

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING - MAY 16, 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, Mrs. J. Allen, Mr. T. Auriemma and Mrs. B. Muir

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Dragan, Administrator Mekovetz and Engineer McEldowney

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 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>
Planning Office.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight... other information will remain confidential
Municipal Court.....	Personnel.....	" " "
Zoning.....	Personnel.....	" " "
Recreation.....	Personnel.....	" " "
PBA Local 317.....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Hionis Greenhouse.....	Potential Litigation.....	" " "
Dingman & James Auction Co.....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 63, Lots 11, 12 & 13 (Accetola).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 15, Lot 21 (Adde).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 39, Lot 14 (Cuchiaro).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 98, Lot 2 (Padovani).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 39, Lots 49 & 14.04 and Block 40, Lot 2 (Peters).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Whitehouse Rescue Squad vs. Twp. of Readington Board of Adjustment.....	Litigation.....	" " "
Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	" " "

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION - continued:

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

The meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

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

Mayor Gatti said that he did not attend the Executive Session. He said that Deputy Mayor Shamey will go over the business was completed during Executive Session:

Personnel - Planning Office

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to hire Dorene String for a part-time clerical position, two (2) days a week at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective May 23, 2005. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Personnel - Municipal Court

Deputy Mayor Shamey said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Personnel - Zoning

Deputy Mayor Shamey said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Personnel - Recreation

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to hire John Gustaven to be the on-site director for the softball tournaments being run by Readington Recreation this summer at a rate of \$300 (paid from registration fees) for a total of 25 hours. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - PBA Local 317

Deputy Mayor Shamey said that there was no action on this matter.

Potential Litigation - Hionis Greenhouse

Deputy Mayor Shamey said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations - Dingman & James Auction Co.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the contract with Dingman & James Auction Co. for auction services at a cost of 10% of the gross selling price, with a minimum of \$1,000. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Block 63, Lots 11, 12 & 13 (Accetola)

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the contract, as amended, for Block 63, Lots 11, 12 & 13 (Accetola). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Block 15, Lot 24 (Readington Township)

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2005-82***

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:
 - Max Spann Auction Co. as an Auction Specialist to effectuate the sale of real property located on Block 15, Lot 24 for a charge of a Buyers Premium of ten percent (10%) to be added to the sales price.
2. Said contract shall expire on May 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 Mrs. Muir and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Block 39, Lot 14 (Cuchiaro)

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the contract for Block 39, Lot 14. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Block 98, Lot 2 (Padovani)

Deputy Mayor Shamey said this matter was not discussed.

Contract Negotiations - Block 39, Lots 49 & 14.04 and Block 40, Lot 2 (Peters)

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve a contract with MGM Associates in the amount of \$2,500 to perform an appraisal on Block 39, Lots 49 & 14.04 and Block 40, Lot 2 (Peters). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Litigation - Whitehouse Rescue Squad vs. Township of Readington Board of Adjustment

Deputy Mayor Shamey said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege - Executive Session Minutes

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the Executive Session minutes of the meeting of May 2, 2005 for content. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ***APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES*** of meeting of May 2, 2005.
2. ***Request for permission to temporarily close a section of Weavers Lane to hold a block party*** (June 18, 2005).
3. ***Improvements to School Road Section I - payment #1.***
4. ***Resolution authorizing the sale of municipally owned personal property at public auction.***

***READINGTON TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION
R-2005-85***

WHEREAS, the Public Works Director has presented a list of municipally owned items as shown on the attached Appendix "A" that are no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 a governing body may authorize the sale of municipally owned personal property not needed for public use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington does hereby declare the items listed on the attached Appendix "A" as surplus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington does hereby authorize a public auction to be held on June 4, 2005 at the Readington Township Public Works Facility at 287 Mountain Road, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey.

5. ***Ryan Homes - NVR, Inc./Block 64, Lot 8.03*** - request for refund of unused permit fee.
6. ***Older Americans Month (May, 2005)*** - Proclamation.

