

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – APRIL 7, 2008**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator V. Mekovetz, Attorney S. Dragan, Engineer McEldowney

ABSENT:

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>
Administration.....	Personnel Matters.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight... other information will remain confidential
Police.....	Personnel Matters.....	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations	Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Museum Guest Renovations.....	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Board of Education Sewer Agreement.....	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Professional Services..... Word Works Hatch Mott MacDonald	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	GABT, LLC (formerly GABTK, LLC)	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Block 8, Lot 3 (Winfield Management Corp.)	“ “ “
Land Acq/Contract Negotiations....	Block 56, Lot 4 (James).....	“ “ “
Land Acq/Contract Negotiations...	Block 63, Lot 9 (Cramer).....	“ “ “
Attorney-Client Privilege.....	Executive Session Minutes (Mar. 17, 2008)	“ “ “
Potential Litigation.....	Lamington Hospitality.....	“ “ “
Litigation.....	Waste Management of New Jersey.....	“ “ “

Litigation.....	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 - Hromoho).....	“	“	“
Contract Negotiations.....	Dobozynski Farm Rental	“	“	“

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. Muir to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Mr. Shamey with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

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

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

Personnel/Administration

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to hire Karin Parker as Deputy Municipal Clerk and Sewer Advisory Board Secretary effective April 14, 2008 for an annual salary of \$46,000. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Administrator Mekovetz swore in Karin Parker as Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Personnel/Police

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Museum/Guest House Renovations

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
#R-2008-54***

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Committee (“Township”) publicly advertised for bids for the Bouman Stickney Farmstead Museum Guest House Renovation (hereinafter “Renovation Project”) located on 114 Dreahook Road in Readington Township, which property is publicly-accessed property owned by the Township (hereinafter referred to as “the Property”); and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2008, the Township Administrator/Clerk conducted the bid opening whereupon the total number of bidders for the Renovation Project was one (1); and

WHEREAS, upon review of the only bid, the Township Administrator determined that the bid received was well in excess of the estimate cost of the Renovation Project, as well as the amount appropriated for the Renovation Project, and

Resolution #R-2008-54 cont'd:

WHEREAS, in addition to the reason set forth above, under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2, the Township may also reject all bids if it wishes to substantially revise the specifications for the goods or services, or, if the lowest bid substantially exceeds the cost estimates or the amount appropriated for the goods and services.

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

1. The Township Committee hereby rejects the only bid received in conjunction with the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Museum Guest House Renovation, because it substantially exceeded the cost estimates and the amount appropriated for the Renovation Project.
2. The Township Administrator/Clerk is authorized to notify the only bidder of this decision.
3. The Township Administrator/Clerk and/or Architect for the Renovation Project is authorized to rebid same, as well as to revise the specifications to limit the project to finishing the main floor, installing heating and adding a new bathroom. The Renovation Project shall be re-advertised so that all notification provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law are complied with.

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

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

Contract Negotiations/Board of Education Sewer Agreement

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/WordWorks

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
#R-2008-55**

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:
 - WordWorks for editing, limited writing services, typesetting, design and printing of the Township Newsletter on a bi-annual basis at a cost of \$3,680 per issue.
2. Said contract shall expire on December 31, 2008.

Resolution #R-2008-55 cont'd:

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 the resolution, seconded by Mr. Shamey and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations/Hatch Mott MacDonald

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
#R-2008-56**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Professional Engineering and Professional Land Surveying Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provision of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5* and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair” and “open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19.44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19.44a-8, et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,000; and

WHEREAS, Hatch, Mott and MacDonald, LLC, has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Professional Engineering and Professional Land Surveying Services for rates as detailed in the contract; and

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

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – *N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Hatch, Mott and MacDonald, LLC as described herein; and

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

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2008 and

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

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

Resolution #R-2008-56 cont'd:

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

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

Contract Negotiations/GABT, LLC (formerly GABTK, LLC)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to buy back GABT, LLC's sewer allocation at a cost of \$76,468.63 plus accrued interest, seconded by Mrs. Muir and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations/Block 8, Lot 3 (Winfield Management Corp.)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen for Attorney Dragan to draft an agreement with Winfield Management Corp., seconded Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Land Acquisition/Contract Negotiations/Block 56, Lot 4 (James)

