

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – August 3, 2015**

Mayor Fort *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 B. Fort, Deputy Mayor T. Auriemma, Mr. J. Broten, and Mr. S. Tropello

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Mekovetz, Attorney S. Dragan, Engineer R. O'Brien

ABSENT: Mrs. M. Duffy

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>
Public Works.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight...other information will remain confidential
Personnel	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Award of 2015-16 Hunting Bids.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
• July 20, 2015		
Mt. Laurel Affordable Housing.....	Potential Litigation.....	“ “ “
Wells Fargo v. Iferika-Osawe.....	Litigation.....	“ “ “
Ryland Developers, LLC.....	Litigation.....	“ “ “
Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6 & 8; 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 Mr. Auriemma to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Broten with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:59 p.m.

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

Executive Session:

Personnel / Public Works

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Broten to authorize Administrator Mekovetz to advertise for a laborer position in the Department of Public Works following a two (2) year vacancy in that position, seconded Mr. Tropello and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma -Aye
 Mr. Broten - Aye
 Mr. Tropello - Aye
 Mayor Fort - Aye

Personnel / Personnel

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

***An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing the Readington Township
 2014 Salary Ordinance for Officers and Employees of the Township of
 Readington***

ORDINANCE #08-2015

SECTION 1

GOVERNING BODY AND SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

MAYOR	(2015 Pending)	per annum	\$9,388
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER	(2015 Pending)	per annum	\$8,355
ADMINISTRATOR/MUNICIPAL CLERK/ DEPUTY REG. OF VITAL STATISTICS/TREASURER/QPA		per annum	\$158,953
ADMINISTRATOR	per annum	\$17,667	
Clerk/Deputy Reg. of Vital Stat/Treasurer/...per annum		\$141,286	
TAX COLLECTOR/TAX SEARCH OFFICER		per annum.	\$76,140
TAX ASSESSOR..(P/T/25/hrs per wk)		per annum.	\$71,763
CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL		per annum.	\$93,361
COURT ADMINISTRATOR		per annum	\$51,000
LIBRARIAN		per annum	\$51,485
HOUSING LIAISON AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT		per annum	\$68,139
CHIEF OF POLICE		per annum	\$136,680
RECREATION DIRECTOR		per annum	\$73,707
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER		per annum	\$107,680
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & PARKS		per annum	\$108,789
ROAD SUPERINTENDENT, BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & PARKS		per annum	\$99,619
FIRE OFFICIAL/ LAND USE ADMIN.		per annum	\$87,897
SUPERVISOR OF ADMIN. SERVICES/	per annum	\$59,006	\$62,206
REGISTRAR	per annum	\$1,200	

Ordinance #08-2015 cont'd:

SECTION 2
CLERICAL (CONFIDENTIAL) PERSONNEL

RECEPTIONIST	per annum..	\$31,371	\$34,031
SECRETARY TO TWP ADMINISTRATOR\DEPUTY REGISTRAR	per annum	\$34,727	\$40,648
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK/SEWER			
ADVISORY COMMITTEE SECRETARY	per annum	\$49,678	\$56,166
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/RANK VI	per annum	\$39,000	\$63,828
BOOKEEPER/PAYROLL CLERK	per annum	\$40,000	\$52,382
PLANNING BD/BD OF ADJUSTMENT SECRETARY PT 28 hrs/wk	per annum	\$45,000	\$52,000

SECTION 3
CLERICAL PERSONNEL (Contract Pending)

CLERK/TRANSCRIBER	per annum	\$33,159	\$43,243
OFFICE ASSISTANT	per annum	\$25,894	\$38,674
DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR (40 HRS/WK)	per annum	\$43,784	\$66,092
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK	per annum	\$37,528	\$52,231
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, TAX ASSESSOR	per annum	\$39,478	\$51,385
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	per annum	\$43,784	\$56,401
DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR	per annum	\$39,281	\$51,920
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	per annum	\$42,927	\$52,565
FLOATER	per annum	\$36,793	\$45,994

SECTION 4
TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

SUB-CODE OFFICIAL PLUMBING & MECH (PART TIME)	per hour	\$30.00	\$45.45
ELECTRICAL SUB-CODE OFFICIAL (PART TIME)	per hour	\$30.00	\$38.40
BUILDING INSPECTOR (PART TIME)	per hour	\$30.00	\$34.06
FIRE SUB-CODE OFFICIAL (PART TIME)	per hour	\$30.00	\$39.83

