

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
 MEETING - MARCH 7, 2005**

Mayor Gatti *called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor Gatti, Deputy Mayor Shamey (arrived at 7:15 p.m.),
 Mrs. J. Allen and Mr. T. Auriemma

ABSENT: Mrs. B. Muir and Administrator Mekovetz

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Dragan & Deputy Township Clerk McConnell

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Deputy 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 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 Discussion Will Be Disclosed to Public</u>
Buildings, Grounds & Parks.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee.... other information will remain confidential
Block 15, Lot 4 (Arnaudy).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 15, Lot 21 (Adde).....	Contract Negotiations/Litigation...	" " "
Toll Brothers, Inc. vs. the Township of Readington Docket No. SOM-L-618-04 (formerly HNT-L-495-02)...	Litigation.....	" " "
Lackland and Lackland, et als. v. Readington Township, et als., Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Hunterdon County Docket No. HNT-L-344-03P.W. (formerly HNT-L-81-99 and SOM-L-1466-00PW).....	Litigation.....	" " "
Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	" " "
Professional Services.....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "

2. 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."
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A MOTION was made at 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Allen adopt this Resolution, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

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

Mayor Gatti announced that the following business was completed during Executive Session:

Personnel - Buildings, Grounds & Parks

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to hire Benjamin Przewozny for the Public Facilities Maintenance Laborer Position to replace Matthew Nunn, at an hourly rate of \$15. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

Contract Negotiations - Block 15, Lot 4 (Arnaudy)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the contract, as amended, for Block 15, Lot 4 (Arnaudy). This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

Contract Negotiations-Litigation - Block 15, Lot 21 (Adde)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to continue renting the house on Block 15, Lot 21 (Adde) to the existing tenant at the currently monthly rate. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

***Litigation - Toll Brothers, Inc. vs. the Township of Readington
Docket No. SOM-L-618-04 (formerly HNT-L-495-02)***

Mayor Gatti said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

***Litigation - Lackland and Lackland, et als. v. Readington Township, et als., Superior
Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Hunterdon County Docket No.
HNT-L-344-03P.W. (formerly HNT-L-81-99 and SOM-L-1466-00PW)***

Mayor Gatti said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege - Executive Session Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Executive Session minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2005. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Contract Negotiations - Professional Services: Collier, Jacob & Mills

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

WHEREAS, there exists a need in the Township of Readington for Professional Services;
and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contract Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*) requires that the Resolution hiring a professional for professional services without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

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

1. That the following contract has been awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a)* of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered or to be performed are by persons authorized by law to practice their profession:

Collier, Jacob & Mills, PC as Labor Counsel at rates as listed:

- Partner-Level Attorney - \$250 per hour.
- Senior Associate - \$200 per hour.
- Junior Associate - \$175 per hour.

2. Said contract shall expire on December 31, 2005.
3. Copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

McKirdy & Riskin

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2005-42**

WHEREAS, there exists a need in the Township of Readington for Professional Services;
and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contract Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*) requires that the Resolution hiring a professional for professional services without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

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

1. That the following contract has been awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a)* of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered or to be performed are by persons authorized by law to practice their profession:

- McKirdy & Riskin - Services Pertaining to Acquisition/Condemnation of Lands as designated by the Township at a rate of \$250 per hour.

2. Said contract shall expire on December 31, 2005.

McKirdy & Riskin - continued:

3. Copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Nay
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

McNeely Vance & Co.