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2008-53**

WHEREAS, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) certified the Fair Market Value (FMV) of \$20,600 per acre for the development easement on the James Farm (Block 56, Lot 5 - 21+/- acres) farm, which is contained in Readington Township's 2000B Round Planning Incentive Grant II list of farms; and

WHEREAS, the SADC approved the ten (10) year allocation of \$3,181,464 to be appropriated from the Garden State Preservation Trust, Farmland Preservation Fund, for Readington Township's Planning Incentive Grant I application, conditioned upon Garden State Preservation Trust, legislative and gubernatorial appropriation; and

WHEREAS, based on Readington Township's application, the County of Hunterdon will provide a cost share for the purchase of the development easements, holding title to the development easements.

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

Resolution #R-2008-53 cont'd:

1. Approves the purchase of the development easement on Block 56, Lot 5 (James).
2. Commits to funding of the purchase of the development easement on Block 56, Lot 5 (James).
3. Authorizes funding pursuant to the Township's ten (10) year funding plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution to the County Agricultural Development Board and the State Agricultural Development Committee as requested and required.

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

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

Land Acquisition/Contract Negotiations/Block 63, Lot 9 (Cramer)

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege/Executive Session Minutes (March 17, 2008)

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 17, 2008 for content, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation/Lamington Hospitality

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Litigation/Waste Management of New Jersey v. Readington Township Board of Adjustment

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Litigation – Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6, & 8; Block 39, Lot 24 and Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation – Hromoho)

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Dobozynski Farm Rental

Mayor Auriemma stated that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Auriemma 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 THE MINUTES** of meeting of March 17, 2008.

* **2. Sewer Tie-In (Readington School)**

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
 RESOLUTION
 #R-2008-52**

WHEREAS the Readington Township Board of Education has applied to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for a Wastewater Management Plan Amendment which would allow wastewater from its Readington Middle School and Holland Brook School located on Block 48, Lots 20 and 21.01 to be connected to the Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority Treatment Facility, and

WHEREAS this connection will involve the construction of a wastewater pumping station and pipeline conveying wastewater from the school property to the Readington Township Sewer System, and

WHEREAS said pipeline will be constructed along roads between the aforementioned lots and the Readington Township Sewer System, and

WHEREAS NJDEP requires that this pipeline be restricted to the exclusive use of the Readington Township Board of Education for service to the aforementioned schools, and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has requested the Agencies having jurisdiction over the use of this pipeline agree that its use be restricted to the exclusive use of the Board of Education.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each of the Agencies having jurisdiction over these facilities have hereby agreed to restrict the use of the pumping station and pipeline connecting the Board of Education Properties to the Readington Township Sewer System to the exclusive use of the Readington Township Board of Education for its schools located on Block 48, Lots 20 and 21.01.

- * **3. Annual Poppy Drive** – letter dated March 12, 2008 from Elizabeth Richards requesting permission to hold annual drive throughout month of May.
- * **4. 2007 Variance Applications** – report from Township Board of Adjustment dated March 28, 2008 (Board of Adjustment Resolution #2008-113).
- * **5. Holinko/Seigel Wedding/110 Dreahook Rd. (Block 50, Lot 38)** – letter dated April 2, 2008 from John Barczyk requesting approval for a Special Event Permit for June 7, 2008.
- * **6. Payment of Bills**

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATION	001	\$ 916,365.24
SEWER APPROPRIATION	002	\$ 6,010.16
TRUST FUND APPROPRIATION	003	\$ 30,791.95
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	005	\$ 1,809,613.88
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	006	\$ 323,151.23
DUE TO STATE OF NEW JERSEY	009	\$ 300.00
CAPITAL APPROPRIATION	033	\$ 1,498.40
2007 CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS	066	\$ 2,675.18
 TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS:		 \$ 3,090,406.04

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

As it was after 8:00 p.m., ***A MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Allen 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 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A CERTAIN ROADWAY
WITHIN THE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT KNOWN AS LAKE DRIVE ESTATES
SUBDIVISION IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM WILMARK BUILDING CONTRACTORS, INC.***

Ordinance #08-2008

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

Engineer McEldowney stated that the maintenance guarantee submitted with the ordinance contained an error. The bond was issued for a one (1) year period, however, it should have been issued for a period of two (2) years, thus it needs to be resubmitted.