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2005-86***

Older Americans Month (May, 2005) - Proclamation - continued:

WHEREAS, the month of May is traditionally designated and observed throughout the nation as **Older Americans Month**; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 theme is, “**Celebrate Long-Term Living**,” in celebration and recognition of older Americans who are living longer, healthier and more productive lives; and

WHEREAS, older Americans are a vital part of our nation’s demographic makeup; and

WHEREAS, older Americans are members of our community entitled to dignified, independent lives, free from fears, myths and misconceptions about aging; and

WHEREAS, each community in America must strive to recognize the contributions of our older citizens, understand and address their evolving needs, and support their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, our society is dependent upon intergenerational cooperation and support, and benefits from our collective efforts to serve older Americans and the people who love them.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the month of May, 2005 is hereby declared **OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**, in the Township of Readington; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee calls upon residents to honor and celebrate the outstanding contributions of Readington Township’s older residents.

7. **Lyons/Block 52, Lot 1** - request for release of escrow funds.
8. **Szatynski/Block 72, Lot 26** - request for release of Board of Health escrow funds.
9. **Spiller/Block 53, Lot 13** - request for release of Board of Health escrow funds.
10. **Application for Blue Light Permit** - William Schultz.
11. **Application for Raffles License** - Whitehouse First Aid & Rescue Squad.
12. **Payment of the Bills.**

Fund Description	Fund No.	Received Total
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATION	001	\$ 684,380.29
SEWER APPROPRIATION	002	\$ 99,062.24
TRUST APPROPRIATION	003	\$ 46,560.50
CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS	004	\$ 131,374.24
MISC. REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	005	\$ 1,088,404.18
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	006	\$ 160,147.06
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS:		\$ 2,209,928.51

13. **Police Department Summary** - Dec., 2004; Jan., 2005; Feb., 2005 & March, 2005.

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

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

Mayor Gatti said the Committee will now consider #3 under “New Business.”

Readington Township School Defeated Budget - Resolution.

Mayor Gatti said on April 19th Township residents defeated the local school budget by a vote of 875 yes votes to 1,352 no votes.

Readington Township School Defeated Budget - Resolution - continued:

Mayor Gatti invited Board of Education President Mark Berry along with members of the Board of Education to speak after Mr. Auriemma and Mr. Shamey. In addition, he asked that any members of the public who wish to speak to put their names on a sign-in sheet.

Mr. Auriemma thanked the members of the Board of Education Financial Team President Mark Berry, Rick Kilpatrick, Superintendent Irene Benfatti and Business Administrator Steffi-Jo DeCasas for meeting with him, Mr. Shamey and Administrator Mekovetz.

Mr. Auriemma and Mr. Shamey discussed their meetings with representatives from the Board of Education and gave the reasons for the Committee's proposed budget reductions.

Board of Education President Mark Berry and Board members Rick Kilpatrick and Susan Marcella spoke in opposition to the Committee's proposed resolution.

Mr. William Weber said he was a past member of the Board of Education. He said that cutting back the budget as much as the Committee is proposing is going to impact the ability of the local schools to advance students that are going on to high school.

Mr. Michael Sclafani said he empathizes with the Committee in regard to having to examine the defeated budget and determine where reductions can be made. Mr. Sclafani said the Board seems to be asking that the Committee reexamine the proposed reductions.

Ms. Kim Coombs said any budget reductions will impact the children either directly or indirectly.

Ms. Michelle O'Keefe said in the current budget there are approximately \$1 million in one-time expenses which are earmarked for specific expenses this year.

Mr. Michael Denning said he was a past member of the Board of Education. Mr. Denning said at some point during the last five (5) years the school enrollment did increase however they were not able to hire teachers to keep the class average the same. This is the one (1) time there is the ability to hire the necessary staff to educate the children. Mr. Denning said the school gets 9% of their budget from the State and the tax payers pay the remaining 91%.

Mr. William Goodwin said the population projections will be flat next year. There are more students graduating than are coming into the schools. The budget was defeated by the voters for a number of different reasons.

Mayor Gatti thanked the members of the audience for their comments.

Mrs. Allen said that she sympathizes with the desire to provide students with a quality education. She said the size of the classes graduating is significantly larger than the size of the classes entering the school. Attrition is beginning to lower class size.

Mr. Shamey said when the school budget is defeated the Board of Education must meet with the Governing Body and come to some compromise. Mr. Shamey said the Committee had many questions which were answered extremely thoroughly. A lot of work went into drafting this resolution and the Committee had to consider that the budget was defeated by a large number of voters.

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2005-84**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Readington Township School District presented to the voters, at the annual school election held on April 19, 2005, a question concerning the tax levy requirements for the said Board of Education for Current Expenses and Capital Outlay, designated as the General Fund, in the amount of \$25,505,591; and

Readington Township School Defeated Budget - Resolution - continued:

WHEREAS, the voters of the Readington Township school district rejected the General Fund question by a vote of 1,352 No votes to 875 Yes votes; and

WHEREAS, joint meetings of the designated elected officials of the municipality and a Committee of the Board of Education were held on May 11, 2005 and May 13, 2005 to discuss the General Fund Budget; and

WHEREAS, careful consideration has been given to the information received from the Board of Education with a view toward providing a thorough and efficient system of education in the school system of the Board of Education.

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 General Fund (base budget) Tax Levy is to be reduced by the total sum of \$720,000 as delineated below.

2005/2006 READINGTON SCHOOL BUDGET/TAX CHANGES

REVENUES - CURRENT EXPENSE

<u>ACCT. NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
11-000-240105	Clerical Aide (proposed new position)	\$ 15,975.00	Responsibilities can be supported by present support staff.
11-000-240105	Clerical Aide (proposed new position)	\$ 15,975.00	Responsibilities can be supported by present support staff.
11-000-222-100-000	Library Aide (proposed new position)	\$ 21,504.00	HBS going from 2 sessions to a single session. Library Aide is not required.
11-000-291-270	Health Benefits	\$100,000.00	Based on calculations this seems excessive. Also, this proposal reduces the number of new hires.
11-000-240-103-000-000	School Adm.	\$128,080.00	The Assistant Intern and the Supervisor of Instruction cannot be supported for minimum growth.
11-120-100-101	Grades 1-5 Salaries of Teachers (proposed new positions)	\$100,000.00	This represents 1/5th of the dollar amount of proposed new hires.
11-130-100-101	Grades 6-8 Salaries of Teachers (proposed new positions)	\$100,000.00	This represents 1/6th of the dollar amount of proposed new hires.
11-000-262-100	Salaries - Oper. & Maint. of Plant	\$ 37,546.00	The salary proposed is excessive to meet the proposed single additional position.
11-190-100-610	General Supplies (furniture)	\$130,000.00	School has not reached either full or functional capacity. This represents a 6% reduction.
11-000-222-100-000	Gruenberger, Julie Lynn (duplicate)	\$ 60,440.00	Duplicate entry.
11-000-262-100-100-000	Cafeteria Aide	\$ 10,480.00	This represents a miscalculation based on the number of aides and number of hours employed.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>\$720,000.00</u>

Readington Township School Defeated Budget - Resolution - continued:

(2) The Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby certifies the tax levy for the General Fund of the 2005/2006 Readington Township School District Budget in the amount of \$24,785,591.00.

- (3) The Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby certifies that the revised budget is sufficient to provide a thorough and efficient education.
- (4) The supporting reasons for the reductions in appropriations are listed above.
- (5) The Clerk of the Township of Readington is directed to provide a certified copy of this resolution by no later than May 19, 2005 to the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools, the Readington Township School District Board of Education and to such other parties as required by law to receive copies.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

As it was after 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 Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING CONDUCT AT YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTING EVENTS HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

Ordinance #16-2005

Mayor Gatti said this ordinance has been discussed at the last several Committee meetings and governs conduct at sporting events.

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

Mr. Auriemma said the purpose of the ordinance is to govern the conduct of parents, spectators and others at sporting events.

Mrs. Muir said many communities have enacted similar ordinances.

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

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING CONDUCT AT YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTING EVENTS HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

Ordinance #16-2005

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

Ordinance #16-2005 - continued:

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

Ordinance #17-2005

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

Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS EASEMENT (BLOCK 15, LOT 4, OWNER: ARNAUDY), IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$452,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$429,400 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #17-2005

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

Mrs. Allen said this property is a 28 acre farm on Island Road that is directly contiguous to the Reeve Schley farm and across the road from the John Schley farm. The funding for the purchase of this easement was approved under the 2005A Round of the Planning Incentive Grant. The Township will be reimbursed for approximately 80% of the final cost.

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

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

Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS EASEMENT (BLOCK 15, LOT 4, OWNER: ARNAUDY), IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$452,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$429,400 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #17-2005

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

Mayor Gatti said the Committee will now address item #1 under New Business:

Open Space Advisory Board - presentation.

Mr. Ben Smith, Chair of the Open Space Advisory Board, gave a brief presentation on the Township's Open Space preservation program.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Notice dated April 27, 2005 from Dorothy D. Wilkie, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Bedminster, regarding ***adoption of Ordinance #05-09 - Supplementing & Amending Article 13-522 entitled "Wireless Facilities" of Chapter XIII Entitled "Land Management" of the revised General Ordinances of the Township of Bedminster***, noted for information. No action taken.
2. Notice dated May 5, 2005 from Dorothy D. Wilkie, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Bedminster, regarding ***public hearing of Ordinance #05-18 - Supplementing & Amending Article 13-500 entitled "General Provisions & Design Standards" of Chapter XIII Entitled "Land Management" of the revised General Ordinances of the Township of Bedminster***, noted for information. No action taken.
3. Memorandum dated May 9, 2005 from Diane Pflugfelder, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Bethlehem, regarding ***adoption of a Resolution supporting Senate Bill S-1023 and Assembly Bill A-1835***, noted for information. No action taken.
4. Notice dated May 5, 2005 from Laura Eidsvaag, Municipal Clerk, Borough of Califon, regarding ***adoption of a Resolution urging the State of New Jersey to specifically prohibit the practice known as "Engine Braking,"*** noted for information. No action taken.
5. Notice dated April 27, 2005 from George J. Jorn, Mayor, Township of Cranford, regarding ***adoption of a Resolution in favor of Assembly Bill 3526/Senate Bill 2144 "Christopher's Law,"*** noted for information. No action taken.

6. Resolution from the Township of West Amwell *recommending that a roundtable forum be established and that all impacted communities, stakeholders, environmental organizations and municipalities be invited to participate to determine the most acceptable alternatives for identifying and alleviating east-west traffic mobility problems*, noted for information. No action taken.
7. Letter dated April 28, 2005 from Nancy Kempel, Supervising Environmental Engineer, Bureau of Point Source Permitting Region 2, NJDEP, regarding *Draft Surface Water Renewal Permit Action - NJPDES Permit No. NJ0102563, Route 78 Office Area WWTF*, noted for information. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

After a short discussion action on this item was deferred until the next meeting so that Engineer McEldowney can do a site inspection of the property.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Open Space Advisory Board* - presentation.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. *Hunterdon Central High School Defeated Budget* - Resolution.

Mayor Gatti said that he attended a meeting with representatives from Hunterdon Central High School and the surrounding sending districts to discuss the defeated budget.

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2005-83**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Hunterdon Central Regional High School District presented to the voters, at the annual school election held on April 19, 2005, a question concerning the tax levy requirements for the 2005-2006 Budget for Current Expenses and Capital Outlay, designated as the General Fund, in the amount of \$40,839,964.00; and

Hunterdon Central High School Defeated Budget - Resolution - continued:

WHEREAS, the voters of the five (5) municipalities comprising the school district rejected the General Fund question by a vote of 3,687 No votes to 2,883 Yes votes; and

WHEREAS, a joint meeting of the designated elected officials of the municipalities and the Board of Education was held on May 3, 2005 to discuss the General Fund Budget during which changes to the budget were reviewed and a consensus was reached regarding said changes; and

WHEREAS, careful consideration has been given to the information received from the Board of Education with a view toward providing a thorough and efficient system of education in the school system of the Board of Education.

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 General Fund (base budget) Tax Levy is to be reduced by the total sum of \$300,000 as delineated below.

**HUNTERDON CENTRAL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
TAX LEVY REDUCTION
2005/2006 HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET/TAX CHANGES**

APPROPRIATIONS - CURRENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT

	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
12-000-400-390	Professional Services	\$ 45,000.00
12-000-400-450	Construction Services	\$115,000.00

(music building remediation; new flooring)

12-000-400-710	Land & Improvements (athletic field #9)	\$140,000.00
	Total Appropriation Reduction	\$300,000.00

- (2) The Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby certifies the tax levy for the General Fund of the 2005\2006 Hunterdon Central Regional High School Budget in the amount of \$40,539,964.00.
- (3) The Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby certifies that the revised budget is sufficient to provide a thorough and efficient education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Township of Readington is directed to provide a certified copy of this resolution by no later than May 19, 2005 to the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools, the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Board of Education and to such other parties as required by law to receive copies.

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
Mrs. Muir	-	Nay
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

3. **Readington Township School Defeated Budget - Resolution.**

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

4. **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton RC Church - request for exemption from Planning Board application fee.**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Muir to deny this request because the Township does not have an Ordinance in place that permits the waiving of application fees for non-profit

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton RC Church - request for exemption from Planning Board application fee - continued:

organizations and additionally, since several applications from non-profits are received every year, it would be quite costly to the Township to waive these fees for all non-profits. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

5. Request from Lake Cushetunk Woods Property Owners Association **to install a street light at the corner of Well Sweep Road and Van Horne Road.**

Action on this item was deferred until the next meeting so that additional information, such as the cost, can be obtained.

6. **Request for permission to temporarily close a section of Weavers Lane to hold a block party** (June 18, 2005).

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

7. **Improvements to School Road Section I - payment #1.**

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

8. **Resolution authorizing the sale of municipally owned personal property at public auction.**

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

9. **Ryan Homes - NVR, Inc./Block 64, Lot 8.03 - request for refund of unused permit fee.**

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

10. **Older Americans Month (May, 2005) - Proclamation.**

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

11. *Lyons/Block 52, Lot 1* - request for release of escrow funds.
This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.
12. *Szatynski/Block 72, Lot 26* - request for release of Board of Health escrow funds.
This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.
13. *Spiller/Block 53, Lot 13* - request for release of Board of Health escrow funds.
This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.
14. *Application for Blue Light Permit* - William Schultz.
This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.
15. *Application for Raffles License* - Whitehouse First Aid & Rescue Squad.
This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Frank Gatti:

a. Finance Department

1. *Payment of the Bills.*

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

b. Police Department

12. *Police Department Summary* - Dec., 2004; Jan., 2005; Feb., 2005 & March, 2005.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

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

2. Gerry Shamey:

a. Liaison to Fire Companies and Rescue Squad

Mr. Shamey said at the last Emergency Services meeting there was a question regarding testing for titers to determine whether or not emergency services volunteers are in need of Hepatitis B booster shots.

Mike Wernicki from the Three Bridges Fire Company also asked about members of the Fire Company getting "titer" tests to determine if they need Hepatitis B boosters.

Administrator Mekovetz said she will look into this matter.

3. Julia Allen:
a. Farmland\Open Space Preservation\Land Projects Liaison

Mrs. Allen said she would like to thank the Open Space Advisory Board for their presentation this evening.

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

4. Thomas Auriemma:
a. Recreation Department

Mr. Auriemma said the four (4) new members of the Recreation Committee attended their first meeting.

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

5. Beatrice Muir:
Mrs. Muir said she had nothing to report at this time.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Gatti asked for comments from the public.

Ms. Stephanie Moore said she would like to comment on Ordinance #16-2005. She said there are independent teams that are paying to use the fields which has pushed four (4) Readington Township teams off of the fields.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - continued:

Mr. Shamey said all this ordinance speaks to is conduct. It does not address the leasing of Township fields.

Mrs. Allen suggested that this discussion be held at a future meeting.

Chief Mike Wernicki asked if the \$400,000 grant for East Whitehouse Fire Company was approved.

Ms. Stephanie Moore said the grant was submitted but approval has not been received yet.

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 10:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC\CMC
Administrator\Municipal Clerk

H:\WPDOCS\TWPCT\MINUTES\2005\05-16-05.wpd