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2005-43**

WHEREAS, there exists a need in the Township of Readington for Professional Services;
and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contract Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*) requires that the Resolution hiring a professional for professional services without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

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

1. That the following contract has been awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a)* of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered or to be performed are by persons authorized by law to practice their profession:
 - McNeely-Vance & Co. as experts for the following actions, at a rate of \$140 per hour or \$1,000 per diem:
 - Toll Brothers, Inc. v. Township of Readington, *et als.*
Docket No. HNT-L-495-02
 - Mark Hartman and Wilmark Building Contractors, Inc. v. Township of Readington Docket No. 02-2017 (MLC)
 - Ilva Saronno Corporation v. Township of Readington
Civil Action No. 02-3668 (MLC)
 - Lackland and Lackland v. Township of Readington, *et als.*
Docket No. 3:02-5597 (GEB)
2. Said contract shall expire upon on February 16, 2006.
3. Copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of meeting of February 22, 2005.
2. **Kramer/Block 66, Lot 25.05** - request for refund of unused electrical permit fee.
3. **Somerset Wheelmen** - request for permission to use a portion of Pleasant Run Road to conduct an individual time trial cycling event (April 9, 2005).
4. **Application for Social Affair Permit** - Polish American Citizens Club.
5. **Tax Refund** - resolutions.

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
 HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the following 2005 tax refund:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>REFUND TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
53/9.18	duplicate payment	Teneketges, N.	\$ 2,438.46

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Township Treasurer be authorized to refund the amounts recommended.

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
 RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, 2004 taxes have been paid in full on Block 73, Lot 33; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the property owner is a permanently disabled vet and therefore is tax exempt, date of determination January 6, 2003.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Collector of Taxes be authorized to refund 2004 pro rated taxes in the amount of \$870.87 and 2005 taxes paid in the amount of \$1,346.27.

6. **Lien Redemption** - resolution.

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
 HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the property owner has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 42, Lot 8.0; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$15,765.98, plus a premium of \$6,000.00 paid at the tax sale to Data Ventures, Inc.

7. **Payment of the Bills.**

Fund Description	Fund No.	Received Total
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATION	001	\$ 417,664.82
SEWER APPROPRIATION	002	\$ 232.16
TRUST APPROPRIATION	003	\$ 27,294.88
CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS	004	\$ 278,172.80
MISC. REFUNDS, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	005	\$ 117,107.56
PAYROLL DEDUCTION	006	\$ 129,330.77
REGIONAL & LOCAL SCHOOL TAX	007	\$ 1,897,127.40
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS:		\$ 2,866,930.39

CONSENT AGENDA - continued:

8. ***Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report*** for January, 2005.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to approve the items as listed on the consent agenda. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen - Aye
Mr. Auriemma - Aye
Mr. Shamey - Aye
Mayor Gatti - Aye

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Memorandum dated February 16, 2005 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk, Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, regarding ***recommendations for volunteers to serve on the Hunterdon County Open Space Advisory Board.***

Mayor Gatti asked that additional clarification be obtained on who can and cannot serve on this Board.

2. Memorandum dated February 23, 2005 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk, Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, regarding ***adoption of a Resolution urging the New Jersey State Legislature to adopt ACR-218, a resolution that calls on the Legislature to, within seven days of enactment, convene for a special session to consider ways to implement property tax relief and reform,*** noted for information. No action taken.
3. Memorandum dated February 24, 2005 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk, Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, regarding ***adoption of a Resolution expressing opposition to A-3529 and supporting the referral of A-529 to the Pension & Health Benefits Commission for further fiscal analysis,*** noted for information. No action taken.
4. Notice dated February 16, 2005 from Dorothy D. Wilkie, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Bedminster, regarding ***adoption of Ordinance #05-04 - Amending Subsection 13-904 entitled "Affordable Housing Development Fees" of Chapter XIII Entitled "Land Management" of the revised General Ordinances of the Township of Bedminster,*** noted for information. No action taken.
5. Notice dated February 24, 2005 from Gail W. McKane, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Clinton, regarding ***public hearing of Ordinance #882-05 Supplementing & Amending Chapter 165 entitled "Land Use Regulations," adopting revised checklists,*** noted for information. No action taken.
6. Notice dated February 24, 2005 from Gail W. McKane, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Clinton, regarding ***public hearing of Ordinance #881-05 Supplementing & Amending Chapter 165 entitled "Land Use Regulations," amending the definitions of setbacks,*** noted for information. No action taken.
7. Notice dated February 16, 2005 from Roberta A. Brassard, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Tewksbury, regarding ***public hearing of Ordinance #06-2005 - An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance whose short title is "Tewksbury Twp. Development Regulations Ordinance (2000),"*** noted for information. No action taken.
8. Letter dated February 25, 2005 from Shana L. Crane, Land Use Administrator, Tewksbury Twp. regarding ***public hearing of the Municipal Stormwater Management Plan Element of the Master Plan,*** noted for information. No action taken.
9. Letter dated February 25, 2005 from Hue Quan, Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor, LLC. regarding ***application for Freshwater Wetlands General Permit - JCP&L,*** noted for information. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ***Ordinance regarding conduct at sporting events*** - consideration.