The Public Hearing was continued until the next meeting.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Gatti to open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Shamey with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

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

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE
READINGTON TOWNSHIP 2007 SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE FOR
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF READINGTON TOWNSHIP***

Ordinance #10-2008

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE
READINGTON TOWNSHIP 2007 SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE FOR
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF READINGTON TOWNSHIP***

Ordinance #10-2008

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Notice from NJ League of Municipalities ***on Support for Motor Vehicles Surcharge to Offset Property Tax Increases.***

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
#R-2008-57***

***A RESOLUTION ENDORSING AN INCREASE IN STATE POLICE SURCHARGES
TO FUND STATE BUDGET SHORTFALLS IN LIEU OF RELIANCE UPON
LOCAL PURPOSE TAX INCREASES***

WHEREAS, Governor Jon S. Corzine's proposed Fiscal Year 2009 budget identifies a shortfall in New Jersey State Police Funding.

WHEREAS, the administration plans to start charging municipalities for State Police services, and doing so would negatively affect municipal budgets and thus require municipalities to raise local purpose taxes, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned proposed budget calls for cuts in municipal aid which also would require municipalities to raise local purpose taxes, and

WHEREAS, Directive 15 from the governor also requires municipalities to meet new security requirements in their courts, resulting in additional capital expenditures in municipal budgets while no state funding offsets are provided, and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2007, many mayors, other elected and appointed municipal officials met with the Attorney General and State Police offering a solution to the State Police budget shortfall namely, increasing surcharges on fines levied by the State Police, and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2007, c.335 (C. 39:2A-36.1) allows the Motor Vehicle Commission governing Board to increase the surcharges listed in that statute, and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2008, mayors, elected and appointed officials met again with the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff, other members of the administration, and the State Police, reiterating this fair solution, and recommended that the administration set the appropriate surcharge rates that would cover the shortfall, as well as that monies collected may also be returned to communities to cover additional court security expenses.

Resolution #R-2008-57 cont'd:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, hereby resolves that it endorses the sensible solution proposed to raise surcharges on motor vehicle fines rather than rely on New Jersey property tax payers to fund any State Police shortfall,

AND BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor, the members of the State Legislature, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

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

2. Letter dated March 13, 2008 from Ira G. Megdal ***regarding a petition from NJ American Water Co., Inc. for Approval of Increased Tariff Rates and Charges for Water and Sewer Service.*** No action taken.
3. Letter dated March 28, 2008 from Comcast ***regarding changes and transition from Patriot Media.*** No action taken.
4. Memorandum dated March 11, 2008 from Dorothy Gooditis, Municipal Clerk, Raritan Township ***regarding Public Hearing on Ordinance #08-4 amending an Ordinance Entitled “Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Raritan,” and More Specifically to Amend Chapter 16.64.*** No action taken.
5. Memorandum dated March 25, 2008 from Dorothy Gooditis, Municipal Clerk, Raritan Township ***regarding Public Hearing on Ordinance #08-08 amending an Ordinance Entitled “Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Raritan, 1999” and More Specifically to Amend Chapter 1622 Zoning Map and Create Chapter 16.24.O Group Homes.*** No action taken.
6. Memorandum dated March 13, 2008 from Donna Burham, Municipal Clerk, Township of Clinton ***regarding Public Hearing on Ordinance #957-08 amending Sections 165-13 and 165-88 Entitled “Land Use Regulations” (Amending Standards and the Schedule of Zoning Requirements).*** No action taken.
7. Memorandum dated March 19, 2008 from Judith Sullivan, Municipal Clerk, Township of Bedminster ***regarding adoption of Ordinance #2008-03 amending Chapter XIII Entitled “Land Management” of the Revised General Ordinances.*** No action taken.
8. Memorandum dated March 25, 2008 from Sharon Brienza, Municipal Clerk, Township of Branchburg ***regarding adoption of Ordinance #2008-1087 amending the Land Development Ordinance by Replacing Section 13-19 Entitled “Affordable Housing Development Fees” in its entirety.*** No action taken.
9. Memorandum dated March 13, 2008 from Donna Burham, Municipal Clerk, Township of Clinton ***regarding adoption of Resolution #056-08 Opposing the Failure of the Governor’s Proposed State Budget for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year to Treat Property Tax Relief as Our Priority.***