SECTION 5
ROAD, UTILITY AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
RATES FOR TITLES HELD LONGER THAN ONE YEAR:
(Contract Pending)

DRIVER - LABORER 6	per hour		\$28.98
SR. DRIVER - LABORER 3	per hour		\$31.76
JR. MECHANIC	per hour		\$26.68
MECHANIC	per hour		\$34.02
SR. MECHANIC	per hour		\$37.34
CREW LEADER	per hour		\$36.10
OPERATOR	per hour		\$34.02
WORKING FOREMAN	per hour		\$39.38
SEWER OPERATORS:			
C-1 LICENSE (HOURLY ADDITIONS)	per hour		\$1.00
C-2 LICENSE (HOURLY ADDITIONS)	per hour		\$1.25

RATES FOR GRADES WITHIN TITLES:

LABORER - 1	per hour		\$20.16
LABORER - 2	per hour		\$21.00
DRIVER-LABORER - 1	per hour		\$21.85
DRIVER - LABORER - 2	per hour		\$22.68
DRIVER - LABORER - 3	per hour		\$23.53
DRIVER - LABORER - 4	per hour		\$24.37
DRIVER - LABORER - 5	per hour		\$25.19
DRIVER - LABORER - 6	per hour		\$26.04

Ordinance #08-2015 cont'd:

SECTION 6
POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

POLICE MATRON	per hour	\$8.38	\$31.00
SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER	per hour	\$13.08	\$25.30
PATROLMAN (FIRST YEAR) Certified/Probationary.	per annum		\$59,468
PATROLMAN (SECOND YEAR)	per annum		\$64,242
PATROLMAN (THIRD YEAR)	per annum		\$69,013
PATROLMAN (FOURTH YEAR)	per annum		\$73,788
PATROLMAN (FIFTH YEAR)	per annum		\$78,558
PATROLMAN (SIXTH YEAR)	per annum		\$82,207
PATROLMAN (SEVENTH YEAR)	per annum		\$87,349
PATROLMAN FIRST CLASS	per annum		\$92,484
CORPORAL	per annum		\$94,337
INVESTIGATOR - OVER GRADE	per annum		\$600
PROBATIONARY SERGEANT	per annum		\$96,846
SERGEANT'S BASE SALARY	per annum		\$102,112
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS	per annum		\$105,229
PROBATIONARY LIEUTENANT	per annum		\$105,729
LIEUTENANT	per annum		\$125,062

SECTION 7
PART-TIME PERSONNEL

MUNICIPAL JUDGE	per annum		\$30,457
SUBSTITUTE MUNICIPAL JUDGE	per hour		\$152.10
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASE WORKER/ FILING CLERK (33 hrs)	per annum		\$36,626
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK (20 hrs)	per hour		\$21.23
MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR	per hour		\$20.81
ASSISTANT TO THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR	per hour		\$16.00
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS	per annum	\$3,778	\$16,668
LIBRARY ASSISTANT	per hour	\$8.38	\$17.80
VIOLATIONS CLERK	per hour	\$13.00	\$16.00
EXERCISE PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR	per hour	\$12.74	\$30.00
ASSIST. DIRECTOR OF RECREATION (25 hrs-wk)/ DIRECTOR OF SUMMER RECREATION	per annum		\$44,241
SPORTS & TOURNAMENT ASSISTANT	per hour		\$15.92
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	per annum		\$12,867
DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORD.	per annum		\$1,000

SECTION 8
SUMMER RECREATION PERSONNEL

SUPERVISOR & ASS'T SUP'V SUMMER PROG	per hour	\$8.38	\$18.44
SUMMER PROG. & SPECIAL PROG. COUNSELOR	per hour	\$8.38	\$13.18
BUS DRIVERS	per hour	\$8.38	\$18.59
CONCESSION STAND ATTENDANT	per hour	\$8.38	\$10.56
SUMMER PUBLIC FACILITIES MAINT. LABORER	per hour	\$8.38	\$14.68

SECTION 9
BUILDINGS, MAINTENANCE AND RECYCLING

Contract Pending

PUBLIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE LABORER	per hour	\$16.09	\$28.11
RECYCLING WORKER	per hour		\$23.08

SECTION 10

Rates of compensation provided herein are retroactive to January 1, 2015.

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

Mr. Auriemma	-Aye
Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Fort	- Aye

The Public Hearing was scheduled for September 8, 2015 at 7:45 p.m.

