

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Mekovetz, Attorney Dragan 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>
Finance Office.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight... other information will remain confidential
Aqua New Jersey, Inc.....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 39, Lots 49 & 14.04 and Block 40, Lot 2 (Peters).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 66, Lot 3 (Maintenance Contract).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 75, Lot 16.02 (Maintenance Contract).....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Waste Management v. Readington Twp.....	Litigation.....	" " "
Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6, & 8, Block 39, Lot 24 & Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation - Hromoho).....	Litigation.....	" " "
Potential Litigation.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	" " "
Professional Services..... Patrick Clare, Esq., Public Defender Hatch, Mott, MacDonald – Professional Engineering Services	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Executive Session Minutes (Feb. 5, 2007).....	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. Muir to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

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

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

Contract Negotiations - Allies, Inc.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Muir to authorize Attorney Dragan to prepare a Developer's Agreement for Allies, Inc., seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Aqua New Jersey, Inc.

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

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the contract for Block 39, Lots 49 & 14.04 and Block 40, Lot 2 (Peters), seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Block 66, Lot 3 (Maintenance Contract)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Maintenance Contract with Justin Walters for Block 66, Lot 3, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Block 75, Lot 16.02 (Maintenance Contract)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Maintenance Contract with Justin Walters for Block 75, Lot 16.02, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Litigation - Waste Management v. Readington Township

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

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

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

Potential Litigation - Attorney-Client Privilege

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

Contract Negotiations - Professional Services

Patrick Clare, Esq., Public Defender

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
#R-2007-34***

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Municipal Public Defender Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-8, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Patrick J. Clare, Esq. has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide Municipal Public Defender Services at a rate of \$105 per hour; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Patrick J. Clare, Esq. as described herein; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on February 28, 2007; and

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

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

Patrick Clare, Esq., Public Defender – continued:

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

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

Hatch, Mott, MacDonald – Professional Engineering Services

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERING AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING SERVICES
#R-2007-35***

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

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-8, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2007; and

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

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

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

Hatch, Mott, MacDonald – Professional Engineering Services – continued:

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

Attorney-Client Privilege - Executive Session Minutes (February 5, 2007)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Executive Session Minutes from the meeting of February 5, 2007 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 February 5, 2007.
2. **Awarding of Bond Anticipation Notes** (\$10,000,000 @ 4.01%; \$31,154,000 @ 3.91% to Bank of America).
3. **2006 Surface Treatment Program** - Municipal Participation.
4. **Waste Management of NJ, Inc./Block 21.13, Lot 6** - request for release of unused escrow funds.
5. **Whitehouse Fire Co. No. 1, Inc.** - request for permission to hold coin toss (June 1st & 2nd).
6. **East Whitehouse Fire Department** - request for permission to hold coin toss (July 28th).
7. **Tax Refund** – resolution.

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the property owner of Block 36, Lot 135 is a permanently disabled vet and therefore is tax exempt, date of determination September 26, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the property owner has resided in Readington Township since 1996.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Tax Collector be authorized to refund 2007 taxes paid in the amount of \$1,794.50 and cancel the 2007 yearly taxes.

8. **Payment of the Bills.**

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATION	001	\$ 1,522,564.35
TRUST APPROPRIATION	003	\$ 12,009.07
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	005	\$ 37,735,316.88
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	006	\$ 183,514.57
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS:		\$ 39,453,404.87

9. **Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report** for January, 2007.

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

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Memorandum dated February 13, 2007 from Sharon L. Brienza, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Branchburg, regarding *public hearing of Ordinance #2007-1057 Amending the Land Development Ordinance of the Twp. of Branchburg by modifying certain bulk and other standards for the “LDRC Low Density Residential Cluster Affordable Housing Contribution District,”* noted for information. No action taken.
2. Notice dated February 13, 2007 from Rebecca E. D’Alleinne, Planning Board Administrator regarding *adoption of the 2007 Clinton Township Housing Element & Fair Share Plan,* noted for information. No action taken.
3. Letter dated February 12, 2007 from Karen J. Sandorse, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Lebanon, regarding *adoption of a resolution in opposition to A-3857 – which would eliminate Regional Contribution Agreements as a tool to facilitate municipal compliance with Mount Laurel,* noted for information. No action taken.
4. Notice from John R. Dusingberre, Esq., regarding *hearing before the Tewksbury Twp. Board of Adjustment - Toll Brothers Crossroads and Oldwick, Block 45, Lots 42 & 43,* noted for information. No action taken.
5. Memorandum dated February 14, 2007 from Roberta A. Brassard, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Tewksbury, regarding *adoption of Ordinance #02-2007 - to Amend an Ordinance whose short title is “Tewksbury Twp. Development Regulations Ordinance (2000),”* noted for information. No action taken.
6. Letter dated February 2, 2007 from Lou Cattuna, Section Chief, Bureau of Inland Regulation, NJDEP, regarding *Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation/Line Verification – Stanton Manor Associates, LLC, Block 61, Lot 5,* noted for information. No action taken.
7. *NJ Transit Public Hearing Notice* – proposed Bus, Rail, Newark City Subway, Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, River Line, Access Link, Bus Contract Carriers Fare Policy and Fare Change Proposal, noted for information. No action taken.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

Clerk read by Title:

**PATRIOT MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS CNJ, INC. –
PUBLIC HEARING OF APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPAL CONSENT**

Richard DeAngelis, Esq., appeared before the Committee along with Ted Moon, Technical Operations Manager and Tyrone Cokley, Dispatch Manager. They reviewed the renewal process with the Committee. The current agreement expires on July 7th.