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
#R-2008-58**

**OPPOSING THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED STATE BUDGET
FOR THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR TO TREAT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
AS OUR PRIORITY**

Resolution #R-2008-58 cont'd:

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2008, in Trenton, Governor Jon S. Corzine presented his FY 2009 Budget proposal to a Joint Session of the State Legislature, which proposal now goes to the Legislature, which must pass a balanced budget by the State of the State's next Fiscal Year, which begins on July 1; and

WHEREAS, the proposal, which represents what the Governor called "many unpleasant choices," calls for the elimination of two Departments of State Government (the Departments of Agriculture and Personnel) and the State Commerce Commission, and asks all other Departments to absorb funding cuts, and further calls for sacrifice in a number of other areas, including direct property tax relief, hospital aid, higher education assistance and Medicaid, with the inordinately deep cuts in municipal property tax relief funding; and

WHEREAS, one year after the historic Special Session for Property Tax Reform, which purportedly eliminated the need for a Citizens' Convention, our property taxpayers will once again be asked for patience, and they will be asked to shoulder more than their fair share of the funding burden; and

WHEREAS, local officials have done so much with so little for so long, that State Budget-makers now believe some can do everything with absolutely nothing and;

WHEREAS, municipal property tax relief will be slashed by \$189.6 million; and

WHEREAS, for municipalities with a population of less than 5,000, there will be no CMPTRA funding this year; for municipalities with a population total between 5,000 and 10,000, this relief will be limited to one-half of the amount received in the State's 2006-2007 budget; and the \$32.6 million distributed according to the CMPTRA formula, which municipalities received last year as 2008 Municipal Property Tax Assistance, is gone; and

WHEREAS, last year, municipal efficiency was promoted to the tune of \$34.8 million, but in this proposal, this funding has been eliminated; and

WHEREAS, last year's 32 million in Municipal Homeland Security Funding is gone, Special Municipal Aid funding is cut from \$153 million to \$145.4 – a loss of \$7.6 million, Extraordinary Aid funding is reduced by \$1.7 million – from \$34 million to \$32.3 million, and the \$8 million Regional Efficiency Aid Program will not be funded; and

WHEREAS, beyond these cuts, certain municipalities served by the State Police will be asked to contribute \$20 million the State's General Fund, and Homestead Rebates for Homeowners will be cut by \$257 million, and for Renters by \$124 million; and

WHEREAS, this year when local revenues are down and fixed costs are rising, the State is compounding the problem to the local municipalities by trying to "fix" their budget problems on the backs of our local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Township may have to cut or declined to increase any municipal departments in an effort to hold down our tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the State has increased the pension costs to the Township more than \$160,000 while decreasing the state aid by more than \$175,000, which is a dangerous trend which will certainly lead to cuts in an already reduced staff and will also force cuts in municipal services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Readington calls on its elected representatives in Trenton, Senator Leonard Lance and Assembly members Marcia Karrow and Michael Doherty, to work with their colleagues in the Legislature and with the Governor to take affirmative action to restore program funding sufficient to honor state statutes and their stated commitment to the cause of property tax relief in all New Jersey municipalities; and

