of mature forests to survive, and

WHEREAS, the Round Mountain Trail System, developed on both Hunterdon County and Readington Township parkland is an important recreational destination enjoyed by many, and the proposed addition would provide this trail system with important connections, and

WHEREAS, the preservation of parcels known as Block 63 Lots 21 and 67 for open space purposes would further the goals of both the Hunterdon County and the Readington Township Open Space Master Plans.

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon Land Trust will make an application to Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Cooperative Program to fund 40 percent of the purchase price.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Readington supports Hunterdon Land Trusts application to the County of Hunterdon for obtaining this funding through the Hunterdon County Open Space Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Cooperative Program for the purchase of Block 63, Lots 21 and 67 in Readington Township.

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

Mayor Allen reported that there is an on-going planning study for Route 202 and Michael Sullivan, Township Planner, will be attending the meetings along with Mrs. Fort to represent Readington Township.

Tom Auriemma

Mr. Auriemma stated that he had nothing further to report.

Betty Ann Fort

Mrs. Fort reported that after a consultation with Scott Jesseman it appears that the Township is on budget with the salt consumption for this winter.

Mrs. Fort requested to read a short letter into the record:

Dear Mr. Jesseman:

I have lived in Readington Township for thirty years and have been impressed with how timely and responsive your department has been. My house is in the part of a cul-de-sac that is difficult to plow, your department however has done an excellent job every time it snows.

*Thank you,
Eugene Nai*

Mrs. Fort reported that a Museum held an open hearth cooking class on Saturday.

Mrs. Fort announced the dates of the third grade program for this year at the Hall house and asked the Committee members to consider volunteering to assist with the program.

Frank Gatti

Mr. Gatti reported that the first town hall meeting hosted by the police department was very well attended.

Beatrice Muir

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Kevin Devine thanked all those involved in re-opening Hillcrest Park and asked if new gravel would be put down. Mr. Devine also asked about an update on Merck leaving Readington Township and commented that the Town of Nutley had a similar situation with Roche leaving.

Mr. Devine stated that the Dog Park will be hosting a *CPR for Dogs and Cats* seminar as a fundraiser.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

As there was no further business, **A MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort at 8:35 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gatti with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Municipal Clerk