

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – October 7, 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, 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>
Police Department.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will remain confidential
Construction Code.....	Personnel.....	" " "
Lieutenants..... PBA Local No. 317	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Executive Session Minutes..... • September 16, 2013	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. Fort to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

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

Executive Session:

Personnel / Police Department

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to promote Joseph Greco and John Insabella to the permanent position of Lieutenant as per Article XIV of the Lieutenant Contract, effective October 1, 2013, 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

Personnel / Construction Code

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the advertising for a full-time Electrical Inspector position, 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. Muir to approve Michael Wright filling in as a Plumbing Inspector at a rate of \$32/hour not to exceed four (4) hours per day with a maximum of two (2) days per week, 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 / Lieutenants / PBA Local No. 317

Mayor Allen stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / September 16, 2013

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 16, 2013 for content only, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Litigation / Solberg Aviation / Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lot 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 39, Lot 24 and Block 67, Lot 2

Mayor 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 September 16, 2013

- * 2. **Resolution Authorizing Educational Service Commission Cooperative Purchase for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel** (Allied Oil LLC)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-91

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION
COOPERATIVE PURCHASES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington wishes to purchase gasoline and diesel fuel from an authorized vendor under the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Cooperative Purchasing Program; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by the Local Public Contracts Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:II-12*; and

WHEREAS, Allied Oil LLC, 25 Old Camplain Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 has been awarded Hunterdon County Educational Services Commissions Contract for Gasoline and Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel, for the period one (1) year, October 7, 2013 - October 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator recommends the utilization of this contract on the grounds that it represents the best price available, not to exceed \$360,000 for Allied Oil, LLC.

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for this contract.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that Allied Oil LLC be awarded a contract for Gasoline and Ultra low sulfur diesel fuel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the contract documents necessary to effectuate the award of this contract. The Township Attorney shall review any and all contractual documents prepared in furtherance of this award; and

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

- * 3. **Resolution in Recognition of Matthew Eugene Parrella Attaining Rank of Eagle Scout**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-92

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Matthew Eugene Parrella a valued member of his Boy Scout Troop, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout Candidate Matthew Eugene Parrella's Eagle Project was to undertake the task of rebuilding and refurbishing the Cushetunk Mountain Trail System with Readington Township; and

WHEREAS, the Cushetunk Mountain Trails, connecting Pickell Park in Whitehouse Station to the County's Cushetunk Mountain Preserve at the top of Cushetunk Mountain are now in a condition where they can be used and enjoyed by many local residents; and

WHEREAS, Readington Township is thankful for the enhancement of this important outdoor recreational opportunity for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2013 Matthew Eugene Parrella will be presented with the coveted Eagle Scout Award and is well deserving of this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby commends Eagle Scout Matthew Eugene Parrella for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulates him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

- * 4. ***Resolution Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Polish-American Citizens Club***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-93

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, in October 1933 a group of eighteen people met on the lawn of Mr. Frank Burowiec's home and organized the Polish-American Citizens' Club; and

WHEREAS, meetings were held at various locations throughout the Township until members elected to build a place of their own and a building committee was elected and Liberty Hall started in 1951; and

WHEREAS, people that built this hall worked long and hard with labor and materials donated by members and friends of the Polish-American Citizens' Club and in April of 1953, the first meeting was held at the new Liberty Hall; and

WHEREAS, in 1954 the club members began catering weddings and private dinner-dances for other organizations, as well as hosting various club events; and

Resolution #R-2013-93 cont'd:

WHEREAS, over the years, the club has benefitted the Township and the surrounding community by contributing scholarship awards to the students at Readington Township schools and to Hunterdon Central High School students, making annual contributions to Readington’s fire department and rescue squad, establishing the Polish Youth Dancers, raising funds for the building of the Hunterdon Medical Center, providing many senior health screening days, participating in many parades and hosting Readington’s Community Theater, among many other activities; and

WHEREAS, a highlight in the club’s and this community’s history occurred in 1992 when President Ronald Reagan and Governor Thomas Kean both visited the club to witness a Naturalization Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, the objective of the club is to unite members in a fraternal friendship, promoting and encouraging good fellowship, providing assistance to members in need and to provide a convenient meeting location; and

WHEREAS, the Polish-American Citizens Club of Whitehouse will be celebrating the 80th Anniversary of their inception with a Polish Festival on October 19, 2013; and

WHEREAS, today the Polish American Citizens Club remains a vibrant part of the Readington Township community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington congratulates and commends the Polish American Citizens' Club on its 80th Anniversary and wishes them a prosperous and promising future as has been in years past.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on behalf of all the residents of Readington Township, the Township Committee thanks the Polish American Citizens Club for their contributions to our Community.