Contract Negotiations / Award of 2015-16 Hunting Bids (REBID)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to rebid the remaining three (3) properties, Block 52.01, Lot 14.06, Block 25, Lot 50 and Block 21, Lot 30, seconded by Mr. Tropello with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / July 20, 2015

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 20, 2015 for content only, seconded by Mr. Broten with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation / Mt. Laurel Affordable Housing

Mayor Fort stated that this matter was not discussed.

Mayor Fort requested to add the following matter to Executive Session:

Contract Negotiations / 158 Aster Court

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$35,000 FROM THE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A DEED RESTRICTION ON AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT (BLOCK 34, LOT 36.158) IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE #09 -2015

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

Section 1. \$35,000 is hereby appropriated from the Housing Trust Fund for the acquisition of a deed restriction on an affordable housing unit located at 158 Aster Court, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, also known as Block 34, Lot 36.158 on the tax maps of the Township, including all related costs and expenditures incident 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. This ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication and otherwise as provided by law.

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

Mr. Auriemma	-Aye
Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Fort	- Aye

The Public Hearing was scheduled for September 8, 2015 at 7:45 p.m.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Affordable Housing Agreement, seconded by Mr. Tropello and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	-Aye
Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Fort	- Aye

Litigation / Wells Fargo v. Iferika-Osawe

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Broten to authorize Attorney Dragan to sign a *Consent Order* for a possible acquisition of an affordable housing unit, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Litigation / Ryland Developers, LLC

Mayor Fort stated that this matter was not discussed.

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

Mayor Fort stated that this matter was not discussed.

Mayor Fort requested to add the following matter to Executive Session:

Personnel / Police Department

Mayor Fort stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Fort 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.

Mr. Tropello requested to remove *Items #3 and #4 under New Business* from the Consent Agenda.

- * 1. **Approval of Minutes** of meeting of July 20, 2015

* 2. *Results of July 28, 2015 Bond Sale*

<i>NAME OF BIDDER</i>	<i>TRUE INTEREST COST</i>	<i>AMOUNT OF BONDS BID FOR</i>	<i>AMOUNT B ID</i>
Roosevelt & Cross, Inc.	2.3801%	\$9,573,000	\$9,860,190.00
BOSC, Inc.	2.4775%	\$9,573,000	\$9,861,897.57
Wells Fargo Bank, NA	2.5602%	\$9,573,000	\$9,773,443.79

* 3. *Release of Developers Escrow / Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp*
 (Block 4, Lot 99 and Block 4, Lot 102)

* 4. *Refund of Duplicate Payment for Good Handlers License / Fun*Tastic Foods*

* 5. *Social Affair Permit / Polish American Citizens Club of Whitehouse*
 (September 12, 2015)

* 6. *Social Affair Permit / Polish American Citizens Club of Whitehouse*
 (September 19, 2015)

* 7. *Tax Lien Redemption*

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP

HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 73, Lot 344 and,

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$1,119.74, plus a premium paid in the amount of \$1,300.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2014-017, to the lienholder, FWDSL & Associates, LP.

* 8. *Tax Refund*

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP

HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Tax Collector has recommended the following refund for property taxes:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>REFUND TO</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>2015</u> 66/45.01	Stephane Moore	Overpayment	\$ 750.00

Tax Refund Resolution cont'd:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the amount recommended.

- * 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	4-01	\$ 22,837.00
CURRENT FUND	5-01	\$ 499,142.51
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	5-02	\$ 109,731.00
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 98,563.18
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$2,685,630.46
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 190,288.76
REG. & LOCAL SCHOOL TAX	X-07	\$2,426,484.00
CAPITAL	X-14	\$ 3,571.00
CAPITAL	X-66	<u>\$ 14,000.00</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$6,050,247.91

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

- Mr. Auriemma -Aye
- Mr. Broten - Aye
- Mr. Tropello - Aye
- Mayor Fort - Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

Barbara Sachau, resident of Raritan Township, expressed concern about an incident which occurred on a public road in Readington Township.

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Letter dated July 20, 2015 from Sally J. Cheong, Manager, Tariff Activity, Jersey Central Power & Light Company **regarding Annual Universal Service Fund Compliance Filing**. No action taken.
2. Notice to Public Service Electric and Gas Company Gas Customers from Alexander Stern, Esq., Associate General Regulatory Counsel **regarding the Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company’s 2015 Annual Margin Adjustment Charge Filing Under its Periodic Pricing Mechanism**. No action taken.
3. Letter from Veronique Hakim, Executive Director, NJ Transit Corporation, **regarding New Jersey Transit Corporation Fiscal Year 2015 Request for Federal Assistance**. No action taken.
4. Letter dated July 20, 2015 from Joseph Soltowksi, Director of Division of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, State of NJ **regarding NJ Department of Agriculture Conducting a Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey**.