Action on this matter was deferred until comments are received from the Police Chief.

2. ***Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program*** - Block 21, Lot 30 & Block 66, Lot 13.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Shamey to authorize Mrs. Allen to sign for the Governing Body at appropriate locations on the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program application. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

3. ***Resolution Authorizing Public Sale of New Plenary Retail Distribution Liquor License.***

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2005-44***

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington on October 18, 2004 adopted Resolution #R-2004-97 approving the sale of one (1) plenary retail distribution license for alcoholic beverages by public sale at auction; and

WHEREAS, upon further consideration, the Township has determined that the public sale should be accomplished by the taking of sealed bids.

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

1. The Township Committee hereby amends Resolution #R-2004-97 authorizing the public sale of one (1) new plenary retail distribution license by the taking of sealed bids instead of by auction.
2. Resolution #R-2004-97 is further amended as follows:
 - a. Each bidder shall submit its bid application/proposal package to the Clerk of the Township of Readington at her office located at the Township Municipal Building, 509 Route 523, Whitehouse Station, NJ, no later than 12:00 noon on April 15, 2005.
 - b. The Township Clerk on April 25, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. will publicly announce those applicants who have met and satisfied the pre-qualification standards for bidding as fixed by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, the Township Ordinances, the conditions set forth in the Notice and Instructions to Bidders, and applicable law.
 - c. The time and place of the bid opening shall be at 10:00 a.m. on May 3, 2005 at the Readington Township Municipal Building, 509 Route 523, Whitehouse Station, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, at which time the highest amount bid will be declared. The Township reserves the right to reject all bids if the highest bid is not accepted.
2. All other portions of Resolution #R-2004-97 not specifically amended by this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

Resolution Authorizing Public Sale of New Plenary Retail Distribution Liquor License - continued:

3. Notice of this Resolution, the date of public sale and an invitation to bid shall be published in the official newspaper of the Township circulating in the municipality, by not less than two (2) insertions, to be published not less than one (1) week apart, and none to be published less than thirty days prior to the date of the public sale by sealed bid.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ***Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Cost of Living Allowance and to Establish a CAP Bank when the COLA is Equal to or Less than 2.5% - introduction.***

The following Ordinance was offered for introduction:

***CALENDAR YEAR 2005
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING
ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK WHEN THE COLA
IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 2.5 PERCENT
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)***

Ordinance #10-2005

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et seq.*, provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% or the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), whichever is less, over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14* provides that a municipality may, in any year in which the COLA is equal to or less than 2.5% increase its final appropriations by a percentage greater than the COLA, but not to exceed the 3.5% rate as specified in the law, when authorized by ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the COLA for 2005 has been certified by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs as 2.5% and,

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a* provides that a municipality may, in any year in which the COLA is equal to or less than 2.5%, may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington in the County of Hunterdon finds it advisable and necessary to increase its 2005 budget by more than 2.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$91,796.94 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

Ordinance #10-2005 - continued:

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, a majority of the fully authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the 2005 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Readington shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5% amounting to \$321,564.57 and that the 2005 municipal budget for the Township of Readington be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

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

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

Public Hearing was scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2005 at 8:00 p.m.

2. **2005 Budget** - introduction.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to introduce the 2005 Municipal Budget, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

Public Hearing was scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2005 at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Gatti said a full presentation of the 2005 budget will be held at the public hearing.