Resolution #R-2008-58 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Jon S. Corzine, Acting State Treasurer R. David Rousseau, Senate President Richard J. Codey, Senate Minority Leader Thomas H. Kean, Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts, Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce, the Chairs and Members of the Senate and Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committees, our own Senator Lance and Assembly members Marcia Karrow and Michael Doherty and to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

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

10. Resolution dated March 19, 2008 from Karen Dysart, Municipal Clerk, Borough of Milford **regarding adoption of Resolution #2008-041 Admonishing the Governor for Failing, within the Proposed FY2008-2009 State Budget to Treat Property Tax Relief as a Critical Priority.** No action taken.
11. Resolution dated March 15, 2008 from Roberta Brassard, Municipal Clerk, Township of Tewksbury **regarding adoption of Resolution #65-2008 in Opposition to Assembly Bill 1880 (A-1880).**

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
#R-2008-59**

OPPOSITION TO ASSEMBLY BILL 1880 (A-1880)

WHEREAS, A-1880 would require that prior to the issuance of general obligation bonds by a county or municipality (local entity), the bond ordinance authorizing the obligation must be submitted to the voters of the county or municipality, as appropriate, at the general election next following by at least 70 days the final adoption of the ordinance by the local governing body, and

WHEREAS, the current Local Bonds Law, *N.J.S. 40A:2-1 et. seq.*, and the Local Budget Law *N.J.S. 40A:4-1 et seq.* contain multiple provision to protect the public interest should there be opposition to a local bond ordinance, and

WHEREAS, the following provisions of 40A:2-1, et. seq. and 40A:4-1 including the following steps:

- 1) Requiring the local entity to introduce a bond ordinance at a public meeting;
- 2) Ensuring the local entity has placed in its current or temporary budget the required 5% down payment for the issuance of said bonds;
- 3) Detailing the amount to be bonded, the life of the bonds and terms of payment;
- 4) Publishing the bond ordinance in the official newspaper of the local entity with the date, time and location of a public hearing on said ordinance;
- 5) Referral of the bond ordinance, since it is a capital expenditure, to the local Planning Board or Land Use Board, as it applies to municipalities for a consistency review with the municipality's Master Plan wherein the public can comment to the Board on the proposed capital ordinance;
- 6) Holding a public hearing by the local entity on the bond ordinance with action by the local entity Governing Body with no less than 2/3 votes in the affirmative to pass said ordinance;
- 7) Publication of passage of the bond ordinance in the local entity's official newspaper which then allows for an appeal within 20 days of said publication; and

WHEREAS, the public has the ability to challenge said bond ordinance under the provisions of 40A:2-1, et seq. and 40A:4-1, by gathering signatures on a petition of 25% of the registered voters of the municipality who request that the bond ordinance be placed on the ballot at a special election as set by the local authority of the local entity, or can challenge the ordinance directly in a court of Law, and

Resolution R-2008-59 cont'd:

WHEREAS, the public has recently invoked the petition option in both Readington and Clinton Townships showing that the public is active, take notice of what its local elected officials are doing and in one instance placing the question on the ballot where the people affirmed the actions of the Governing Body, and

WHEREAS, municipalities and counties are required to annually prepare a Capital Budget outlining the long term capital projects and purchases which are needed to meet and provide for the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the local entity and these Capital Budgets are the appropriate place for the purchase of items, materials and projects having a life as outlined in the Local Bonds Law, *N.J.S. 40A:2-1 et. seq.*, and the Local Budget Law *N.J.S. 40A:4-1 et. seq.*, and

WHEREAS, the current Local Bonds Law, *N.J.S. 40A:2-1 et. seq.* and the Local Budget Law *N.J.S. 40A:4-1 et. seq.*, do not allow a municipality to exceed 3.5% of its total equalized valuation in terms of bonded indebtedness with the approval of the Local Finance Board, which is yet another public safeguard to prevent, unlike the State and Federal governments, continued borrowing unto itself and straddling the taxpayers with mountains and mountains of debt, and

WHEREAS, should A-1880 successfully be enacted it will raise the cost of the purchases, whether it be a fire truck, rescue squad vehicle, public works dump truck, the construction or expansion of a municipal or county owned building, recreation field, construction or re-construction of a roadway and the list goes on and on where said items have a life clearly permitted to be bonded for, and

