

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – September 15, 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, Mr. G. Shamey

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Mekovetz, Attorney S. Dragan

ABSENT: Mrs. B. Muir

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 Anticipate When Disclosed to Public</u>
Contract Negotiations.....	Award of Ann Reno Barn..... Reconstruction Bid	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight...other information will remain confidential
Land Acq/Contract Negotiations....	Block 27, Lot 5 (Mountain Road)...	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Professional Services..... Risk Management Consultant	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Arc of Hunterdon.....	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Fiber Technologies Networks LLC	“ “ “
Personnel.....	Police Department.....	“ “ “
Personnel.....	Finance Office.....	“ “ “
Attorney-Client Privilege.....	Executive Session Minutes (September 2, 2008)	“
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)	“ “ “

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”.

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

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

Mayor Auriemma requested that the agenda be amended under Executive Session, the Land Acquisition/Contract Negotiations/Block 27, Lot 5 needed to be changed to Block 25, Lot 7 and add to Executive Session Combes Landfill Litigation.

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

Contract Negotiations/Award of Ann Reno Barn Reconstruction Bid

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

R-2008-111

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Committee (“Township”) publically advertised for bids for the Ann Reno Barn Reconstruction Project (hereinafter “Project”) located in Readington Township, which property is publicly-accessed property owned by the Township (hereinafter referred to as “the Property”); and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2008, the Township Administrator/Clerk conducted the bid opening whereupon the total number of bidders for the Project was four (4); and

WHEREAS, upon review of the bids, the Township Administrator, Township Attorney and Committee determined that all of the bids, except the bid of ProComm Systems, Inc., were well in excess of the estimated cost of the Project, as well as the amount appropriated for the Project and

WHEREAS, upon review of the specifications and the bids received, the Township Attorney found that the bid of ProComm Systems, Inc. was missing the financial statement required as part of the bid package and that the bidder indicated that it would be submitted at a later time; and

WHEREAS, the failure to submit the financial statement at the time of the bid was a non-waivable material defect which rendered the bid of ProComm Systems, Inc. non-responsive. Per N.J. case law, failure to submit a financial statement at the time of the bid, as required 1) results in an uncertainty to the Township that the agreement would be performed in accordance with the specifications and 2) would adversely affect competitive bidding by placing one bidder in a position of advantage over the other bidders who complied. *P&A Construction, Inc. v. Twp. of Woodbridge*, 365 N.J. Super 164 (App. Div. 2004); and

WHEREAS, in addition to the reasons 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 good and services, or, if the lowest bid substantially exceeds the cost estimates or the amount appropriated for the goods and services; and

WHEREAS, all other bids received substantially exceeded the cost estimates for the project and the Township wishes to revise the bid specifications for the project.

Resolution #R-2008-111 cont'd:

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

1. The Township Committee hereby rejects all the bids received in conjunction with the Reconstruction of the Ann Reno Barn at the Cushetunk Nature Preserve, for the reasons set forth above. In addition, the lowest bid was deficient and non-responsive and the rest of the bids substantially exceeded the cost estimates and the amount appropriated for the Project. This resolution shall be effective immediately.
2. The Township Administrator/Clerk is authorized to notify all those who bid on the Property of this decision.
3. The Township Administrator/Clerk and / or Architect for the Reconstruction Project is authorized to rebid same, as well as to revise the specifications. The Reconstruction 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, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Land Acquisition/Contract Negotiations/Block 25, Lot 7 (Mountain Road)

Mayor Auriemma stated this matter stays in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Professional Services/Risk Management Consultant

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

R-2008-112

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has resolved to join the Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund (“PAIC”) following a detailed analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of PAIC require that each entity designate a Risk Management Consultant to perform various professional services as detailed in the Bylaws and Risk Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws indicated that PAIC shall pay each risk Management Consultant a fee to be established annually by the Executive Committee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Readington does hereby appoint Lisa Pfenninger, ADP Statewide Insurance Agencies, Inc., as its Risk Management Consultant in accordance with the Fund’s Bylaws.

