

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING – August 22, 2016**

Mayor Fort *calls the meeting to order at 8:57 a.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, Mr. J. Broten and Mr. B. Smith
(Deputy Mayor Duffy and Mr. S. Tropello were teleconferenced into the meeting)

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Mekovetz

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Consideration of a Resolution to Participate in the United States Department of Defense 1033 Program***

Chief Donaruma stated that there is a program known as the *1033 Program* which allows military surplus to be transferred for local government use. Chief Donaruma explained that the Township is already using this program; however, in 2015 the NJ Senate passed a bill requiring townships to adopt a resolution to continue in the program. Chief Donaruma further maintained that the Township is in line for a vehicle; explaining the two part process, first to adopt the resolution to continue in the program and secondly, if the agreeable to the Committee to go forward with the prospective vehicle, another resolution would be required to accept the vehicle after thirty (30) days.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2016-89

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE 1033 PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, federal law permits the Department of Defense to transfer to federal and state agencies personal property of the Department that it determines is suitable for use by agencies in law enforcement activities, including counter drug and counter terrorism activities and is excess to the needs of the Department, and

WHEREAS, this program is generally known as the “1033 program” that allows local law enforcement agencies to obtain, at little or no cost, surplus federal property; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington prior participation in this program has enabled the Township to acquire valuable equipment that it could not otherwise afford, and to prepare for, respond to, and assist in recovery from events such as Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2015, Governor Christie signed Senate Bill No. 2364 (P.L. 2015, c.23), which now establishes, in the absence of federal requirements, a system of local oversight over local law enforcement agencies that participate in and acquire equipment through the 1033 program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:5-30.2a, municipal governing bodies must now authorize participation in the 1033 program by a “resolution adopted by a majority of the full membership of the governing body of a local unit prior to transmittal of any such application to the State Coordinator of the program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:5-30.2b, the acquisition of any property by a local law enforcement agency shall be approved by a “resolution adopted by a majority of the full membership of the governing body.”

Resolution #R-2016-89 cont'd:

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

1. That the Mayor and Township Committee hereby approve enrollment of the Township of Readington Police Department in the United States Department of Defense 1033 Program.
2. That the Mayor and Township Committee hereby approve the acquisition of surplus military equipment under the United States Department of Defense 1033 Program.

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

Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mrs. Duffy	-Aye
Mr. Smith	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Fort	- Aye

Chief Donaruma went on to explain that the prospective vehicle being considered is known as an MRAP (Mine Resistant Armor Plated) which focuses on being able to drive through floodwaters during emergencies along with other uses. Chief Donaruma continued that the Township has been on a two year waiting list and has just been notified that the Township is in line for receiving the vehicle. Chief Donaruma briefly explained the Township's responsibility for maintaining the vehicle. Chief Donaruma added that after the vehicle is received, the Township has thirty (30) days to adopt a resolution stating that the Township has inspected the vehicle and agreed to keep it. The Committee discussed the housing of the vehicle and the appearance of an armored vehicle to the community.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Broten to accept the MRAP vehicle from the *1033 Program* with a stipulation that the vehicle be sufficiently marked such that it is not confused with a SWAT tactical vehicle, seconded by Mr. Smith and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mrs. Duffy	-Aye
Mr. Smith	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Fort	- Aye

As there was no further business, **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Broten at 9:07 a.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Smith with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Municipal Clerk