3. **2005 Surface Treatment Program** - Municipal Participation.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to participate in Hunterdon County's 2005 Surface Treatment Program. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

NEW BUSINESS - continued:

4. ***Dynasty Construction/Block 66, Lot 49*** - request for reduction of Performance Bond.

Action on this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

5. ***Kramer/Block 66, Lot 25.05*** - request for refund of unused electrical permit fee.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

6. ***Somerset Wheelmen*** - request for permission to use a portion of Pleasant Run Road to conduct an individual time trial cycling event (April 9, 2005).

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

7. ***Application for Social Affair Permit*** - Polish American Citizens Club.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

K. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

As Clerk/Administrator Mekovetz was not in attendance, no report was given.

L. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Attorney Dragan said the Code Enforcement Department has requested authorization for Board of Adjustment Attorney Don Moore to assist the Construction Official when needed. All agreed.

Attorney Dragan said the closing on the Sunderhoft property was held last week.

Attorney Dragan said she had nothing further to report at this time.

M. ENGINEER'S REPORT:

As Engineer McEldowney was not in attendance, no report was given.

N. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Frank Gatti:

a. Finance Department

1. **Tax Refund** - resolutions.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

2. ***Lien Redemption*** - resolution.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

3. ***Payment of the Bills.***

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - continued:

Mayor Gatti offered the following Proclamation for consideration:

**PROCLAMATION
TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
FEBRUARY 1, 2005
AS
ANNA HOFFMAN APPRECIATION DAY
R-2005-45**

WHEREAS, in 1920 during the last year of Woodrow Wilson's presidency and the first year of Prohibition two notable events took place on February 1st - the first being that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police came into existence, and second was the birth of Anna Hoffman; and

WHEREAS, during that election year for the first time women were allowed to vote, following the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and in Rome Pope Benedict XV canonized Joan of Arc as a saint; and

WHEREAS, Anna Hoffman on February 1st 2005 celebrated her 85th year of life and has led a full existence as a being a dedicated wife, mother of 2, grandmother of 6; and

WHEREAS, Anna is outstanding in her duties to her country having served in the Army during World War II; and has continued her work by being active in veterans affairs often visiting Lyons Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Anna is a 50 year Readington resident and has been a tireless and dedicated volunteer in our community; and

WHEREAS, Anna is outstanding in her duties to God as being a pioneer in our CCD program at Our Lady of Lourdes church, and also participates in the "Star Fish" program; and

WHEREAS, Anna was a dedicated employee of Hunterdon County Social Services and President of the Hunterdon County Municipal Welfare Association; and

WHEREAS, Anna retired from Readington Township as Welfare director and today would not think twice about helping a fellow citizen; and

WHEREAS, at the young age of 85, Anna serves as a member of Readington Township Local Assistance Board and is the first to volunteer to bring someone a meal in the middle of the night.

NOW, THEREFORE, I FRANK GATTI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Readington Township in the state of New Jersey, hereby proclaim February 1, 2005 as Anna Hoffman Appreciation Day.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to adopt this Proclamation, seconded by This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

Mayor Gatti asked that a copy of the video tape from tonight's meeting be given to Mrs. Hoffman.

Mayor Gatti said he had nothing further to report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - continued:

2. Gerry Shamey:

a. Liaison to Fire Companies and Rescue Squad

Mr. Shamey said he received a letter from the East Whitehouse Fire Company regarding the purchase of a new pumper.

Mrs. Allen said that she read that grants are available to fire companies through the Homeland Security Fund. She suggested that more information on these grants be obtained.

Mr. Shamey said he had nothing further to report at this time.

3. Julia Allen:

a. Farmland/Open Space Preservation/Land Projects Liaison

Mrs. Allen said the next meeting of the Open Space Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Allen said she had nothing further to report at this time.

4. Thomas Auriemma:

Mr. Auriemma said he had nothing to report at this time.