Mr. Broten requested that Administrator Mekovetz respond to the *Application for Survey of Gypsy Moth Egg Masses* to conduct the survey.

5. Notice to Public Service Electric and Gas Company Customers from Matthew Weissman, Esq. *regarding the Matter of the 2015/16 Annual Compliance Filings for a Change in the Statewide Electric and Gas Permanent Universal Service Fund Program Factors within the Electric and Gas Societal Benefits Charges Rates.* No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Temporarily Lift the 4-ton Weight Restriction on County Line Road from Mitchell Road to Industrial Parkway*** – email dated July 27, 2015 from Engineer Rob O’Brien

Engineer O’Brien stated that there is a project to replace the rail line crossing on County Line Road. Engineer O’Brien continued that the road will be closed from August 8th through August 11th; therefore in order to detour the trucks coming out of Industrial Parkway, the weight limit restriction on County Line Road must be lifted.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to temporarily lift the 4-ton weight restriction on County Line Road from Mitchell Road to Industrial Parkway from Saturday, August 8th to Tuesday, August 11th, seconded by Mr. Broten with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

- * 2. ***Results of July 28, 2015 Bond Sale***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

3. ***Acceptance of 2014 Audit Report***

Mr. Tropello questioned the breakdown of the \$76,414,456 with regard to the fixed assets on the land under *Attachment F* of the audit. Administrator Mekovetz explained that the number is derived from a fixed asset report which is contracted through an outside source based on doing an analysis.

Mr. Tropello commented on the recommendations made by the auditors with regard to improved bookkeeping for Planning Board/Board of Adjustment and stated he would also like to see Open Space included to maintain record of all receipts. Administrator Mekovetz explained that the audit is done at the discretion of the auditing firm to ensure compliance with all state regulations; therefore the Township is not authorized to modify the report.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

R-2015-88

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Report of Audit for the year 2014 has been filed by the Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, at a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled “General Comments and Recommendations and

Resolution #R-2015-88 cont'd:

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, at a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled “General Comments and Recommendations” as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with at least the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 - to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 - A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Readington, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

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

Mr. Auriemma	-Aye
Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Fort	- Aye

4. **Corrective Action Plan to 2014 Audit**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Broten to approve the Corrective Action Plan to the 2014 Audit, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	-Aye
Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Fort	- Aye

* 5. **Release of Developers Escrow / Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp**
(Block 4, Lot 99 and Block 4, Lot 102)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

* 6. **Refund of Duplicate Payment for Food Handlers License / Fun*Tastic Foods**

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

* 7. **Social Affair Permit / Polish American Citizens Club of Whitehouse**
(September 12, 2015)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 8. *Social Affair Permit / Polish American Citizens Club of Whitehouse*
(September 19, 2015)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 9. *Membership Applications for Volunteer Emergency Services*
 - ◆ Alexander Kispert
 - ◆ Monica Young
 - ◆ Liam Fleischer
 - ◆ Jason Lyons

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz reported on the results of the bond sale, adding that it was very successful and the Township has maintained the bonding rating of AA stable.

Administrator Mekovetz reported that the Chief of Police advised that the Freeholders are considering closing the county jail and the Hunterdon County Police Chief Association is requesting that Committee to consider adopting a resolution in support of the recommendation to delay any action by the Freeholders until a comprehensive review and analysis is done to determine the long term impact and effects of the jail closing. Mr. Broten asked if the Township should weigh in with the Freeholders if there would be any adverse impact to the Township. Mr. Tropello requested that a copy of the report be provided to the Township for review.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2015-89

Resolution of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, in support of the Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association (HCPCA) request for delaying any action by the Hunterdon County Freeholders to close the Hunterdon County Jail until such time as the Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association completes a comprehensive review and analysis into the present and long-range operational impact(s) and effect(s) of the Jail's closing upon police officer safety and the general public of Hunterdon County

WHEREAS, several decades ago, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders (the "Freeholders"), pursuant to *N.J.S.A. § 30:8 et seq* excised the statutory duty placed upon the Sheriff of Hunterdon County (the "Sheriff"), to take and have the custody, rule, keeping and charge of the jail and pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 30:8-19* assumed the duties and appointed a jail warden to carry out these duties; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, the Freeholders advised the public that it is considering closing the Hunterdon County Jail (the "HC Jail"), located on Park Avenue, Flemington, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Freeholders advised that they were considering an agreement with another organization, outside of Hunterdon County to handle the HC Jail operations (known as the *Jail Function*) for caring of all inmates entrusted to the Freeholders pursuant to the statute; and