The Committee discussed whether the agreement should be for ten (10) years or fifteen (15) years. Also, the request by the Township’s emergency services for free internet service.

Mayor Shamey said his preference would be for ten (10) years.

If the Committee approves this application, then an ordinance would be drafted outlining the agreement.

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

Mr. Gatti asked how pricing is determined? Is it regulated through the BPU.

Patriot Media & Communications CNJ, Inc. – continued:

Mr. Moon said this is an area that is covered by Federal law. The Federal act allows the local franchising authority (BPU) is allowed to regulated the limited basic rate. That is the only component that is subject to rate regulation.

Mayor Shamey asked if internet service rates are regulated.

Mr. Moon said they are not.

Administrator Mekovetz said it was her understanding that after the public hearing that representatives from the Township and Patriot Media would meet again to discuss several matters.

Mr. Moon said that a meeting will be scheduled.

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

Mr. John Kalinich said technology changes so quickly that a shorter agreement would be better.

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

Clerk read by Title:

***PATRIOT MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS CNJ, INC. –
PUBLIC HEARING OF APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPAL CONSENT***

A MOTION was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve Patriot Media & Communications CNJ, Inc.'s application for municipal consent, seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Ordinance #03-2007

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

Clerk read by Title:

***AN AMENDMENT TO AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON,
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PERTAINING TO FEES
FOR COPIES OF PUBLIC RECORDS***

Ordinance #03-2007

Mayor Shamey said this amends the Township's ordinance with respect to fees for copies of public records.

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

Mrs. Allen said this ordinance is in compliance with the OPRA law.

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

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

Ordinance #03-2007 – continued:

Clerk read by Title:

***AN AMENDMENT TO AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON,
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PERTAINING TO FEES
FOR COPIES OF PUBLIC RECORDS***

Ordinance #03-2007

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

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

Mayor Shamey said item #1 under “New Business” will be addressed at this time:

1. ***Five (5) year Strategic Plan*** – presentation by Readington Superintendent Jordan Schiff.

Dr. Jordan Schiff appeared before the Committee along with Board of Education President Mark Berry and Board of Education Vice President Joanne Sekella.

Dr. Schiff gave a Power Point presentation regarding the school’s five (5) year strategic plan.

He said they recruited a large group of citizens from the community who were given the responsibility of coming up with goals and strategies.

They looked at the following areas of district operations:

- Student achievement
- Personnel
- Finance
- Technology
- Facilities & Safety
- Communication

They identified the critical issues facing the district. From there they developed belief statements and then established goals and strategies. They are now developing the action plans which detail how they are going to address the goals.

Dr. Schiff thanked the Committee for the opportunity to appear at the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – continued:

Ordinance #04-2007

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Auriemma 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:

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY -
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKLIST PORTIONS
OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 148 OF THE READINGTON TOWNSHIP CODE***

Ordinance #04-2007

Ordinance #04-2007

Administrator Mekovetz said this ordinance was forwarded to the Planning Board for their review and recommendation; however their last meeting was canceled so no recommendation was received.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to continue this Public Hearing until the March 5, 2007 Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Ordinance #05-2007

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen 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 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PORTION OF BLOCK 63, LOT 13 FOR PUBLIC ROADWAY PURPOSES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM ALBERT B. ACCETTOLA

Ordinance #05-2007

Mayor Shamey said this ordinance provides for the acceptance of a .147± portion of Block 63, Lot 13 for public roadway purposes.

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

Mrs. Allen said this would be the difference between 16.5 feet from the center line and 25 feet from the center line of the road for the frontage of the farm.

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to close the 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 A PORTION OF BLOCK 63, LOT 13 FOR PUBLIC ROADWAY PURPOSES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM ALBERT B. ACCETTOLA

Ordinance #05-2007

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

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

Ordinance #06-2007

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma 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.

Ordinance #06-2007 – continued:

Clerk read by Title:

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY -
CALENDAR YEAR 2007 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST
OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK WHEN THE COLA IS
EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 2.5 PERCENT (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)***

Ordinance #06-2007

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

Administrator Mekovetz said the COLA was 2.5%. The law allows us to bring it to 3.5% by ordinance, and it also allows the Township to bank anything we have in excess.

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma 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:

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY -
CALENDAR YEAR 2007 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST
OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK WHEN THE COLA IS
EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 2.5 PERCENT (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)***

Ordinance #06-2007

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ***Solberg Airport*** - update by Mayor Shamey.

Mayor Shamey said he had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ***Five (5) year Strategic Plan*** – presentation by Readington Superintendent Jordan Schiff.

Mayor Shamey said this item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. ***Acceptance of donation of utility truck from PSE&G to Whitehouse Fire Co. #1.***

Mayor Shamey referred to a letter from Fire Chief Bill Wallace stating that PSE&G wants to donate a used fleet vehicle to be used as a support truck by Whitehouse Fire Co. #1. PSE&G cannot donate a vehicle to a non-profit organization directly, however they will donate the vehicle to the Township. Additionally, the fire company has made arrangements for Hunterdon County Polytech Carrier Academy to inspect and repair the vehicle using grant funds from

Attorney Dragan said the Township can accept the donation of the vehicle by ordinance.

Acceptance of donation of utility truck from PSE&G to Whitehouse Fire Co. #1 – continued:

Administrator Mekovetz said any vehicle that the Township takes title to would be covered under our insurance. She said the vehicle is a 1992 Ford F-350.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to accept the donation of a 1992 Ford F-350 from PSE&G for use by Whitehouse Fire Co. #1. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

3. ***Block 97, Lot 4 – Roadway Dedication.***

Mayor Shamey said a concept plan for the subdivision of this property was submitted, along with a request

Mrs. Allen said it is possible for applicants to pay an escrow fee and then have consultation with the Township's professionals, however the professionals do not influence the design.

Engineer McEldowney said when Robin Way was developed years ago, it included a reservation across private property, by way of an easement, that would allow for future road extension if the adjoining property was ever developed. However, this applicant's engineer is asking if they would be permitted to use this strip of land for what appears to be a private driveway. The issue is if an easement that was dedicated for the purpose of public road improvements, could the Committee allow the easement to be used for a private purpose.

Attorney Dragan said this has been dedicated as public. The Township has not accepted it and probably wouldn't accept it until it was brought up to standards, at which time it would become a public road.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen that the applicant does not have rights to use the right-of-way for private purposes. This motion was seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

4. ***Awarding of Bond Anticipation Notes*** (\$10,000,000 @ 4.01%; \$31,154,000 @ 3.91% to Bank of America).

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

5. ***2006 Surface Treatment Program*** - Municipal Participation

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

6. ***Waste Management of NJ, Inc./Block 21.13, Lot 6*** - request for release of unused escrow funds.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

7. ***Whitehouse Fire Co. No. 1, Inc.*** - request for permission to hold coin toss (June 1st & 2nd).

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

8. ***East Whitehouse Fire Department*** - request for permission to hold coin toss (July 28th).

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Administrator Mekovetz said the Hunterdon County Municipal Officer's Association Dinner is scheduled for next week. The deadline for responding is tomorrow.

Administrator Mekovetz said the referendum to increase the appropriation for the LOSAP program from \$40,000 to \$80,000 was passed by the voters in November. The Committee had discussed with Emergency Services about a phase in program of that additional \$40,000. She and Mr. Auriemma have been speaking with Mel Bemis, who is representing Emergency Services. They are asking if the Committee would consider a two (2) year phase-in of \$20,000 per year. This year's individual contribution for eligible volunteers would increase from \$380 to \$600.

Mr. Gatti suggested that the matter be discussed further during budget meetings. All agreed.

Administrator Mekovetz said that the State raised the cap on the annual municipal dog license fees to \$21. The last time the cap was increased was in 1978. The present fee is \$8.20/\$11.20. She asked if there was any interest in increasing the fee. She recommended that the fee be increased to \$10/\$13.

Administrator Mekovetz said the dog licensing account usually runs at a deficit.

Mr. Gatti said he would like to know what the deficit is in the account.

Administrator Mekovetz said she has been attending monthly County Shared Services meetings. Readington hosted this month's meeting and will also be hosting next month's meeting. The County Superintendent of Schools attended one of these meetings. There will also be an invitation to the various superintendents to join the program.

Administrator Mekovetz said there is a \$100 administration fee to officially enroll in the Shared Services Partnership.

Administrator Mekovetz said she responded to Ms. Apgar's letter requesting benches, picnic tables, etc. along the walkway. She just received a response back from her today.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Gerard Shamey:

Mayor Shamey said he has begun the process of forming a tax study group. The first meeting is scheduled for March 6th. The group will include residents and Board of Education members. The goal is to look at taxes in general, the Municipal budget and both school district budgets.

Mayor Shamey said the members at this time include Ron Monaco, Frank Renda, Bill Lewis, Dick Seibert, Karen McCullough, Bill Meglaughlin, Claire Curry (Hunterdon Central Board of Education) and Mark Berry (President, Readington Board of Education). He will report back after the first meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS – continued:

2. Julia Allen:

a. Farmland\Open Space Preservation\Land Projects Liaison

Mrs. Allen said the Open Space Committee meeting is tomorrow night.

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

3. Thomas Auriemma:

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

4. Frank Gatti:

a. Finance Department

1. Tax Refund – resolution.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

2. Payment of the Bills.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

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

5. Beatrice Muir:

a. Municipal Court

1. Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report for December, 2006.

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 Shamey asked for comments from the public. There were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY:

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

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Muir at 10:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC\CMC
Administrator\Municipal Clerk