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

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

Contract Negotiations/Arc of Hunterdon

Mayor Auriemma stated this matter stays in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Fiber Technologies Networks LLC

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to authorize Attorney Dragan to draft an ordinance regarding fiber installation as designated on the map, seconded by Mr. Shamey and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Personnel/Police Department

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to promote Christopher DeWire from Probationary Sergeant to the position of Sergeant, seconded by Mr. Shamey and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to accept the resignation of Patrolman Kenneth Drews, effective September 13, 2008, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Personnel/Finance Office

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the consolidation of the Assistant Municipal Treasurer position with the positions of Chief Financial Officer and Payroll Clerk, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to increase the salary of the Chief Financial Officer by \$5,000 on a six month trial basis in consideration of additional duties to be performed and hours to be worked as a result of the consolidation of the Assistant Municipal Treasurer position, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to increase the hours of Patricia Hall, Payroll Clerk, from 22 to 30 hours per week, effective September 15, 2008 at an hourly rate of \$22.50 with a new title of Payroll Clerk/Bookkeeper on a six month trial basis in consideration of additional duties to be performed as a result of the consolidation of the Assistant Municipal Treasurer position, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Mr. Gatti stated that the consolidation of the Assistant Municipal Treasurer position and the increased compensation to the Chief Financial Officer, as well as the increased hours by Payroll Clerk/Bookkeeper has resulted in a savings of approximately \$30,000.

Attorney-Client Privilege/Executive Session Minutes (September 2, 2008)

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Shamey to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 2, 2008 for content only, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

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 this matter stays in Executive Session.

Litigation/Combes Landfill

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Gatti to authorize Mayor Auriemma to enter into a consent decree and escrow agreement subject to attorney approval, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Auriemma read the following statement:

All items list 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 MINUTES** of meeting of September 2, 2008.
- *2. ***Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan*** – resolution

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

R-2008-113

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON’S SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT APPLICATION TO THE HUNTERDON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO NJDEP FOR SUMMER ROAD PARK SOCCER FIELDS

WHEREAS, The Township of Readington is required to obtain a soil erosion and sediment control (SE/SC) plan certification from the Hunterdon County Soil conservation District (HCSCD) for proposed soccer fields at its Summer Road Park since the proposed area of disturbance exceeds the 5,000 sq. ft. threshold, and

Resolution #R-2008-113 cont'd:

WHEREAS, all storm water discharge associated with construction activities also requires approval from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection under the Request For Authorization (RFA) application.

WHEREAS, it has been determined and reported by our Township Engineer that these applications are in order and may be filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington does hereby authorize the following action:

1. The filing of the Application for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control with the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District.
2. The filing of the required Request for Authorization (RFA) application with the Department of Environmental Protection.
3. The signing of the Application for Soil Erosion and the Request for Authorization (RFA) application by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
4. The payment of \$2,800 for the SESCO and \$300 for the RFA application fees.
- *3. **Old Highway 28 Resurfacing & Road Reclamation** – Application for Payment and Change Order
- *4. **Harriet’s Trailer Park** – application
- *5. **Telecove Operations** – reduction/cancellation of Permit Bond
- *6. **Fallone, Block 76, Lot 3.04, 3.05, 3.06, 3.09, 3.10 & 3.13 (Buckingham Estates)** - request to release driveway bond
- *7. **Payment of Bills**

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND	8-01	\$ 496,298.10
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	8-02	\$ 2,520.00
TRUST FUNDS	x-03	\$ 15,517.40
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	x-05	\$3,109,187.70
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	x-06	\$ 181,025.42
2003 CAPITAL APPROPR.	x-33	\$ 573.36
2007 CAPITAL ORDIN.	x-77	\$ 260.06
2008 CAPITAL ORDIN.	x-88	<u>\$ 26,184.82</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 3,831,566.86

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded.