- * 5. **Readington Trail Association Annual Trail Pace** – request to hold Fifth Annual Halloween Poker Ride on Township property (October 27, 2013)
- * 6. **Release of Police Escrow** – Metro Optics
- * 7. **Release of Escrow** – Ridge Road Realty (Block 38, Lots 54.11. 54.12 & 54.02)
- * 8. **Permit Fee Refund** – 10 Forty Oaks Road (Block 67 / Lot 32)
- * 9. **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	3-01	\$ 736,061.47
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	3-02	\$ 100,754.64
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 80,956.70
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 67,481.91
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 182,630.42
REG & LOCAL SCHOOL TAX	X-07	\$ 2,429,739.00
DUE TO STATE OF NJ	X-09	<u>\$ 725.00</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 3,598,349.14

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Consent Agenda, 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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

As it was after 7:45 p.m., A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #08-2012 Providing 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 #19-2013**

Mayor Allen recused herself from this matter.

Deputy Mayor Muir stated that this ordinance amends a previously adopted ordinance providing for the acquisition of a public access easement donated by the Allens.

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

There were none.

Deputy Mayor Muir 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 Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #08-2012 Providing 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 #19-2013**

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort 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
Deputy Mayor Muir	- Aye
Mayor Allen	- Abstained

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Memorandum dated September 11, 2013 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 Section 702.2 of Article VII of the Development Regulations Ordinance of the Township of Tewksbury to Amend Said Regulations Pertaining to Generators and Air Conditioning System Compressors and An Ordinance of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, to Amend, Revise and Supplement Article VII “Zoning Provisions,” of the Development Regulations Ordinance and to Revise Section 706 “Exceptions.”* No action taken.
2. Memorandum dated September 24, 2013 from Sharon Brienza, Municipal Clerk, Township of Branchburg regarding *An Ordinance Amending the Land Development Ordinance of the Township of Branchburg by Amending Subsection 3-3.1 Entitled “Zones Established” and Deleting Section 3-4 Entitled “A Agricultural /3 Acre Residential District” in its Entirety.* No action taken.
3. Resolution from Township of Holland regarding *Request that the County of Hunterdon Undertake the Animal Control Officer Responsibilities for Hunterdon County Municipalities.*

Mr. Gatti stated that he supports this resolution and requested that the Committee consider adopting a similar resolution.

The following resolution was offered for introduction:

#R-2013-94

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
UNDERTAKE THE ANIMAL CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HUNTERDON
COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES**

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon is composed of 26 municipalities whose populations range in size from the smallest, Stockton Borough, with a population of 538, to the largest, Raritan Township, with a population of 22,185; eight of the municipalities in the County have a population of under 2,000 and 22 of the 26 municipalities have a population of under 6,000. Accordingly, the vast majority of municipalities in Hunterdon County are smaller ones which do not have large administrative staffs; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the size of the majority of municipalities in the County, *N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16* requires the governing body of each municipality appoint a certified animal control officer responsible for animal control within the jurisdiction of the municipality and who shall enforce and abide by statutory requirements for such an office; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16.a.* establishes the certification requirements for animal control officers and mandates the establishment of rules and regulations for the training and educational qualifications for certified animal control officers; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16* mandates municipalities take into custody and impound dogs and other animals which are believed to be strays, dogs off the premises of the owner, any off premises female dog in season, any dog or other animal which is suspected of being rabid, any dog off the premises of the owner judged by the certified animal control officer to be ill, injured or creating a threat to public safety or welfare; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16* establishes the procedure as to how the certified animal control officer is to take into custody and impound dogs or other animals required to be collected and further provides that those animals are to be turned over to a shelter, pound or kennel; and

Resolution #R-2013-94 cont'd:

WHEREAS, prior to the adoption of the more demanding requirements for certification of animal control officers and the collection of animals meeting the definition of the statutory requirements, dog and other animal control activities were often carried out by humane shelters or individuals known as dog catchers; and

WHEREAS, the increased professionalism required of animal control officers has decreased the number of suitable candidates for this position; and

WHEREAS, the number of shelters which are convenient to municipal locations willing to take dogs or other animals collected by the animal control officer has diminished for various reasons; and

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult for municipalities in the County of Hunterdon to fulfill their statutory responsibilities with respect to stray dogs and other animals; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has a strong policy to encourage shared services to reduce the costs of municipal services; however, there are few economic benefits to be achieved by individual municipalities sharing an animal control officer because of the nature of the service. However, significant efficiencies of scale could be achieved if a county-wide animal control officer was created; and

WHEREAS, in larger municipalities the animal control officer usually reports to the municipal health officer; and

WHEREAS, in Hunterdon County most, if not all, municipalities do not have their own health officer, but delegate the administrative responsibilities of their Boards of Health to the County of Hunterdon Division of Public Health Services; and

WHEREAS, having a countywide animal control officer(s) under the jurisdiction of the Hunterdon County Division of Public Health Services will increase professionalism, reduce the cost of providing animal control services and provide for more efficient use of the vehicles and equipment.

WHEREAS, it would make sense for the County of Hunterdon to create the office of animal control officer within the Division of Public Health Services, which has the experience and administrative capacity to efficiently hire animal control officers and oversee their day-to-day activities.

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

1. The Township Committee strongly urges the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders to initiate a study of the appropriate benefits of a County take over the functions of the municipal animal control officer in any municipality which, by Resolution, requests that the County take over its animal control requirements; and
2. The Township Committee requests that the State Senators and Assemblymen who represent municipalities in the County of Hunterdon, petition the State of New Jersey to provide funding for the study of a plan to have the County of Hunterdon take over the animal control responsibilities from municipalities which request that service; and
4. The Township Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the following:

Resolution #R-2013-94 cont'd:

- a) The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders;
- b) The Mayor and Governing Body of each of the 26 municipalities in the County of Hunterdon; and
- c) Each State Senator and Assemblymen who represent any municipalities in the County of Hunterdon.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Presentation of Readington Board of Education 2013-14 District Goals***

Dr. Barbara Sargent, Superintendent of the Readington Schools, gave a slide presentation on the strategic planning goals for the 2013-14 school year. Dr. Sargent explained that in the Spring of 2012 a strategic planning retreat was held to review data from parents, students, staff and community to assist in setting up long term five year goals. Dr. Sargent maintained that while they are still relating back to those strategic planning goals, the objectives within those goals may change. David Livingston, President of the Board of Education, concluded the presentation with the goals of the Board of Education.

2. ***Repair/Replacement of Tennis Courts*** – memorandum dated September 11, 2013 from Gabrielle Bolarakis

Gabrielle Bolarakis, Recreation Director, was present to request that the Committee consider looking into options for the repair or replacement of the tennis courts since they have reached the end of their life span. Director Bolarakis explained that although the Township has been doing crack repair to the surface at a cost of approximately \$25,000 per repair, the maintenance does not last longer than a year or so. Director Bolarakis continued that the Recreation Committee is recommending the installation of a Premier Court surface; which is rolled out over the existing court, eliminating cracking, requiring the minor maintenance of a sealant approximately every five to seven years. Director Bolarakis further stated that the Premier Court surface offers a 25 years warranty, making this the most cost effective option. Director Bolarakis maintained that the Town of Basking Ridge recently completed the installation of a Premier Court surface on their courts and were extremely pleased with results. The Committee was generally favorable in making a major improvement to the courts and discussed the various options available along with the associated costs. Mr. Gatti suggested getting feedback from Hatch Mott MacDonald since they have been involved with these types of recreational activities. Mayor Allen requested getting additional information with a possible site visit to the tennis courts in Basking Ridge.

3. ***Annual Coin Toss Fundraiser / East Whitehouse Fire Department***
(October 12, 2013 / Rain Date: October 13th)

Administrator Mekovetz stated that in the responding memo from Chief Donaruma he pointed out that the organization is holding their second coin toss fundraiser within a three month period, to possibly prompt the Committee to address the frequency of these fundraisers in the future. The Committee discussed the impact of traffic from coin toss fundraisers in high traffic areas. Mr. Auriemma questioned how often the other companies run these types of fundraisers. Mrs. Muir stated that it is her belief that the companies have had one coin toss fundraiser per year in the past and feels that is sufficient for an impact on traffic at high volume intersections in this community and those that travel outside the community. Mayor Allen suggested approving this current request and gathering data on the frequency of these fundraisers for a future discussion.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the request for a coin toss fundraiser, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- No
Mayor Allen	- Aye

- * 4. ***Resolution Authorizing Educational Service Commission Cooperative Purchase for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel*** (Allied Oil LLC)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 5. ***Resolution in Recognition of Matthew Eugene Parrella Attaining Rank of Eagle Scout***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 6. ***Resolution Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Polish-American Citizens Club***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 7. ***Readington Trail Association Annual Trail Pace*** – request to hold Fifth Annual Halloween Poker Ride on Township property (October 27, 2013)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 8. ***Release of Police Escrow*** – Metro Optics

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 9. ***Release of Escrow*** – Ridge Road Realty (Block 38, Lots 54.11, 54.12 & 54.02)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 10. ***Permit Fee Refund*** – 10 Forty Oaks Road (Block 67 / Lot 32)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz reminded everyone that the Township Shred Day is scheduled for Friday, October 11th from 9:00-12:00.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan stated that she had nothing further to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer O'Brien reported that the paving on Summer Road, Section I has been completed last week.

Engineer O'Brien reported that the Township has applied for state aid for next year to widen the intersection from Route 22 to the railroad tracks on Ridge Road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Julia Allen

Mayor Allen reported that the *Seventh Grade Walk in the Woods* will no longer be a part of the school curriculum.

Thomas Auriemma

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

Betty Ann Fort

Mrs. Fort reminded everyone that October 29th is the meeting with the State regarding the East Whitehouse Mechanicsville Historic District.

Mrs. Fort asked Mr. Auriemma if he would consider incorporating Hunterdon County's Tricentennial Celebration into the Memorial Day Parade.

Mrs. Fort announced the Barn Dance is scheduled for October 19th.

Frank Gatti

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

Beatrice Muir

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

As there was no further business, ***A MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir at 9:35 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Fort with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Municipal Clerk