

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING - JUNE 20, 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>
Recreation..... confidential	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight... other information will remain
Police Department.....	Personnel.....	" " "
PBA Local 317.....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 63, Lots 11, 12 & 13 (Accettola)..... Green Acres - Block 73, Lot 27; Block 74, Lots 8 & 9; Block 79, Lot 4 and Block 79.01, Lots 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05 & 11.06 {formerly known as Block 74, Lot 11}	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
(Fallone Properties, LC)..... Block 39, Lots 49 & 14.04	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
and Block 40, Lot 2 (Peters).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 36, Lot 4 (Zacios)..... Hrynyk v. Greco, Insabella,	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Readington Twp., <i>et al.</i>	Litigation.....	" " "
Executive Session Minutes - June 6, 2005.....	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.

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 there is an amendment to the agenda. Although there are two (2) Public Hearings, the first ordinance listed is incorrect. The Public Hearing for that ordinance was held at a previous meeting. The two (2) ordinances scheduled for Public Hearing this evening are Ordinance #18-2005 and #19-2005.

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

Personnel - Recreation

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to hire summer Clean Communities workers. This motion was 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

Personnel - Police Department

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to approve the agreement with the NJDOT for Readington Police Officers to direct traffic for a project on Mullen Road, to reimburse the Township for this service and to authorize Mayor Gatti to sign this agreement. 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

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

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey 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 - Green Acres - Block 73, Lot 27; Block 74, Lots 8 & 9; Block 79, Lot 4 and Block 79.01, Lots 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05 & 11.06 {formerly known as Block 74, Lot 11} (Fallone Properties, LLC)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to approve the agreement with the State of New Jersey to purchase Block 73, Lot 27; Block 74, Lots 8 & 9; Block 79, Lot 4 and Block 79.01, Lots 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05 & 11.06 {formerly known as Block 74, Lot 11} for \$1,960,000. 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 39, Lots 49 & 14.04 and Block 40, Lot 2 (Peters)

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

Contract Negotiations - Block 36, Lot 4 (Zacios)

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

Litigation - Hrynyk v. Greco, Insabella, Readington Twp., et al.

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

Attorney-Client Privilege - Executive Session Minutes (June 6, 2005)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey 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. Mrs. Muir abstained from this vote as she did not attend the June 6, 2005 Committee meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of meeting of June 6, 2005.
2. **Liquor License Renewals** - resolution.

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS
R-2005-92**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington that the following Readington Township Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals for 2005-2006 be approved:

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION:

<u>LICENSE NUMBER</u>	<u>LICENSE HOLDER</u>	<u>MUNICIPAL FEE</u>	<u>STATE FEE</u>
1022-44-008-005	Bishop & Bishop Bar & Liquors	\$1,068.00	\$200.00

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION:

<u>LICENSE NUMBER</u>	<u>LICENSE HOLDER</u>	<u>MUNICIPAL FEE</u>	<u>STATE FEE</u>
1022-33-001-002	Chanco (Stanton Ridge Country Club)	\$1,068.00	\$200.00
1022-33-005-005	V.C. Sons, Inc. (Readington Diner)	\$1,068.00	\$200.00
1022-33-006-005	Ryland Inn Restaurant Operation, L.L.C.	\$1,068.00	\$200.00
1022-33-007-005	Bensi of Whitehouse Station, LLC.,	\$1,068.00	\$200.00
1022-33-009-002	ASKJAC, LLC (Foolish Fox Tavern)	\$1,068.00	\$200.00
1022-33-003-005	What's Cookin, Inc.	\$1,068.00	\$200.00
1022-33-002-009	Mitnick, Steve J. as assignee of Pirantello, LLC.	\$1,068.00	\$100.00

CLUB:

<u>LICENSE NUMBER</u>	<u>LICENSE HOLDER</u>	<u>MUNICIPAL FEE</u>	<u>STATE FEE</u>
1022-31-012-001	Polish American Citizens Club	\$ 150.00	\$200.00
1022-31-010-001	Whitehouse American Legion	\$ 150.00	\$200.00
1022-31-013-001	Readington Volunteer Fire Company	\$ 150.00	\$200.00
1022-31-014-001	Three Bridges Volunteer Fire Company	\$ 150.00	\$200.00