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

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Notice of Public Hearing from Vastola, Fackelman, Sullivan & Spengler, regarding *consideration of application of T.C. & D. Builders, Inc., subdivision of two (2) single-family building lots*. No action taken.
2. Letter dated August 27, 2008 from Erica La Placa, Environmental Specialist of Mailick & Scherer, P.C., regarding *freshwater wetlands general permit #10B and flood hazard area individual permit application Hunterdon County Bridge No. RG-164 rehabilitation Rockafellows Mills Road over South Branch Raritan River, Townships of Readington and Raritan, Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. (Entire File Available for Review in Clerk's Office) No action taken.
3. Letter dated August 29, 2008 from Douglas J. Polyniak, P.E., Dolan & Dean, regarding *major access permit planning review and lot subdivision applications proposed mixed-use development, Block 36, Lots 47 and 48, Readington Township, Hunterdon County*. No action taken.
4. Memorandum dated September 9, 2008 from Rose Sollena, Municipal Clerk, Township of Raritan, regarding notice of pending ordinances:
 - *#08-29 - An Ordinance of the Township of Raritan, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, To Amend an Ordinance Entitled, "Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Raritan", and More Specifically to Amend Chapter 16.64.100 Building and Use Regulations*
 - *#08-30 - An Ordinance of the Township of Raritan, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, To Amend an Ordinance Entitled, "Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Raritan", and More Specifically to Amend Section 16.02.030 Definitions, Section 16.22.020 Zoning Map and Section 16.32.A.020 Principal Permitted Uses in the Public and Institutional Zone*
 - *#08-31 - An Ordinance of the Township of Raritan, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, To Amend an Ordinance Entitled, "Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Raritan", and More Specifically to Amend Chapter 16.24B and Chapter 16.24 M*
No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ***Limo Licensing*** – Amending the Ordinance

Mayor Auriemma stated Readington Township has an ordinance that requires \$2 Million in insurance liability for limousine licensing, while the state statute requirement is \$1.5 Million. Administrator Mekovetz researched some other municipalities regarding the amount of liability and most of them just comply with the state statute. Attorney Dragan suggested it be in accordance with state statute. Mr. Shamey suggested Attorney Dragan review that ordinance for any other necessary amendments.

2. ***Request for Two Township Vehicles for Extrication Course/East Whitehouse Fire Department***

Mayor Auriemma stated the Police Department has two (2) vehicles considered surplus vehicles which are being requested by East Whitehouse Fire Department for an extrication exercise. Mr. Shamey expressed concern that in this difficult budget year donating these vehicles may set a precedent. This item was

deferred in order for Mayor Auriemma to speak with the respective fire department and obtain additional information.

3. **Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Auction** – resolution

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

R-2008-114

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
 RESOLUTION**

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 October 18, 2008.

Appendix “A”

ITEM NO.	YEAR	VIN OR SERIAL NO.	BRAND	DESCRIPTION	CONDITION
1	1995	1J4FJ28S1SL587944	JEEP	CHEROKEE, RUNS RUST UNDERNEATH	GOOD
2	1995	1FMEU15HOSLB23485	FORD	BRONCO, RUNS RUST UNDERNEATH	GOOD
3	1992	1B6MM3650NS681352	DODGE	350 RAM, 4X4 MASON DUMP, RUNS	GOOD
4	1978	2000115U045505	INTERNATIONAL	I-184 LOWBOY TRACTOR, RUNS NEEDS A CLUTCH AND SHAFT	GOOD
5	1995	SC7943	WARREN	AC-1410A V-BOX SANDER, 8 FT. GALVANIZED, 1.8 CY	GOOD
6	1995	SC7655	WARREN	AC-1410A V-BOX SANDER, 8 FT. GALVANIZED, 1.8 CY	GOOD
7	2000	20054	ICE-O-WAY	PS0814SS V-BOX SANDER 8 FT. STAINLESS, 1.4 CY	GOOD
8	1997	004338	ATLAS-COPCO	FB60-S GAS POWERED JACK HAMMER WITH STAND AND BITS	GOOD
9	UNKNOWN	N/A	UNKNOWN	10 TON FLOOR JACK	GOOD
10	2003	2FAFP71W63X201916	FORD	CROWN VICTORIA, MISSING BODY SOME ENGINE & INTERIOR PARTS, USE FOR PARTS	POOR