WHEREAS, if the local entity is unable to bond for said items above but wait for issuance only after a question has affirmatively passed at a General Election in each ensuing year the costs of those goods and materials will skyrocket costing the local property taxpayers thousands more in the costs as well as interest rates that can fluctuate dramatically, and be directly passed on to those taxpayers in the following year, and

WHEREAS, we need the sponsors to help municipalities find means to save money, share services and thus not tax any more than absolutely necessary to ensure the general health, safety & welfare of the residents and not continuously tie municipalities hand by more red tape and bureaucratic regulation, and

WHEREAS, we local officials were also elected to conduct the people's business in an open manner and seek dialogue with our representatives and constituents alike and if the voters find that we are not doing our jobs as the voters expect and demand then not only can they have their say at the ballot box they also have the power of a recall of their officials, which we have seen used in Bedminster Township and Franklin Township (Somerset County).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Reading, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey is firmly opposed to the enactment of A-1880, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Assembly sponsors and co-sponsors, Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts, Senator Steve Oroho, Senator Leonard Lance, Assemblyman Gary Chiusano, Assemblywoman Marcia, Karrow, Assemblywoman Denise Coyle, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, all Hunterdon County municipalities, the NJ State League of Municipalities, and the NJ Conference of Mayors.

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

12. Memorandum dated March 20, 2008 from Denise Doolan, Clerk, Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders ***regarding adoption of a Resolution Opposing the Governor's Proposal to Eliminate the Department of Agriculture.***

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
#R-2008-60**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2008, Governor Jon S. Corzine proposed the FY 2009 New Jersey State Budget; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Budget, Governor Corzine has proposed to eliminate the New Jersey Department of Agriculture as a cost-cutting measure; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture provides many important services to the almost \$3.5 billion agricultural industry and the citizens of the state including, but not limited to:

- 1) Food safety
- 2) Emergency food distribution of 500,000 residents
- 3) School nutrition programs (Healthy Choices/Healthy Kids)
- 4) School lunch programs for 145,000 children statewide
- 5) Soil/Water conservation, and environmental programs (Green Energy Initiatives for farmers, Garden State Ethanol)
- 6) Farmland preservation (160,000 acres statewide)
- 7) Aquaculture (seafood harvesting and distribution)
- 8) Equine industry, including racing
- 9) Livestock and poultry disease monitoring (mad cow, avian influenza)
- 10) Plant pest control (e.g. gypsy moths, Asian Longhorn beetle)
- 11) Commodity promotion (the Jersey Fresh Program)
- 12) Urban planning and forest protection (Smart Growth Planner's Toolkit, programs to halt urban forest devastation by the Asian longhorn beetle)
- 13) Cooperation with academic and research institutions
- 14) Seed and fertilizer testing
- 15) Pet food and livestock feed testing

WHEREAS, New Jersey's diverse agriculture industry (produce, horticulture, livestock, seafood, equine) relies on the services of the Department of Agriculture to remain viable, contributing almost \$3.5 billion to our state economy while also providing jobs, generating sales tax receipts, and maintaining our state's history and identity as the "Garden State", and

WHEREAS, NJ Agriculture provides uniquely fresh, healthy food to local communities at a reduced cost to the consumer while utilizing shorter distribution routes than national providers, thus minimizing the environmental damage caused by long distance transportation, and

WHEREAS, the federal Farm Bill of 2007 was named "The Farm Nutrition and Community Investment Act" in recognition of the critical role agriculture plays in providing a better quality of life, as well as feeding our population; and

WHEREAS, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) within the Department of Agriculture administers the New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has invested close to \$1.1 billion since 1982 to permanently preserve over 160,000 acres of farmland; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey voters have shown overwhelming support for the Farmland Preservation Program; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Farmland Preservation Program includes over 271 preserved farms and over 23,615 acres permanently preserved.

Resolution #R-2008-60 cont'd:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon does hereby oppose the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Department of Agriculture and urges the Governor to reconsider his proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to each New Jersey legislator representing Hunterdon County, the Department of Agriculture, the SADC, every Board of Chosen Freeholders and every County Agriculture Development Board in the State of New Jersey.

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

13. Resolution dated March 27, 2008 from Teresa Stahl, Municipal Clerk, Township of East Amwell **regarding adoption of Resolution #59-08 Opposing the Governor's Proposal to Eliminate the Department of Agriculture**. Action taken under Item 12.
14. Resolution dated March 4, 2008 from Maryann Ellsworth, Municipal Clerk, Borough of Point Pleasant Beach **regarding adoption of a Resolution urging the State Legislature and Governor to Enact Legislation Granting All Municipalities Within the State of New Jersey the Right to Levy Local Option Taxes on Discretionary Spending which will not Interfere with State Revenue Policies and Uniformity Within the State**. No action taken.
15. Resolution dated March 17, 2008 from Heidi Abs, Municipal Clerk, Township of Middletown **regarding adoption of Resolution #08-112 urging that the Governor and Legislature Implement a Stay on the Further Implementation of the COAH Third Round Proposals and the Fair Housing Act**. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Lightfield Road right-of-way** – update

The Committee reviewed the draft ordinance prepared by Attorney Dragan based on Engineer McEldowney's recommendations from the March 17, 2008 Township Committee meeting. Attorney Dragan will make minor revisions to the ordinance and it will be presented for introduction at the April 21, 2008 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Consumption & Distribution License Fees – consideration of an amendment.**

The following Ordinance was offered for introduction:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 66-5 OF THE CODE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON PERTAINING TO THE FEES FOR
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES**

Ordinance #11-2008

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Readington in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 66-5 of the Code of the Township of Readington pertaining to the fees for alcoholic beverage licenses is hereby amended as follows [additions are indicated thus, deletions are indicated ~~thus~~]:

'66-5 Fees.

The fees for alcoholic beverage licenses shall be as follows:

Ordinance #11-2008 cont'd:

- A. For consumption and distribution licenses: \$1,537.92 ~~\$1,281.60~~ (\$100 to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control).

SECTION 2. This Ordinance supersedes any ordinances, sections or portion(s) of the Code of the Township of Readington or any other Township ordinance inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.

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

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

A Public Hearing was scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on April 21, 2008.

2. Hunterdon County Open Space Trust – 2008 Municipal Grant Program Funds.

The Committee discussed Kevin Richardson's letter dated March 19, 2008, wherein he advises that Readington's 2008 allocation of Municipal Grant Program funds will be \$175,578.52.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to submit the Csepi property for the 2008 Grant Fund Program, seconded by Mrs. Muir and on Roll Call the following vote was recorded:

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

3. Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders – letter requesting support for a County Wastewater Management Planning Agency.

The Committee requested Engineer McEldowney to obtain further information. This item was deferred until the next meeting (April 21, 2008).

4. Resolution – requesting the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders to Study the Feasibility of a County-Wide Animal Control Shared Service.

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
#R-2008-61**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF A COUNTY-WIDE ANIMAL CONTROL SHARED SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington hereby requests the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders to collaborate with the Hunterdon County Shared Services Coordinator to conduct a feasibility study for county-wide animal control services; and

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County has successfully implemented county-wide, cost-effective shared services such as administration of the Health Officer position that has resulted in the saving of taxpayer dollars and the reduction of redundancy of the service; and

Resolution R-2008-61 cont'd:

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County has successfully implemented county-wide, cost-effective shared services such as administration of the 911 Dispatch that has resulted in the saving of taxpayer dollars and reduction of the redundancy of the service; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Shared Services Coordinator, through meetings and surveying municipalities has identified animal control services as a requested and possible shared service; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities throughout the County are struggling to provide animal control services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington believes that long-term tax savings and improved service delivery may be obtained by sharing animal control services; and

WHEREAS, the proposed State municipal budget cuts will impact the Township of Readington and possibly some services the Township of Readington provides to its residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the State has proposed allocating \$32 million in SHARE grant funding to study and implement shared services such as county-wide animal control; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington desires the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders to seek funding through the proposed State's SHARE allocation to conduct the feasibility study; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, that we request the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders to collaborate with the Hunterdon County Shared Services Coordinator to begin the process of conducting a feasibility study for county-wide animal control services.

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

5. ***Sewer Tie-In – Readington School***

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

6. ***Annual Poppy Drive***

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

7. ***2007 Variance Applications – Township Board of Adjustment***

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

8. ***Holinko/Seigel Wedding/110 Dreahook Rd. (Block 50, Lot 38)***

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Administrator Mekovetz stated that she had nothing further to report at this time.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Mayor Auriemma asked for an update on the Spring Meadows development.

Engineer McEldowney stated that the residents of Spring Meadows are frustrated with the inadequate condition of their development regarding tree planting that still needs to be done, dumping of building debris and inappropriate ground cover. Engineer McEldowney stated that he requested input from the Soil Conservation District Office, which is responsible for monitoring soil erosion.

Residents Mr. Joe Scotto and Mr. Joe Morris presented photographs of the incomplete work and piles of numerous rocks, building debris within the development and the damaged fence installed by Ryan Homes. The Committee suggested that the residents contact the landowner/farmer directly regarding the damaged fence.

The Committee also directed Administrator Mekovetz to send a letter to the Soil Conservation District requesting that they make a further inspection of the property to address the complaints and concerns of the property owners.

Mrs. Allen also suggested sending Mr. DiIorio a letter stating that Engineer McEldowney's office will be staking the property next week for tree planting and the Committee wants an immediate response when the trees will be planted. Mrs. Allen also stated that the letter should include that before the Committee can consider this property complete or eligible for a bond reduction, it needs to be restored and appropriate ground cover put in place.

Engineer McEldowney also provided a draft ordinance for the Committee to review which addresses the issue of maintenance of Township sidewalks.

Engineer McEldowney updated the Committee on the parking issue at Summer Road Park. The property owners adjacent to the park are requesting a fence installed along the road to prevent access to their fields/property. Engineer McEldowney stated that there were no proposed changes to the drainage area/berm.

Engineer McEldowney updated the Committee on the drainage issue at the farm located near Summer Road Park. He stated that the Department of Public Works would be working on realigning the pipe from the detention basin to help alleviate the run-off of water through the farm. The job is scheduled for Spring 2008.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Thomas Auriemma:

Mayor Auriemma stated he had nothing to report at this time.

Julia Allen:

Farmland\Open Space Preservation\Land Projects Liaison

The next open space walk is scheduled for Sunday, April 20 at 1:00 pm.

Frank Gatti:

Finance Department:

- a. Payment of Bills
This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.
- b. Tax Refunds – resolution
This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.

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

Beatrice Muir:

Mrs. Muir stated that Social Services will be holding their first meeting for 2008 on April 8 and also wanted to remind everyone to get their dog licenses.

Gerard Shamey:

Mr. Shamey stated that a resident had asked about hunting on public lands. Mrs. Allen suggested contacting the County Parks Department which has a raffle/lottery program.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Auriemma asked for comments from the public. Mr. Bruce Fuller addressed the Committee with concerns over the 30 MPH speed limit in Whitehouse Station. Mr. Fuller stated that the speed limit is too fast and dangerous for the downtown section. He presented photos of “yield for pedestrian” signs which are currently being used in the crosswalks in Clinton, Lebanon and Oldwick. The Committee asked Administrator Mekovetz to send a letter to the County requesting a reduced speed limit, painting stripes in the crosswalks and the installation of crosswalk signs, using Oldwick as an example.

Mr. Shamey requested that Engineer McEldowney work with the Department of Public Works to compile a list of sidewalks in the Township in order to discuss the sidewalk ordinance at the next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY:

Mayor Auriemma asked if there were any comments from the Governing Body. There were none.

As there was no further business, a motion was made at 9:55 p.m. by Mr. Shamey adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/RPPO
Administrator/Municipal Clerk