3. **Readington Route 22 Assoc./Block 36, Lot 49** - request for release of escrow funds.
4. **Pleasant Run, LLC/Block 75, Lot 30** - request for release of escrow funds.
5. **Aulisi/Block 66, Lot 11** - request for release of Board of Health escrow funds.
6. **Application for Catering Permit** - Growth Restaurants, Inc. (July 29th - 31st).
7. **Application for Raffles License** - Fighting Children's Cancer Foundation.
8. **Application for Membership in NJ Firemen's Association** - Matthew W. Byrum.
9. **Payment of the Bills.**

Fund Description	Fund No.	Received Total
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATION	001	\$ 368,720.46
SEWER APPROPRIATION	002	\$ 107,998.86
TRUST APPROPRIATION	003	\$ 66,470.03
CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS	004	\$ 211,107.27

MISC. REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	005	\$ 50.00
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	006	\$ 127,640.56
REGIONAL AND LOCAL SCHOOL TAX	007	\$ 4,680,778.15
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS:		\$ 5,562,765.33

10. ***Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report*** for May, 2005.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Muir 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
Mrs. Muir	-	Aye
Mr. Shamey	-	Aye
Mayor Gatti	-	Aye

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Proclamation from Acting Governor Richard Codey ***declaring June 2005 as Celebrate New Jersey month***, noted for information. No action taken.
2. Letter dated June 1, 2005 from Jack Lettiere, Commissioner, NJDOT, regarding ***NJDOT's Transportation Enhancement Program***, noted for information. No action taken.
3. Memorandum dated May 26, 2005 from Lisa Burd, Acting Clerk, Borough of Bloomsbury, regarding ***adoption of a resolution in support of S-1023 and A-1835 which requires the state to reimburse municipalities for the reimbursement & payment of property taxes that disabled veterans are exempt from***, noted for information. No action taken.
4. Letter from residents of Hendrick Road regarding ***the condition of the road and requesting that the road either be repaired or repaved***.

Mrs. Allen asked that Engineer McEldowney look into this request and report back to the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ***Rencor, Inc./Block 48, Lot 19*** - request for release of Performance Bond.

Action on this item was deferred until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ***Ordinance Establishing a Recreation Committee*** - introduction.

Administrator Mekovetz said this is part of the restructuring of the Recreation Committee. An ordinance establishing this Committee is not part of the Township's Code.

Administrator Mekovetz offered several suggestions for amendments.

These suggestions will be incorporated into the drafted ordinance for review by the Township Attorney prior to consideration for introduction.

2. ***Commerce Bank/Block 19.01, Lot 8*** - acceptance of Irrevocable Letter of Credit.

Attorney Dragan said she has a conflict with this item and, as such, she must recuse herself from this matter.

Engineer McEldowney said he does not know if an Irrevocable Letter of Credit is necessary for this project as it is on private property. It was submitted to cover on-site improvements for a privately owned project.

Attorney Dragan said the Committee hired William Shurts previously to handle an appeal filed on this case. She said this matter can be referred to him for his review and comment.

After a short discussion action on this item was deferred until a legal opinion can be obtained.

3. ***Intercounty Paving Associates, Inc./Mountain Road Project - Change Order #1.***

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$6,943.20 for Intercounty Paving Associates, Inc. for the Mountain Road Project. 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

4. ***Recommendations from Sewer Advisory Committee regarding:***

< ***Block 31, Lot 17 (Doyle)*** - request for sewer connection.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the request for Block 31, Lot 17 (Doyle) to connect to the sewer line on School Road due to the fact that the septic system on the property is failing, and because of public health and safety concerns. 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

< ***Block 32, Lot 9 (Coddington Homes Co., Inc.)*** - request for sewer capacity.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to approve the request for 900 gallons per day of capacity for Block 32, Lot 9 (Coddington Homes Co., Inc.) contingent on it being a strictly residential development with at least 50% Mount Laurel units, and on the Township being given the Right of First Refusal on the two (2) remaining units. 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

5. ***Top Line Construction/School Road Project - Payment #2.***

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to approve Payment #2 in the amount of \$57,122.61 for Top Line Construction for the School Road Project. 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

6. ***Awarding of Maintenance and Repair Bids.***

Mayor Gatti said this is the standard awarding of Maintenance and Repair bids as noted in Director of Public Works Scott Jesseman's memorandum to the Committee.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to award the 2005 Maintenance and Repair bids to the contractors as listed below, subject to Attorney Dragan's review:

SCHEDULE OF LOW BIDDERS - 2005 MAINTENANCE & REPAIR MATERIALS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	MODE	QTY	UNIT	SUCCESSFUL BIDDER 2005	UNIT PRICE
1	Single Chip Seal	FDL	60,000	SY	Asphalt Paving Systems	\$0.980
2a	3/4" ROAD STONE	DEL	1,500	TON	Stavola	\$9.25
2b	3/4" ROAD STONE	FOB	1,500	TON	Stavola	\$6.00
3a	3/4" CLEAN STONE	DEL	1,000	TON	Stavola	\$11.25
3b	3/4" CLEAN STONE	FOB	1,000	TON	Stavola	\$8.00
4a	1-1/2" CLEAN STONE	DEL	300	TON	Stavola	\$10.75
4b	1-1/2" CLEAN STONE	FOB	300	TON	Stavola	\$7.50
5	CORE STONE	DEL	100	TON	Trap Rock	\$14.50
6	no. 9 (1/4") STONE OR SANDING GRITS	DEL	2,000	TON	Trap Rock	\$12.75
7	SAND - COARSE	DEL	100	TON	Tilcon	\$17.25
8	LIQUID CALCIUM CHLORIDE	FDA	20,000	GAL	James Reed Sales	\$0.88
9a	BITUMINOUS CONC., F.A.B.C., I-5	FDS	1,000	TON	Flemington Bituminous	\$34.85
9b	BITUMINOUS CONC., F.A.B.C., I-5	FOB	1,000	TON	Flemington Bituminous	\$30.85
10a	BITUMINOUS CONC., MABC, I-4	FDS	1,000	TON	Flemington Bituminous	\$34.85
10b	BITUMINOUS CONC., MABC, I-4	FOB	1,000	TON	Flemington Bituminous	\$30.85
11a	BITUMINOUS CONC., STAB. BASE, I-2	FDS	1,000	TON	Flemington Bituminous	\$33.85
11b	BITUMINOUS CONC., STAB. BASE, I-2	FOB	1,000	TON	Flemington Bituminous	\$29.85
12a	BITUMINOUS CONC., FABC, I-5	DLC	1,000	TON	Tilcon	\$50.38
12b	BITUMINOUS CONC., MABC, I-4	DLC	1,000	TON	Tilcon	\$50.38
12c	BITUMINOUS CONC., STAB. BASE, I-2	DLC	1,000	TON	Mannon Excavating & Paving	\$49.00
13	HIGH PERFORMANCE COLD PATCH	FOB	50	TON	Stavola	\$85.00
14	STREET SWEEPING	DEL	150 mile	HOURL	Apgar Power Sweeping	\$99.00

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

7. **Anderson House** - 2005 Seafood Festival.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to make a donation to Anderson House in the amount paid by them for Code Enforcement Fees for the 2005 Seafood Festival. 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

8. **Anderson House** – request to hang Seafood Festival banners at the intersection of Route 523 & West Woodschurch Road, Route 523 & Route 22 near the King’s Market Complex and on Old Highway 28 in front of the Ryland Inn.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Muir to approve Anderson House’s request to hang Seafood Festival banners at the intersection of Route 523 & Route 22 near the King’s Market Complex and on Old Highway 28 in front of the Ryland Inn. This motion was seconded by Mr. Shamey with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

9. **Liquor License Renewals** - resolution.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

10. **Readington Route 22 Assoc./Block 36, Lot 49** - request for release of escrow funds.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

11. **Pleasant Run, LLC/Block 75, Lot 30** - request for release of escrow funds.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

12. **Aulisi/Block 66, Lot 11** - request for release of Board of Health escrow funds.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

13. *Application for Catering Permit* - Growth Restaurants, Inc. (July 29th - 31st).

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

14. *Application for Raffles License* - Fighting Children's Cancer Foundation.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

15. *Application for Membership in NJ Firemen's Association* - Matthew W. Byrum.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

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:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LAND (BLOCK 73, LOT 27; BLOCK 74, LOTS 8 & 9; BLOCK 79, LOT 4 AND BLOCK 79.01, LOTS 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05 & 11.06 {FORMERLY KNOWN AS BLOCK 74, LOT 11} OWNER: FALLONE PROPERTIES, LLC) IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,060,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,957,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #18-2005

Mayor Gatti said this is part of a settlement with Fallone as a result of litigation regarding the zoning change in 1998.

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

Mrs. Allen said this property consists of 144 acres. It's on Rockafellow Mills Road and has frontage on River Avenue and the South Branch of the Raritan River. Earlier in the meeting the Committee approved a contract with Green Acres under the Green Acres State Acquisition, which is a program that uses 100% State Funding. After the Township purchases this property it will be sold to the State of New Jersey Green Acres Program. Mrs. Allen said the 144 acres will be managed by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and used as a wildlife management area. The final cost to Readington Township will be nothing.

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

Mr. Frank Renda asked if \$2 million is the total price.

Mrs. Allen said the total price is \$1,960,000. The State Green Acres Program is putting \$100,000 in escrow for Readington Township to demolish an old structure on the property and remove an oil tank.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to close the 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 LAND (BLOCK 73, LOT 27; BLOCK 74, LOTS 8 & 9; BLOCK 79, LOT 4 AND BLOCK 79.01, LOTS 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05 & 11.06 {FORMERLY KNOWN AS BLOCK 74, LOT 11} OWNER: FALLONE PROPERTIES, LLC) IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,060,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,957,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #18-2005

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

Ordinance #19-2005

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Muir 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.

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN EASEMENT
DEDICATED ON A PORTION OF BLOCK 35, LOT 31 FOR DRAINAGE PURPOSES
ON SCHOOL ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM RAYMOND S. SEMMEL
AND ROSEMARIE SEMMEL***

Ordinance #19-2005

Mayor Gatti said this ordinance provides for the acceptance of a drainage easement on School Road.

Engineer McEldowney said that this property is at the corner of Park Lane and School Road. To accommodate a storm drain the Township had to encroach on this property a few feet. The property owners granted the easement and there was no cost to the Township.

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. There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN EASEMENT
DEDICATED ON A PORTION OF BLOCK 35, LOT 31 FOR DRAINAGE PURPOSES
ON SCHOOL ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM RAYMOND S. SEMMEL
AND ROSEMARIE SEMMEL***

Ordinance #19-2005

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Administrator Mekovetz said the Township's new website address is www.readingtontwp.org

Administrator Mekovetz said the Committee had discussed moving forward with advertising the ambulance bids, however there was some discussion about adding an option for a second vehicle. She asked how the Committee would like the bid advertised.

After a short discussion it was the consensus of the Committee to advertise the bid for one (1) ambulance with an option for a second ambulance.

Administrator Mekovetz asked if the Committee would like to move forward with advertising for bids for a new Plenary Retail Distribution License. All agreed to move forward with this bid.

Administrator Mekovetz said an auction of surplus equipment was held which generated \$22,000 in revenue for the Township.

Administrator Mekovetz said at the previous meeting the Committee had discussed a request for the installation of a street light at the corner of Well Sweep Road and Van Horne Road in the Lake Cushetunk development. She contacted JCP&L and will be receiving a detailed estimate of the installation and monthly cost for the street light.

Mrs. Allen said a meeting was held with Auctioneer Max Spann to discuss the auctioning of the former Adde property on Route 22. It was suggested that the Township move forward with soil tests on the property in order to make it more sellable.

After a short discussion, the Committee authorized Administrator Mekovetz to obtain three (3) quotes for the soil testing on Block 15, Lot 21 and to award the contract to the lowest bidder.

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Attorney Dragan said the closing on the Hamewith Farm property is scheduled for next week.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Engineer McEldowney said School Road is scheduled for paving this week. Mountain Road should be ready for paving next week and work on Mill Road should begin late June, early July.

Mrs. Allen asked for the status of the Senior Walkway.

Engineer McEldowney said he is waiting to receive digital plans from the previous engineer. In addition, he has to review the status of the environmental permitting. He will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Mayor Gatti asked for the status of the sidewalks on Main Street and the Bank Street Parking Lot. He asked that Engineer McEldowney report back on these items at the next meeting.

Engineer McEldowney said he had nothing further to report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Frank Gatti:

a. Finance Department

1. *Payment of the Bills.*

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 the grant application submitted by the East Whitehouse Fire Company for a pumper was not approved.

Mrs. Allen said the approvals are given in several stages. The application may still have a chance for approval in the second or third round.

b. Engineering, Roads, Maintenance & Recycling

Mr. Shamey said he met with Administrator Mekovetz, Engineer McEldowney and Scott Jesseman to review the proposed 2005 capital improvement ordinances.

3. Julia Allen:

a. Planning Board

Mrs. Allen said the Planning Board recently approved the Municipal Stormwater Plan element of the Master Plan. It is one step toward compliance of the new Stormwater Regulations.

Engineer McEldowney said the Municipal Stormwater Management Plan was submitted to the County. He was promised that the County would complete their review this week. Any changes that need to be made to the Plan can be easily done. The next step after the adoption of the Plan, between now and next April, will be the amendment to the Township's ordinance.

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

4. Thomas Auriemma:

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

5. Beatrice Muir:

a. Board of Health

Mrs. Muir said residents need to continue to take precautions and remove any standing water from their property. In addition, the County is treating areas that have been identified for West Nile Virus. Residents can contact the County Health Department if they are interested in having their property evaluated.

b. Municipal Court

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

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Gatti said that there are a lot of residents in attendance who wish to discuss the courtesy bussing issue. He asked that comments from the public regarding any other matters be made before the Committee hears comments regarding courtesy bussing.

Ms. Inga Krug said she read that a crow was found in Readington Township that was positive for the West Nile Virus. She asked where in the Township the crow was found and was advised to contact the County Health Department to get that information.

Mr. Bob Berg, Hendrick Road, referred to the letter he wrote to the Committee that was listed under correspondence. He said the letter referred to the storm sewer on the road down to the retention pond. He said it has been totally neglected for the past twenty (20) years and the grate on the detention pond basin is loose. He asked that the Township inspect this area to determine what needs to be repaired. In addition, the road is in desperate need of repaving. There is a large pothole in the middle of the street that needs to be filled.

Engineer McEldowney said that he and Scott Jesseman will look into this matter and report back to the Committee.

Ms. Patricia Sellino asked about a 30 acre property near her property that was sold. She asked what it was sold for or what it is going to be used for and it was suggested that she contact the Tax Assessor's office for information.

Mr. Frank Renda asked who is responsible for maintaining the stormwater easements in the Township.

Engineer McEldowney said the DPW would be responsible for maintaining the infrastructure contained within an easement. The landscaping, grass, etc. would generally be the responsibility of the property owner.

Mrs. Muir suggested that Mr. Renda contact Scott Jesseman to determine who is responsible for addressing the concerns he has about this particular easement.

Mr. Renda said prior to the Primary Election there was a lot of talk regarding the Township's \$40 million debt. He asked if that debt represents a percentage of the cost of the property the Township has purchased. He suggested that an explanation of the Township's debt be put into the quarterly Township newsletter.

Mr. Shamey suggested that a special meeting be scheduled to discuss the Township's budget.

After a short discussion a round table discussion was scheduled for Wednesday, June 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Tom Seibert suggested that the only subject addressed at the June 29th meeting should be the municipal portion of the tax rate.

Ms. Paula Baldwin said that the Committee is not responsible for the County and State portions of the budget. She would like to see the increase in the Municipal budget addressed.

As there were no further public comments on other matters, Mayor Gatti recused himself from the discussion regarding courtesy bussing as he has a child who is affected by the issue.

Deputy Mayor Shamey said before the Committee takes public comment Mr. Auriemma would like to make some comments.

Mr. Auriemma read a statement regarding the history of the school budget with regard to the Township Committee's recommendations for reduction. He said no where in the Township Committee's recommended reductions was the elimination of courtesy bussing.

Several members of the Board of Education and well as the public spoke in favor and against the budget reduction and the elimination of courtesy busing.

After all comments were made, the following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington adopted Resolution #R-2005-84 on May 16, 2005 reducing the school levy by \$720,000 for the 2005-2006 school year; and

WHEREAS, part of the cuts made to the School District budget by the Board of Education in response to this reduction included the elimination of courtesy bussing; and

WHEREAS, after numerous parents and the members of the Board of Education appealed to the members of the Township Committee to reconsider the dollar amount of the cut to allow the courtesy bussing program to remain in place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township committee of the Township of Readington agreed to amend Resolution #R-2005-84 adopted on May 16, 2005, as follows:

\$60,000 will be returned to the Capital line item of the Board of Education budget for the purchase of (1) school bus for courtesy bussing purposes, conditioned on the following:

- a. The School District shall find and cut an additional \$60,000 from the operating budget to make up for the \$60,000 reinstated to the school tax levy;
- b. The School District guarantees that courtesy bussing will be provided to all eligible students for the 2005-2006 school year;
- c. The Board of Education has agreed that the School District shall send a letter to all parents/guardians within the district, which will be provided to the Township Committee for review prior to mailing, advising them that the courtesy bussing program shall remain for the 2005-2006 school year;

- d. The School District shall not eliminate the position of Vice Principal at the Whitehouse School.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY:

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

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Auriemma to adjourn at 10:55 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC\CMC
Administrator\Municipal Clerk