A MOTION was made by Mr. Gatti to approve the list of vehicles, removing the two vehicles being considered for the extrication course, and equipment for auction, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

4. ***American Classics, Block 69, Lot 12*** – Performance Guarantee Amount

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the Performance Guarantee amount, based on the recommendation of the Township Engineer, contingent upon Attorney Dragan approving the bond, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

5. ***County Referendum on November 4th Ballot to Renew the Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund*** – resolution

Mrs. Allen stated in 1999 there was a referendum asking voters of Hunterdon County if they were agreeable to set aside 3¢ per \$100 value of assessed evaluation for an Open Space Trust Fund to be used for county parkland acquisition, farmland preservation and joint county and municipal projects. Mrs. Allen stated for the last eight or nine years Readington Township has depended on this money, assisting in the Green Acres Acquisitions. In the past Mrs. Allen stated this referendum had a five year approval; however, the current referendum does not have an expiration date enabling the County to use the money to leverage acquisitions in the most cost effective way. Mrs. Allen stated this resolution makes good sense for both the citizens of Hunterdon County and Readington Township.

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

R-2008-115

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

RESOLUTION SUPORTING THE COUNTY REFERENDUM ON THE NOVEMBER 4TH, 2008 BALLOT TO RENEW THE HUNTERDON COUNTY OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FARMLAND AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, continued investment in open space and farmland preservation is vitally important to the county, as it enhances Hunterdon County’s economy, safeguards its remaining natural agricultural, recreational and historic resources and contributes to a high quality of life for county residents; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey continues to face significant pressure from development, losing nearly 50 acres of open space daily to new development projects and is protected to be the first state in the nation to achieve complete build out, anticipated in the next 30-50 years; and

WHEREAS, protecting open spaces, preserving farmland and restoring historic sites stabilizes local property taxes, protects critical drinking water supplies, provides parkland and recreational opportunities, and protects family farms from development, and

WHEREAS, since its creation in 1999 and subsequent renewal in 2004, the Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund has enabled the county to protect more than 17,000 acres of farmland, parkland, and natural areas throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund is essential not only to the County’s preservation programs, but also to the work of municipalities and nonprofit organizations by providing grants to help preserve land and protect natural resources and farmland for future generations; and

Resolution #R-2008-115 cont'd:

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County has determined that another 9,000 acres of parkland are needed to adequately serve the current and future population of the County, and the County Agricultural Development Board has established a goal of protecting an additional 1,500 acres of farmland annually through the year 2017, and

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund expires in 2009, and

WHEREAS, this referendum is an opportunity for county residents to continue a successful preservation program and that no new taxes will result from it, and

WHEREAS, renewal of this Trust Fund is integral to providing a legacy for the next generation of Hunterdon County by protecting the natural and agricultural resources that sustain our communities and provide for a high quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Municipality of Readington Township, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Municipality supports the continuation of the current County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the purposes of protecting drinking water sources and water quality; preserving open space, natural areas, farmland and historic sites; to acquire, develop, improve and maintain county and municipal lands for recreation and conservation purposes; preservation of historic structures and properties; or for the payment of debt services or indebtedness issued or incurred by the County for any of these purposes.
2. The municipality supports the renewal of the Trust Fund with the continuation of the current county open space tax of 3-cent per \$100 of assessed property value, and recognizes that this referendum will not create a new tax for county residents.
3. The municipality supports fair and open process for the selection of projects to be funded through this Trust Fund, using funds only for projects in which willing sellers are involved and an annual independent audit of how the county funds are spent.
4. The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to provide a copy of this Resolution to the following:

Duly authenticated copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to:

The Hunterdon County Freeholders
c/o Denise Doolan
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

Ken Jagel, Chair
Citizens to Protect Hunterdon's Clean Water and Rural Landscapes
PO Box 2442
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

Hunterdon County Democrat

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to adopt this resolution and send copies to all the towns in Hunterdon County, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

- * 6. ***Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan*** –resolution

This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.
- * 7. ***Old Highway 28 Resurfacing & Road Reclamation*** –Application for Payment and Change Order

This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.
- * 8. ***Harriet’s Trailer Park*** – application

This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.
- * 9. ***Telecove Operations*** – reduction/cancellation of Permit Bond

This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.
- * 10. ***Fallone, Block 76, Lots 3.04, 3.05, 3.06, 3.09, 3.10 & 3.13 (Buckingham Estates)***
- request to release driveway bond

This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz stated she received a phone call from Sue Dziamara, Planning Director of Hunterdon County Planning Board, who was contacted by NJDOT regarding a project in Readington Township alleviating drainage and flooding issues on Route 22 by Merck, and that NJDOT was considering deferring or terminating the project. Administrator Mekovetz stated in 2005 the Township Committee adopted a resolution in support of the project and Sue Dziamara requested that the Township Committee adopt another resolution to go along with the letter she is preparing to the NJDOT to reiterate support of the project and obligations by NJDOT to terminate the project.

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

R-2008-116

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, a flooding and winter ice condition exists on the westbound lanes of U.S. Route 22 at milepost (MP) 24.8; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) proposed a project to alleviate the flooding and winter ice condition which would consist of raising a 1,225 foot section of the westbound lanes above the 25-year flood elevation, replacing the existing undersized longitudinal drains and regrading Merck Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey adopted Resolution #2005-124 in support of this much needed project for safety reasons and to minimize the impact on local roads when Rt. 22 is closed; and

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County was recently notified of the NJDOT Division of Project Management’s request to defer or terminate this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, reiterates their support of the NJDOT’s proposed drainage improvement project to alleviate the flooding and winter ice condition on the westbound lanes of U.S. Route 22 at milepost (MP) 24.8.

Resolution #R-2008-116 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey objects to any plans by the Department of Transportation to terminate this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey requests that the Township be copied on any and all communication regarding this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the NJDOT, Hunterdon County Freeholders and the Hunterdon County Planning Board, Hunterdon County Department of Road Bridges & Engineering and Merck & Company.

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

Administrator Mekovetz reminded Mr. Gatti and Mr. Shamey that the meeting with Comcast is scheduled for Thursday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan stated she submitted a report earlier in the day and had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Thomas Auriemma

Mayor Auriemma stated he received a preliminary cost estimate of construction for the soccer fields on Summer Road. Mayor Auriemma expressed concern on the amount of fencing needed and the cost of the top soil. Mayor Auriemma stated he would speak with Scott Jesseman and Greta Kenney to get a clearer vision of what will be required for the fields.

Julia Allen

Mrs. Allen stated the Open Space Walk on the Cole Road Greenway will take place on Sunday, September 21st and September 27th they will be planting 400 trees on the Dobozyński Farm Park if anyone is interested in joining them.

Mrs. Allen stated there is a meeting called by Marcia Karrow on Council of Affordable Housing issues on Tuesday, September 16 at the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

Frank Gatti

Mr. Gatti stated there is legislation for phasing in the Police/Fire/Rescue funding of the retirement fund, which was a large part of our budget increase this year. Mr. Gatti stated there is a proposed 10% increase next year and anticipates another rough budget next year.

Gerard Shamey

Mr. Shamey stated he had nothing further to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chris Tarricone, Herder Associates, thanked the Committee for the time spent considering the matter of the Risk Management Consultant.

Cheryl Filler, of Readington Township, stated that with all the budgets cuts this year a soccer field is something the Township should not be spending money on and asked the Committee to watch how the money is being spent.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Mrs. Allen thanked Cheryl Filler for getting the signatures of Committee members on the book for Edna Wescott. Mrs. Filler stated Edna Wescott, a former resident of Readington Township, is turning 100 years old on September 16. Mayor Auriemma will be presenting the Images of Readington to Mrs. Wescott at her birthday celebration.

As there was no further business, **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti at 8:39 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Shamey with a vote of all ayes, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

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