WHEREAS, the Freeholders have stated the reason for the considered closing was for economic reasons; and

WHEREAS, presently there is an ongoing action by the State of New Jersey Public Defender's Office against the County of Gloucester due to the County's closing of its jail requiring inmates to be housed in facilities out of the county resulting in family members being unable to visit inmates due to lack of public transportation; and

Resolution #R-2015-89 cont'd:

WHEREAS, this lawsuit also challenges operational issues impacting inmates such as the length of time the inmates have to spend in shackles due to longer transportation times outside their home county; and

WHEREAS, the outcome of the lawsuit brought by the State Public Defender's Office against the County of Gloucester may effect Hunterdon County and any decision of the Freeholders and/or the Sheriff as directed by the Freeholders in advance of the ruling since Hunterdon County also lacks a full-time intra/inter-county public transportation system available to transport residents of Hunterdon County outside of the County on a consistent basis; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Freeholders have not provided investigative information indicating the long-term cost-effectiveness of housing and transporting inmates to other counties; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Freeholders have not provided projections as to the direct and indirect costs that would be absorbed by each local police department and the State of NJ / State Police Operations within the County with this plan; and

WHEREAS, the Freeholders have not offered to indemnify and hold harmless the municipalities and their police departments for any negative impact on inmates as a result of closing of the HC Jail; and

WHEREAS, while the intention of the Freeholders is to reduce resident tax dollars for the operation of the HC Jail, the plan may increase property taxes and may reduce the quality and level of essential police services and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association, comprised of the top law enforcement officers within Hunterdon County, has requested the opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of the Freeholders' proposed operational plan for the HC Jail to analyze the real world feasibility including potential future costs, direct and indirect, that may be placed upon municipalities due to the HC Jail closing; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the HC Jail, may also impact various agencies, attorneys, family members, etc. visiting inmates while in the custody of the HC Jail, waiting trial or post-conviction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington supports the completion of a comprehensive review as to the operational, public safety and financial impact upon law enforcement agencies and taxpayers within the County by the Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington urges the Freeholders to refrain from taking any action to commit to closing the HC Jail until the Police Chiefs Association has been given an opportunity to conduct such review.

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan reported that the Sewer Advisory Committee met on July 21st and she is in the process of preparing twenty-one (21) resolutions. Attorney Dragan briefly explained that the Advisory Committee heard cases, based on questionnaire sent to the holders of unused capacity and also those denied sewer capacity requestors from 2000-2010, as to why their capacity should not be returned. Attorney Dragan summarized that a recommendation will be forth coming for a total recapture of 7,000 gallons. Attorney Dragan also added that there will be a request to the Court to extend the date due to the extensive work to be done.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer O'Brien reported that paving will be done on Naraticong, Fieldstone, Columbine and Ridge on August 13th and 14th and striping will be done on Hall's Mill Road tomorrow. Engineer O'Brien also reported that there is a meeting scheduled for this Wednesday with the DOT with regard to the culvert located by Merck.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Thomas Auriemma

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

John Broten

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

Betty Ann Fort

Mayor Fort reported that Keith Hendrickson resigned from the Board of Adjustment leaving a vacancy for the alternate position.

Mayor Fort reported that Archaeologist Richard Hunter lectured on Rollins Mills at the Museum.

Samuel Tropello

Mr. Tropello reported that the Rescue Squad vehicle has been ordered.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Scott Scammel, Dreahook Road, reiterated that the Committee comments to his inquiry regarding the petition were not in the minutes nor was the petition addressed. Attorney Dragan clarified that in order for the petition to be addressed and considered by the Committee, a request must be made to place the petition on the agenda. Mr. Broten stated that he would make such a request that the petition be placed on the agenda in order for it to be disposed of through proper protocol for the Committee's consideration. Mayor Fort also requested Attorney Dragan to research the statute on removing anyone from an appointed position.

John Anderson, JCP&L, complimented Readington Township, and the Police Department in particular, on the traffic control at the Balloon Festival.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Sam Tropello commented that he had received a letter from State Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli and expressed concern on some of the things he is proposing for state legislation, particularly regarding the cost of teacher's pension funding going back to the towns, rather than remain under the State's jurisdiction. Mr. Tropello requested that this matter be listed on the next agenda for further discussion.

As there was no further business, ***A MOTION*** was made by Mr. Broten at 8:45 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Municipal Clerk