5. Beatrice Muir:

a. Municipal Court

1. *Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report* for January, 2005.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

As Mrs. Muir was not in attendance, no additional report was given.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

As it was 8:00 p.m., *a motion* was made by Mr. Shamey to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Deputy Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE OF AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF CERTAIN REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP AND THE BOROUGHES OF BOUND BROOK AND MANVILLE AS APPROVED BY THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPROPRIATING \$280,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$266,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #07-2005

Mrs. Allen said this ordinance provides for the second payment for the Regional Contribution Agreements between Readington Township and Bound Brook and Manville. It is part of the Township's COAH plan.

Ordinance #07-2005 - continued:

Mayor Gatti asked if there were any comments or questions from the Governing Body. There were none.

Mayor Gatti asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

Mr. Frank Renda asked why this payment requires the issuance of bonds.

Mrs. Allen said the Third Round Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) rules allow municipalities to request a 1% contribution for affordable housing fees for residential and 2% for non-residential developments. The fees are calculated on assessed valuation at the time the Certificate of Occupancy is issued. The funds are used by the Township to offset the costs of satisfying Affordable Housing obligations.

Although the Township anticipated that funding would come from the developer fee ordinance and Housing Trust Fund we were required to adopt a resolution that committed to fund any shortfall in the Affordable Housing Program as part of the Township's second round Plan amendment

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to close the Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Deputy Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE OF AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF CERTAIN REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP AND THE BOROUGHES OF BOUND BROOK AND MANVILLE AS APPROVED BY THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPROPRIATING \$280,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$266,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #07-2005

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to adopt this Ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

Ordinance #08-2005

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Deputy Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (BLOCK 96, LOT 2, OWNER: TRIPLE D, LLC), IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$925,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$878,750 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #08-2005

Mrs. Allen said this property fronts on Old York Road, Summer Road and Route 202. It is a 55 acre farm which is included in the Township's Farmland Preservation Program Planning Incentive Grant VIII. The Township will be reimbursed by the County and the State for approximately 80% of the certified value.

Ordinance #08-2005 - continued:

Mayor Gatti asked if there were any comments or questions from the Governing Body.

Mr. Shamey said he supports this acquisition.

Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. There were none.

MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to close the Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Deputy Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (BLOCK 96, LOT 2, OWNER: TRIPLE D, LLC), IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$925,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$878,750 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #08-2005

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to adopt this Ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

Ordinance #09-2005

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Deputy Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (BLOCK 72, LOT 5.02, OWNER: BARTLES), IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$50,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$47,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #09-2005

Mrs. Allen said this property fronts on Route 523. It is a 95 acre farm which is included in the Hunterdon County Farmland Preservation Program. The Township purchased the easement on 85 acres approximately three (3) years ago and this is the remaining ten (10) acres. The Township will be reimbursed by the County for approximately 80% of the certified value.

Mayor Gatti asked if there were any comments or questions from the Governing Body. There were none.

Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. There were none.

MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to close the Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Ordinance #09-2005 - continued:

Deputy Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (BLOCK 72, LOT 5.02, OWNER: BARTLES), IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$50,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$47,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #09-2005

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

Mrs. Allen	-	Aye
Mr. Auriemma	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Gatti asked for comments from the public.

Mr. Frank Renda asked if copies of the Executive Session minutes are available to the public.

Attorney Dragan said that they are available, however any matters that have not been concluded would be redacted.

Mr. Renda said members of the public should be able to comment on the hiring of Professionals that is done in Executive Session before the Committee takes action on the contracts.

Mr. Renda asked what percent of students at Hunterdon Central High School are from Readington Township and what the cost is to the Township residents to send students to the High School.

He suggested that the Committee revisit the issue of changing the formula for funding of the High School. Mr. Shamey said he would meet with Mr. Renda to discuss this matter further.

Mr. Don Baldwin asked about the Professional Services contracts that were listed on the Executive Session agenda.

Mayor Gatti said that the Committee approved contracts with Collier, Jacob & Mills, PC for Labor Counsel services, McKirdy & Riskin for Services Pertaining to Acquisition of Land and McNeely-Vance & Co. as appraisal experts for various litigation.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY:

Mayor Gatti asked for comments from the Governing Body. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Shamey to adjourn at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patti Jo McConnell, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk